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February 14, 2021

Prof. Stubbs

Literary Analysis Assignment Essay

Victory Lap by George Saunders

“Victory Lap” by George Saunders was a small little story that our class was assigned to read, it was my choice to write a literary analysis about it because it was an interesting story and a kind of life lesson for me. In my research about the writer of the small story, Saunders is a good writer, and his stories have great life lessons and remarkably interesting things behind them just as “Victory Lap”.

Whenever I read stories or books, I like for them to have something included in them that is either a life lesson or some information that if then I cannot use, I can use it in the future. I have never read this short parable before it was assigned in class, but I am glad I was able to read it for its good characters and the lessons it teaches. A few more facts that I was able to interpret about Saunders is that other than a writer he is also a journalist and a professor at Syracuse University, Saunders won 3 different prizes including The Pen Award in 2013, Folio Prize in 2014, and Booker Prize in 2017. Saunders was also born December 2nd, 1958 in Texas and he grew up near the Chicago area of Illinois.

The story includes Allison, Melvin, and Kyle, Alison is the victim in distress of being raped, she is characterized as sweet and feels like nobody can do harm

and that everyone in the world has good intentions when in doubt everyone does not, Melvin is the accused rapist of the story, he is characterized to be poor and as a strange person who does weird things to people and Kyle is Allison's next door neighbor, who is I wouldn't say self-centered but doesn't like to interfere in people's business so he would see something bad about to occur and not say anything about it or do anything to stop it. The story of my understanding is being told from the first to third person point of view because I always felt like throughout reading the story, I can see what the character is aiming towards or what he or she is thinking. A theme or message that I interpreted from this story is good vs bad because you have someone like Allison who is a nice young girl that does not cause harm to anybody or anything and then you have someone like Melvin who is malicious enough to want to rape someone. The message or point the story tries to get off is to me that people act different when they are alone opposing to when people are around.

Things that are unique about the story is the way it is being told like when I am reading, I feel like I am there in the actual setting with the characters seeing firsthand what is going on. The little issues or conflicts that happen in the story make me think of myself "what would I have done if I was in this situation" or "I wonder how I would feel if I was in his shoes" also there is a lot of things happening in the story at once but the narrator makes it easier to apply it to real life

and understand the concepts of the issues or what is going on. An adjective that I would use to describe “Victory Lap” would be is interesting or vague because of its deep story line and pats that will leave you thinking about what happens next.