

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora

By Pablo Cartaya

The author starts with a prologue, "Note to Self." The prologue's events come from the middle of Arturo's story, chronologically speaking. Then the author goes back to the beginning of the story in Chapter 1. Why does the author do this? What effect does it have on you, the reader?

On page 106, Arturo's mom calls a family meeting about Wilfrido, Pipo Place, and La Cocina de la Isla. Within minutes, the whole family shows up. What can you infer from this about how the members of Arturo's family feel about each other and the restaurant?

Summarize the (many!) different tactics that Wilfrido uses to try to get members of the community to support Pipo Place.

Carmen quotes José Martí to Arturo, saying, "Men of action—above all, those whose actions are guided by love—live forever." How do you interpret this? What does it mean, and why does Carmen say it to Arturo when she does?

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In case you forgot (although we're sure you didn't!), a book's theme is its main idea—and actually, there can be more than one. Below, we've given you a theme from *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*. Cite evidence from the book (i.e., a line of dialogue or thought, or your own description of a moment or event from the story) to support each theme.

Theme	Evidence
A community is more than just a neighborhood. A community is the people who live there, and the values they hold dear.	
It is always worth standing up for the things you believe in.	
Change is usually challenging, and sometimes painful. But it almost always brings growth.	

Now, write a thematic statement based on this piece of evidence from the book:

	<p>"Letting poetry speak for me was the most unexpected thing I had ever done. I hope one day you will get to do the unexpected, Arturo. It will surprise you beyond anything you will ever experience."</p>
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