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ENG 1121

My Literacy Narrative

What is Literacy? Literacy to me is a form of art where writers can express themselves through words. Even without directly saying so, the way how words are interpreted or the mood or tone of the piece can impact the reader. A lot of techniques can be used in literacy where they can make the reader imagine the situation because of the amount of detail that's being used or just informing a reader or maybe even persuading them to something. And like said before, writers can bring the mood or tone to something to give a bigger meaning. Writers put themselves out there every time where in a way you can say it's like an autobiography. A writer may do a story or a piece based on something that happened in their lives in the past. Maybe they may even start to have readers realize that the writer has a specific type of preference in genre. Every writer has had a journey they went through to get to where they are. As for me, Michael John I have my own way with literacy. My experiences with Literacy growing up was through academics such as making poems, making my own comics and other stories for story telling.

Growing up, English language arts was not my best subject and I actually preferred the subject mathematics over English. However English is beneficial to us because we learned how to construct sentences and basic learning of punctuation, spelling and grammar. Some other topics I learned were restating the question and learning the author's purpose. Even though this

isn't my subject of interest , I still tried to do my best because this was not my strongest area. My mother was very familiar with English Literacy and Writing because she was an ELA teacher where she worked. Having a mother as an ELA teacher was like having after school sessions at home because She taught me and gave me tips on helping my writing improve. She also hired a tutor for me to improve even more so I basically had triple the amount of help and support.

I had an interest in reading mystery and drama books because I enjoyed seeing where the suspense will take me next. I also had an interest in the series “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” by Jeff Kinney, which catered more to my cartoon comic styles I started doing. These kind of genres of literacy were what I favored most and I also started collecting them as well. If it was a novel of any other genre besides my preference i wouldn't touch so I did what many people do which is “judging a book by its cover”. When I got involved in reading, I would try to finish it to the end. I would be so focused I wouldn't even know what is happening around me. There were times when in the middle of class I would pull out a book and read instead of paying attention.

After all the reading I done over the years, I wanted to make my own written story. Later on, I started writing my own stories by taking what I learned in school and put to use to practice and improve my skills. Learning these skills were pretty difficult for me because of the thinking process behind it in knowing what word or sentences agrees with each other. Reading did help me improve on my critical thinking because as I was reading I started to make personal annotations and inferences about the character in the story. It helped me make claims on why the author wrote what he wrote and I began learning more about the author and the message they are trying to send to us readers. Taking those writing skills that I had, I later on used them to create a poem.

During my second year of high school, my English teacher was reviewing poets such as Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou and their piece. The teacher wanted us to do a project that involved making a poem based off of real world situations and problems we as a society encounter today. I found it to be pretty cool to be doing that project because I at that time I never written a poem before and my perception of poetry is a sense of freedom of expression and leaving subliminal messages for the reader or people to know and learn the true message behind the poem because poetry can also be spoken orally. Taking advantage of that opportunity I wrote my first poem that year.

My poem was about racism and discrimination. I felt a freedom to write whatever I wanted. Even though I can't remember the poem to the best of my ability, it came out pretty good and my teacher was impressed. I enjoyed the feeling of writing poetry so much that it influenced me to start making more poems. I went to the store and brought a book to start making more poems. While writing poetry, I practiced my articulation by speaking it out and this was a habit of mine almost every night. These poems were directed to different real world problems I thought I could express such as corruption of power and how a poor grade in school can easily judge someone. Eventually, I stopped writing poems but I would always go back and read it when I had time. Sadly, one day I lost my book of poems. Even though there are some poems I can't remember to this day, this phase really helped me improve on writing and expression. The next thing I tried writing and drawing comic books for story telling.

I know some people may be thinking “ how are comic books apart of literacy”? It's just majority pictures and some speech bubble. Around the same time I was writing my first story, I also wanted to do more story telling. I have a passion for drawing and art, so my next story was

my own version of the 3 little pigs. I was summarizing what was happening in the story and I left the creativity of my drawings to show what is taking place. After making my version of the most famous fairytale story, I wanted to make more so from that moment on, I started making comic style stories. I found reading comic books to be a really interesting thing. It would always grab my attention to how detailed the characters emotions were being drawn as well as reading how they expressed themselves. With my vast imagination, I started coming up with different story concepts and characters but I never went through with it.

In 4th grade, I actually stuck with a story concept which was drama and started working on it. I got my friends in my class to read it and they became fans of it. My friends even requested that I make characters of them and add it to the story. Afterwards, I wanted to make more series to have for people to recognize my work and I even made a website to start summarizing each comic and chapter of it. Mainly, my comics are more focused on action and suspense but over time, I started coming up with different series of comics in different genres such as romance not just for diversity but to give my own take and perspective on that genre. Because of literacy I was able to place myself in a character's perspective better and learn to input that into my own comics so my characters can seem diverse. When I do that I feel more into the character and I can use specific words that can impact my character's feelings in the story. Reading alone in literacy helped me learn to build suspense and it inspired me to add my own story elements to my comics. I always have been told that my comics often breaks cliches and brings a twist to the story which is true because I want my own story to be unique and have surprises that people would never expect. Apart from that, I would sometimes like to have a poke at comedy sometimes by breaking the fourth wall because it is cool and funny when the

characters in a comic or show are aware that they are being read or watched by the audience. Apart from the art style, these elements are what help makes my comics distinctive and as the author of the comics you can see I'm putting myself out there just like a writer in a book or poem. Readers can tell what genre I favor more and my type of humor. I would often look back at my old comic stories and read them to see how much I have grown in terms of style, storytelling and character development. I even learn story elements from my own old comics sometimes as ideas my come to my head to give a new take on it.

There is never an end to learning what literacy can help to for writers and readers of today. I try to read more to keep learning for myself and and for my hobbies in comics. Yes, I still draw comics today since it is my dream to get it published. I enjoy doing storytelling and there is no end to it for me. Who knows maybe I will one day go back and give writing one of my comics a shot. The art of literacy has gotten me pretty far but there is no end to writing and reading for anyone.