

Interchange Conference Transcript

I:\DIWE5NET\CLASSES\kwong01\CHAT\Angels

[Message #1 01:33:04 PM, Tuesday, May 03, 2011]

karen wong:

Prompt from "Yunior" : (167- 201) How is Yunior different from Oscar? How is he similar? How and why is Yunior transformed by Oscar? As Lola's on and off boyfriend, is he best suited to tell the family's history? Why or why not?

[Message #2 11:34:45 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

nhi to:

Yunior's physical aspect fits into the tough strong and macho image of a typical DR male. He's not only possess a strong physique "me, a guy who could bench 340 pounds" but also a lady man who has casual sexual relationships with multiple women at the same time. In these aspects he is very much different than Oscar.

The similarity would be same background and culture where both him and Oscar were raised by a parent that experienced both physical and psychological impact from three generations under a brutal dictatorship regime. Their [Yunior, Lola and Oscar] generation suffers from these emotionally detached parents thus in pursuit of their own happiness they become indifferent to others suffering. In Yunior, I see an insecure young man who is afraid of having an intimate relationship. He uses drugs and casual sex to fill up the great void in his life. Perhaps this is why he is more envious of Oscar who despite of being a nerd and overweight individual has a great desire for intimacy and is able to love in the most pure and intimate way. This is the transformation that Yunior most needed.

Is he best suited to tell the family's history? I do think so, as he has had access to de Leon's family, where intimate details have been revealed in the course of being near and close to both Lola and Oscar. Furthermore, he is familiar with the historical context of DR and is able to help us make connections between the environment that led to the outcome of the story.

[Message #3 11:36:57 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Nayeli Molina:

There are many differences between Yunior and Oscar. Yunior is very much a "typical" Dominican guy. He has a girlfriend but that doesn't stop him from sleeping with other girls. Oscar on the other hand doesn't have a girlfriend and is still a virgin. Oscar is not seen as the normal Dominican guy. Another difference between Yunior and Oscar is that Yunior is in shape and Oscar is not. Although there are many differences between Oscar and Yunior, there are also similarities between the two. One similarity

is that they are both attending college, the same school for that matter. They also share a common interest in the japanimation I believe it was called. Oscar seems really into that stuff but Yuniore is too, maybe just not as much as Oscar. Another similarity between them is that they are both writers. They both write and enjoy writing.

Yuniore is transformed by Oscar because being his roommate, he learned a lot about him and he changed. He saw what Oscar would go through and even tried to help him. He spent his time taking Oscar out for runs and he would invite him out when he would go out with his friends. He started to really care about Oscar and saw him as a friend, not just a roommate.

I think Yuniore gives an outsider's perspective on the family and I think he's suited for it. He knows Lola and Oscar pretty well so he was able to tell the story pretty well.

[Message #4 11:37:10 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kayla Aung:

Yuniore, a playboy who does not seem to have any problem getting females' attention, starts out agreeing to live with Oscar because of a favor he owes to Lola. He starts to care about Oscar, the nerdy fat boy who is trapped in his own little fiction world. After Yuniore messed up with his girlfriend at the time, instead of getting back in the game, he decides to start "Project Oscar". By this point, Oscar already is really looking up to him. Oscar wants changes. Even though most of the time it seems like all Oscar cares about is his writing and some other nerdy stuff, he secretly wants a different self. When Yuniore agrees to make him change, he is thrilled. "Really? The look he gave me----still breaks my heart, even after all these years" (176), Yuniore remembered. Although Yuniore and Oscar seem to be on opposite end from each other, one surrounded by girls and one avoided by girls; they have a lot in common. They are just college kids messing around; Oscar with his books and Yuniore with his girls. Even though Yuniore never admits that he likes Akira also.

Yuniore is in a way a brother Oscar never had. He protects Oscar from other kids and even try to bring positive changes to him. Yuniore and Lola are both quite important for Oscar and they are both affected by Oscar. "All I knew was that I'd never seen him more unhappy, but there was a part of me that didn't care. That wanted out of there the same way I had wanted out of my hometown" (189), Yuniore recalled. Sadly, this ssage could be a generalized summary of everyone around Oscar. Everyone cares about him but can't be there for him. They all know that Oscar will collapse once they leave but they all have to.

[Message #5 11:38:20 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Yuniore seems to be the total opposite of Oscar: he's got game. Unlike Oscar, he's very successful at picking up girls. Yet while Oscar is devoted to the one girl who catches his eye, Yuniore can't seem to stay honest to any of his girlfriends, which results in more than one break- up. Yuniore is also very much a guy's guy, hanging out with the boys and drinking beers.

Note that I write they "seem" to be different, because what's interesting to note is that they have a lot more in common than what's evident on the surface. For one, they're both writers, and as evidenced from the various narratives, Yuniór is as knowledgeable of science fiction, fantasy, et. al., as Oscar, frequently making analogies than only someone in the know would be able to cite. Yet he never lets anyone in on this knowledge of his, until he writes the history of the Cabrals. He claims to live with Oscar only because his only housing lottery number was so low that he'd have to live at home or on the streets, yet I wonder if he was actually intrigued with Oscar in some way, whether that be to get closer to Oscar's sister, Lola, or because he's seeking a way out from the narrow confines of what is expected of a Dominican male. Perhaps whatever vulnerabilities he observed in Oscar were ones that he couldn't deal with in himself. For instance, when Suriyan broke up with him due to his cheating ways, he's heartbroken, but he refuses to deal with the problem, "What I should have done was check myself into Bootie- Rehab. But if you thought I was going to do that, then you don't know Dominican men. Instead of focusing on something hard and useful like, say, my own shit, I focused on something easy and redemptive [Oscar]" (175). He couldn't handle the truths he was realizing about himself, so his inclination was to flee as soon as he could from being around Oscar. Little did he know that "...instead of getting him for a year, [he] got the motherfucker for the rest of [his] life" (181). How? Perhaps because he's transformed in some way, and especially in terms of how it impacts the subject of his own writing. While in college, his writing is heavy on the violence and swear words, but by writing the story of the Cabrals, he's able to liberate himself from that trope.

[Message #6 11:38:47 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Luis DePaz:

Yuniór is different than Oscar in many ways, not only is Yuniór the kind of ladies man, but he is also more of an athlete and outgoing guy. He is the kind of guy that would pick on Oscar. In a way I feel like Yuniór comes and plays a father role into Oscar's life. He makes it his duty to transform Oscar, and forces Oscar to change some habits. Oscar and Yuniór are both similar where they both care for Lola a lot, and it's important because it helps them meet neutral ground. I think that Yuniór is transformed by Oscar because he got to see Oscar's life almost in his shoes. Like people say many times we don't know what people are feeling until we put on their shoes, and Yuniór did. He got to learn a lot about himself, and help Oscar in a way as well.

Although Yuniór did live with Oscar and he has a relationship with Lola, I feel like Yuniór shouldn't be the right one to be telling the family's history. Normally boyfriends shouldn't get involved in these issues, unless they have known the family for a really long time, but I feel like Yuniór is kind of suited to tell the story, not only because he is close to Lola, but he lived with Oscar so he knows him too. Other than that, Oscar's family wasn't the best family out there, it didn't have the family structure, so I think it's okay that Yuniór tells the story.

[Message #7 11:40:10 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Good point, Kayla, about how Oscar starts to get under his skin. The quote you chose on 189 is interesting, too-- it seems like everyone is constantly in search of a better place, including even Yuniór. The question is why Yuniór wants out.

[Message #8 11:40:23 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

nhi to:

Nayeli and Kayla thank you for pointing out the most important fact that both Yuniór and Oscar love to write.

[Message #9 11:40:29 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Lam:

Yuniór is different from Oscar because he talks completely different from Oscar, he talks in vulgar language and he can get girls unlike Oscar. He has a nice body and is healthy while Oscar is overweight and nerdy. He is similar as well because they both are obsessed with girls. Even though Yuniór always reminded that all girls were out of his league, Oscar wouldn't care and would try to hit on them using sci-fiction pick up lines, which never worked. Also from time to time, Yuniór would watch some of the movies that Oscar was watching with him. Yuniór is transformed by Oscar because of him, he had to protect him from people that pick on him, and he knew that people behind his back would think lowly of him because he was hanging out with an overweight nerd. He also had to go to school and take Creative writing as his major. He used to be tough but after he became roommates with Oscar he became a "softie"(Joe) As Lola's on and off boyfriend he may not be the best suited to tell the family's history but an outsider is good at telling things from their point of view. We get to see things from a different angle and perspective.

[Message #10 11:41:27 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Nayeli and company, in what ways is Yuniór better equipped to tell the story of the Cabral's than Lola or Oscar? Why doesn't he tell Lola's story as well?

[Message #11 11:42:57 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Nhi, your response begins to answer Kayla's question about what Yuniór is fleeing from, namely intimacy. That's why I think that as much as Dominican men have more sexual freedom, in other ways they're trapped by this expectation.

[Message #12 11:45:29 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Luis DePaz:

yeah not only do they love to write, but I also feel like Yunior likes living with Oscar because he feels superior,

As far as men having more sexual freedom its true, but they feel pressure to be this ladis men, which many times can have a negative outcome.

