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ENC 1102

Easy

 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 to 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. This sponsor-like support helped encourage to continue reading and watching movies. The librarian’s assistance and acceptance of my style of learning helped influence me in branching out to different genre of movies. Consequently, 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 preference 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 helped in history and broaden my way of thinking. I become fascinated by these past worlds and it sparked me into reading books about it. 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. My sisters did not support my way of learning, and became annoyed by the captions at the bottom of the screen. Although, my mom always took my side and allowed me to keep the captions of the TV. People reaction to the use of caption were mixed, some thought it was a clever idea, while others did not think it helped kids learn. As my tasted changed in movies, it sparked me to expand upon the type of books that I read. For example, in the third grade I started reading the Harry Potter series, although I did not want too. 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.

 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 helped me better understand the story being portrayed. In the process spelling became easier to me but that is something that I still struggle with.

 As now a college student in my second semester of English composition, I came along and found out that literacy is more than reading and writing, but in spelling, comprehending reading material, and understating what the author is trying to convey. To just read the material is not beneficial if you do not know what the information means. Deborah Brandt introduced this idea of sponsorship, which in Brandt refers to sponsors of literacy much like a radio broadcast sponsor who funds the radio station and in return they will be allowed to advertise during intermissions. Literacy works in the same way, a sponsor will, “enable, support, teach, model, as well as recruit, regulate, suppress, or withhold literacy.—and gain advantage by it in some way.” (Page 166, Paragraph 3). Through this new idea I learned that with my librarians, mother, and public school systems I would not have gotten as far in literacy without them. With their encouragement and resources I was not only able to read, but learn about history and other subjects through my reading. Most importantly, subtitles helped me combine television and learning into one. It helped me not only read, but learn new vocabulary words. If I heard a word that I did not know it popped on the screen, so I could see how to spell, then I would go and research what the word meant. Lastly, my mom did not graduate high school so she always insisted that we finish high school and go to college, she always encourage me to read and learned. Because of this I was never ashamed of being a bookworm and always wanted to be the best in my class and learn new things.

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 or go to tutoring. 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 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. Even my mother and others encourage me, in the end it all came down to me to pick the door up and read it. The skill to read and spell 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**

Brandt, Deborah. College Composition and Communication, Vol. 49, No. 2. (May, 1998), pp. 165-185.