

**STUDENT: Ariel Payne**

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The excerpt from “The Book of Negroes” by Lawrence Hill, it tells about the conflict of a woman named Meena in the 1700s whose life was affected by slavery. She was separated from her husband and her daughter, whom she gave to a white family to take care of, but they stole her and went to America. Meena was trying to deal with her losses.

This conflict is developed by setting. In this piece of writing, it says how she is in the setting of a poorer place of living in the 1700s, surrounded by slavery and slave traders. In this time, with the little amount of money she had, there wasn't much that Meena could do to help herself in her situation to find her family. One reference from the text is “I tolerated Jason and Daddy Moses staying in my shack until they had a place of their own built.” This indicates poor living condition and that she is living in a shack. Another example from the text would be the sentence “...if I showed up in that city with no money and no person to stand up for me.” This shows she has no money to help herself with her situation.

Another thing that helps to develop conflict in this piece of writing is the dialogue used. Throughout the piece, it uses many words to describe Meena's feelings of emotion due to the situation she is dealing with, which helps to develop the conflict more. One example that is given in the writing is when it says, “Because I am in the mood for dying.” This shows us just how upset and depressed Meena really is about being separated from her husband and her daughter. Her pain made it hard for her to get through her day to day life. Another example of dialogue from this piece of writing is when it says “for the next few weeks I was in such agony that I could barely speak,” and “My children were like phantom limbs, lost but still attached to me, gone but still painful.” This, again, shows Meena's struggle with her losses, and shows how the pain affected her everyday life and made the conflict of dealing with being in slavery that much more difficult.

Another element that develops the conflict of this writing would be the overall tone of the writing. The tone of this piece is very sad, and causes you as the reader to feel a little bit of the pain and loss Meena is experiencing. This also helps to develop the conflict.

These are a few examples of literary elements that help to develop the conflict throughout this piece of writing.