Jake Sylvestre

English I Honors

Journal 15- Reader’s response journal

Mrs. Meo

Chapter 5 was by far the most exciting chapter thus far in Great Expectations. It starts out with pip bubbling with nervousness. He see’s policemen coming, who he is sure are going to arrest him, however to his surprise and delight they are only here to fix their handcuffs. When someone inquires why pip once again becomes worried, as they are going to arrest his convict and “the kid”. Joes fixes the handcuffs and proceeds to bring pip along to find the convicts, after some walking, all by joe they reach the convicts. To everyone’s surprise they are trying to turn each other in instead of joint venturing an escape.

At this point it occurs to pip that they might misinterpret his presence as giving them up, he once again becomes extremely nervous. However, after seeing the convicts, through way of an attentive look, he reaffirms their relationship, to the point of taking the blame for robbing Joe’s house, solving every problem the convict caused fr Pip, this represents a closure in their relationship. The chapter ends in sadness as the light from the convicts ship dissapears into the distance.

Jake Sylvestre

English I Honors

Journal 13- Project suggestion

Mrs. Meo

Victorian England was very tough for many child workers, and education should put students in the shoes of others. The best way to do this is to make us write a journal, as a day in the life of a child worker for different position. This will force us to research, think and then empathize with someone who lived hundreds of years before us and is the perfect assignment to help us to understand the struggle incurred in victorian england. It’ll help us account for the hunger, the pain, and the mental fatigue of these kids who were no older than us, and are probably related to some kids in our class, due to the abundance of English ancestry in America.

Another option for a Victorian England project would be having the someone throw a dinner party, or another social event. This event would simulate those of high class Victorian’s and everyone would be given a role. They would have to know their role, and act their part by reading guide books published during that era. This would really show the differences between the rich and the poor Throughout the victorian era, we’re reading about pip a poor boy, this would help us see the other side of things. The victorian era did not just consist of poor, but also rich despite them being “divided in society” they were inevitably connected through the socioeconomic bonds of society. In other words they all relied on each other.

Jake Sylvestre

English 1 Honors

Journal Group discussion

In today’s debate in English, we discussed many topics regarding the differences in victorian life for all classes. Perhaps the most debated upon, because of the resources we had to debate with, was that of the poor. One side argued that the poor were better off back then because they were happy with what they got. When they did work, it brought them some self satisfaction and thus they had more opportunity to keep working toward a better life. This side also argued that the socialist programs discouraged working, and were anti-productive. The other side, on matters of the poor argued that the poor not having to work was better, due to the fact that not so many die.

Next it was on to the middle class after I pointed this out “The poor will always be sadder than the rest of the population and the rich will always be happier than the rest of the population. Therefore the only fair way to judge the living conditions of one generation to another was the middle class. The middle class in modern day America, is better according to a unanimous vote by the group. There are very few working in factories, most sit at a desk and type most of the day. Back then, in the middle class they worked in dangerous, unregulated factories. Finally it was onto the rich, since almost no one else had an opinion, I decided to initiate the discussion. I did this with a reference to a later time, early 19th century america. In this time, I explained how J.P. Morgan, and the other elite could not spend their money, because there was nothing to buy. Since we were almost out of time we stuck with this point, as our conclusion.

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.