

## GIFT OF WORDS:

### EXAMPLE #1: (APPLYING-EXTENDING)

~The blur of people rushing:

The people in the station are rushing past the man with the violin because they are too busy to listen to him. Naomi said “Dylan isn’t paying attention to the people rushing by because he is paying close attention to the music, so the people are a blur.” This made me think that I sometimes concentrate on one thing so hard that everything around me seems like a blur.

### EXAMPLE #2: (APPLYING)

- Outcast from the civilization around him:
  - Wesley doesn’t like what everyone does/wears, and even though that’s not a problem today, in the book, it is.
  - because Wesley doesn’t like things that stereotypical teen boys like, it makes him a complete outcast, and no one wants to be seen hanging out with him

### EXAMPLE #3: (APPLYING – needs more elaboration)

- Almighty Bedlam
  - a lot of trouble? (I really don’t know what it means)
  - according to the words around it, it sounds like a “big problem”
  - (when Wesley’s neighbour tells him about the “weeds” in his garden)

## THINKING AND LEARNING QUESTIONS:

### EXAMPLE #1: (APPLYING – Didn’t show reflecting thinking and needs to explain who pushed their thinking and how)

#### FIRST QUESTION:

What do you think was behind Wesley’s idea of opening “his land to chance, to invite the new and unknown”? How does this add to our knowledge of Wesley?

#### MY THINKING

I think that Wesley’s hoping to find something exotic in Weslandia, or use it as a chance to make some new friends. He wants something extraordinary to happen, and now I see him a little more as the boy who had big dreams, as well as someone who is accepting of everyone/everything. (Possibly due to his previous experiences of being bullied for being different).

#### MY LEARNING

One of the things I learned that really pushed my thinking would be that Wesley’s trying to find something that everyone can enjoy together. That way, everyone can just play together, and have a good time. He also may want to find some new plants so he can expand on his knowledge of nature.

### EXAMPLE #2: (APPLYING-EXTENDING)

**1. “In what ways is Maya different than Rafael”**

- I think Maya, and Rafael work so well together because they are so different. In the end they came to a common ground, and understanding. But Rafael is the person who takes the safer route. Goes exactly by the instructions, on the other hand Maya takes a bit more risk, and by that I mean she is creative, and doesn't really care about the instructions.

**What I learned from others:**

- Rafael is more practical, likes thinking inside the box - May

**EXAMPLE #2: (APPLYING-EXTENDING)**

**2. “How would you describe Rafael at the beginning of the story? Does he change? If so, in what way?”**

- Rafael was very close minded in the beginning, he did whatever the instructions said. Never putting a personal twist on it. By the end of the book he changed dramatically, he actually strayed away from the instructions being open-minded (ofcourse thanks to Maya). Maya rubbed off on him in my opinion, but so did Rafael rub off on Maya.

**What I learned from others:**

- Very intent on following instructions - Casey
- Character development was premature and fast - May

**POWERFUL RESPONSE EXAMPLES: (APPLYING-EXTENDING – Needs to add a bit more of the context of the story and )**

Hey look! There's a squirrel! So? You have probably had this conversation before some time in your life. What's so important about a squirrel anyways? Well, if all squirrels magically disappeared, there would be a huge impact on the environment. Plus you would never ever see a squirrel ever again. Squirrels are probably one of the little things in life that no one pays much attention to. These are the things that the book “The Man with the Violin” talks about. In the next few paragraphs, I will tell you all about my thoughts and opinions on “The Man with the Violin”.

I think the big idea is to pay attention to the small things in life because they usually go unnoticed for they are seemingly unimportant. However, when we really think about it, small things are really important to us. Everyone should pay more attention to the world around them. There are many small things in life that we all take for granted. Therefore, we don't really notice them. These small things may be really important to us, but if we don't notice them, we will only realize this when we lose this small thing. It's like the saying “You don't know what you have until you lose it.” Dylan is probably imagining the music notes as all the different strands of colours. This shows how much more observant and creative children are than adults. This is probably because

children aren't influenced by stereotypes and others thinking, so they will always think outside of the box and they will say what they think.

At the start of the story, Dylan thought that the music was beautiful and that everyone should be stopping to listen to it. The music made Dylan feel excited and he was awed by how sweet and pretty the music sounded. On the other hand, Dylan's mother didn't think about the music at all. She probably didn't even notice that there was music. I inferred that she wanted to get to her destination quickly and she might have pondered about why Dylan wanted to stay in the subway station. After that day, Dylan probably realized that not many people notice small things in life. However, this just proves that you need to pay attention to these things more because they could leave a great impact on you. Having said that, Dylan's mother started off as someone who didn't really notice much of the small things around them. In the end, she learned how important small things actually are and that she should be more aware of things around her. When Dylan first heard the music, he started to feel really excited and he wanted to stop and listen to it. Then, while Dylan wanted to stay and listen to the music, but he was being pulled down by the escalator, Dylan most likely felt sad or disappointed. He probably felt this way because he really wanted to listen to the music but there was no way for him to continue listening to it. At the end of the book, Dylan heard the music again on the radio, so he got his mother to come and they both danced to the music.

I think that almost all people in the world either don't notice small things or forget about these small things until they lose them. Additionally, I think that people should try to be more aware of their surroundings to avoid taking small things for granted. I feel surprised by how much small things can affect our lives. For example, if we had music taken away from us, we would probably miss music a lot. However, if we hear a busker on the street, we wouldn't really think much of it. Before I read this book, I never realized how much of a difference small things could make. To be honest, I kind of forgot about the small things in life and how much they can impact people. After I read this book, I realized how much small things mean to me and others too.

I think the author wrote this story to teach people about how we should pay more attention to our surroundings and to the little things in life. Many things are easily overlooked and you won't find out how much it means to you until you lose it. I also think that the author wants us to realize how many things we overlook in our daily lives. Additionally, I think that the author added in the postscript to leave a greater impact on us, for we will have a real life example of how much we ignore in our daily lives. I find that "The Man with the Violin is an enlightening story which reminds me all about the small things in life and how they can be important. Ever since I read the story, I have been trying to notice the smaller things in life. I think that everyone else should also try to notice the little things in life, for-as I've said time and time again- "You won't know what you have until you lose it.".

These are some questions I came up with:

~Why is the music that was played by the guy in the subway station on the radio?

~Is Dylan imagining all of the colours and lines or can everyone see them?

~Why do some of the people have three fingers?

~Is Joshua Bell still alive?

~Can some animals see sound waves?

Here are some connections I came up with:

~I notice some things that my aunt doesn't because we focus on different things.

~I play the violin too. I also play piano and sometimes I get so carried away when playing piano, that I can play for hours.

~When people play music, the sound is affected by how the person is feeling. For example, when someone is feeling sad and they play some music, the music will sound sad too.

~It's like Dylan got the music stuck in his head. I sometimes get music stuck in my head. Especially catchy music.

All in all, I think that "The Man with the Violin" is a book that really makes us think deeply. When we read this book, it makes us start reflecting on our lives and we start to appreciate and notice all of the little things that have happened to us. I believe that everyone should read this book, for it will show us what we are forgetting about in life.