EXCELLENT STUDENT WORK (Paper 1):

Introduction:

The result of a tragic rape, Jendayi made her entrance into this world on August 19th, a beautiful reminder of God’s faithfulness. Her Apgar scores of 8 and 9 indicated that she was, indeed, a healthy newborn. Blood screens for PKU and hypothyroidism removed fear of additional health concerns. She and her mother, Isis, were released to the care of family after a forty-eight hour stay in the hospital. Any doubts that clouded the previous nine months were completely overshadowed by the sheer joy felt not only by Umm Jendayi and her husband Kamal, Abu Jendayi, but the extended family as well. Great care and preparation of the past two months ensured the family compound, in bustling Cairo, was ready to meet every need of this child.

Physical Development:

It is customary for the parents of the mother to prepare for the baby as soon as the sex of the child is established. By age one-week, an animal (one for females, but two for male babies) is slaughtered to celebrate the birth, and the child—if female—is adorned with beautiful gold bracelets and earrings.¹ Jendayi’s simple yet beautiful jewelry, gifts from Giddo and Jidaty,² glistened against her white gown. Everyone in attendance was anxious to greet the precious infant. However, her affinity for her mother’s smell and preference to the voices of Abu and Umm Jendayi made her less than pleasant in the arms of visitors.

¹ (Bizzari, 1996)
² (Hopkins & Saad, 2011)
In the first few days home, she’d lost an ounce, but due to the richness of her mother’s milk, she was now a healthy 6 pounds. Her head was beginning to take on the appearance of a small, round melon and the odd-looking wrinkles of her arms and legs at birth, had given way to the beginnings of a protective layer of fat.

Jendayi was not a particularly good sleeper. Although her doctors showed no alarm in the fact that by 9 months of age she was still waking three times during the night for feedings, her exhausted mother was searching for remedies to quell her appetite and began supplementing her menu with cereal and a small amount of cinnamon. Jendayi was a very active baby. She rolled over at 6 weeks and was crawling by 7 months. At 9 months of age she was standing alone and took her first steps before her 10th month of life. Jendayi weighed 10 pounds on her first birthday and by her second was weaned from nursing and weighed 18 pounds. Still a very petite child, Jendayi was a mere 26 inches in height as her 2nd birthday approached.

Kamal’s position at the American University afforded his family the benefits of nutritious foods and needed medicine. Many young children in Cairo suffer from respiratory and eye infections due to the crowded conditions and excess trash. Jendayi was spared any serious illness, save one overnight stay in the hospital due to a respiratory infection at 3 months of age.

Cognitive Development:

Isis had been raised in a rural area and although not a family of financial means, hers had been one that acknowledged the great importance of education and cultural enrichment. Isis, too, realized the impact of early exposure to new and varied stimuli. Jendayi, accompanied by both of Kamal’s grandmothers, made daily visits to city markets. She was allowed to choose foods
and trinkets for purchase and became a very social child; acknowledging the merchants and enchanting other shoppers with her happy ways. Jendayi, because of the early stimulation and a consistent, nurturing presence of a loving family, spoke early and had little difficulty communicating her wishes. She could correctly count three objects by the end of her first year and nearing her 2\textsuperscript{nd} birthday that number grew to twelve.

Kamal’s family was extremely fond of their first-- and thus far only-- grandchild and as a family of tremendous wealth provided many opportunities that other Egyptian children might not have the luxury of experiencing. Jendayi made visits to museums and cultural events, her days were filled with music, reading, and trips to her maternal grandparents’ farm. She enjoyed early mornings watching birds in the family courtyard and afternoon trips to the zoo. She was often treated to an early afternoon meal, in Cairo, with her grandparents or an aunt or uncle. Jendayi’s beguiling ability to eat properly with fork and spoon, often garnered a rapt audience. Because she received positive feedback from family and strangers alike, her manners and skills continued to develop. She understood that some treats were dependent on her behaviors. Still, it was difficult to distinguish whether she was training the family or they were training her. On the rare occasion that a tantrum was exhibited it was met with patient, yet authoritarian discipline. She didn’t like the look of sadness she saw in the faces around her when her acts were deemed inappropriate. Jendayi, by 2 years of age, had learned that voicing her displeasure in three- to -five word sentences was much more conducive to receiving her wishes than obstinately shouting and crying. However, there were still moments of disinhibition as is the case with all normal toddlers.
Social and Emotional Development:

Jendayi rarely cried. In truth, it was rare that she had opportunity to express needs due to the attention and affections of all members of the household being channeled in her direction. The only advent of tears in the first few months were those intended to awaken her mother so that she could nurse. As the two bonded, Jendayi needed only make a whimper and her mother could distinguish her need and quickly alleviate all discomfort.

