Jake Sylvestre

English I Honors

Journal 11- A great trick

Mrs. Meo

Trickery, is defined as “A crafty or underhanded device intended to ruse.” Therefore, a trick should be something that makes an audience smile, laugh and cry through artifices. Therefore the greatest trick is not one of jubilance, but one of great sadness, one that hurts many people for one’s amusement. This “great trick” is sometimes known as totalitarianism. It is employed by some of the harshest governments in the world, from the former USSR to North Korea. It is used to control people, it is used to kill people, and is morally atrocious. However like anything else trickery is amoral. It can be used for good or for bad.

An example of trickery for good is a patient in an ambulance. When there is a patient who is critical, in an ambulance and they ask if they will be okay, one will say yes. They do this to make the patient feel better, and make them more comfortable. This serves it’s function, but also has an unintended, but welcome side effect. This side effect is a phenomenon referred to as the placebo effect. Patients, who otherwise might have died are saved by trickery, this demonstrates that a great trick, like anything else can be good or bad.