

CONFIDENTIAL

Cracking the Ending of Trash

Junior Cycle English Revision:
The Climax & Resolution

How do three
dumpsite boys defeat
a corrupt senator?
Let's break down
the evidence.



RUNNING OUT OF TIME IN THE CEMETERY



The Situation: Raphael, Gardo, and Rat are in the cemetery hunting for clues to the hidden money. They are out of ideas.

The Threat: The police are closing in. It is only a matter of time before they arrive.

The Emotional Toll: They buy brandy to settle their nerves. Rat cries for the very first time, overwhelmed by the feeling that their luck has finally run out.

The
Climax

THE ULTIMATE PLOT TWIST

THE EXPECTATION



The girl who should be in the grave.

THE REALITY



The Encounter: A young girl sitting alone quietly asks the boys, "What are you looking for?"

The Revelation: She tells them her name is Pia Dante. She has been waiting for her father, Jose Angelico, for over a week. She says he is not coming.

The Reaction: The boys freeze. This is the exact girl who is supposed to be in the grave they saw earlier that day. Recognizing she is unwell, the boys immediately show kindness by making sure she is fed.

UNEARTHING THE SIX MILLION DOLLARS

LAYER 1: THE MORAL PLAN

The Plan: Open the grave. Raphael notes they know the \$6 million doesn't belong to them; they only intend to take a little bit.

LAYER 2: SHALLOW EARTH

The Dig: They dig down into the earth and uncover a white coffin.

LAYER 3: DEEP EARTH

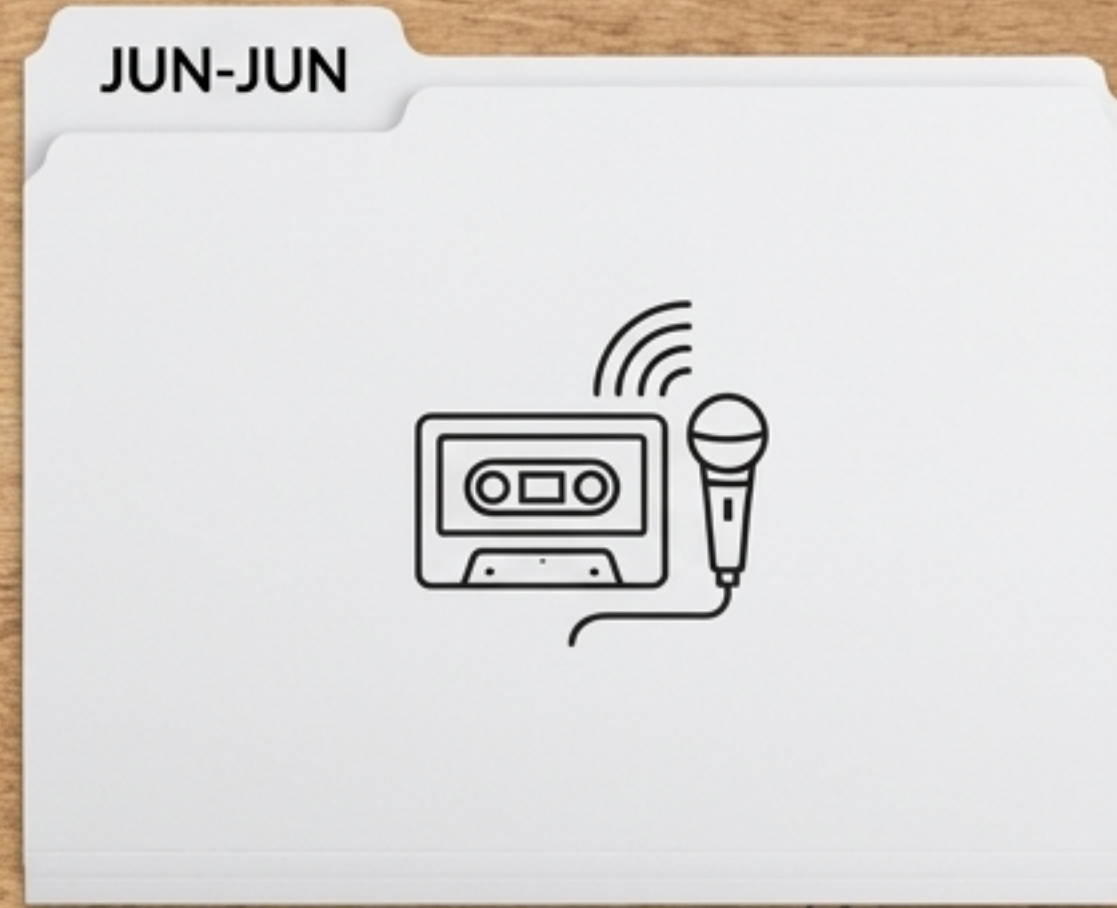
The Clue: Gardo uses his senses. He points out there is no dead body inside, because he "knows the smell of a dead person."

