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5th hour

12 November 2013

Never Take Your Life for Granted

 After reading the book Night, I found myself asking the question, “What does this book have to do with our world today?”. After asking myself this question, I also wondered what it had to do with my life. The book Night really opened up my eyes to what happened in our past and how it affects us today. After finishing the book, I realized that I cannot ever take life for granted. In the novel, all around the world, and even in my own life, people take their lives for granted everyday. It is very easy to get caught up in the racing pace of society and to focus on the petty things in life. That is why it is important to never take your life for granted.

 In the Novel, Eliezer, the main character, does not the make the most of his life before it ends when he is shipped off to a concentration camp. Elie does not make the most of his life because he is focused mainly on his studies of the Cabbala, the ancient Jewish tradition of mystical interpretation of the Bible. Elie also doubted Hitler’s capabilities. He asked in the book, “Was he really going to wipe out a whole people? Could he exterminate a population scattered throughout so many countries?” (Wiesel). When Elie asked this, it stood out to me as disbelief and ignorance. In this situation, Elie should have been scared and cherished any and every moment he had left in his life. When Moche the Beadle, Elie’s teacher, returns from the concentration camps, he tells of the horrible torture and suffering that he and many other Jews were put through. Of course, no one believes him, not even his own student, Elie. Elie does not believe him because he does not think that anything like that could ever happen to him and his family. He was oblivious to the power that the Nazis and Hitler held. At that time, he should have appreciated everything he had in his life, such as a loving family and food on the table. Because one day, it would all be gone. All throughout the book Night, there were instances where people took their lives for granted, but Elie’s actions were the ones that stood out to me the most.

 All around the world, people take their lives for granted. According to John H. Sklare, people take for granted their health. Your health is not only important when it comes to being physically active or having fun, but it is most important when it comes to staying alive (Sklare). Not only do people take for granted their health, they also take for granted something as simple as food and water. Food and water are always available for us, so when we dramatically say, “I’m starving!” or “I’m so thirsty, I could die.”, we should really be thinking about the homeless and unemployed who have no money to buy food and the starving African children who barely get enough food and water in a day to survive and be thankful that we have an enormous abundance of food and water to last us until the end of time(“Water and Hunger.”). And lastly, people everywhere take their loved ones for granted the most. We “assume” that our family and friends will always be there for us, so we forget to tell them that we love them or that we appreciate everything that they do for us. If you are expressive and have told a person what they mean to your life, they will start thinking that no matter what, you are never going to go away (Ruchi). The simplest, smallest and kindest gestures go the longest way, so the next time you see someone who is taking their life for granted, pull them aside and give them an insight on what they’re really missing out on and remind them to tell those they cherish most how they really feel about them.

 I, personally, get so caught up in the fast pace of society that I forget to take a step back and actually live life. I do not thank my parents enough for all that they have given to me, especially for all of the opportunities. Lately, I have been spending so much time with my friends and playing volleyball, that I forget to take a little time to spend with my family. I need to start spending more time at home, instead of at a friends house or at the gym. They are the ones who mean the most to me, so I should be the kindest and most appreciative towards them. I also do not let myself live life. I am so focused on school, volleyball, and friends, that I forget to take a small portion out of my day to just enjoy being alive. I do not even have time to thank God for all that He has given me. Being a teenager may be stressful and hectic, but it is never an excuse on why one can not live life to the fullest instead of taking it for granted.

 Reading the book Night gave me a new perspective on life and that I should never take it for granted. The book Night has a lot to do with our world today, because without it we may not have ever know what really happened to the Jews during the Holocaust. The way the Jews were treated then, is so different than the way they are treated now. They are now treated with respect, and that is how it should be and how it should have always been. In the novel, Elie takes his life for granted and he regrets it immensely. All around the world, people take life for granted all the time, and until something drastic happens, they will continue to take their lives for granted. I may take my own life for granted, but after reading Night and writing this essay, I am walking away with a different view on life. That view is that I can not ever take life for granted because I have such a small amount of time to live, and so much to see and do.

Works Cited

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