

Talking Points Paradise

Social Class and Distinguished

The girls were very critical of social class, which I found repulsive and annoying. They constantly commented on other people with their gossiping and sneaking, which honestly made me really angry. I commend Castedo because I feel that this would be exactly what would happen to a child in Solita's position. The way she included "candy" sharing and trying to impress with lies reminded me of my childhood years, because I'll have to admit to lying in order to impress.

Refugees and Immigration

There is obviously a distinction between being a refugee and being an immigrant. I found this a bit confusing having thought that it was basically the same thing, but it's not. These differences are noted by wealth and, of course, the motives for moving. I'm not sure why refugees in particular were treated so badly. I thought that it must've really been a bad experience to come from a higher social class in Spain, to be stepped on and lowered once in the New World.

Child's Point of View and Spoiling

Solita seems to be very unaware of adult issues and her condition, having grown up continuously moving around and only knowing that her family was getting away from Franco. Once in Paradise, she realizes that the life she lived in the underclass gave her more freewill and less to worry about. Specifically, she described it as only acquiring problems once she was there, never really seeing but the problems that her parents had. It's interesting because this is exactly the point of view a child would have, and Castedo is very successful in creating for us that little naïve girl's voice in our heads to follow the story in her eyes, yet know by her descriptions the things going on despite her not knowing.

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