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Kresge 65W Creative Writing

May 2, 2023

Letter

This piece was inspired by the possibilities of a story seen in Megan Gidding's "The Alive Sister", and also begins with the phrase, "This is supposed to be a story." Gidding's story goes through the supposed events of the story, where the alive sister begins to imagine how she could have prevented her sister's death with a variety of methods, mostly involving time travel. This creativity, especially in useless thoughts and hopes, speaks to me of a crazed imagination that deals with loss or despair. Furthermore, time travel is a concept that all humans think about, especially when it comes to regret, although other motivations such as additional wealth, status, or skills also may lead to hope for time travel. Although my first draft attempted to mimic Gidding's haunting last remark that dealt with the loss: "she'll... eventually, maybe, learn to leave the doors unlocked and the windows open," with a description of a panic attack and implied insanity of the main character, I found that this ending did not adequately turn the story around and make a creative effect on the reader, as a result of the majority of the story being about different thoughts about the boy's situation that added to his despair.

In my new draft of my story, "Thoughtless Thoughts of Time Travel," I changed the ending to include the events after the boy collapses and breaks inside. Rather than ending on a low note, like the rest of the story, the boy ultimately chooses to acknowledge that his existence

comes to an end, but still chooses to live his life anyways.

I also decided to add to the two emotions I wanted to convey in the middle of the story. The first being obsession and desire, especially with personal attributes such as intelligence, popularity, skills, and love. Time travel is implied to allow people to change these personal attributes, especially in fiction such as novels or manga. However, most would fall short of their desired levels, even with time travel working in their benefit. Furthermore, I believe lingering on these feelings would instead cause the time traveler to have their sense of self broken, either from feelings of inadequacies as what they currently worked for, only happened as a result of time travel, or the feeling of gaining things without any effort whatsoever.

The second feeling I wanted to convey was the crazed imagination, especially thoughts of a more intrusive and fantastical origin, gradually building upon each other until they became a jumbled mess. Giddings conveyed this structurally in her story with run-on-sentences and her entire story in a single paragraph, which increased the pacing of the reading of her novel and its sense of clutter, as if written in a single moment of consciousness. Rather than mimic this structure, I chose to break apart my writing into numerous shorter paragraphs and sentences, which made it seem as if there were gaps and lapses in thought, and the boy's consciousness was only working in flashes and blinks of rapid thoughts. I believe that this structure works here, as unlike Gidding's work, where the story is already complete and it's showcased as a retelling, my piece is more disoriented, as the thoughts that make up the story are subject not only to the boy's own disorientation with his past and future, but also his emotional state as he panics with his new reality.