

## ABSTRACT

As the closest southern neighbor, Mexico is one of the largest contributors of immigrants to the United States of America. Despite the new surroundings, the Mexican immigrants unavoidably continue to transmit their original culture to their children. However, their American-born children may or may not favor this cultural transmission. Some choose to be assimilated to the dominant culture or to stay as a separated ethnic group, while the others prefer the road of biculturalism.

The process that leads to the decisions above often starts during the years of adolescence that are highlighted with the search of identity. The search is signified with the urge to feel unique as well as to be accepted as individual and societal entity. A girl in her coming of age, Celaya is also one of the second generations of Mexican immigrant. As a consequent, there are several explorations that Celaya has to go through in her identity search. One is finding the meaning of ethnicity for herself. However, the exploration makes Celaya realize that there are two seemingly opposite sides in her. Her next effort involves finding an agreement between her Mexican legacy and her American future.

The focus of this analysis is aimed at the process of searching for identity in Celaya Reyes. The writer chooses to use personality theories in psychology to support the analysis of the intrinsic elements, specifically the main character.

Finally, the writer discovers that as a member of an ethnic group, Celaya must undergo a process called ethnic identity search. The process sometimes does lead to confusion. There seems to be a pressure to choose between the dominant culture and the heritage culture. But once this particular process is resolved, the