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Period 6, English

Categories

I’ve been reading the book *Counting by 7’s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan. In the section I've read since the last blog Willow( protagonist) has just seen the counselor Dell Duke and he’s realized that she’s not an ordinary kid. Willow continues having meetings with Dell and one time before the session has started she meets an older teenager named Mia and realizes that they have some similar interests and they become friends. One day Dell is driving Willow and Mia home from a counseling session. They get to Willow’s house and the police are there, the police inform Dell and Willow that Willow’s parents had gotten into an accident and died. Willow breaks down and Mia decides to lie to the police and tells them that she has known Willow for a long time and their families were good friends.

Mia’s mom, Miss. Kim decided to take Willow in until they find a more permanent solution. Willow is in a lot of emotional pain and suffers through some trauma throughout the book. Mia’s family lives in a small trailer behind a nail salon and Willow will not be allowed to stay there if they have poor living conditions. So, Miss Kim decides to move into Dell’s apartment and have him live with a roommate in the same building. Willow refuses to go to school and mostly spends time with Miss. Kim at her salon. Eventually, Willow started to heal a little and becomes more of herself. Near the end of the book, the child custody service finds a group home for her to live in and she is about to go into court to confirm her living arrangements when she looks at one of Dell’s documents stating the different categories he put each of the characters in “He’s looking for a way to put things in categories. He’s seeing people as different species. Of course, he’s wrong. All of us are all of those things. I’m no genius. I’m as much of a lone wolf or a weirdo as anyone.”( pg. 358)

I think that I can relate to this passage that Willow is saying because I feel that throughout my middle school and high school life; the people I have known for a long time think of me in one way and are placing me into a single category rather than allowing me to show my different qualities. Sometimes I don’t get invited to parties or other gatherings just because I try to get good grades and stay focused on school. I feel that my peers and even some of my friends only see me as someone who doesn't like to have fun and only cares about school. The truth is that I can be all of these things, and yes sometimes I want to focus on my schoolwork, but other times I want to be social and have fun with my friends. I think Willow feels the same way in that she is being put into a category but that one quality is not what defines her.

I feel the author made this passage powerful by using a powerful metaphor and comparing different qualities as species. I also think this is powerful because the wording makes it seem like Willow is stating facts rather than stating her opinion and this grabbed my attention. I also like the choice of categories the author mentioned “ Genius, lone wolf and weirdo” when I first looked at these words I thought they were mean or bad terms. After reading this passage I realized that everything can be interpreted differently. Later in the paragraph, Willow also says “ Id there is anything I’ve figured out in the last few months it’s that you can find labels to organize living things, but you can’t put people in any kind of group or order. It just doesn’t work that way.” (pg. 359)

I think this passage relates more to our society and how around the world, especially America we place people into categories. These categories are based on how people look, how much money they have, where they are from and what religion they follow. These categories are kinda like “the danger of a single story” people only see one side of people and aren't able to see that a person can not be defined by one thing.



This photo represents how something can appear as one thing but actually be made of a lot of smaller parts.

Behind blue eyes by The Who

I chose this song because it talks about how there is a lot more to a person then how they appear.