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Ferrera's Theme of Identity

During a Ted Talk called "*My Identity Is a Superpower -- Not an Obstacle.*" by America Ferrera, she speaks out about non-diverse acceptance in film industries. She discusses her obstacles of ignoring social norms, expressing her frustration with media and achieving her goals of identifying as a Latina actress in America. Ferrera follows the themes of identity successfully throughout her speech. She explains, 'who we see thriving in the world teaches us how to see ourselves, how to think about our own value, how to dream about our futures.' Her identity is more than just race, or language, it is values and beliefs. Ferrera expresses deep frustration in relation to the lack of diversity within her workforce. The lack of opportunity for someone like her, someone not white. She has been told 'people like me didn't make it in Hollywood.' This creates cultural biases.

As identifying as Latina, she was seen as "too brown, too fat, too poor, too unsophisticated.' She was exempt from roles that did not reflect cultural stereotypes. This proves how easily identity creates a barrier to opportunity. This is wrong for society, identity is so much more than how someone looks; it is an accidental property that states, that if things change, the identity remains the same, she still is who she is no matter how people attempt to change who she is or how she acts. She tried changing her appearance so people would see her as someone more responsible and sophisticated. Her identity was still there despite the changes she made:

"I am just one of millions of people who have been told that in order to

fulfill my dreams, in order to contribute my talents to the world, I have to resist the truth of who I am, I for one am ready to stop resisting and to start existing as my full and authentic self.”

Ferrera along with millions of people across the world are passing over biases and expressing their identity for who they are, not what they look like or who society thinks they must be or act.

Thus proving identity is much more than what we see, it is who we are.