I found the first story to be less engaging out of the two, simply because the story was mundane. The author was obviously focused on relating to the reader. This shows in the casual language and commonplace topic. Providing a relatable story isn’t necessarily a bad thing in writing; in fact, it can give an enormous boost to a narrative. However, this story seems to be entirely too reliant on this concept, coming across as an extended “That’s so relatable!” meme. Seemingly to combat this, the author injected a rather large dose of forced emotion into the story with strong language such as “I had already thrown up my fruity pebbles earlier”, “I felt as if my bones were going to break”, and “I nearly shat myself”. Besides the obvious issue of foul language throughout the piece, the normal language was also an issue. It was dressed up and sprinkled in glitter to cover up the lack of an engaging story. There was also the issue of oversharing details. This problem was far more prominent in the beginning of the story, whereas it waned into a lack of details by the end. Did we REALLY need to know the entire backstory to the author’s relationship? Was his obsession over getting to the airport on time so important that we needed a paragraph and a half about it, rather than two or three sentences? The only good things I have to say about the piece are that it was relatable, the author spoke informally, and the grammar was fairly good, if lacking in diction variation.

The scientist story was more engaging for me, as the story itself was interesting and uncommon. The author also provided all the ingredients for great imagery, which can be difficult at times. The best part of reading the story was the amount of details provided. I was never lacking in details to keep me interested, but I was also never bogged down with a plethora of unnecessary details. However, that’s not to say that the author did brilliantly. The joy of reading a fun story was ripped away from me rather harshly by the author’s sheer ineptitude of writing style. There was poor grammar, comma mistakes, misspelled words, and foul language. It came across like someone told this great story to a Jr. High student, and the student decided to write it for an assignment. The bad writing kept me from enjoying a great story.

Word Count : 409