



Literacy Narrative, part 1

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Due: 9/13

Length: 500-750 words

Pre-writing

Begin by doing some freewriting in response to the following questions. Don't worry too much about how the pieces will fit together or what it will all look like in a final essay. Just let your mind go to wherever it goes as you think about the question. You should try to write for at least five minutes in response to each question, but as much detail as you can—try to imagine as clearly as you can but don't worry about spelling, grammar, or structure yet.

- Please write about the key moment when, where, and how you first learned to read. What was learning to read like for you? What sorts of books did you read?
- How did you feel about reading and writing as an adolescent—say, during middle and high school? What sorts of experiences did you have as a reader and writer in school?
- What are your experiences with social networking sites like MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, or others? What do you remember about your first experiences with such sites? Do you text on a smartphone? What sorts of experiences have you had writing to/for people with those sorts of technologies?
- What are some of the biggest struggles you have had as a reader and/or writer? What are some of your best moments as a writer?

Prompt

Now that you've done some brainstorming, write an essay in which you analyze the key experiences that shaped the way you read and write.

Take a step back and reread the freewriting you did, looking for any interesting patterns that you reflected about your history with reading and writing. You do not need to directly address the

IMAGE CREDIT

Detail from Alison Bechdel, Fun Home, Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

Search ...

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES



TAGS

social badge choice choice clarity
comparisons items cooking
destructive sublime describe sharing room
extra credit Foucault food library choice

Hmm... A key experience...



I think I have a story to tell.



This story begins
in second grade.



Simply talk to people



Raise your hand occasionally



Second
Grade was
Easy

Pack up at the end
of the
day



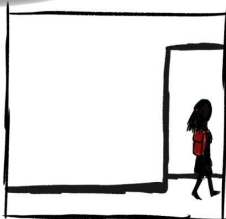
Finish your work
early and read



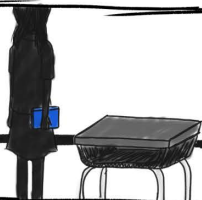
It was a simple
routine



that anyone
could follow.



But out of the blue
came a new addition
to this simple cycle.

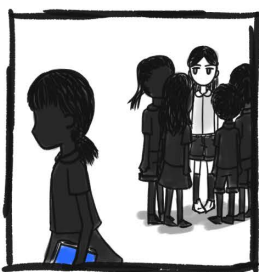
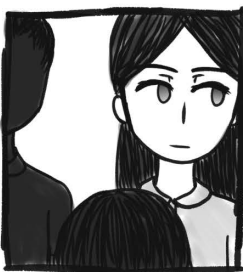


For the past month,
someone had been placing
random books in my desk.
Everyday I would...



- ✓ 1) Find a book
- ✓ 2) Look for its owner
- ✓ 3) Skim the book
- 4) Place it back on the shelf

What kind of person abandons
their books in another person's
desk?! Determined to catch the
culprit, I formulated a plan...



Abbie was... quite the character to say the least.

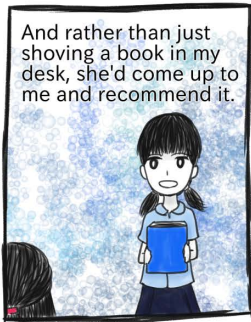
I...just so happened to be walking by. That's all!



She was smart enough to skip a grade, an avid reader, and ridiculously hyper.

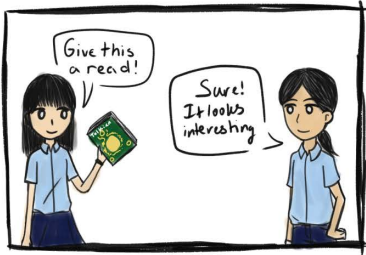
Although I caught her in the act, Abbie always denied the crime, giving excuses like any child would.

Though afterwards, I no longer found random books in my desk.



And out of all that I somehow managed to make a wonderful friend

She introduced me to Tolkien in fifth grade



However, she successfully brought me into another series' fandom.



though unlike her, I wasn't converted into a Tolkien fanatic. (He's an excellent writer though!)

It was a Japanese webcomic about personified nations.



At night, I'd go online and research

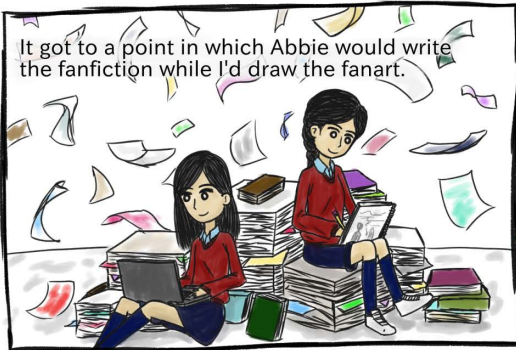


info about the actual country

And in the morning, we'd discuss the differences between the characters and the actual country they're based off of.



It got to a point in which Abbie would write the fanfiction while I'd draw the fanart.



And like a true fan, I bought all the hard copies of the English translation!



(All of which can be found in my dorm...)

Inspired by that series,
I decided to create
my own story based
on personafication.



Though there wasn't really
a plot, I enjoyed creating
my own characters.



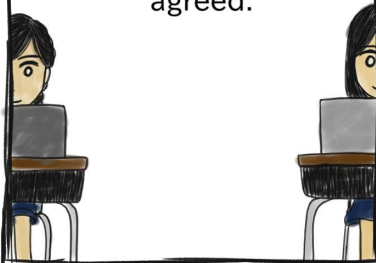
One day, our friends asked
us if we wanted to
join a project.



**THEY WANTED TO WRITE
A STORY ABOUT EPSIONAGE
IN WHICH WE'D WRITE A CHAPTER
FROM EACH CHARACTER'S
PERSPECTIVE.**



And we eagerly
agreed.



Though we never finished it
as usual...



Time stands still for no one.



And we eventually went our separate ways.



Though people
come and go



we still
carry the
lessons
they taught us

And so I kept creating.



