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Literacy Narrative

I have never been much of a reader. Not because I can't read but because it has never really interested me. I have always been the person that would rather work on trying to solve some kind of problem than to sit down and read a book in my free time. I have also always been a huge fan of sports. As far back as I can remember I was either outside playing some kind of sport, or I was inside trying to find a way to bring sports inside the house. The latter of that statement did not always work out the best. I have also never been a huge fan of reading fiction. It's not that I do not have an imagination or maybe I don't but when I read fiction I sometimes think to myself there is no way in hell that could really happen.

With that being said the literacy moment in my life that sticks out the most in my head, comes from when I was in the seventh grade. At the middle school that I went to all seventh graders had to read so many books of their choice. The minimum for any student was three during a semester. For me this was horrible because at that particular time in my life I hated reading. The semester came and went and faked my way through three books, making up stuff as I went when writing the book reports. The teacher I had figured out that I did not really read the books that I said I did. So he called my mother in to have a conference with me about why I did not read my books. I can remember the teacher being really mad at me, because each student got to pick whatever book he or she wanted to read. In the conference I told them that I was having a hard time staying interested long enough to read a whole book. Novels kill me I cannot stay into them long enough to finish one. Then the teacher came up with a solution for my problem. He allowed me to expand my reading selection from just books to everything, magazines, newspapers (I had to read these front to back), informative articles, or anything else that I wanted to read as long as he said it was okay.

That day when we went home my mother got on the computer while I tried finding something to read that would interest me. Well she found something all right. My mother ended up ordering me two different magazines. The first became one of my all time favorite magazines to read ESPN the magazine. The second was a magazine called Playstation Magazine or PSM for short. I did not like the second one as much because it was for gamers and I did not play video games all that much. When the magazines finally did arrive I was surprised to see them. I asked my mom what they were for and she informed me that she had ordered them for me so that I would have something to read that interested me. I first picked up the ESPN the magazine and started reading. I read this magazine from cover to cover in just a couple hours. My mom was so surprised that I had just sat down and started reading without any complaining or anything. Since then I have had my subscription to ESPN the magazine cancelled, but I do pick one up from time to time when I see them at the store. In a recent edition of the magazine I read an article about old Tiger's Stadium in Detroit. This article interested me a lot because I grew up in Michigan when I lived with my mom. Also I had been too many baseball games at that stadium. In the article it talked about how where the building once stood it is now an empty lot, as are many of the blocks that surrounded this once great ball park. The author of the article did put in his own input as to what should be done with this empty lot that had many great baseball players play on it. His idea was to turn it into a youth baseball facility, so that younger players of the game could play on such famed ground. I did some of my own research into this and it turned out that the author of the article actually submitted the idea to the Detroit city council. Who in turn shot the idea down at their next council meeting saying that it would be too costly and impractical. I disagree with that statement because what little boy would not want to play on a baseball field were some really famous players had been.

Magazines eventually lead me to discover the author that I like the most. I found this one day when I was reading an article in a edition of Playboy magazine. The article was all about the life of Shel Silverstien. I had remember reading all of his poetry for kids. For example: The Giving Tree, Where The Side Walk Ends, and A Light in the Attic. Before reading this article about his life I had thought that he only wrote children's books. But in this article it talked about how he got his start as a writer for Playboy magazine. He would write articles for the magazine as he traveled the world. Playboy paid all of his expenses on these travels. Most of his articles that he wrote during his travels talked about how he found different cultures to be interesting. After reading this article I became intrigued to learn more about this author that I once thought only wrote stuff for kids. I started doing research on his life and found that he has written many other things besides children's books. Some of these include songs for musicians, (which he won a Grammy), lots of novels, and countless poems.

If it was not for my mother getting these magazines who knows how much I would read today or, how much I would learn from reading. I like reading the magazines because it gives you a sneak peak about a certain topic or issue. Then you can go out and start doing your own research to find out more about that particular subject.