ENG 1101- D403

Jaden Lin 9/15/2014

A Change of Tone

Bram Stoker once said "We learn more from our failures, than from our success Attempting to learn something new and giving up halfway is a common problem people face. I myself was given the opportunity to learn the piano at a very young age. Learning to play the

piano involves mental focus, physical challenges, and environmental problems.

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Every Friday after school my mom would drive me there and wait two hours for me to finish. At first I didn't mind it because I really wanted to learn, but soon after I was really bored of it. The effort didn't pay off from the reward. My mom decided to withdraw me from the program and purchased me a keyboard piano. After a few weeks we started getting complaints from our tenants who lived upstairs about me being too noisy. So that plan went out the window quickly. I obtained the will to learn to play the piano after watching a TV show where the main character was a famous pianist. I thought it was a pretty cool skill to have so I begged my mom for piano lessons. It took a bit of convincing but soon i was enrolled to a music academy.

Playing the piano requires a huge amount of physical challenges, I learn that first hand.

The first thing I was taught at the music academy was to memorize the keys and finger placement. Memorizing keys was a big problem for me because I didn't have a particularly good memory. It was a tough start but I stuck through it. I spent about half an hour each day repeating the keys from left to right and back. That wasn't just it, I was often frustrated because I either

messed up half way through a song or forgetting to play a note. Finger placement was also a problem for me, often after an hour of playing i begin to feel numbness in my fingers. I remember crying once to my mom because I was scared of an upcoming piano test but she sat me next to her and told me a life changing phrase that kept me going, she said, "you chose this, no one focused you. You do what you feel is best". I studied extra hard that night but I still failed the test that following day however I wasn't too down about it.

Learning the piano was no different than playing any sport. Not only do you need mental substituted of the process of substitute of the process of substitute of strainer by the name of Devin Williams, "To be good at anything, you must put in 10,000 hours of work." I was recommended by my private tutor to practice three hours a day, this was an impossible task for me. First of all my tenants would complain about the noise and second of all my fingers were burning red after just an hour of practice. I would always complain to my mom about it and kept pushing practice time back to another day. Very often the next day of school I wouldn't be able to copy my notes fast enough and was left behind because my finger couldn't keep up. Playing the piano puts a lot of stress on your fingers and forearm.

I gave up the dream of being a pianist after just a year, the pain and required focus was the pain and required focus was not worth the satisfaction. But I did learn something through this and was able to pick up a few good life lessons. The first was to not get yourself into something you don't know much about.

The second was to try your best at everything you do so in the end even if you don't reach your expectations at least you tried your best. I was able to transfer these lessons into my academic life and became a better student. As for learning to play the piano I am looking forward to

completing my lessons this year and play a song for my mother to show her she didn't waste her time and effort on me.