

GI Book Club Scholarship Personal Essay

Literature is the best form of education one can receive. It is the safest, yet most effective way an author can share history, teach important life lessons, and expose global issues. In addition, writers can express themselves emotionally by telling their stories, which may be a coping mechanism for some. In every book, article, poem, diary, journal, etc there is a fresh perspective to interpret and a message for the reader to learn from.

Literary works are very powerful in the sense that the author can persuade or manipulate their audience into believing whatever they want. Words are impactful and can lead to many new revelations within oneself. Personally, I learned a lot from the short story, "The Monkey's Paw," by W.W. Jacobs. It is about a man, Mr. White, who was warned by his friend, Sergeant-Major Morris, to resist the magical wishes that were bestowed in the monkey's paw, but chose to give in to temptation anyway. Once Mr. White made his first wish for money, he faced the consequence of his son, Herbert, dying the next day. Soon thereafter, he was compensated for his loss and realized the foolishness of his actions. I admire this story as it ties back into real-world events of people constantly trying to triumph over one another and be the best of the best. Many are only concerned with being at the top in the race for money and status and will often cheat or tear others down to exceed everyone else. Sadly, a lot of people do not see the important things in life that genuinely matter like love, respect, family, giving, and kindness. Moreover, taking shortcuts and trying to get rich in the luxuries the world has to offer does not fill someone with happiness nor will it matter to them when they are on their deathbed.

Furthermore, "The Monkey's Paw" has also taught me that attempting to gain unfair advantages in life will follow with bad karma and punishment. I am a firm believer that what you give to the world, you will get back and in trying to live by that motto, I strive to bring goodness and peace to those around me as it is joy and giving that will fill one's soul with the greenest riches accessible to mankind.

