

Where It All Started

Writing and reading has always been a love-hate relationship for me. Ever since I can remember I have always struggled with one or another. Growing up I was really good with writing, when it came down to storytelling and writing journal prompts I thought I was the best. However, when it came to reading I struggled I never really knew why until I started talking to my mom and she suggested going to the eye doctor. I went to the eye doctor, I found out I had horrible vision and that could be the reason reading was harder for me than other kids. After getting glasses my reading and writing skills grew tremendously starting with better grades, reading more, and better concentration. The day I got my glasses was such a different day for me when I thought about getting the glasses. I thought I would be able to see right away and things would be like magic. However, after wearing them I got pounding headaches due to such a strong prescription. Besides the headaches the world felt so clear and the focus my vision gave was mind blowing. After getting use to the prescription the headaches went away. My only struggle now was wanting to wear my glasses. I always tried to get away with not wearing them, until my eyes finally got used to wearing them.

The Frustrations of Getting Involved

About a year later after getting my glasses I started getting involved with clubs and activities. I recall getting involved in a book club when I was in elementary school. We read all types of different genres such as mystery, fantasy, science fiction, etc. My favorite type as a child and even now is mystery readings, I love how suspenseful they are. Growing up with such a passion for reading and writing caused me to keep getting evaluated by teachers and other school adult figures. I remember being frustrated because I always was getting taken out of class in the hall to read and see how fast I

could. Eventually after all the tests and evaluations they moved up my reading level, and would do so pretty often. It was aggravating to me because while my friends talked about all the cool books they were reading I was not allowed to choose them types of books do to my high reading level, so I felt left out. When I say higher level books I do not mean like a third grader reading Harry Potter. I a meaning while other children are reading third grade level short stories. I was reading two sometimes three level higher chapter books.

Why I Am Where I Am.

Trying to fit in as a kid is hard, especially in our generation now. Growing up we were always told to do what we love and follow your heart. However, how are we supposed to do so when kids are so judgemental. During my middle school years I distanced myself from reading books and writing stories due to getting made fun of. In my small town I lived in before Cincinnati everyone knew everyone. My middle school counselor, who used to be my second grade teacher noticed my lack of interest in reading. After pulling me into her office and having me realizing it does not matter what people think as long as I am happy, I started reading again. Me now does not read as much as I would like or even as much as I should. However, every now and then I find a really good book and just cannot help but make time to read it.

Who I Have To Thank

If it was not for all my early literacy sponsors as a kid I truly believe I would not ever grew up with such a respect towards reading and writing. When I was younger, many of my family members took time to help me learn to read and write. I remember my aunt always helping me learn the sounds of letters. Before I was even attending school my aunt taught me to read my favorite books just by remembering what the word looked like. My family and friends being such a strong support system and helping me along the way has truly made a change in not only my literacy school life but even my personal life. My father would always make my two older brothers do spelling bees with

me, when I attended school so I could practice. In conclusion, I feel as if there are many of the people in my life I owe a thank you for being apart of who I am and my experiences in literacy.

Moving Forward

Moving forward to the present I still love writing and good books I have been reading lately are memoirs for my social working class. What I like about the memoirs is how real it is and it's eye opening to hear about others' experiences. Looking towards the future with my passion for writing, I want to eventually write about places I have traveled. When it comes to reading I wanna find more memoirs books like the one is my social working class. My goals are not set in stone yet and I have tons of ideas running through my mind to give a set answer on my future with reading and writing.