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## Who am I ?

As I sat in the class looking at the board that was showing a piece of paper that looked oddly familiar, I felt my face turn bright red as the heat followed with it. The next thing I knew my teacher had said “I want to show an example of what to do. ” My look of pure terror and disbelief was a wreck waiting to be found from the teacher as she looked in my eyes and smiled. I realized then the moment my paper that I had written was being shown for the whole class to see and view. It was funny to think that I wanted to try for this assignment as she went on to explain examples of a proper hook and supportive sentences. To think this would ever happen to me because I was a “F” student and now my paper is being shown as an example if that maybe a “perfect” example.

Growing up I did not want to read and I refused to read until I had to read a book and do a book report. Do you remember those times, where you’d have to read a book and depending on your teacher you could dress up as the character? Well I do and I can tell you what book I read and did the report on. “Oliver Twist” by Charles Dickens sparked my interest and belief that there are books that I would like to read. Now my grade in the report was not the best and was not an example to look at but it sparked my interest in literacy. I realized how books or even literacy can change people and specifically how it changed myself. I started to track down books that followed the same plot as “Oliver Twist” and some books I found were “Ender’s game” and “The Outsiders”. I grew quite attached to these books and I couldn’t get enough until I grew up and so did the requirement of what needed to be done such as the dreadful reports.

My writing literacy was on another level if by another level we can mean below. If the basement was a level which it technically is, my level would be negative 4. That is how bad my writing was to me and apparently my teachers too. Not because I was not good or because I couldn't write but rather because I just didn't want to write. I tried for a very long time to skip by doing bare minimum and not trying too hard, until it came for my failing grade in highschool and my teacher at that time asked us to do a report except this report was not on a book but rather to make our own story. This was a bit of a game changer for me however I did not know what to write about. I wanted to be like Dickens or even Hinton writing about a boy coming from a place of sadness and turning it into a strength and overcoming. I kept getting stuck at the beginning as in where do I begin myself until I realized why not write about me overcoming some things whether it was true or false. Next thing I knew was her pulling me after class and explaining that copying someone else's work is punishable by expulsion, in which I agreed to then her look of surprise caught me off guard. She then asked "where I got it " and I simply said "my head" and she excused me to take my seat.

A week later she was teaching about how sentence structure works and how hooks are important as well as introduction, body paragraphs and lastly conclusions. To which the next slide showed the familiar paper that I spent all class writing last week. After that class she handed back everyone's work and gave me my paper and in the top right hand corner it had a red marker on it that simply said "you're going places" along with two exclamation marks.

My freshman year English literature teacher sparked something in my head and perhaps in my heart that made me want to write more or even journal. She is one of the reasons why I actually like to write, if you give me a story and tell me to write about it or report how did it make you feel or change your perceptions, I jump with glee because you can write the raw

feelings you may have felt reading whether you cried, got angry, balled your fists or even had to take a minute to walk away. Just as my literacy reading was sparked, so too was my writing altered. From that point on I looked forward to writing for things that interested me and now as a creative writer and for college I find it very important like exercising because you do a brain workout but also test your skills of how far you go. I can not remember her name or who changed my perceptions of literacy on both reading and writing but I thank them and I remember their faces and I am forever grateful they put me on a path to academic success in reading and writing.