

Text Analysis

INFLUENCE OF AUTHOR'S BACKGROUND

A writer's life experiences and cultural heritage make up that **author's background**. That background shapes the way an author sees the world and influences what he or she writes. It is often useful to know something about an author before you read his or her work.

Directions: Before you read "American History," read the "Meet the Author" feature on page 963. Think about why Judith Ortiz Cofer is called "a child of two cultures" and how that identity might influence her writing. As you read the short story, use this chart to write examples from the story that reflect Cofer's own background.

<p>References to places the author lived or visited</p>	
<p>Characters whose beliefs, values, or heritage are the same as those of the author</p>	
<p>Events and circumstances that are similar to the author's own experiences</p>	