Cristofer Rodriguez

Professor Wu

ENG 1121 8:30 class

Unit Two Poetry and Research Assignment

April 24, 2021

The Mentor Poem

By Billy Collins

from The Art of Drowning

**“On Turning ten”**

The whole idea of it makes me feel

like I'm coming down with something,

something worse than any stomach ache

or the headaches I get from reading in bad light

a kind of measles of the spirit,

a mumps of the psyche,

a disfiguring chicken pox of the soul.

You tell me it is too early to be looking back,

but that is because you have forgotten

the perfect simplicity of being one

and the beautiful complexity introduced by two.

But I can lie on my bed and remember every digit.

At four I was an Arabian wizard.

I could make myself invisible

by drinking a glass of milk a certain way.

At seven I was a soldier, at nine a prince.

But now I am mostly at the window

watching the late afternoon light.

Back then it never fell so solemnly

against the side of my tree house,

and my bicycle never leaned against the garage

as it does today,

all the dark blue speed drained out of it.

This is the beginning of sadness,

I say to myself, as I walk through the universe in my sneakers.

It is time to say good-bye to my imaginary friends,

time to turn the first big number.

It seems only yesterday I used to believe

there was nothing under my skin but light.

If you cut me I would shine.

But now if I fall upon the sidewalks of life,

I skin my knees. I bleed.

My Emulation Poem

By Cristofer Rodriguez  
  
**"On Turning Eight-Teen"**

The whole idea of it makes me feel like a lost soul.

My stomach ache doesn’t feel the same way,

my headache doesn't hurt the same way.

The moment I blew my candles,

I felt everything had changed.

It seems like I was supposed to be treated differently.

My soul was filled with fire but ended up being poured out with water.

I was feeling so confident,

so great about myself but then completely shattered.

You might tell me I am exaggerating but looking back,

everything was so simple,

it was just so easy.

Looking back everything was so beautiful

like reaching the stars without a problem or worrying

because I knew I had someone to defend me

and pick me up on my faults.

Now I am on my own in this pernicious world.

As a child I thought growing up is amazing.

Those adult teenagers were just living their best lives,

little did I know they smile

to the world but once they are alone they are struggling.

I thought growing up meant having the same friends,

but were torn apart.

Like those other roses taken away from the garden.

I started to fear life.

I felt afraid.

I used to talk to my mother,

thinking she was hearing all my side child conversations,

but she was just Finding a way to keep us going.

As a child I never knew until I turned to my adult teenage years.

I saw everything,

so vivid as a child,

now I see gray.

But I've learned as a child to see the positive stuff.

Gray doesn't last long,

The sun will raise up.

My sun is my little brother,

to go far for them,

Those eyes see an inspiration in me.

This is a new chapter in my life

There is still so much to learn in this world

I guess this is a new journey- Eight-teen.

**RAB**

**MLA Citation**  
  
Barton, Goldsmith. “Leaving Your Past Behind” Psychology Today, Sussex Publishers, 03 Mar. 2018,https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/emotional-fitness/201803/leaving-your-past-behind.

**Summary:**

According to Barton Goldsmith in the Psychology Today article "Leaving Your Past Behind," "If you are the common denominator in your life, self-defeating logic will dictate that it has to be your fault, even if it isn't." Holding on to pain or negatives in your life can make it difficult for you to develop as an individual, and it is normal for people to get trapped in the past and refuse to let go. It is important to be frank with yourself and choose who you really want to be as an individual. You still have a choice in life, and the safest choice in this case is to let go of the past and move on, leaving behind the toxic forces that consume you. Goldsmith emphasizes the importance of leaving your past behind as the best thing you can do for your emotional and physical health. According to Goldsmith, “Those who do not benefit from the past are doomed to replay it,” and it is better that we as humans put the past behind so that we do not make the same mistakes we had committed.  
  
**Reflection:**

This essay really talked to me because I once was that kid who was trapped in the past trying to figure out how to move on but finding it impossible to let go. It reminded me of having to give up my childhood, of being trapped in the past, surrounded by toxic forces, and not knowing how to let go. It was excruciatingly hard for me to leave my childhood behind. I felt as if I had lost a bit of myself, but I knew that if I moved on, I would be able to make changes with my life. Barton Goldsmith's essay "Leaving Past Behind" has helped me understand and express how I felt when I had to give up my childhood. It was difficult and depressing to leave behind the last days of my childhood, but in the end, I realized it was time to let go, for the sake of myself and my brother. I managed to encourage him that becoming a better man is still the right approach; he encouraged me to be a better man.

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TEACHER END NOTE

MENTOR POEM: Good you copied the poem faithfully and correctly.

EMULATION POEM: Problem: You did NOT emulate well. Please read the assignment again.

RAB: Problem: This is not a NYT article. You were assigned to read the NYT for your research. Your article has nothing to do with turning 18. You need a better research article. A specific article dealing with adolescence or turning 18 or becoming an adult. Maybe you should look at the resources I provided or talk to a classmate. Other students are doing these same topic.

READ THE ASSIGNMENT CAREFULLY. READ EXAMPLES FROM STUDENTS IN OUR CLASS. READ MY EXAMPLES. I HAVE SAID ALL THIS BEFORE.

YOU HAVE NOT DONE THE ASSIGNMENT CORRECTLY.