

### Cover



### About this graphic memoir

This text is taken from a graphic memoir about Malaka Gharib's childhood growing up as a Filipina Egyptian American. In this extract from Chapter 2, Gharib reflects on the ways her family contrasted with wider American culture.

**GRAMPS**

**Genre:** Graphic memoir

**Register:** Informal

**Audience:** Fans of Gharib's work as an author, those interested in human experiences/growing up/cultures- especially Filipina, Egyptian and American.

**Mode:** Drawn/written

**Purpose:** To inform others of her childhood and share culture.

**Subject:** Gharib compares her experiences of childhood to her peers, established early on with "my family didn't look like the ones on TV."

### Features

**Comics, cartoons, illustrations.**

**Graphology (personality shown through handwriting)**

Different **fonts used to express speech of different characters/objects** (such as page 1, there's a difference between the font of Gharib to that of the TV.)

**Emotive and interactive**

Gharib used **colours of the American flag**, clash of cultures.

**Interactive purpose-** linked recipes, and she would "circle all the things [her] parents didn't allow".

### Literary techniques

**Semantic fields** - family, belonging, expectations, cultural alienation/differences, idolising nuclear American families.

**Symbols:** TV - "7th heaven"

**Phonology:** "meeeeeeeee!"

**Juxtaposition:** between nuclear families and hers, more colour in her family's drawing, emphasis on ethnic difference.

**Typography:** childlike font, mimic tone

**Use of footnotes:** heritage reduced to a footnote, but reclaimed through the recipe/whole page.

**Ironic use of American acronyms** such as "-OMG"

### Structure

**Structure is not straight forwardly linear:** the author describes **different aspects of her life**, making use of **images/games** presented in the visual form in order to **describe her experiences, rather than telling a story with a clear beginning/middle/end.**

Structurally, the narrative, in focused around Gharib's perception of the differences between her childhood and that of her peers, is established at the beginning.

### Analysis - general points

**Syntactic parallelism** between the "on tv, families looked like this:" and "mine looked like this:" (page 2 of extract).

**Deixis:** family, identity, 'fitting in'.

**Exclamative:** "Fabulous Monggo!"

**Imperatives:** (characteristic of the genre)

Refer to recipe page (page 3 of extract).

Oriented as conventional recipe - headings, listing, bullet points.

**Dialogue:** Turn-taking, adjacency pairs - establishes characters. (Page 4 of extract)

Most of her mother's responses in the dialogue are also **interrogatives** or **exclamative**.

**Informal phrasing** reflects on the GRAMPS elements and is also aligned with the American setting.

**Prosodic features** to mimic conversation

**Superlative:** "Mom's greatest extravagance was taking us on big trips abroad"

emphasises her mum's determination to expose her daughter to a range of places and experience.

**Ellipsis:** "love you, ma" characteristic of speech and presentative of different conversations and characters.

**Proper nouns** "Hong Kong", "Madrid" are used as captions to show us the places she was able to visit.

**Gharib defines the American Dream as peace, discovery & acceptance.**

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By **churger**  
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Page 1 of 1.

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