Isis, an only child, did not consider the abundance of familial attention problematic in the first few months of her daughter’s life. She knew that upon her return to university, she’d need support and wanted strong bonds established between Jendayi and those that would care for her daughter in her stead. Isis, having grown-up caring for the animals on her father’s farm, seemed much more in tune with the interactions of sheep than those of Kamal’s large, extended family. Although Jendayi had always been an easy child, near her 8th month of life she was increasingly difficult around other children. She was very clingy; especially with Isis, but with her grandmothers, too. And, while attending Friday night services at St. Mark Church Maadi, Jendayi refused to play with the other children. In fact, by the time she’d reached her 1st birthday, all family members were concerned with her propensity for biting. Isis had secretly worried about the third party influences of those living in the family compound and helping in the daily care of Jendayi. She felt that Kamal needed to address the subject of their daughter’s discipline with his relatives but knew it would not be appropriate for a wife to initiate such a discussion.

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footnote 4 () Retrieved from www.stmarkmaadi.com
**Cultural Influences:**

At the age of 2 years, Jendayi knew nothing of the suffering of other Egyptian children. She was afforded an exciting life; one of fun and adventure in Cairo, as well as opportunity for respites from the bustling city on her grandfather’s farm. During the summer months she enjoyed walks near the tributaries which served as the source of water for Giddo’s sheep. She could hear strange, new sounds, not often clear above the ruckus beyond the walls of her urban home. She learned to mimic the baa-baas and moos and even distinguish the slight difference in dialect between Giddo’s and Abu Jendayi’s speech.

Holidays observed in Egypt are mostly associated with the Muslim faith. However, each winter Jendayi’s Coptic family lavishly embraced the Christmas celebration January 6th and 7th. All family members attended the church service together and just after the midnight ringing of the church bells, returned to the compound for a traditional meal—the fata. The next day was spent visiting friends and sharing kaik and shortbat. Jendayi was taught the significance of the celebration and enjoyed the warmth of community it accrued.

Beyond the uncertainty of her beginnings, this child had led a charmed life. Isis hoped for her daughter an understanding of and appreciation for the fullness of her blessings. Jendayi only knew happiness of days and Isis wanted this reality to continue. However, she knew all too well the heartaches of life that often shift one’s actuality.

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5 (“Santa’s net:christmastraditions,”)
Works Cited:


UNACCEPTABLE STUDENT WORK (Paper 1):

Introduction

Sadgati had killed her mother in childbirth. Now she was with a group of west Chinese traders in the outskirts of Tibet. She was born a month and a half pre-mature, but surprisingly fully sized and healthy. The closest person she had to a farther was a man named Lao Chang, a Chinese textile trader. They were part of a trader caravan, and though Lao had a loving memory of Sadgati’s mother, they lacked a wet nurse. The closest thing they had was goat’s milk.

The trader’s caravan went deeper and deeper into Tibet. During the steep climb up the slope to the Tibetan peninsula, Sadgati was strapped to Lao’s back as he climbed with a walking stick. Lao had much inner conflict. He was worried for the baby, so he thought of the monks with their supposed moral compass. Luckily many people in India knew the Tibetan. One of the traders in the group had been a Tibetan living in Nepal, and through him they would be able to communicate.

They finally reached the monastery of drepung. This monastery was legendary for the Dalai lama, and was one of the main monastery’s. To Sadgati the world was bright bear and new. Though she was taken good care of there was constantly a new environment, and occasionally she would cry for hours until they could stop for food. Lao knew that the harsh life of a traveling trader was no life for a baby girl. He had to find a place for her to stay.

Yet for three weeks now he had found no home. Many monks didn’t speak to people they did not know at all, and the kindly ones said they had no room to take on orphans. Luckily she finally found a home.
**Physical Development**

Along with the goats milk, luckily she received adequate nourishment. At her new home she first cried for 20 hours straight until she fell asleep, and then cried all the next day. Gladly she finally got over her change of environment when the kindly elderly Tibetan monk cradled her gently and sang in a sweet soothing song. She grew normally and strong. As she reached her first birthday (on an unknown date to the monks) she started weaning. There were no women to go through the pain of her first little teeth, yet her cries still troubled her monk fathers greatly.

**Cognitive Development**

Though one monk, a short man named Han, was her main caretaker, she saw many faces in the time she stayed at the monastery. Though there was no strong motherly of fatherly figure, she was exposed to many different people, environments, and situations. The dialect is a pishposh of many regional languages, which have evolved into more or less one regional language.

**Culture**

Her language developed normally and thoroughly. Due to her over exposure to trustworthy strangers, she was very easy to warm up to anyone. With her out going frame of mind and fortunately an entire family of monks that grew very fond of her, she ran into few miss haps. When the monks sat in a circle to eat their meal, she was fed as one of them.