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Expository Essay

“Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in that grey twilight that knows nor victory nor defeat.”-Theodore Roosevelt. Life lies within the present, for the past is said and spent, and the future is uncertain. However, there is a time and a place when the heart and the head agree that living is not just to die, and the only way to live is to love by defeating evil and giving to others. When life becomes insignificant a hero emerges from the water in the depths of a dark situation to save innocent souls that know nothing but suffering. When material goods are not able to fill the void in one’s heart and leave an empty feeling of solitude, the only thing better than being the only one possessing those goods, would be to share and impose upon the less fortunate with passion and endless insight.

Throughout history people have never changed their ways. There are always the greedy selfish “franklins” in this world that belittle everyone else’s problems in place of their own because in their corrupted minds, the world seems to revolve around them. It is this exact kind of person that is doomed to judgment because of the lack of compassion they possess for others. In the play *Everyman* God speaks from heaven, and then sends Death to earth to seek Everyman. Everyman is an allegorical play where all the characters personify abstract ideas such as

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Fellowship, Goods, and Knowledge. Throughout the play death comes to Everyman’s side on multiple occasions to inform him that his time is running short. Upon this, Everyman knows that his account for life has been meaningless as he put too much emphasis on materialistic items and not enough on helping others. In complete distress Everyman is given once chance on deaths behalf in order to find a companion for his journey to help him find a sense of compassion for something bigger than himself. Nobody wants to accompany Everyman because he was never there for anyone, so he takes the one thing he indulged in the most, which was material goods. The moral of the story is that in the end, man will only have what he has contributed to this world and the legacy he left behind to accompany him beyond the grave.

Unlike Everyman, the story about The Man in the Water is a prime example of what it is to have real meaning in life. In the midst of a mechanical failure, a man who is now considered a hero sacrificed his life in order to save complete strangers. He put his own needs aside and did a selfless deed far greater than what many people could even fathom doing. For this man, it was not even an option to save himself but rather everybody in the water and watch them fly to safety time and time again. He gave all of this strength for these people, and in the end had nothing left to use for himself. Sitting in the water, slowly fading away from this life he knew so well, he watched it all slip from his fingertips. The memories from the years he had spent living were all soon to leave with him and he would be a legend, an angel for all of those families who could have potentially lost their father, brother, best friend. Such a selfless act gives one so much compassion and ultimately a meaningful life. If one lived everyday secluded from society and did not associate with other humans they would have lived a life of agony because one gains meaning through experience and love. The only way to love is to give. The Man in the water is

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an example of a human against nature in a complete powerless state, struggling for himself but putting others in front of him and giving them life as he withered away.

Everyday people want to find a way to give back to their community, so they donate a dollar to the man standing outside of Target and feel a little bit better about themselves. Considering they probably had just spent an hour picking out appliances for their house that are not necessary, but simply bought them because they can. People indulge in pointless items because they cannot grasp the concept that this life is bigger than what you own. Nobody cares if you drive a hummer with sparkling rims. This concept is so difficult to fathom because there is so much more to focus on in this life, there are so many people that do not even have a house for those appliances. Wouldn’t it be great to be remembered for something greater than the car you drive, but rather the person you left behind? More so, the deeds one does that leaves a footprint in this world and will be greatly appreciated. Through Mission Viejo’s Virtual Enterprise class that I take part in, we are raising money through a nonprofit organization called Love Mercy which builds wells and provides clean water for orphans in the Dominican Republic. Mr. Pillsbury gave everybody in the class a project to raise money in our own way for Love Mercy so that we can all combine in the end and donate it to the wells. We need 5,000 dollars for 5 wells. My mom and I decided to sell her famous Susie’s Salsa for 5 dollars for 5 ounces and have made 500 dollars in the past 3 weeks and plan to donate all of this to Love Mercy. We make the salsa and package it all and plan to go to the local farmers market to sell and raise awareness about the potential for these wells. The goal is to alleviate the suffering for the poor and oppressed children that do not have the most basic necessity in the world, clean water.

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Through the stories Everyman, The Man in the Water, and Love Mercy the common moral of them all is that good deeds and giving to others who are suffering is a key element in living a life of purpose. Putting others before oneself is the ultimate way to live selflessly and give. Raw youth overlooks passion for insight and acts according to obscure, gap ridden logic. What they fail to see is that the joy of life comes from the encounters with new experiences, hence there is no greater joy to have an endlessly changing horizon, for each day to have a new and different sun. For each day to have a new goal to impacting somebody, whether that is a simple act of kindness, donating money, volunteering time, working with children, teaching, and ultimately being an example to others provides the joy of revival and experience that can have an effect on so many lives.