[Message #13 11:46:23 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kayla Aung:

Now that you guys mentioned it, the interesting contrast between Yurior and Oscar is that one is a perfect fit a sterotypical Dominican male and one is a total opposite of it

[Message #14 11:46:32 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Nayeli Molina:

i think Yunior is better equipped at telling the story because he is telling it from an outsider's perspective. It;s less bias in my opinion when someone on the outside is the one telling the story.

[Message #15 11:47:48 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Nayeli Molina:

although they are total opposites, they still have similarities. i thought that was kind of interesting.

[Message #16 11:48:31 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kayla Aung:

I think he is at a better position to tell the story because he could gives out a much wider lens than either Oscar or Lola. In addition, he cares about both Lola and Oscar, even though he tries to hide it. So, he notices the emotional and physical changes of both easily.

[Message #17 11:49:53 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Luis DePaz:

yeha I think he is a good person to tell the story, but he could also be sweet talking the story, at least to make himself look good you know

[Message #18 11:50:13 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Lam:

Yeah, Yunior telling the story as an outsider is better because he is less likely to hide secrets and hidden things that maybe Oscar and Lola don't want people to know about. Also he not just an outsider he is Lola's ex and Oscar's roommate so he must know alot about both them.

[Message #19 11:50:13 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Nayeli Molina:

exactly, he lets us see the bigger picture yet we still get details because he cares about them.

[Message #20 11:51:24 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Luis DePaz:

As far as Yunior and Oscar being opposites, i do find it interesting how they both are totally different, but I almost feel like both learned a lot from each other living together

[Message #21 11:53:40 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Lam:

Yeah like Yunior taught Oscar how to excersie and loss weight. Oscar shared his sci-faction movies with Yunior, so they both learned things from each other.

[Message #22 11:53:45 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Nayeli Molina:

i agree, they both learned a lot from each other. i didnt expect them to end up being friends since they were so different.

[Message #23 11:53:56 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Luis DePaz:

What do you guys think about Yunior wanting to help Oscar? Do you think he did it because he wanted to help him, or just to look like a good guyu in Lola's eyes? Or was Oscar just a project for Yunior

?

[Message #24 11:55:05 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kayla Aung:

Luis, I think Yunior really starts to care about Oscar after a while. He becomes the big brother, in a way.

[Message #25 11:55:47 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Nayeli Molina:

i think Yunior cared about Oscar and genuinely wanted to help him. i think he was just trying to be a good friend to Oscar. He saw how bad Oscar wanted to get a girl so he offered to help and i think he really cared about him.

[Message #26 11:55:54 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Luis DePaz:

Yeah in a way I feel like he plays that male role model

[Message #27 11:56:45 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Lam:

Well I think his first intention was to look good in Lola's eyes so he could maybe win her back because I think like you said a project, but after living with him for a while he started to have true feelings toward him. He really started caring about Oscar.

[Message #28 11:56:48 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kayla Aung:

This is why when Oscar gives up, Yunior gets mad and even stop interacting with him.

[Message #29 11:58:02 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kayla Aung:

It's like you really want someone to be good and try hard to help that someone and that someone rejects your goodness.

[Message #30 11:58:28 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

nhi to:

Yunior is better equipped to tell the story of the Cabrls than Lola and Oscar because he is an outsider, who has unbiased point of view, with an insider information. He also emotional unattached with the Cabral's past which provide an unjudgemental tone in the story.

[Message #31 11:58:56 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Lam:

Yeah if Oscar was still just a project to him, then he wouldn't have stopped interacting with him, because then he would be failing. Yunior stopped because he really was disappointed at Oscar and he really wanted to help him in end, not just because of Lola.

[Message #32 11:59:18 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

BOO!

[Message #33 11:59:32 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Lam:

Shut up lol

[Message #34 12:00:14 PM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Luis DePaz:

yeah

Interchange Conference Transcript

I:\DIWESNET\CLASSES\kwong01\CHAT\Athletics

[Message #1 01:32:26 PM, Tuesday, May 03, 2011]

karen wong:

Prompt from "Yunior" : (167- 201) How is Yunior different from Oscar? How is he similar? How and why is Yunior transformed by Oscar? As Lola's on and off boyfriend, is he best suited to tell the family's history? Why or why not?

[Message #2 11:35:59 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

hi everyone

[Message #3 11:36:00 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

Shelby Molini

Activity One: Take until 11:35 to write a response to this prompt:

Prompt from "Yunior" : (167- 201) How is Yunior different from Oscar? How is he similar? How and why is Yunior transformed by Oscar? As Lola's on and off boyfriend, is he best suited to tell the family's history? Why or why not?

Yunior being Lola's on again off again boyfriend suggests that within the next year at school he will live with Oscar. This takes Lola by surprise as she is so shocked that he is one willing to do so and two that he follows through with it. Yunior is very different than Oscar, as he is more outgoing and is a player, player. Oscar being overweight, nerdy, into Star Trek doesn't leave him with many friends if at all. Oscar used his time of writing, staying in his dorm playing video games and focusing on nerdy things. From when he was little Oscar was a ladies' man, he was madly in love with the girls and in the Dominican Republic it was normal for men to have a wife, and a mistress on the side. Oscar wished that he could get girls and would try to approach them in different ways, however because of his looks and nerdy personality a lot of girls and even people in general wouldn't give him the time of day. Yunior saw this happening from living with him in the dorms and trying to get him out and about meeting new people and making friends. Yunior proposed the idea to Oscar if he wants to change his life. Which would consist of getting onto exercising daily as well as shaping up his diet, and Oscar agree. Yunior was being a good friend to Oscar as well as trying to overall win Lola over. Yunior woke up every morning at the crack of dawn and pushed Oscar to get out of bed and to get his running shoes on. Being extremely overweight and not exercising for a matter of years, this was a huge challenge for Oscar; however Yunior insisted that he would continue to push him thinking that this would help him out. Sadly, Oscar just

couldn't handle it anymore and called to an end of it. Yuniore didn't want to take no for an answer and tried to tell Oscar that this would help him with life and getting girls, which is what he wanted in the long run. Oscar was scared of the myth of dying a Dominican being virgin. Oscar soon falls in love with this girl Jenni, which many people like Yuniore, are shocked that she is giving him the time of day. They spent a lot of time together talking about common interests and doing things that they both enjoyed. As she quickly moved on, and only saw the two of them as friends, Oscar was heartbroken. He didn't know what to do and he fell into a depressing slump. Yuniore being the good friend that he was, tried to talk to Oscar about it as he noticed that he wasn't writing anymore, which was something that Oscar did on the daily. When Yuniore felt like he personally couldn't help Oscar, he called Lola who was in Spain to see what was the matter with Oscar and how he could help him. Lola insisted that Yuniore watch over him and make sure nothing happens to him. Yuniore and Oscar are two completely different people, they had a weird relationship and bond in the beginning when they were living together however after Oscar attempts to commit suicide you see how Yuniore really did care about him. Not only did Yuniore decide to leave their dorm the last night of school when Oscar decided to drink bottles of alcohol and attempt to jump off a bridge and die, but he didn't follow his word. Lola has asked him to watch over Oscar and make sure nothing happened to him, and he didn't do that. In that matter, he visited him that following summer after the incident seeing how he was doing. He wasn't doing it for Oscar's family, but for himself. Oscar made an impact on his life in a way, he seen the kid to be completely different and challenged himself to live with him. Yuniore must of liked the guy because when Oscar returned to school after his incident, Yuniore requested that he live with him again. I think that Oscar transformed Yuniore to have a different outlook on situations. Yuniore didn't believe that the two would actually become friends or even close at all, and was doing this living arrangement for Lola in the first place. But the second time, he wanted to live with him. He tried to get him out socially and teach him the ways of getting girls, and being healthy. Yuniore is suited to tell the family's history because he witnessed a lot being apart of their family's life during that time. With being on and off with Lola, to remaining somewhat friends with her, he also was there with Oscar. He saw how their mother treated the two kids. He even related Oscar to be stubborn like his sister, which we all know that related to who their mother is. Beli would threaten Oscar that when he would return to school that if he ever tried to do such a stupid act again, like attempting to commit suicide that she would haunt him with her whole life.

[Message #4 11:36:17 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Dayna Hernandez:

Yuniore is different from Oscar because (1) he is a good looking guy and, (2) he gets all the girls . Meanwhile, he is trying to help Oscar get in shape and is always giving Oscar advice on how to talk to girls. "Nothing too complicated. Like, Stop hollering at strange girls on the street, and don't bring up the Beyonder any more than necessary. Did he listen? Of course not! Trying to talk sense to Oscar about girls was like trying to throw rocks at Unus the Untouchable (174)." I guess you could say Oscar's way of not listening to Yuniore's advice is just like Yuniore not giving up on wanting Lola. Every time he saw her he wanted to say hi, and always did but she would always blow him off. Both of them are girl crazy, Oscar maybe a little more, but none the less, both extremely girl crazy. Yuniore was the one who would actually be able to get the girls though, while Oscar would develop crushes out of nothing and just sit at home with his comic books, movies and writings.

