Mueller Charter Leadership Academy

Exploring and Discovering Realities in Life

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Humanities

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An outsider can be defined when someone stays outside of a group and nobody oftenly or doesn’t pay attention to. There are many feelings that may arise as a result of being an outsider such as depression, rejection, and often times frustration. There are a variety of places these feelings may up rise, but two examples are at school and a country. There is a large selection of reasons that encourage the role of being an outsider such as sports, challenges, shyness, race, religion, and skin-color.  
  
 There are different kinds of outsiders such as people who choose to be an outsider and those who don’t choose. There are also insiders and boarder-liners. I am a boarder-liner, but I really had to think about this question because I had to see who I am as a person and also look at my actions. At the end of my thinking process I figured out I’m in between, so I am a boarder-liner. But, sometimes being a boarder-liner you have to take a look at your actions because you can change from a boarder-liner to a total insider or to an outsider. To me this is important because I want to get along with everyone no matter if they are an insider or an outsider. I like being friends with different people just so I can learn how they feel and what their perspective is on certain subjects because then it gives you the ability to make everybody happy and keep a smile on their face. As you can see I’m a boarder-liner and proud to be one because of all the opportunities that come along with it.  
  
 In addition stereotypes can cause someone to feel like an outsider. A stereotype is somebody who believes, judges, or assumes something just because of what they heard. One example of somebody who has been stereotyped is my dad I interviewed him and asked a few questions here’s what happened. My question to him was, “ Dad have you ever been stereotyped for just being you or liking something because that was your interest or hobby ?’’ My dad’s answer was, “Yes,   
my experience was at the time when I had braids and thought long hair was cool, but I guess I was considered as a thug or a gangster because that was the hairstyle that type wore. Once I cut my hair down to what some consider a normal length I received more respect.”

When I continued my interview I proceeded with another question asking, “ Did you have any experiences while wearing that hairstyle?” Then my dad answered, “ I did in fact, nothing specific, but yes, for example when I went into stores since I was African American people perceived me to being a part of a gang and I was going to steal. So the whole time I was shopping I was watched!” Still curious I asked, “ Did you find out the different perspectives of how people think?” My dad answered, “ Definitely it sure did it showed me how different people in different classes thought. That was when I learned how to adapt when around different people and what type of company they enjoy, but I would only do that to benefit me or my family and I’m teaching my children no matter what you are wearing or where you are just be yourself.”

In the same way, stereotypes comes from the book “The Outsiders.” two characters from the book discuss stereotypes. Ponyboy a greaser, states that all socs beat up people like they did to Johny. Cherry, a soc says, “ All socs aren’t like that.” After that Ponyboy still didn’t believe her so that’s when Cherry gave the example of saying, “ That’s like saying all you greasers are like Dallas Winston. I’ll bet he’s jumped a few people.” That’s when Ponyboy realized that money might be the only thing that separates them.

To get back to the point, stereotypes are also explored in C. Adichie’s TED Talk called, “ The danger of a single story.” In this presentation she discusses when she stereotyped the way books were supposed to be written. Adichie used to believe that all books should have white people playing in snow, eating apples and drinking ginger beer. But, then she started reading other African writers stories and she says that is what saved her from having a single story. Adichie also stereotyped Mexicans she only thought they were just boarder immigrants and they just wanted to take advantage of medical and free programs. Then, Adichie concluded her speech by talking about the problem with stereotypes is they are incomplete and it rubs people of dignity and shows how we are different rather than similar and we want to regain the path to paradise.

Even though stereotypes and epiphanies challenge individuals to become better people. An epiphany is when a person makes a change in their life during an event or at a certain time of their life also it can be when something specific has been talked about. An example of someone who had an epiphany is my mom. My mom’s name is Ursula Sexton she has 4 children and is married to my dad who I have recently interviewed. My mom was a stay at home mom and devotes her life to her 4 children and husband. But, being productive has always been in my mom’s vocabulary so when she took this step productive was multiplied by five. Although my mom is awesome she does have some challenges too.  
  
 Leading up to the start before my mom went to medical school, to start practicing and studying to have a career in the medical field. My mom has always loved to help people and so she has been fit perfectly for this job that helps people. What made her want to go to medical school is to do something for herself and have a profession that matters. After my mom went to school she felt happy because she got to achieve her goal of going to medical classes and now she gets to have that little voice in her head that says, “ I did it !” This has given my mom the confidence to conquer the world. My mom has not only strengthened her education, but she also expanded it too even with having 4 children to take care of she is one of the most amazing mom anybody could have in this universe.  
  
 As well as changing his attitude and learning to express his feelings, there is also an example of an epiphany in the book “The Outsiders.” Johny Cade is a character who goes from zero to hero. An example of when Johny changes into a hero is when he is mentioned in the paper, “ Juvenile Delinquents Turn Hero’s.” Ponyboy, Dally, and Johny were all mentioned in the paper because at one point and time they were considered delinquents now Johny was a hero that is a good example of having an epiphany. You can’t just all of a sudden become a hero overnight, in Johny’s case he proved people wrong and showed he did have a heart and he cared even though he wasn’t raised around that caring environment.  
  
 Learning about outsiders, stereotypes, and epiphanies has helped me to “ Become Human”/grow. The way I learned is by interviewing my dad and listening to the Adichie TED Talk. I found that out just by viewing something it can set your perspective on how thing are supposed to be or should be. An example would be when I had an interview with my dad and how he was stereotyped just because he was wearing a hairstyle it seems dumb when you hear it, but it’s reality. People don’t think what the real reason behind something is. A second example is in the Adichie TED Talk how by seeing only books with white people, snowing outside, and drinking ginger beer. Since those were the only books she had seen or read that’s how she perceived every book was supposed to be. Society can relate because that is how we are sometimes like we think only boys can play football we only think that because that is all we have ever seen or known. This has helped me to recognize “The danger of a single story.”

Work Cited

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