LAYER 4: THE PRIZE

The Payload: Using a screwdriver, they pry open the lid. Inside sits the stolen six million dollars.



A CRUCIAL SHIFT IN NARRATIVE VOICE



The Technique: Author Andy Mulligan changes the narrator for the final part of the story.

The Transformation: The boy formerly known as "Rat" takes over the narration. He reclaims his real name: Jun-Jun.

Exam Insight: This shift proves massive character development. He is no longer defined as a dumpsite pest. As Jun-Jun, he reclaims his human dignity and takes control of telling his own story.

THE ROUTE TO JUSTICE



Location 1: The Cemetery

The boys and Pia pack the massive sum of money into sacks and cycle quickly toward Behala.



Location 2: The Mission School

Jun-Jun slips inside. He leaves a note and a share of money for Father Julliard. The boys put on stolen school uniforms to blend in and fill the schoolbags with the cash.



Location 3: The Behala Crane

The final destination. The boys arrive at the towering crane as a fierce typhoon gathers strength.



THE CLIMAX IN THE BEHALA WINDS

The Action: The typhoon grows stronger, swirling violently around Behala. The boys climb to the very top of the crane.

The Release: They open the schoolbags and drop the money, letting the storm blow it all over the city below.

The Meaning: They are returning the exact money that Senator Zapanta stole right back to the poor people of Behala. The swirling typhoon represents a massive force sweeping away corruption.

MEASURING MORALITY: THE BOYS VS. THE SENATOR

ZAPANTA

Wanted to hoard the massive fortune entirely for himself.

Driven by intense greed and political corruption.

What they wanted from the money

Their Core Motivation

THE BOYS

Kept only enough to start a new life; gave the rest back to the city.

Driven by a desire to show they were not greedy, and to achieve justice for Jose Angelico.

The climax proves that the poorest boys in the city possess infinitely more moral wealth than the city's richest politician.



Rebirth and Peace in Sampalo

The Escape: In the final chapter, the three boys and Pia Dante successfully make their way out of the city to the coastal haven of Sampalo.

A New Life: They use the small amount of money they kept to buy boats. They learn how to fish, and declare they will fish for the rest of their lives.

The Symbolism: Leaving the dumpsite for the ocean represents washing away the dirt and trauma of their past. It is a complete rebirth for all four children.

The Heart of the Story

Loyalty

Jun-Jun remembering Father Julliard; the boys finishing Jose Angelico's mission.

Friendship

Raphael, Gardo, and Jun-Jun risking their lives and sticking together through extreme danger.

Kindness

Instantly caring for and feeding a sick Pia Dante instead of abandoning her for the cash.

The Core Message

The ending of *Trash* proves that true wealth is found in human connection, not in six million stolen dollars.

Your Junior Cycle Exam Toolkit

- ✓ **Use Literary Terms:** Always use the words Climax (the crane scene) and Resolution (Sampalo) in your essays.
- ✓ **Track Character Growth:** Mention Rat changing his name back to Jun-Jun as hard evidence of character development.
- ✓ **Contrast the Characters:** Use Senator Zapanta's greed to highlight the boys' generosity and sense of justice.
- ✓ **Identify the Themes:** Link the ending directly to the novel's core themes of loyalty, friendship, and kindness.

The ending of Trash proves that even the smallest voices can bring down the biggest giants.