I think Yuniore is "transformed" by Oscar because he's always trying to look out for Oscar. Especially because Lola wants him to watch Oscar. Yuniore's life kind of becomes revolved around Oscar while

they're living with each other and he even brings O to his hang outs with his friends. When Yunior moves out, he still would see Oscar. He'd show up at his new dorm unexpectedly wanting him to read some of his new writings and actually, Yunior would have some of his own to show Oscar. Yunior would even stop by Oscar and Lola's home after Oscar committed suicide to check up on him and of course to see Lola. Even though he knew she didn't want anything to do with him because of the time he and O got into a little physical tussle.

I think as Lola's on and off boyfriend, maybe he is the best suited to tell the family's history because he's not there all the time. He's more of an outsider but he's enough on the inside to know when the curse is striking yet again. Whenever the curse strikes, he always has something to do with it for some reason. He always gets pulled into Lola and Oscar's family again.

[Message #5 11:37:12 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Yunior is different because he is a body builder and is social able unlike Oscar is completely anti-social and is out of shape and never ever goes out to make mistakes take chances and learn that there is more to life than just comic books, cartoons, Dungeons and Dragons, and Star Trek. He thinks Oscar has mind of a 5 year old and body of an obese college student and is so freaking annoying.

He is similar because he does play some of the games that Oscar comes up with. He likes a little bit of science-fiction. He even reads Oscars stories that he wrote.

He is transformed by Oscar because he is such a science-fiction nerd and relies on nothing but his fantasy world. Yunior is beginning to think that Oscar needs serious help so he decides to move in with Oscar but Lola was surprised to hear that. He told Lola that he will help her take care of her crazy brother. It seems like Yunior is trying to take up the role as Oscar's male model since Oscar does not have one.

Yes she is the best to tell the family history because her mom had a few boyfriends also but it always ends in a negative manner. Maybe is the "fuku" that is affecting them all.

[Message #6 11:38:16 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Yunior seems to be the total opposite of Oscar: he's got game. Unlike Oscar, he's very successful at picking up girls. Yet while Oscar is devoted to the one girl who catches his eye, Yunior can't seem to stay honest to any of his girlfriends, which results in more than one break- up. Yunior is also very much a guy's guy, hanging out with the boys and drinking beers.

Note that I write they "seem" to be different, because what's interesting to note is that they have a lot more in common than what's evident on the surface. For one, they're both writers, and as evidenced from the various narratives, Yuniar is as knowledgeable of science fiction, fantasy, et. al., as Oscar, frequently making analogies than only someone in the know would be able to cite. Yet he never lets anyone in on this knowledge of his, until he writes the history of the Cabrals. He claims to live with Oscar only because his only housing lottery number was so low that he'd have to live at home or on the streets, yet I wonder if he was actually intrigued with Oscar in some way, whether that be to get closer to Oscar's sister, Lola, or because he's seeking a way out from the narrow confines of what is expected of a Dominican male. Perhaps whatever vulnerabilities he observed in Oscar were ones that he couldn't deal with in himself. For instance, when Suriyan broke up with him due to his cheating ways, he's heartbroken, but he refuses to deal with the problem, "What I should have done was check myself into Bootie- Rehab. But if you thought I was going to do that, then you don't know Dominican men. Instead of focusing on something hard and useful like, say, my own shit, I focused on something easy and redemptive [Oscar]" (175). He couldn't handle the truths he was realizing about himself, so his inclination was to flee as soon as he could from being around Oscar. Little did he know that "...instead of getting him for a year, [he] got the motherfucker for the rest of [his] life" (181). How? Perhaps because he's transformed in some way, and especially in terms of how it impacts the subject of his own writing. While in college, his writing is heavy on the violence and swear words, but by writing the story of the Cabrals, he's able to liberate himself from that trope.

[Message #7 11:38:52 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Well he is weight lifter anyways.

[Message #8 11:40:19 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

OK READY

[Message #9 11:40:23 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

Junior is the total opposite of Oscar. He is the thug, and muscular and healthy and a bachelor. He is what every girl wants. He is tough and he knows what to do to get by, especially with girls. He is the stereotype that everybody sees in Dominicans. However, O, as Junior calls him, is the total reciprocal. He is overweight, shy and nerdy. He wants to be Junior, or the stereotype at least. He doesn't know how to pick up on girls except relate them to his science fiction games like when he was on the E bus and he told some hot chick: "If you were in my game I would give you an eighteen Charisma" (174). That's soooooo nerdy. LMAO. Though he has things that's unappealing, he has some strength such as his

knowledge and being wise. Like how he takes the definition of Dominicans and turn it into the DOG OF GOD when he greets Junior on the first day of being at Demarest: "Hail, Dog of God, was how he welcomed me my first day in Demarest. Took a week before I figured out what the hell he meant. God. Domini. Dog. Canis. Hail, Dominicanis. BWAHAHAHAHA. Anyways, they are pretty similar in emotions. They actually care about people. Junior may not admit it, but he does have sympathy for others especially for Junior. Another similarity is that they can have some great anger deep within themselves. When Oscar gets rejected he flips off. When Junior doesn't get what he wants he flips off. WHAT A CULO. LMAO. As for transformation, Junior becomes the total opposite of who he was. He shows more emotions, rather from being the ass that he used to be. Oscar had made him "soft". Junior had also changed in knowledge-wise. He learned a few things in the nerd world from Oscar. He learned that not all can be players like he and the reason why they can't be. Anyways, as for being Lola's on and off bf, he does have the position to tell the family's history. He's been there every second when something tragic happens in the family. He knows exactly where everyone is and what their motives are when they do something.

[Message #10 11:40:52 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

I agree with you on that.

[Message #11 11:41:25 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

He thinks Oscar has a mind of a five year old but a body of a college kid.

[Message #12 11:41:29 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

gabriela gerson:

Yunior is the typical Dominican male. He gets the ladies. They are similar they both want the same things. Women. Yunior manages to get them with his typical Dominican Male Attitude. They are both Dominican, they come from the same culture. Yunior outwardly shows that he is a caring person with Oscar sometimes.

Yunior had one on one experience with Oscar. He lived with him. He is qualified to recount the tales of Oscar's college years or the years he lived with Oscar. Yunior was close to Oscar, one of Oscar's friends. Also Yunior read Oscar's Journal/diary. He probably has insight into Oscar from reading it. Thus he has some insight into the family.

[Message #13 11:41:38 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Dayna Hernandez:

Oh, Joe. Lmao!!

[Message #14 11:42:12 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Yunior read Oscar's books also.

[Message #15 11:42:28 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Dayna Hernandez:

And also write his own...

[Message #16 11:43:19 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Yunior knows all about Oscar's science-fiction references as well. He even uses those references.

[Message #17 11:43:44 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

IF JUNIOR ISNT REALLY INTO THE GEEK WORLD, wouldnt you call him a geek too to be able to write a novel? i mean, not geek, but he has to be smart in some way

[Message #18 11:44:12 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

so hes not really all that dumb that he portrays to be.. i think he only does that coz of the stereotypes

[Message #19 11:44:21 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Yunior blames Oscar for being too anti-social.

[Message #20 11:44:31 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

he definately is smart..i mean with someone who plays video games and writes all day and goes to a college im sure he is smart in some way

[Message #21 11:45:16 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

GEEK SQUAD? Imao

[Message #22 11:45:16 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

thats who Oscar is,,,. he is anti social-- his mother isnt very social, she has friends for short periods of time when she was younger and in the dominican republic....

[Message #23 11:45:18 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Dayna Hernandez:

Yeah. I think that's the cool thing about Yunion. He's kind of a hot shot and can get all the girls he wants (except Lola) but he can put himself on a different level with Oscar and can enjoy what Oscar enjoys, too.

[Message #24 11:45:39 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

i think he's just hiding his smartness to be able to attract girls..

[Message #25 11:45:52 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

stereotype: girls just want jocks, not the smart and fat ones...

[Message #26 11:46:07 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

joe are u talking about yunior or oscar hiding his smartness?

[Message #27 11:46:09 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Yunior also belives Oscar is so annoying because after he finishes his "Akria". Oscar tells him that is over. Although he was already asleep.

[Message #28 11:46:23 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

gabriela gerson:

Yunior is dedicated to his gender role.

[Message #29 11:46:35 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

OH im talking about Junior

[Message #30 11:46:44 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

exactly.. and thats why oscar couldnt get the girls when really he was madly in love with them... and i think that Yunior did a good thing by trying to help him out and shape him up with his diet and get him running.. it was sad to see how easily he gave up though

[Message #31 11:47:08 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

It seems like Yunior is trying to take on the role as Oscar's male model.

[Message #32 11:47:10 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Dayna Hernandez:

Oscar is just hella weird though. The way he goes about picking up girls.... nooooo... Obviously it's a major turn off. EXCEPT for that one girl though... La Jablesse. Until she broke his heard of course.

