

Assignment: *The Schwa Was Here*

Choose ONE of the prompts below, and answer in a **5+ paragraph essay**. Of course, this essay will be absolutely dripping with examples from the book. Relevant, direct quotes are awesome, too.

1. In *The Schwa was Here*, the main character befriends Calvin Schwa, who suffers from an interesting condition. What is the author's purpose of creating that condition, and what underlying theme do you think it is addressing or symbolizing.
 - Writing structure: Introduce your claim (the condition of Schwa) with some background of the story as your introduction.
 - Provide three supporting reasons (direct ways it affects Schwa) to back it up. Each supporting reason should include multiple examples from the book.
 - Conclude by identifying a larger theme of the book relating to being a teenager.

2. In *The Schwa was Here*, each character suffers from a very different condition that limits their ability to interact with the greater world. In a well organized essay, choose three characters (Calvin Schwa, Antsy, Lexie, or Mr. Crawley) and explain:

- The condition that limits their ability to interact with the world
- How they allow it to hold them back
- How they fight against the condition

In your conclusion, use the above information to explain the THEME (message, moral, lesson) of the novel.

3. In *The Schwa was Here*, the author show the characters' growth throughout the novel. Consider the ways characters help themselves change, and how other characters force them to change.

- Introduce the character(s)
- Illustrate (with words) their growth - multiple paragraphs
 - How did they help themselves?
 - Who helped them?
- Conclude

4. In *The Schwa Was Here*, Calvin (or the Schwa) is ultra focused on his mother. In a well written essay, explain the author's purpose for including the information about his mother, and explain the significance of that detail to the plot AND the theme.

- Explain the significance of the mother in the novel
- Identify specific characteristics of her personality
- Analyze the importance to the plot and the theme of the book

5. Using details from the book, compare and contrast Antsy's parents to Calvin's (or the Schwa's) parents. Use specific details from the book. THEN, explain the author's purpose for presenting them with their characteristics.