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Your Name (First M. Last)

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Student Writing Sample

 The Paper Menagerie is a scintillating short story written by Ken Liu. It was published in 2011. With magical realism and fantasy underpinning the story, the theme of identity and resentment potentially attracts me. Jack is the protagonist who has a Chinese mother but desires to be similar to American boys. A critical appraisal makes me understand that it highlights how racist Americans can be towards those who appear different. Besides, the struggle Jack did in the high school because of being a Chinese appeal the most. The essence of the story is defined by the emotional appeal.

 Moreover, the intricate relationship between Jack and his mother is worth mentioning. Jack advanced to adopt the America way of life while his mother resisted temptations to nurture American culture. This aspect is one of the most striking themes in the story. Jack establishes sentiments of prejudice and resentment towards her mother. Her mother does not even know how to speak English. The shade of identity ups the ante in the story. The confrontation of identities and aspirations was cherishable throughout the short story. The story witnesses several twists amid the fluctuating themes. A story progresses towards the end, Jack realizes the challenges her mother faced in life. The theme of love and acceptance surfaces the story.

 To conclude, Jack is an ambitious boy who desires to adopt the American values amid confrontation form the Chinese mother. The short story is decorated with essential themes of resentment, love, prejudice, acceptance and identity. Throughout the story, Jack prefers not to adhere to his mother’s views. However, the sentiments shift towards love and acceptance after Jack desires to accept the culture of her mother at the end of the short story.