[Message #33 11:47:10 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

yeah i need Junior to train me,.. im starting to get fat

[Message #34 11:47:29 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Interesting points about why Yunior hides his intelligence. I thought that one reason why he wanted out of his hometown, that as a Dominican male he wasn't expected to show his intelligence.

[Message #35 11:47:34 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Dayna Hernandez:

Really, Joe... hahaha.

[Message #36 11:47:41 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

because Oscar never had one as a child.

[Message #37 11:47:42 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

HAHAHA

[Message #38 11:47:59 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

LOL

[Message #39 11:48:11 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

That's true Ms. Wong.. He's too small minded about the stereotypes that is expected out of the DR

[Message #40 11:48:18 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Let's try to focus on the book.

[Message #41 11:48:48 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Dayna Hernandez:

Oh right of course. We're losing focus, Joe.

[Message #42 11:49:11 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

like he argued with Lola why she goin to Japan when everyone goes to Jersey?

[Message #43 11:49:18 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

HAHAHA... sorry i got ADD

[Message #44 11:49:57 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

so typical of him to say that everyone from DR migrates to Jersey. Why cant she go to Japan? is everything happening in Jersey?

[Message #45 11:50:03 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

GTL! GTL!

[Message #46 11:50:10 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

i dont think there is anything wrong with Yunior being a male role model in Oscar's life.... yet i dont think he is literally trying to be..... because we all know there wasnt a male figure in Lola or Oscar's life .. and their mother isnt set out to be the perfect parent either

[Message #47 11:50:25 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Since Oscar never had a male role model. Yunior is trying to fill in that hole by helping lola take care of her crazy brother Oscar.

[Message #48 11:51:04 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

MY QUESTION IS: WHY DID JUNIOR DECIDE TO DO THIS? for Oscar? or for Lola?

[Message #49 11:51:10 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Lola did not like that at first. But she let him help anyways.

[Message #50 11:51:13 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

i think that yunior is just doing it because he is a semi good person.... and being a good friend to Lola... which ends up him becoming friends with Oscar as well

[Message #51 11:51:23 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Maybe is for both of them.

[Message #52 11:51:30 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

I THINK IT WAS FOR LOLA JOE... AT FIRST AT LEAST

[Message #53 11:51:38 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

Does he still have a crush on Lola? or is it because of their history, he felt obligated to be there for Oscar?

[Message #54 11:51:57 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

He did say that he will take care of himself and Oscar.

[Message #55 11:52:02 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

OOoOh.. yeah, at first.. i agree.. i think thats the transformation

[Message #56 11:52:05 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

BECAUSE THEN AFTER THE SUMMER OF OSCAR HEALING AND THEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL.... YUNIOR GOES TO LIVE WITH HIM AGAIN...

[Message #57 11:52:28 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

I agree on that SHelby

[Message #58 11:52:28 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

Junior was gonna do this just for Lola, and ended up getting to know Oscar and learning WHAT A WONDERFUL PERSON HE IS! YAY!

[Message #59 11:52:59 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

i think he realizes that things between him and lola are simply just friends because at that time she had a fiance and she didnt want anything more with Yunior besides a friendship

[Message #60 11:53:06 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Dayna Hernandez:

Yeah, i agree with you Shelby. Oscar really looks up to Yunior but even Yunior says pretty much that he's still doing his own thing. He's trying to help Oscar out a lot by giving him advice and to motivate him but he's really just still doing his own thing.

[Message #61 11:53:17 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Not exactly he still looks at Oscar as a Sci-fi nerd.

[Message #62 11:53:49 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

But he will do anything is his power to restore Oscar to his old self again.

[Message #63 11:54:13 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

yunior transformed himself and his outlook on people i feel. because i feel like at first he nevre thought he would actually be friends with oscar.. and was simply just doing it for lola.. but he tries to help oscar out in different ways and does hang out with him outside of their dorm

[Message #64 11:54:25 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

there is nothing wrong with being a sci fi nerd... its who oscar is.

[Message #65 11:54:42 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

yes true that

[Message #66 11:54:58 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Dayna Hernandez:

I think (1) Yunior is helping out Oscar because of Lola (2) When he really starts to see what kind of person Oscar is... he decides he wants to start helping him out with his self esteem and with girls

[Message #67 11:55:11 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

He does play with Oscar a little in his games.

[Message #68 11:55:24 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

no there isnt... its just the way junior sees it.. It's like that movie She's All That... popular jock vs. nerdy girl...

[Message #69 11:55:30 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

yes dayna i completely agreee

[Message #70 11:55:42 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

joe its YUNIOR

[Message #71 11:55:52 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

lol, i like saying junior

[Message #72 11:55:53 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Exactly. Oscar used to be a ladies man himself.

[Message #73 11:55:57 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

alright alright

[Message #74 11:56:01 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

gabriela gerson:

I think Yunion embraces the part of himself that actually cares about people.

[Message #75 11:56:29 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

Imao

[Message #76 11:56:36 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

since he was little..... all dominican men are ladies men.. they have multiple women and they use some of them for one thing only. SEX. disgusting...

[Message #77 11:56:44 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Dayna Hernandez:

Yeah, me too. He's a good person at heart. And smart.

[Message #78 11:56:55 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

But things do not turn out the way he hoped so just gave up. They is still more fish in the sea for Oscar. He should keep on trying.

[Message #79 11:57:34 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

look at who Trujillo is and how he was looked at in the DR. he wanted men's daughters and would put people in jail for stupid reasons... he wanted the hottest and most beautiful women and he would do whatever he wanted to get them because no one could stop him because of his power

[Message #80 11:57:35 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Who knows Oscar might get lucky and get a girl outside of his home that likes the same things he likes.

[Message #81 11:57:51 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

besides Lola

[Message #82 11:57:56 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

I think Junior sees a potential in Oscar, that Oscar can be Junior in a moment in time...

[Message #83 11:58:08 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

oscar will find someone that likes him for who he is.end of story.

[Message #84 11:58:14 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Again Joe you are correct

[Message #85 11:58:24 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

obviosuly he isnt going to get with his sister.

[Message #86 11:58:31 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

gabriela gerson:

lol

[Message #87 11:58:41 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

ok wait: its off topic... but, if lola is so distant from Oscar, why does she care so much what Junior does to him?

[Message #88 11:58:59 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

ITS I-RON-IC

[Message #89 11:59:07 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

she is just looking after him and its her brother....

[Message #90 11:59:11 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Oscar should go out make mistakes take chances and learn that their is more to life than just sci-fi, and comic books. DON't you think so?

[Message #91 11:59:28 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Dayna Hernandez:

YOU'RE I-RON-IC

[Message #92 11:59:54 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Joe Tecson:

i know its my multi-personality.. i feel like Junior inside of me.. and Oscar on the outside

[Message #93 11:59:59 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Shelby Molini:

oscar likes to do whatever he wants.. and there is nothing wrong with that... and thats the same thing his mother and sister do earlier in the novel.... no one is going to stop him.. he does what he wasnts when he wants.

[Message #94 12:00:09 PM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Dayna Hernandez:

She care's because Oscar's Lola's brother!! hahaha

[Message #95 12:00:33 PM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

The world is a huge place there is more to explore than just comics and sci-fi.

[Message #96 12:01:11 PM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Just think about that. Imagine a world just waiting for you out there.

[Message #97 12:01:38 PM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Thomas Pham:

Explore it and gather knowledge.

Interchange Conference Transcript

I:\DIWE5NET\CLASSES\kwong01\CHAT\Dodgers

[Message #1 01:32:46 PM, Tuesday, May 03, 2011]

karen wong:

Prompt from "Yunior" : (167- 201) How is Yunior different from Oscar? How is he similar? How and why is Yunior transformed by Oscar? As Lola's on and off boyfriend, is he best suited to tell the family's history? Why or why not?

[Message #2 11:34:01 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

Prompt from "Yunior" : (167- 201) How is Yunior different from Oscar? How is he similar? How and why is Yunior transformed by Oscar? As Lola's on and off boyfriend, is he best suited to tell the family's history? Why or why not?

Yunior's cultural background is similar to Oscar's as was his upbringing. Yunior is what Oscar could have become if he hadn't withdrawn into himself and built up his paper walls. Yunior is partially what Oscar aspired to be strong, confident, successful the stereotype of the Dominican playboy. Whereas Yunior sees Oscar as a pity case, he tries to help but is not invested enough in the project to make it stick. Yunior is not immediately affected by Oscar but as time goes on he becomes more entwined in his life and his mythos. Yunior becomes Oscar's sounding board and confidante while Oscar becomes something like a favorite cousin to Yunior; someone you don't see all the time but that you still keep tabs on and lookout for.

Yunior may not be the ideal candidate for the position as the informal biographer of Oscar's family but he is the man with the job. He is close enough to the family to be privy to all their secrets and background, he is distant enough to have only minimal personal baggage within the story and he is dedicated enough to sift through everyone's individual story to pull out something resembling the truth. A historian or biographer might do the same job in a more accurate or impartial way but they would lose the soul and flavor of the story. Sometimes the story is truer than the truth.

