

Kyle Girton

Professor Hays

Rhet 105

9/1/2015

The Inspiration Behind The Story

I can't speak for many other people, but personally, I don't tend to read or write a lot for pleasure. When I read or write it usually means it is an assignment or something that someone suggested to me. After having read these essays, and having watched the video, I actually have begun to approach reading and writing differently. Each of the different materials has taught me a different way to approach literature.

LaMott actually helped me get started on this essay response. She helped me to just throw words on the page in whatever order, and after a revision or two, it may be something I am proud of. Even the best writers struggle at the beginning of their work. I always used to try and write my final draft while I wrote my first one. I have come to realize, thanks to LeMott, that it is okay to have a poor first draft, because it gives meaning to the other drafts.

When I was a junior in high school I had to annotate a whole book as an assignment. I learned next to nothing from that experience. After having read *How To Mark A Book* by Mortimer J. Adler, I learned the reasons behind doing so from a personal perspective. Having been taught his reasons behind marking up his book, it made sense. I may even start carrying a pencil when I am reading something in case I want to jot a note down or underline a sentence.

In high school I read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, but didn't really take much away from it. I learned more about the background of the book, and far more about the author having watched the video. I don't write stories or novels, and probably won't ever write one worth publishing, but the way Bradbury goes about writing a story is not a way that I would think is possible. He says, "The characters speak to me ... they come to me and tell me about their lives." How is that possible? How does a character, which a writer makes up, come and talk to said writer? If that is true, I find that fascinating.

After having read the two essays and watching the video I have decided that I will look at literature a bit differently from now on. I will no longer look at it as punishment, but as pleasure. I will read for pleasure more often, and maybe even make a few annotations along the way. I will no longer worry too much about my illiterate first draft, but focus purely on how I can improve from draft to draft. These critical response readings have actually made me look at literature differently, and I will happily approach it with an open mind in the future.