***Prompt #6: Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?***

***Introduction***

As the thunderous engines roar and the cars race at mind-boggling speeds, all in a relentless pursuit to reach victory, I hear my heart racing with excitement. Formula 1, a sport I stumbled upon just a year ago, has completely captivated my attention like no other.

Growing up immersed in playing basketball and tennis, I never expected to find myself so engrossed in the world of racing. Yet, here I am, unable to tear my eyes away from the screen during a single race, not missing any since my discovery. What makes this sport so captivating is the paradoxical relationship I have with it: a love and insatiable passion for watching cars reach speeds of 300 km/h while harboring deep anxiety about driving at 50 km/h. This compelling dichotomy has not only opened my eyes to the thrilling world of Formula 1 but has also bestowed me invaluable life lessons.

***Why F1***

It's intriguing how my fascination with high-speed racing contradicts my fear of driving. Even my dad, a devoted Formula 1 fan, was initially taken aback by my interest in the sport. As someone who always embraced the thrill of driving at exhilarating speeds, he found the stark contrast between us perplexing. However, as we watched races together, my dad witnessed how Formula 1 wasn't just a passing interest but a genuine passion for me. As time flew, my love for Formula 1 intensified, and I couldn't resist expressing my burning desire to attend a live race. Unexpectedly, my dad bought us tickets to the 2023 Singapore Grand Prix, ensuring we could experience the electrifying atmosphere firsthand. Knowing that watching it live would be a transformative experience, he wanted me to feel the difference between seeing it on a screen and immersing myself in the exhilaration of a live race. I couldn't contain my excitement, as I knew this ordeal would further deepen my love for this sport.

Whether watching from the comfort of my home or immersed in the exhilarating atmosphere of a live race, Formula 1 consistently delivers an unmatched and thrilling experience. Its unique blend of speed, precision, and unrelenting intensity keeps me on the edge of my seat from start to finish. The drivers' remarkable skill and precision in navigating intricate twists and turns, taking high-stakes gambles with split-second decision-making, adds to the excitement. Also, while enduring extreme physical and mental demands, drivers manage every aspect of their cars, showcasing extraordinary control and multitasking. Perhaps what sets Formula 1 apart is the fierce competition among talented drivers, with battles of skills, wits, and strategy, fueling the adrenaline-fueled spectacle, showcasing human ambition at its peak. Formula 1 continues to leave me breathless, reminding me of the extraordinary feats achieved when human ingenuity and passion collide on the track.

***What have you done to learn more about F1***

As I devoted my weekends to watching this sport, engrossing myself in each race alongside my father has been an invaluable source of knowledge and insight into the intricate world of Formula 1. Through his guidance, I have comprehended that there is far more to this sport than meets the eye. I've discovered the secrets behind distinguishing good drivers from exceptional ones and the elements of a successful strategy for drivers and teams. My thirst for more knowledge subsequently led me to the captivating Netflix documentary called "Drive to Survive." This immersive storytelling delved beyond the track, offering a glimpse into the minds of team principals and drivers, illuminating their perspectives, the intricate dynamics within the teams, and the hidden secrets behind their triumphs. Through my dad's teachings and the documentary, my appreciation for Formula 1 deepens, allowing me to grasp the finer details that pave the road to success as I continue to explore its depths.

***Personal Growth***

My apprehension towards driving stems from my cautious nature, amplified by witnessing intense crashes in Formula 1. Nevertheless, the sport has taught me to transcend the confines of playing it safely and embrace the opportunities when taking calculated risks. In the recent Canada Grand Prix, Scuderia Ferrari's drivers, Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz, showcased this mindset. Starting in 10th and 11th, they risked older tires by not pitting under the safety car. Their gamble then paid off, securing 4th and 5th positions. This mindset led me to take risks in life. I recall taking a calculated risk during a spirited card game with my family. As an unexpected proposal emerged, I took a calculated risk to join the high-stakes wager, where we each contributed 5 dollars, vying for the entire pot. Though luck wasn't on my side, and I experienced defeat, the wisdom obtained surpassed the desired gain. Being overly cautious hinders seizing chances, but inherent in the pursuit of taking risks is accepting potential setbacks. Niki Lauda's wise words, "You should always discuss the defeats because you can learn much more from failure than from success," resonate deeply with me. Accepting risk and failure teach humility, consideration, and resilience, shaping us to face future uncertainties with renewed determination.

***Conclusion***

My passion for Formula 1 has unveiled something in me: a deep affinity towards analytics and statistics. With my heart set on a career in motorsport, my ultimate dream is to become a data analyst for my favorite F1 team. I yearn to work alongside my favorite drivers, contributing my analytical skills to their success on the track. Perhaps, one day, this shared pursuit will culminate in the ultimate achievement: a world champion title. But for now, what I can do is recognize the importance of honing my ability to take risks. I aim to push myself to step outside my comfort zone more, welcoming both the positive outcomes and the lessons that failure can teach me. By embracing the highs and lows, I will strive to grow as an individual and inch closer to my dreams in the captivating world of Formula 1.

In the pit lane of life, I can no longer remain stationary. It's time to rev my engine, shift gears, and accelerate toward new horizons, embodying the spirit of Formula 1 as I take the next step.