[Message #3 11:34:08 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Jose Sanchez:

Yuni at first is the total opposite of Oscar. He's out going, a ladies' man, takes pride on his physical features while Oscar is introverted, shy, and cares very little on taking care of his physical. But

at the same time they both love Lola. Oscar loves Lola because she is his sister, she is someone that truly loves him and the love reciprocates. Yuni also loves Lola, but not in the way that she loves all the other ladies, Lola to him is someone like no-one else, she takes no crap from anybody and that is a very respectable thing in his mind.

Yuni not only loves Lola as "one of the badest chicks" that he has ever met, he loves her because she has a great heart. Lola demonstrated this when she took care of him after he got jumped by the "morenos". She was the only one that really showed him love during the hard times of recovery, she spent the nights next to him (not in a sexual manner, but instead as a companion who cared about him and his pains).

Yuni is a character which is has an outsiders' point of view. Not only is the story told in a new sense which makes you really see a character for what other people see him as. At first I thought of Oscar as just another "square", but in reality he is shown as a very complicated person who is pained by many things throughout his life and many of those things are very well put into perspective by seeing is through someone else's eyes.

[Message #4 11:34:22 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

vincent ho:

Very, very different from Oscar. He may have some degree of nerdiness from Oscar, but not entirely as he's more into girls, sports, and getting laid and more physically fit. He does have a trouble with girls and how to manage them. While Oscar hits hard whenever he's heartbroken, Yuni had some down time whenever a girl find out he was cheating or whenever rejected. Both of what they have in common are that they were cared by Lola at least once or more.

What I see in him is that he's doing Lola a favor for helping him. He believes it would be fair if he were to take care of her brother. And the process of babysitting didn't turn out so well. He tries to help, but couldn't help Oscar entirely. He does become different from his experience with Oscar. He developed a sense of care, sympathy. He started to feel sorry that he yelled at Oscar. Oscar's self-esteem is low, and Yuni almost lost hope in him. He sees how Oscar's sister is concerned about him, and he himself knows why he should care. Oscar attempted suicide really marred Yuni badly. He likes Lola, but she rejects him because he wasn't there with Oscar when he needs help.

I wouldn't say he would be a good addition to the staff of narrators. Sure he's a good, believable, and fun character, but what he's involved in wouldn't contribute much to the family history or the curse. He himself doesn't believe in the curse. He did made a story for his class that is somehow similar to what Beli has been living and how the added elements of his experience with Oscar would be a match for the story. Plus his involvement in the family might change their perception among each other, making history out of it.

[Message #5 11:36:50 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Katie Rivette:

Yunior describes himself as a typical popular ladies man in college. A major turning point for him is when he realizes that, "at college you're not supposed to care about anything- but believe it or not, I cared about Lola" (168). As Yunior's crush on Lola develops he decided to take Oscar under his wings, to get on Lola's good side.

Yunior and Oscar are two very different people. Unlike Yunior Oscar had no luck with the ladies and is very out of shape. They do have one thing in common though, writing. While Oscar writes science fiction novels Yunior takes more interest in writing about robberies and drug deals. Yunior develops a more compassionate and caring side while living with Oscar. He tries to motivate Oscar to run with him daily in order to get in shape to get a girl.

Yunior seems to now know a lot about the de Leon family. He may not have know too much about it while living with Oscar, but somehow he learned about it and is able to go back and analyze his time with Oscar and relate it back to the family's history in his retelling.

[Message #6 11:38:13 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Yunior seems to be the total opposite of Oscar: he's got game. Unlike Oscar, he's very successful at picking up girls. Yet while Oscar is devoted to the one girl who catches his eye, Yunior can't seem to stay honest to any of his girlfriends, which results in more than one break- up. Yunior is also very much a guy's guy, hanging out with the boys and drinking beers.

Note that I write they "seem" to be different, because what's interesting to note is that they have a lot more in common than what's evident on the surface. For one, they're both writers, and as evidenced from the various narratives, Yunior is as knowledgeable of science fiction, fantasy, et. al., as Oscar, frequently making analogies than only someone in the know would be able to cite. Yet he never lets anyone in on this knowledge of his, until he writes the history of the Cabrals. He claims to live with Oscar only because his only housing lottery number was so low that he'd have to live at home or on the streets, yet I wonder if he was actually intrigued with Oscar in some way, whether that be to get closer to Oscar's sister, Lola, or because he's seeking a way out from the narrow confines of what is expected of a Dominican male. Perhaps whatever vulnerabilities he observed in Oscar were ones that he couldn't deal with in himself. For instance, when Suriyan broke up with him due to his cheating ways, he's heartbroken, but he refuses to deal with the problem, "What I should have done was check myself into Bootie- Rehab. But if you thought I was going to do that, then you don't know Dominican men. Instead of focusing on something hard and useful like, say, my own shit, I focused on something easy and redemptive [Oscar]" (175). He couldn't handle the truths he was realizing about himself, so his inclination was to flee as soon as he could from being around Oscar. Little did he know that "...instead of getting him for a year, [he] got the motherfucker for the rest of [his] life" (181). How? Perhaps because he's transformed in some way, and especially in terms of how it impacts the subject of his own writing. While in college, his writing is heavy on the violence and swear words, but by writing the story of the Cabrals, he's able to liberate himself from that trope.

[Message #7 11:39:04 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Jose Sanchez:

I like the point of view that Yuni has. It actually lets you see how people actually look at Oscar and Lola.

[Message #8 11:39:28 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

MaryJane Patdu:

Yunior is different from Oscar by not believing with the curse and that he is a player and a cheater. They are similar when it comes with love. Oscar wanted to have someone to love him, while Yunior has no ability to remain faithful to the one he loves. Yunior is transformed by Oscar by having a family and that Lola and his mother cares about Oscar when he committed suicide. Yunior realizes that even though Oscar is fat and a nerd his family is still there to protect and care about him. And when Oscar was heartbroken Yunior did not think that Oscar will try to kill himself because of love. As for Lola, Yunior saw how important is Oscar to Lola. Lola always asks Yunior to watch for her brother and from that Yunior saw how Lola loves and cares about his brother no matter what he is. I don't think that Yunior is the best suited to tell the family's history because first of all Yunior has unusual relationship with his family and he always lie and that is what Lola don't like about him.

[Message #9 11:40:14 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Jose Sanchez:

You see how society sees them, instead of how they think society sees them

[Message #10 11:41:07 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

vincent ho:

I liked guys like Yuni. He says he doesn't care about Oscar because he's a hopeless cause, and that he's taking too much of his time, but deep down he really cares.

[Message #11 11:41:51 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

Yunior started out taking on oscar as a hobby, but what got him so entwined that he ended up writing a book about him?

[Message #12 11:41:54 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Jose Sanchez:

That the way people are brought up. you put people down so they bring themselves up

[Message #13 11:42:52 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

jose: that dosen't always work though, sometimes people just pull into themselves further.

[Message #14 11:43:50 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

vincent ho:

Which page was it that he planned to write a story about them? All I know is that he write, "about the woman who used to live in the patio behind my house in the DR, a woman everybody said was a prostitute but who used to watch me and my brother while my mom and my abuelo were at work."

[Message #15 11:44:18 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Jose Sanchez:

Russell: That is definetly the case for Oscar, but the way you are brought up is the way you know how to act and that is the way I believe Yuni was brought up.

[Message #16 11:44:24 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

The whole book is Yunior writing about oscar

[Message #17 11:44:58 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

vincent ho:

Does that mean he wrote the Abelard backstory?

[Message #18 11:45:11 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Katie Rivette:

@ vincent :Yeah Yunion definitely does have a soft spot, at first he started taking care of or "watching" Oscar after the suicide attempt, to get on lolas good side but toward s the end he was just doing it because he really did care for Oscar. He really wanted to see Oscar change.

[Message #19 11:46:00 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

I guess oscar just grew on him. but why did he end up writing their whole family history?

[Message #20 11:47:08 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Katie Rivette:

because he was a writer and he saw how much of an interesting and deep story there was.....

[Message #21 11:47:21 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Jose Sanchez:

Oscar is the type of dude that wouldn't hurt a fly, as innocent to life as a kid that has never lived it

[Message #22 11:47:43 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Katie Rivette:

To honor Oscar because the book is definatly written after his death.

[Message #23 11:48:15 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

vincent ho:

Plus it doesn't hurt to write a story about them. Stories are fun. And I can tell he had a good time with Oscar and wants to remember it by writing a story.

[Message #24 11:48:30 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

the intro says He wrote the book as a Zafa but why would yunion be the one who was cursed?

[Message #25 11:49:03 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Jose Sanchez:

Well the break up with Lola would be a fuku

[Message #26 11:49:18 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

vincent ho:

and the curse might be contagious

[Message #27 11:49:32 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

@ Jose

I think that was more just Yuni being an idiot

[Message #28 11:49:49 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Vincent and company, good observations about how Oscar begins to get under Yuni's skin. Yes, in message #14, his short story about the woman who used to live behind them in the DR is a radical change for his usual plots. What does that shift in topics suggest about Yuni?

[Message #29 11:50:06 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

@ Vincent

Like if you know about it you catch it?

