Inphinite Saddler

ENC 1102

 In today's world a chance to read literature is a blessing. Over 2 million people in today’s society were not given the chance to read and write literature like myself. My opportunity came when I was young. My parents always encouraged me to read road signs as we drove in the car, along with menus in restaurants. As a young child the pictures entertained me more and distracted me from the actual learning part. I had to find something that would keep me focused and educated me at the same time. Often times you need to learn a way that works best for you; I found just that. I discovered that you can put subtitles on the bottom of the television screen and that's where it all began.

At the age of 6 I began taking an interest in putting subtitles at the bottom of my favorite shows and movies. I would rewind, replay, and fast forward and closely analyze the pronunciation of every word. Subtitles allowed me to learn how to read the words along side hearing the pronunciation on the speaker. It was basically like having my own tutor sitting with me every step of the way. Pretty soon I was in the library every single day checking out movies; the Seminole Country public library became my second home. The librarians knew me by name and were always eager to assist me, and tell me about the new movies that had arrived. At a young age, I had developed a great taste in movies and would watch around a hundred movies a year. As I became older my taste changed, as I did not want to watch Disney movies anymore but historical movies. So at the age of 10, I was watching movies like Braveheart, The Last of the Mohicans, Elizabeth, The New World, and Troy. These dramatic historical movies not only helped me with my spelling but opened me up to unknown worlds. Watching movies about old civilizations definitely helped in history and broaden my way of thinking. I become fascinated by these past worlds and it sparked me into reading books about me. My mom and older sisters always picked on me about watching these “boring” movies but of all my mother’s children, I never once had to ask for help on a homework assignment from kindergarten till now as a student in college. As my tasted changed in movies it sparked me to read books about the subject. For example, in the third grade I started reading the Harry Potter series, although I did not want to. Reading that first chapter I knew what love was, I become drawn to the series and other popular books. So by the age of ten I would always anxiously wait for the Harry Potter movies to come out. After that experience I become not only an avid movie watcher but also an avid reader. Orange county public school systems provided with the books that I needed. I always checked out my maximum limit at the library at my public and my public library. I would stay up all night reading and that’s how I learned to read in the dark.

 Because of my life changing experiences, I encourage young children to use subtitles when watching television. It emphasizes phonics, but also how to combine letters into sounds and words. When watching subtitled television your eyes are always drawn to the words. That's how I paid attention to it because it was always instantly drawn to it. I know about every Disney movie and Harry Potter script off the top of my head now. It also helps if you watch it more than once to ensure in pronunciation. My goal was to involve myself in the programs by reading aloud the subtitles. It also helps you better understand the story being portrayed. In the process spelling became easier to me but that is something that I still struggle with. I believe pronunciation is a big key to learning how to read literature. If you become immune to reading and pronouncing words incorrectly it can affect your speech dramatically. I, myself made sure to only listen to American made movies when I was younger. I needed my speaking to sound just like the people speaking on the shows to be understood by my peers clearly. It was very important to me that I did not speak slang.

The best thing that happened to me while trying to learn how to read literature was finding out about subtitles. Everyone has to find what works for them which can be several many ways. While some people are forced to read books and attend library groups. Not all can be personally useful. I found a way to read at such a young age because I found what worked for me. I kept working at it and didn't give up so that can have great speech. I personally give myself all of the credit for my understanding of literature because if it had not been for my willingness to do what I did I would be a part of the 2 million who can't today. The skill to read was most certainly taught to me in subtitles. I learned how to recognize words and phrases without sounding them out after a few months after using subtitles. At the age of nine I was reading at a high school level. Till this day I still use subtitles on every show that I watch and I still annoy every person that watches television with me. Although, I do not have time to watch as much nor read for pleasure, I still think subtitles are a great educational tool. I am now a strong reader thanks to the wonderful invention of subtitles. I couldn't think of a more fast, easy and productive way to educate and entertain myself while learning.

**Citations**

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