

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE, By Abigail Rose



Final Reflection

This semester has taught me a lot about writing and how anyone can be a writer. It was always hard for me to come up with stories and write journals etc, but I realized that my life can be used in my writing. Life events and changes that I have gone through can be the context for most of my writing and it's just about how I would fit it to match the prompt at hand. As a writer, your work can also be influenced by the work of others, so when assignments were given I would often look up the work of others to kind of emulate and give me some inspiration.

As a reader, I've learned how to critique the work of others and how that is going to help them and make them benefit from their work. Discussing someone's work with them through our zoom classes made me understand where someone's idea for their writing came from. It helps put things into perspective and also gives you a chance to reflect on your own work.

The work that I have completed at the beginning of the semester was not the best. I wasn't prepared because I never viewed myself as a writer. My thought to myself was how am I going to achieve something when I've never done it before or had to do it before. English classes in the past have been structured in a way where you were given someone else's piece and asked to analyze it and write what you think it meant to you the reader, or doing essays whether it be argumentative, compare and contrast, or persuasive. It was hard to adjust to the prompts so my work, in the beginning, was very dull and I just did what I had to do to fulfill the task. Towards the end of the semester I can say I've become more imaginative, because like I've stated before, things are made up in writing but it still comes from a place where it relates to you and your life journeys. I have learned how to make my life sound good and attract readers.

My favorite assignment to write in this class was most definitely the short story that I have shared in this chapbook. Most of my classes this semester dealt with self-identity and what makes a person the way they are and how society plays a role. So when I was writing my short story I just drew from a topic of gender and how some people come to terms with their true self. This includes all of the obstacles that they face and the people that are there to help them with this change in their lives and give them some sort of ease in the process. Also with everything that happened with the pandemic in society, I felt like a lot of people have become their true selves including me and this short story was just a way to show that.

Online writing class was difficult for me. I'm the type of person who needs to be in a class setting to produce the best work that I can and often times I forget things are due because I'm

not physically going to class to hand something in. Also when it came to critiquing from my peers that was limited because only a few are willing to participate along with you so you both produce exemplary work. Prof. Penner I would like to say, you replying to emails in a timely manner and posting everything in detail really help me build as a writer and as a student. This creative writing course has made me do work I didn't think I could do. Writing stories, memoirs, and journals with the mindset of a writer was awesome and if I ever have to take this course again I will go into it knowing what to expect and how to be creative and enjoy what I'm writing.

Memoir

In 2016, when I started high school I only knew one other student who was my best friend from middle school. I found it hard to connect with other students because we had different interests and came from different areas of New York. The way I spoke with my old classmates in middle school was different from the way students spoke in my high school, and I had to quickly adjust to that. As I quickly adapted I found myself making friends with different students from different social groups. I made friends with the nerds, and even the gamers, the guys who were often quiet and stayed to themselves.

This guy whose name I didn't know was super funny and seemed very outgoing considering he was in a group that was the complete opposite of that. We started talking and I realized we had similar lives, we sort of clicked. I would say our friendship is unique, how often do you find friends in high school who are the complete opposite but come together so well. It was almost crazy to me. Someone who speaks a different language reads comics and watches anime is my best friend. To this day I am proud to call him my best friend. We can always rely on each other when we need something or simply just someone to talk to.

Short Story

Maci always grew up feeling different from the other girls around her. She never wanted to play with dolls, play dress up or wear make-up. She often asked herself, "Why do I feel this way, am I not normal?" but how could she ever find the answer to that question. Although she was struggling with this, she had her best friend Chad with her at all times to help her talk about her emotions. Whenever she was feeling down about herself she would sneak out her window and they would meet down by the creek where they played when they were little. She would say to Chad, "Is it wrong for me to feel like I don't identify with the body that I was born into?" He said, "It's not wrong but, what are you going to do about it?" The two friends came up with an idea to try and make Maci feel more comfortable.

Chad offered Maci some of his clothes to wear so that she didn't feel suffocated in a dress that she felt was not for her and didn't fit the mental picture she had of herself. On the first day back to school, she met up with Chad wearing a simple skater tee and baggy jeans with her favorite chucks which were the least girly item she owned. Wearing that outfit she explained to Chad that it's like a weight being lifted off her shoulders. She didn't feel limited to sitting with her legs crossed or worrying about the wind lifting up her dress. When it came time to go outside at lunch she was ecstatic because now she was able to play soccer and basketball with no worries.

Maci's best friend has given her a glimpse of happiness and what could make her life fill with joy. she was no longer burdened by these dresses and skirts that made her feel less than who she was. Chad was proud to see his best friend come out of her shell and do what was best for her. He's sat on the sidelines for years watching his friend mask who she was and he no longer has to do so.

Dialogue

(Dani and Jalen expresses to each other that they want to have new experiences this summer)

Jalen: I want to try sushi, I feel like I might hate it but I want to try it lmaooo.

Dani: Same.

(These two are very fed up with the simplicity of life and how covid has set them back.)

Jalen: Mfs be wack. I'm not trying to only eat chicken for the rest of my life.

(They are both laughing behind the screen)

*Dani: I'm soooooo tired of eating the same thing. like looking at my uber eats app and always buying the same sh*t.*

Jalen: I have no allergies or medical issues for me to not try new foods, lol

Dani: This summer is going to be our summer without a doubt.

(These two cousins have grown so close over the years because they share the same interests.)

(they are trying to live their best life.)

Journal #1

My experience writing my Memoir was a positive experience for me. The time in my life that I chose was a story that I've never really told or thought about. It was kind of hard to put into words but that just made it all the more joyous for me. To expand on the 'hard to put into words' portion of my memoir, it's like when you have everything in your head but when you write it, there's something completely different on paper. so that was really the only thing I struggled with. The readings that were shared with us helped because they showed you can write about a personal experience in many different styles. You have to ask yourself what is important enough to put on paper to build your story and make the outcome what is in your head.

Journal #2

Jane Howard said: "Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one." My clan/family are my cousins and my sister. In my clan/family there are five of us: me, my sister, and my three cousins. Our ages are really close so we bring different mindsets to everything we do together. The oldest male in my clan/family group is 22 and he brings a different scene of fashion and style to our group. He wears a lot of baggy sweats and really cool-looking graphic tees around the house, but when we have events planned or parties it's usually jeans or pants that are out of the ordinary.