Valleys, Mountains, and Plains Poetry

By Jacob Patrick

*Valleys, Mountains, and Plains* is an original piece of prose-styled poetry created by me and inspired by a close friend. Using metaphors, and symbolism to tell a story enables people to connect with the piece in unique ways. Each reader can see their own achievements, goals, and pitfalls in the story. This makes the piece far more moving, and emotionally engaging than if its original story was written at face value. While the original inspiration was found in a moment of reflection on a friendship in turmoil, readers can walk away with far more profound meanings after reading this piece.

When I showed this piece to one of my English teachers, she said that it was wonderfully put together, and made an incredibly engaging story, with a stunning ability to make the read feel as if they are a part of the piece. She recommended submitting it in a poetry reading, a comment which in part lead me to included it in my application today.

Walking through how I design a piece like this is rather hard for me. Often times in design I don’t consciously design the item at first. Many things simply come to me, often based on my mood, and influenced on what is going on around me. This was one such piece, the first draft was not something I sat down to write, but rather a story I told myself one day while walking. Almost as I was simply an observer after I told the story, I wrote it down as best I could remember it. After that is when I much more consciously change small details of a metaphor, or change a symbol like a sun, to that of a moon because it was more fitting to the inspiration. I often get ideas like this; however, *Valleys, Mountains, and Plains* was the first that meant so much to me.