[Message #30 11:50:10 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

MaryJane Patdu:

I think Yuni learns a lot of things about Oscar...

[Message #31 11:50:14 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

vincent ho:

@Russel: should Yunior be like the voice of the author, Junot Diaz?

[Message #32 11:50:15 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Jose Sanchez:

Russell :

we can all agree on that

[Message #33 11:52:06 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

vincent ho:

Yunior does, after all, have a more realistic and believable view of the family and doesn't exaggerate his emotions.

[Message #34 11:52:22 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

@ Vincent

I think that the whole book is from Yunior's point of view, that he and lola collected it after oscar's death as a tribute and a Zafa to the curse. Diaz wrote it from that perspective to give a certain point of view.

[Message #35 11:53:31 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

vincent ho:

uh huh

[Message #36 11:53:49 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Jose Sanchez:

Vincent :

I don't think exaggeration of emotions is a good description, for how do we know that that is not just how they are? and that is the way they react to certain things

[Message #37 11:54:21 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

@ Karen, yunior's shift in topics indicates that he was maturing as a writer, shifting from cheap thrills and Genre fiction to more introspective literary work.

[Message #38 11:54:21 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

vincent ho:

but what about the story told from Lola's view, did he write that or did he have Lola help him (mostly did)?

[Message #39 11:54:53 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

I assume Lola collaborated on the project

[Message #40 11:56:00 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Vincent, the story reference is at the bottom of 196- -I just stumbled across it.

[Message #41 11:56:11 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Katie Rivette:

@ ms. Wong : the shift in Yuniors Plots has some to do with him Matureing as a writer and truly wanting to do well in his last year at school. His professor even exclaims, "im impressed. not a single shooting or stabbing in the whole story" (196). Yunior goes on to state that he didnt win any of the awards that he had kinda been hoping for.

[Message #42 11:56:28 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

addendum to M#37: this is the beginning of the maruration that would lead to Yunior being able to write oscars story.

[Message #43 11:57:12 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Katie Rivette:

oh sorry russle didnt see your comment before hand!! but yeah its definitely his writing being taken more serioulsy by him.

[Message #44 11:57:36 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Katie Rivette:

russell**

[Message #45 11:57:37 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

nice to know other people are on the same track

[Message #46 11:58:18 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

MaryJane Patdu:

it's more about Yunior perspectives about the Cabral family especially Oscar..

[Message #47 11:58:28 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

vincent ho:

@ Jose, I say they're exaggerating because they are describe as a very traumatic living experience. When stressed, you can't help but express it through anger and sorrow. They express sorrow from the words used to decribed a negative indication of expression. Plus, emotions as I see them are like hints of fragility, people are takened advantage of easily when they're emotional; they're more like a distraction to me when it comes to succeeding in life. Emotions can be the motivations of goal, but not while you're being emotional along the way. Clausewits, "the greatest enemy of a good plan is the dream of a perfect plan".

[Message #48 11:58:48 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Russell Hanssen:

Does anyone think that filling in "la pagina blanca" is the way that Yunion intends to counteract the curse?

[Message #49 12:00:14 PM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Jose Sanchez:

@ Vincent

Great points

Interchange Conference Transcript

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[Message #1 01:32:35 PM, Tuesday, May 03, 2011]

karen wong:

Prompt from "Yunior" : (167- 201) How is Yunior different from Oscar? How is he similar? How and why is Yunior transformed by Oscar? As Lola's on and off boyfriend, is he best suited to tell the family's history? Why or why not?

[Message #2 11:34:08 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Regina Solleza:

Yunior is different from Oscar because Yunior is more of the typical Dominican guy that people see how Dominicans should be. He is more of the tough guy that is really in charge and can get a lot of girls. Oscar is the total opposite. He's into sci-fi and really nerdy. He doesn't fit into the Dominican stereotype the way Yunior does. Even Harold, Yunior's friend, told Oscar that he isn't Dominican. "Harold would say, Tu no eres nada de dominicano, but Oscar would insist unhappily, I am Dominican, I am." (180). They are similar because they are both really into girls and fought for what they wanted. They both kept going for girls that they really wanted and didn't give up easily.

Yunior offered to move in with Oscar and that helped Yunior to become more responsible. He learned how to take care of himself and others. "Sure I wanted to help Lola out, watch out for her crazy-ass brother (knew he was the only thing she really loved in this world), but I was also taking care of my own damn self." (170). It was up to Yunior to take care of Oscar since Lola wasn't around to look after him. He tried to push Oscar to change his life for the better when Oscar wanted to make that change. Being around Oscar helped him become more patient and accept things more.

[Message #3 11:36:50 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Mabel Ye:

Yunior is not like Oscar at all. He is a playboy and he actually gets girls. Oscar is too straight forward with girls while Yunior is more smooth. I think Yunior thinks he is a tough guy which is why he decided to walk past the group of people when he knew he shouldn't and got beat up. He has many friends and a social life. Oscar would always stay in the room and watch animes. Although they were different, they were also really similar in many ways. They both liked writing. I think that is why Oscar and him actually got along. Oscar is always writing and he would ask Yunior for his opinion. I think Yunior became a different person after he met Oscar. In the beginning he did it just because of Lola. I think he wanted to seem caring in Lola's eyes and wanted her not to worry about Oscar. Then as he lived with Oscar, he actually began to care about him. He wanted to help Oscar out. I think he realized that Oscar was a good person but he was just a little odd. He was willing to help Oscar get girls if he was willing to listen

to him. He went jogging with Oscar and actually got mad when Oscar gave up. This shows that he really did care. I also remember the part at the end when he saw Lola again after a while and decided to be like Oscar and go straight to the point and ask her out. I think Yuniór came to respect Oscar as a person and not just some random fat guy that other people saw him as. I think Yuniór is suited to tell the story because that was the story at the time. He was living it with them. We can see the story through his eyes and how it looked like to an outsider that was in the lives of the family. He was the person that saw how Oscar acted. If we were to hear the story from Oscar, we would probably only hear about Jenni. Yuniór being the one that lived with Oscar and saw the phases he went through, is the perfect person to talk about the family's history at that point in their lives. I also remember a part in this where Yuniór said something about that is why he is stuck with the family forever after Oscar fell in love. Is it because he was there when Oscar tried to commit suicide therefore he was connected to the family forever?

[Message #4 11:38:09 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Yuniór seems to be the total opposite of Oscar: he's got game. Unlike Oscar, he's very successful at picking up girls. Yet while Oscar is devoted to the one girl who catches his eye, Yuniór can't seem to stay honest to any of his girlfriends, which results in more than one break-up. Yuniór is also very much a guy's guy, hanging out with the boys and drinking beers.

Note that I write they "seem" to be different, because what's interesting to note is that they have a lot more in common than what's evident on the surface. For one, they're both writers, and as evidenced from the various narratives, Yuniór is as knowledgeable of science fiction, fantasy, et. al., as Oscar, frequently making analogies than only someone in the know would be able to cite. Yet he never lets anyone in on this knowledge of his, until he writes the history of the Cabrals. He claims to live with Oscar only because his only housing lottery number was so low that he'd have to live at home or on the streets, yet I wonder if he was actually intrigued with Oscar in some way, whether that be to get closer to Oscar's sister, Lola, or because he's seeking a way out from the narrow confines of what is expected of a Dominican male. Perhaps whatever vulnerabilities he observed in Oscar were ones that he couldn't deal with in himself. For instance, when Suriyan broke up with him due to his cheating ways, he's heartbroken, but he refuses to deal with the problem, "What I should have done was check myself into Bootie- Rehab. But if you thought I was going to do that, then you don't know Dominican men. Instead of focusing on something hard and useful like, say, my own shit, I focused on something easy and redemptive [Oscar]" (175). He couldn't handle the truths he was realizing about himself, so his inclination was to flee as soon as he could from being around Oscar. Little did he know that "...instead of getting him for a year, [he] got the motherfucker for the rest of [his] life" (181). How? Perhaps because he's transformed in some way, and especially in terms of how it impacts the subject of his own writing. While in college, his writing is heavy on the violence and swear words, but by writing the story of the Cabrals, he's able to liberate himself from that trope.

[Message #5 11:38:11 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Plascencia:

Yunior moved in with Oscar when no one else wanted to be around him . Yunior says " Did I try to help him with his girl situation? Share some of my playerly wisdom" (173) with this , we see that Yunior was different than Oscar, he was a the typical dominican guy and a "player" Yunior could get girl sunlike Oscar who was really nerdy. Yunior tried to give Oscar advice on how to get girls, but it was useless. Oscar did not listen. " I decided I was going to fix Oscars life" Yunior began to actually care about Oscar, he wanted to help him out. I think he is best suited to tell the familys history because he was there when oscar tried to commit suicide.

