ENGL 21002 2/14/21

Boutheina Ben Abdallah Reflection Prof. Steegmann

 My name is Boutheina Ben Abdallah, I am 18 years old and I’m a freshman. My major is currently undecided, but I am thinking about going into Digital Design and Multimedia. I chose this class because it was one of the requirements, and it seemed like a good enough choice. would say my worst teacher in high school was my former physics teacher. He was one of those strict conservative teachers that liked teaching the old way and did not really care if you weren’t able to understand. He would call out those who seemed lost and make them answer questions and moved too quickly with the lessons that we could not grasp the concepts. Going to that class wasn’t the most pleasant thing in the world. As for my best teacher, I would say it’d have to be my 9th grade Biology/ Living Environment teacher. She made class so fun and easy to follow along, that even the students who slacked off were able to pass. Because of this teaching style I was able to do well in that class. This class can help me gain knowledge and focus my thoughts, as well as conduct studies to show how different types of methods affect writing styles. I hope to learn how to strengthen my writing and critical thinking skills while also learning to research. My strengths as a student are creativity, completing tasks while being given a clear list or outline, some good memory, asking questions, and analyzing. I work well when I can stick to a task and have clear instructions that can guide me. Some weaknesses are often struggling to start or stay on task, and ways to express myself. Free writing, argumentative essays, and book reports are strong suits of mine. They are areas I feel I am best at because I can give my own perspective, while also answering the prompts. An area to improve on would be writing in a college format and professionally. Oftentimes it is hard to sound professional/use proper formatting and language. Additionally, finding the right tone and word choice for your audience can be difficult as well. Personally, I believe that writing can be enjoyable if you are interested in the topic, and not forced to a specific subject. I enjoy writing when you are not expected to follow a certain guideline or fit a mold. Sometimes it is nice to be challenged writing something that is out of your usual routine and comfort zone. I often find it difficult to follow through writing something if the topic is boring. I enjoy reading because following the plotline of a story can be entertaining and cause you to get invested in the book. You can read at your own pace, wherever and whenever you want. Not all kinds of reading can be interesting or entertaining, so there are some forms of reading that I do not particularly enjoy doing. Reading can bring about any kind of emotion, and there are all sorts of books that suit your interests. Some of my favorite books are *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodges Burnett, *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. I enjoyed *The Secret Garden* because although it was a simple and plain story, the plot was entertaining for me as a reader, following alongside the main character as she goes through her character development. The moral of the story also touched me personally, as it portrays how people overlook the beauty of life, and how we can find joy and rejuvenate in it. For me *The Catcher in the Rye* was interesting because it shows the main character around my age struggling to figure out what it is he wishes to do with his life. Although the time and some settings are different, readers can still relate to this because we ourselves find that we are often unsure of our purposes in life and may want to rebel or go against society's standards. The themes in this story are also relatable as we experience emotions such as innocence, naivety, loss, depression, belonging and identity crises, which can cause us to feel alienated from society, just as the main character feels. *The Outsiders* was also memorable to me because as a teenager, I can understand the coming-of-age that the characters experience. Growing up with siblings and spending a good portion of my childhood with them due to my parents working, I was able to see the perspective that the main character and his siblings went through. I didn’t really relate to their lives because it is quite different than what people today live like, the story was still enjoyable because it highlighted the importance of friendship, loss, teenage angst, and comradery.