12-13-13

Argument

-By the end of the essay, Julia Alvarez realizes she truly is bicultural.

In the start of the story, Julia Alvarez is proud to be from the Dominican Republic. She loves being different than the other people around her. Throughout the story, though, Julia struggles accepting her culture. She wants to be like everyone else, and is ashamed she is not originally from America. However, by the end of the essay, Julia finally lets her bicultural image show, and she is not embarrassed anymore that she is not fully American.

Julia Alvarez used to be so proud to be Dominican. She especially took pride in her name, but she really cared about her last name. If anyone mispronounced her last name, she’d be confused because she thought it is just such an easy, normal name, since that is the name she grew up with. “I said the name to myself, opening my mouth wide for the organ blast of the *a*, trilling my tongue for the drumroll of the *r, All-vah-rrr-es*!” Julia pronounced her last name correctly in her head, because that is the correct, original way to say “Alvarez”. By doing this, Julia shows how much she cares about her name and culture.

Over the years, mainly when Julia reached high school, she ended up being embarrassed of her true Dominican culture. Julia wanted to be just like everybody else around her, fully American. “My initial desire to be known by my correct Dominican name faded. I just wanted to be Judy and merge with the Sallys and Janes in my class. But, inevitably, my accent and coloring gave me away.” Julia loved her true Dominican name, so it is very surprising she wanted to just give it up only because she wanted to be like every other girl and boy. Julia believed that her friends singled her out as a “foreigner, a rare, exotic friend”, since ethnicity wasn’t yet in and she looked very different than the others, but I personally think they were just so curious and excited about her being unique than the others.

Julia continues to hide her true culture in school, but at home she is back to being Dominican and not being ashamed. Julia loves her Dominican family, but there is one time she goes back to being embarrassed, even with them. That time is at Julias high school graduation, when the whole extended family came to visit. “They all came, the whole noisy, foreign looking lot of fat aunts in their dark mourning dresses and hair nets, uncles with full, droopy mustaches and baby blue or salmon colored suits and white pointy shoes and fedora hats”. The worst part was that they didn’t even look American, they definitely looked foreign and different, so anyone probably knew that it was her family. Julia wished only her mom, dad, and siblings came, since that is all her friends brought.