[Message #6 11:39:01 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kenya Garrett:

Oscar's dilemma throughout the story is his incapability to embody the role of the Dominican male both physically and mentally. Oscar's sole ambition is to find a woman who returns his love but he does not have the necessary masculine qualities to achieve his goal. Yunior's dilemma, on the other hand, is his overachieved masculinity, i.e. his role as a ladies' man that cannot turn off his charm, to the point that he is unable to maintain a relationship with Lola because he cannot be faithful. Oscar and Yunior are opposites when it comes to Dominican masculinity and thus prevent each other's success. They are similar for the fact that they are both nerds and have a love for fantasy. Even in oscar's suicide note he leaves Yunior his movies and books. In page 172 Yunior seems to understand Elvish- though he never admits his own nerdiness. He speaks about not getting much affection growing up, this obviously relates to how he treats women. Although Yunior not having affection growing up also relates him to Oscar because Oscar was neglected after he gained weight and do to his mother being gone from the home as well. These are the exact reasons in my opinion for him being the narrator. Oscar is Yuniors emotions unspoken. His pain realized. Through him telling Oscars story; he is one redeeming himself for the crap he gave Oscar and two releasing who he truly is. His criticism of Oscar when telling the story is mores so from the critic's he has on himself rather than Oscar. I believe this also is the reason for Diaz putting the two as roommates they are each other's alter egos. I believe Yunior is redeemed by Oscar. I feel as if Oscar cause's Yunior to gain understanding of this Dominican/America/ masculine concept he battles with and in a way Oscar death can be as a sacrifice for Yunior.

[Message #7 11:44:17 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kenya Garrett:

maybe the curse is in relation to what lola says the only way out is in , so the only way for Yunior and Oscar to be happy is to except who they are , instead of trying to be the people they are not

[Message #8 11:44:28 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kenya Garrett:

or look for what they will never have

[Message #9 11:44:50 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Plascencia:

accept themselves for who they are . i agree

[Message #10 11:45:45 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kenya Garrett:

i agree with Ms. wong i think yunior acts at first that he is only there to help oscar out when actuality he likes the funky fantasy stuff oscar has to offer

[Message #11 11:46:13 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Plascencia:

Oscar says he will stick to being himself he saays " I might aswell be myself" and yunior says " But youself sucks!"

[Message #12 11:47:57 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Mabel Ye:

Even if Yunior was only rooming with Oscar for his on selfish reasons in the beginning it is no doub tht at Oscar grows on him and that he actually ends up caring for Oscar

[Message #13 11:48:30 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kenya Garrett:

lol i agree , i dont think thats what were arguin mabel

[Message #14 11:49:44 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Regina Solleza:

@mabel Yeah and when Oscar was in the hospital when he tried to commit suicide, Yunior actually went to visit him and they were all surprised that he would go to see Oscar

[Message #15 11:49:53 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Plascencia:

a agree with Ms. Wong that perhaps perhaps whatever vulnerabilities Yunion observed in Oscar were the ones he couldnt deal with himself

[Message #16 11:49:53 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kenya Garrett:

but yeah definately self growth happens while yunion is rooming with oscar ...question what do you guys think about the part when oscar commits suicide at the train station but fails and see's the mongoose? how do you think that relates

[Message #17 11:50:44 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Crystal and company, please expand on message #15. What did Yunion refuse to deal with?

[Message #18 11:51:04 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kenya Garrett:

yeah exactly the vulnerabilities yunion has are the exact ones oscar encompasses and thats why he is the narrator because he understand the battle of being dominican in america, and being a colored male

[Message #19 11:51:20 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Plascencia:

yes

[Message #20 11:51:21 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Mabel Ye:

maybe he was as insecure as Oscar was but was too afraid to show it

[Message #21 11:51:33 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Mabel Ye:

Maybe in trying to help Oscar out he was trying to help himself?

[Message #22 11:51:58 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Mabel Ye:

And Kenya, the mongoose keeps coming up in times of distress

[Message #23 11:52:10 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Mabel Ye:

Like it was their savior or gaurdian angel

[Message #24 11:52:18 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Plascencia:

he was trying to helposcar out but at the same time i think it was a way for him to help himself and his own insecurities

[Message #25 11:52:28 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Mabel Ye:

just like how the faceless man always came around when something bad was going to happen

[Message #26 11:52:41 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kenya Garrett:

junior tells how he was neglected of effection growing up. so as a player he spends his time getting affection and misusing it all the time all he truly wants is real love the same thing oscar is out for

[Message #27 11:54:32 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kenya Garrett:

yeah but you notice how its depicts it staring at him ? and it doesnt speak? almost like it recognize his want not to live but saves him anyway

[Message #28 11:58:09 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Mabel Ye:

yeah probably cause it's not his time??

[Message #29 11:58:18 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Mabel Ye:

what do you think that meant

[Message #30 11:58:24 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Plascencia:

why would it save him?

[Message #31 11:59:02 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Mabel Ye:

the book talks about fuku a lot but at the same time it seems like the characters get lucky and get out of bad situations

[Message #32 11:59:03 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kenya Garrett:

i dont know

[Message #33 11:59:53 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

The mongoose like animal appears twice so far, once when Beli is beaten almost to death, and another time when Oscar tries to commit suicide. What do you suppose is the connection?

[Message #34 12:00:07 PM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Kenya Garrett:

i think that oscar's life is meant to show how you can fuse two cultures and two identity's i think he is suppose to go against the norm so maybe thats why hes saved

[Message #35 12:00:25 PM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Crystal Plascencia:

bye!! :)

Interchange Conference Transcript

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[Message #1 01:32:56 PM, Tuesday, May 03, 2011]

karen wong:

Prompt from "Yunior" : (167- 201) How is Yunior different from Oscar? How is he similar? How and why is Yunior transformed by Oscar? As Lola's on and off boyfriend, is he best suited to tell the family's history? Why or why not?

[Message #2 11:33:23 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Evelyn Ibanez:

Yunior, unlike Oscar can have all the girls he wants. He seems to embody the ideal Dominican male stereotype. He practices sports, he is a player, and he parties a lot. Yunior is what Oscar can never be. But even though Yunior fits the stereotype we also see how he, like Oscar, is also into writing and seems well acquainted with Oscars Sci Fi stories and characters. He also seems to have a lot of knowledge about DR history, so he seems well read and informed.

I think Yunior finds out a lot about himself when he is living with Oscar. He realizes that he is selfish because even though he is getting girls left and right he is still jealous that someone like Oscar could get a girl (Jeblese) that he couldn't.

He also recognizes that while he agreed to be Oscar's roommate and this action could have been seen as angelic because he is willing to look out for him he was also looking out for himself and he considered it because he needed a place to stay so he is also self serving. When he decides to help Oscar transform his life he takes it on as a project to reflect what he is capable of and doesn't do it just out of kindness. I don't think he is transformed by Oscar.

Even after Oscar tries to commit suicide he because he only goes to visit him because he is in the neighborhood visiting a girl he wants he also admits that looking back at the incident there was a part of him that didn't care if Oscar committed suicide or not, he just wanted out. He never seems to truly care about Oscar.

Yunior is a good candidate to tell the story because he is an outsider and therefore might have a broader point of view than if the story was told by one of the family members, yet it's a little confusing how he knows so much about the family, so many intimate details. He was Lola's on and off boyfriend

and by the description of their relationship you wouldn't think they could have gotten so intimate with each other emotionally so that he would know so much about the family.

[Message #3 11:36:34 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Collette Yee:

The only thing that is really different about Yunior is his social status and image that he portrays to his peers. Yunior is more like the examples what a Dominican man is supposed to be like. This novel repeatedly refers to Dominican men typically being players, smooth with the ladies, cool and raking in women. Yunior is actually really similar to Oscar. They are both obsessed with getting women and have similar interest. They share their taste in movies and shows and just like Oscar, Yunior enjoys to write stories and to read. Yunior had selfish intentions at first. He moved in with Oscar to help Lola out not Oscar, and because he needed a place to live. After awhile it seems like Yunior starts to actually care for him. He stands up for him and invites him out. Then after all the crazy stuff happens, like the suicide attempt and him moving out, he still visited Oscar then eventually moved back in with him. It seems like his intentions sort of switch and he starts to do what he thinks is right. I think that Yunior is a good source to hear the story from. Every chapter has it's sort of bias as the narrator switches and the perspectives change. Yunior is putting another view directly into the story, it sort of makes the author interact with the characters more and makes him a part of the story itself. By having someone outside of the family I think it helps to see exactly how things happened and what it was like from the outside to live with a person like Oscar. Society and its views play a big role in the novel and this way Yunior shows how people see Oscar and his family.

[Message #4 11:36:52 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Marvin Lampa:

Yunior is different from Oscar because Yunior is a typical Dominican guy. He wants to be seen with the image as a tough guy walking around town. With Oscar, he was more of the quiet nerdy guy. "Only thing that kept his nerd ass up late were his role-playing games and his Japanese animation, especially Akira, which I think he watched at least a thousand times a year"(174) With Oscar being into those things he was even criticized for what he was into and was called a "homo." However, in ways there are suggestions that Yunior and Oscar are actually alike. The most obvious reason they are similar is because they both are into girls. Although it may not seem like it, it was like Oscar was way more into girls than Yunior. "I mean, shit, I thought I was into females, but no one, and I mean no one, was into them the way Oscar was." (173) That is something that both Oscar and Yunior can talk about. Both were chasing after women; Yunior chasing Lola, and Oscar chasing Jenny. Yunior eventually wanted to help Oscar by making him look good for the women. Yunior transformed by Oscar because he basically went from a boy into a man. Before moving in with Oscar, Yunior was just out chasing girls not caring about anyone else, but when Oscar came around, he learned much more to life. He became more responsible and understanding. Yunior watching over Oscar was like taking care of his own son. Slowly Yunior gained more patience.

