



by Buhiyan Md Fazle Rabbi

### ***Final Reflection***

It's time to end the class and time to write the final reflection again. I was in professor Penner class last semester as well. I remember writing the final reflection at that time as well. Now I am

writing again. And this might be the last time I am writing in her class. I knew what to expect in this class and I spent the class exactly like that. I think we are all going to do well. Over the course I learned some new things. I wasn't an expert in writing or not a person who likes to write a lot. But this class pushed me to write and helped me to understand my problems and how I can be better at it. I think I did well overall in this time we have this semester. If I can think of something to do better, then I will say maybe when I was writing short stories I could do better. More imagination was in my head, and I felt like that. But I was not able to do my best. Maybe that's something I would change.

Memoir was the first thing I did in this class. It was from personal experience, so it was something different. There was some emotional part of my life that I reflected on. Then reading stories was really good. Honestly, I liked reading the story. Then writing poems was something I definitely did for the first time. It was hard but I did it. But maybe I am not a person who is going to write poems in the future. Writing dialogue was fun and interesting. I like that. I realized if I think hard and push myself, I can write more than that and be creative in it. Also, we get to read each other's writing which is also very good to learn new things without judging someone. In the end I will say I am going to miss this class. I hope everyone does well in the future.

## ***Memoir***

I was not born here. I came from Bangladesh in 2019. I finished my 12th grade over there and as soon as I finished there I came to this city. My father used to live here before I came here. So, he wanted me to move here as well. It was not a easy decision for me. Since I grew up in Bangladesh, I had to leave everything behind. When he asked me to move here at first, I was not sure. But then it took me some time to make up my mind. Leaving my comfort zone was really hard. But anyway, I decided to come here for a better life and to live with my father. I remember saying goodbye to my friends. My elder sister lives in Bangladesh still. She is married so did not move here. She and her husband came to the airport to say goodbye. Now I am writing this I am thinking about those times and how hard it was.

I was never on a international flight before. So, it was the first time as well and I was alone too. My father wasn't sure if I could make it alone. But in the end, I did it. I landed at JFK airport. It

was summer at that time. The sun was shining, and I still remember I could sense the difference of weather here and back in Bangladesh. My father came to pick me up from the airport. It was a good journey I would say. I came home with my father and my other family members waiting for me. Everyone welcomed me. Asked me about the flight. And that was it.

A new city. New people around me. New language although in Bangladesh English is the second language but still it is not same. I was not having a good time for the first few days. Because of the time change I used to wake up so early in the morning. I used to feel annoyed. I used to spend my morning in front of the window. It was summer so my father used to tell me to go outside and walk around. But honestly speaking I am more of a person who likes to stay home. I didn't have any friends here, so I did not bother to deny him stay home. Because I felt much better in that way. I went out with my father after a few days to buy a new phone. Because I used to use a old model. So, when I was in Bangladesh, I made him promise me that as soon I come here, he will buy me a new phone. So, he kept his promise, and we went to Best Buy. My father is a best buy fan. Any electronics item needs at home my father is like let's go to best buy. But I did not know what the best buy at that time is. We went there with him. After that he asked me if I wanted to go to Times Square. I said yes. We were in the station, and he was telling me how the metro works and how to pay for the metro. What to look for in the station. I was in Times Square. It was summer and it was full of tourists. People hanging around. We took some pictures and stayed there for some time. Later we came back home.

I was late so I wasn't able to applied for the fall semester that year. When I got to know that I decided to start doing something at this time. First few days I was alone, so I went out by myself to see around. I walked around my house. Looked for what I have around my house. I found Prospect Park when I was walking around. When I came home, I told my father about it. He told me about some other places I could go if I wanted to. Now that time has passed, I can say I am much more comfortable here and quite familiar with everything here. I explored new places and I hope I will learn more.

### ***Short Story***

John and Cathy, who are now very close friends, did not even know each other a few years back. They are in college together right now. They met each other when they were first-year students. They spend most of the time together now. They are graduating in the same major, so they are also taking the same class as well. They help each other with their study work. John is working in a local restaurant because he lives by himself. On the other hand, Cathy is living with her parents and her family is also in a good position so she did not care about earning money that much or we can say it was not her priority. But she was doing an internship in her college.

Now you might be thinking why I am writing about two people's work or what their relationship is. Well, everything was like that until they graduated. Cathy, who was doing a internship earlier in her college, got a job very early after finishing her graduation. Which seems to be very accurate since she has her experience in that field. The only problem begins when Cathy must move to a different city because of her job. John felt alone when Cathy moved out. John did not express his feelings about the situation. Cathy never able to read John feelings. After a while Cathy and John started to feel the distance. In that time John also got himself in a job but he was not into it because in his mind he was thinking to move in the same city as Cathy. They used to talk but not the same way when they were in college. After a while Cathy also started to feel differently about John. She stopped sharing things with John. Although John was trying to make things work between them, it never worked. John remains silent about his feelings. In his mind he was wondering if it was the end of their friendship? Why is he feeling about her in that way if she is only his friend? John started thinking about it. He was lost without Cathy being around him. He realized his feelings were beyond friendship for Cathy. So, he decided to meet Cathy. But they did not talk to each other for a while. But still he decided to go there to meet her. He knew her address. So, he went there.

John is in front of Cathy's house. He is nervous. But somehow, he gathered himself for the moment. As soon as he knocked Cathy's door a man came from the back.

Unknown man: Hey man.

John: Who are you?

Unknown man: I am Cathy's boyfriend.

Unknown man: And I am here to meet her.

John: Oh, I did not know.

John was shocked after hearing it. He left the place at that very moment with the flowers that he bought for Cathy.

### *Poem*

Walking in the dark

Alone

Raining all

Night

Home is still far

Walking fast

But

Still far away

Hope

To be there

Soon

Home is

Where I

Want to be

Right now.