[Name of the Writer]

[Name of Instructor]

[Subject]

[Date]

To Be of Use by Marge Piercy Reading Response

It is rightly said that “Hard Work is the key to success.” English literature is full of texts and pieces of writings glorifying the importance of hard work and the fruits a person gets as a result of it. Two of such works have been penned down by Marge Piercy by the name of “To be of Use” and Gary Soto by the title of “Red Palm." Both are motivational poems written to highlight the importance of hard work in a person’s life.

In the poem, "To be of Use," the author Merge Piercy points towards the necessity of hard work and the hardships of this world. She observes hard work in a very positive light, and informs that she; in fact, everyone loves a hard working individual. Everyone likes people who are always ready to accept challenges and who never bow down to any adversitieseveryone. These are the people who remain successful in the cycle of life. The hardships of life are pointed out by the author as “The work of the world is common as mud. Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.”(Piercy) The poet explains that although this world is a cruel place, and coping up with its challenges is not an easy task, but still the people who are consistent and keep on moving are highly appreciable.

The other poet, Gary Soto, takes an alternate approach to view hard work, in his poem “Red Palm”. He exemplifies the hard work from the life of a farmer who works in a cotton field all day. The poet makes the reader imagine a person, working in the blistering sunlight in the fields, sweating all over in the words “The sun is a red blister." He points that, in the current times of severe economic crisis, a person is bound to push his limits and work hard, to fulfill the needs of his family. Still, in the end, there is a positive aspect that hard work pays off and he is able to afford the food, electricity bills and the education of his children, which is a satisfying factor for the worker.

**Works Cited**

Piercy, Marge. *To be of use*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1973.