[Message #5 11:37:42 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Erika Medina:

Yunior is different from Oscar because Yunior is a good looking fellow with swag. While Oscar on the other hand is not good looking weighs about 307 lbs with no swag at all. Yunior is fairly good with the ladies and has main ones and some on the side which he calls his sluties. Oscar is unable to get a girl if his life depended on it. He was lucky to get one girl friend Jablesse but she dumped him not so long after. Yunior is full of self-esteem which is something Oscar lacks. Oscar believes in the old myths and curses Yunior thinks its part of his parents' generation and not his. They are similar because girls attract both of their attention. Even though they write about is fairly different they share each other's writings which is a similar hobby they share. Yunior even admits to liking a few of the shows Oscar is interested in. The one things the greatly have in common however, is they both love Lola very much.

[Message #6 11:37:51 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Erika Medina:

Yunior is transformed by Oscar because he starts to actually care about someone. Yunior was the type of boy who would not care about anything or anyone. He treats girl like they are dogs and goes from one to another. Although, he does still go from girl to girl he stops and decides to take in Oscar as his roommate. Later on he starts messing around again but he starts to care for Oscar and help him out with his problems. He looks out for Oscar and tries to keep him out of trouble and encourage him to do better.

[Message #7 11:37:58 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Erika Medina:

Yes I think he is best suited to tell the families history because its from a different prospective. It's not cominf from one of the family members. He was able to live with Oscar so he knows a lot about him and is able to describe to us the type of person Oscar is. He is also able to tell us the type of relationship Oscar has with his sis Lola. Giving us an inside on the relationship he has with Lola himself and how not taking care/taking care of Oscar affects it sometime.

[Message #8 11:38:06 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Yunior seems to be the total opposite of Oscar: he's got game. Unlike Oscar, he's very successful at picking up girls. Yet while Oscar is devoted to the one girl who catches his eye, Yunior can't seem to stay honest to any of his girlfriends, which results in more than one break- up. Yunior is also very much a guy's guy, hanging out with the boys and drinking beers.

Note that I write they "seem" to be different, because what's interesting to note is that they have a lot more in common than what's evident on the surface. For one, they're both writers, and as evidenced from the various narratives, Yuniór is as knowledgeable of science fiction, fantasy, et. al., as Oscar, frequently making analogies than only someone in the know would be able to cite. Yet he never lets anyone in on this knowledge of his, until he writes the history of the Cabrals. He claims to live with Oscar only because his only housing lottery number was so low that he'd have to live at home or on the streets, yet I wonder if he was actually intrigued with Oscar in some way, whether that be to get closer to Oscar's sister, Lola, or because he's seeking a way out from the narrow confines of what is expected of a Dominican male. Perhaps whatever vulnerabilities he observed in Oscar were ones that he couldn't deal with in himself. For instance, when Suriyan broke up with him due to his cheating ways, he's heartbroken, but he refuses to deal with the problem, "What I should have done was check myself into Bootie- Rehab. But if you thought I was going to do that, then you don't know Dominican men. Instead of focusing on something hard and useful like, say, my own shit, I focused on something easy and redemptive [Oscar]" (175). He couldn't handle the truths he was realizing about himself, so his inclination was to flee as soon as he could from being around Oscar. Little did he know that "...instead of getting him for a year, [he] got the motherfucker for the rest of [his] life" (181). How? Perhaps because he's transformed in some way, and especially in terms of how it impacts the subject of his own writing. While in college, his writing is heavy on the violence and swear words, but by writing the story of the Cabrals, he's able to liberate himself from that trope.

[Message #9 11:40:26 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Marvin Lampa:

Before Oscar, Yuniór was going around scooping chicks, but at the same time still wanted Lola, but after the experience with Oscar, he gains insight and learns that you don't really get anywhere when you chase other girls and you want one. Yuniór became more responsible and respectful towards woman

[Message #10 11:40:52 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Allicia Bailey:

Yuniór seem to have some of the typical qualities of a Dominican male. He is different from Oscar because he has a lot of self confidence and is able to get all the girls, which reflects how the Dominican men are in his country. He also never believed in the curse that he always hears Oscar talks about. Yuniór consider Oscar as his little brother who he must take care of. Yuniór is similar to Oscar because they both like playing games and watching "AKIRA." Oscar would spend most of his late nights watching Akira, and when Yuniór came home he would join in with him. Yuniór is transformed by Oscar because he could not believe that he ended up dated Jenni. Yuniór is transformed by Oscar because living with him for the couple months helped him understand the he Oscar was cursed by "Fuku." I don't think Lola's boyfriend his bets suit tell the

[Message #11 11:47:39 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Collette Yee:

I think Oscar helped him mature a little, in both his writing and his actions with women. This time he tells Lola he isn't there just to have sex but that he actually wants her

[Message #12 11:47:51 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Alicia Bailey:

All Oscar needed was someone he could share his life with, when he met Jenni he thought his life would start to change but he ended up with his broken.

[Message #13 11:47:56 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Evelyn Ibanez:

I thkin that the observation that guys made about the fact that Yunior doesn't beleive in the fuku and thinks that superstions are part of his parent's generation might reflect on the fact that when he takes on the job of trying to transform he tries to make Oscar believe that change is possible, Oscar on the other hand seems to think that since his destiny is already determined, the fuku is responsible for his crappy life, he doesn't even try and gives up so easily because he has an easy way out. I'ts all the fuku's fault.

[Message #14 11:48:23 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Erika Medina:

Yes collete i feel the same wasy i feel Oscar helped him mature as well.

[Message #15 11:49:00 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Erika Medina:

I feel that him trying to room again shows us how much Yunior really cares for Oscar and his family.

[Message #16 11:50:12 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Alicia Bailey:

Yes Erika he does, I also think he is doing it because it love Lola too.

[Message #17 11:50:32 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Marvin Lampa:

It's a very unselfish act of Yunion and is a sign of him growing up just stepping up to the plate for caring for someone else besides himself. Especially with the circumstance that Oscar just tried killing himself

[Message #18 11:51:56 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Evelyn Ibanez:

I guess I can see how you wanting to room with him again he is transformed some and starts to mature. He could have decided to live on his own again but he didn't. Haven't read the rest of the novel so I wonder if he ends up with Lola?

[Message #19 11:52:29 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Collette Yee:

Yeah it can kinda go both ways. He is helping Oscar because it's the right thing to do and he might feel sort of sorry for him and he might be doing it just because he loves Lola and he knows that Oscar is the most important thing to her

[Message #20 11:53:56 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

What gives you the sense that he truly cares for Oscar, as opposed to just trying to get closer to Lola?

[Message #21 11:54:59 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Evelyn Ibanez:

Oscar was still so vulnerable after he tried to commit suicide even the fact that he went on his long drives and night and ended up falling asleep. It was a good thing he was not alone and at least Yunion was there.

[Message #22 11:55:52 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Evelyn Ibanez:

He could have gotten closer to Lola without taking on the responsibility of living with Oscar again, so deep down he must have started to care for him in his own way.

[Message #23 11:56:33 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Alicia Bailey:

He even try to help Oscar to loose weight so he could get girls.

[Message #24 11:57:02 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Collette Yee:

The fact that he came back to live with him in the very end when he already had his chance to talk to Lola. It shows that it did not have to do with Lola because she already has her opinion of Yunion set

[Message #25 11:57:05 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

karen wong:

Evelyn and company, check out 198-- that page sheds a lot of insight on how Yunion feels about Lola.

[Message #26 11:57:47 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Erika Medina:

I feel it's both to tell you the truth but since this is specifically on Oscar I mentioned Oscar but yes he does it also to get closer to Lola.

[Message #27 11:58:27 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Erika Medina:

But we know he cares for Oscar because when he talked to him we saw how upset he was over what Oscar did.

[Message #28 11:59:11 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Alicia Bailey:

Remember Lola kissed Yunion, and he also explained how different Lola was from the rest of the girls.

[Message #29 11:59:29 AM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Collette Yee:

yeah thats why i said there is evidence to support two differnt intentions because on that page he says that he has to be someone he never had to be before. But I think Oscar helped him mature into that guy so maybe Yuniur wants to help him back

[Message #30 12:00:39 PM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Evelyn Ibanez:

Yuniur does seem to really care about Lola because in the page you mentioned he says Lola is not like his past girlfriend and with her he is afraid to "actually be good" and be the person he has never been.

[Message #31 12:01:26 PM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Alicia Bailey:

yep lola is different

[Message #32 12:02:13 PM, Wednesday, May 04, 2011]

Alicia Bailey:

so he do