

English 12 Original Composition

Scale Point: 5 Comment

This paper was awarded a 5 because it is an engaging personal narrative. This composition is thoughtful. There are some examples of figurative language, but it tends to be conversational at times. There isn't the sophistication of language characteristic of a 6.

In any person's life, something marks the beginning of their rise into maturity. Some people, weathered by the hardships in their life, experience this early. Others, who may lead more sheltered lives develop maturity slower, having to get the harsh realities of life given to them before they can truly mature. For me it was different; it was a girl.

I do not pretend to say that I am truly mature, or that other people view me as a mature person, but I can feel the beginnings of it inside of me. Some people think that people cannot change other people, that what a person becomes lies solely in one's self. Perhaps that is true, but I found an influence so strong that I had no choice but to change. As with my story, it is easier perceived if started at the beginning.

I used to be, well, not that great of a person. I had no concerns, I was carefree, and I was desperate to have any kind of fun, trying anything for a thrill. I may not have been a daredevil, but I certainly tried my hardest. Unfortunately I ran into the wrong sort of people. I began doing all sorts of crazy things with them, from bare-handed drunken boxing, to taking eight foot leaps of faith... in a jeep. I guess it may sound fun to the thrill-seeker but it all led to the usage of drugs.

I started smoking marijuana and drinking, and it was amazing to me. A whole new world to explore was just waiting to be trod in. Out of nowhere, I developed what could only be described as a bad temper. I started getting angry at very stupid things; surprisingly enough I only got into one fight. All of these things, I know, accounted for me being, as I said before, "not that great of a person."

I hated it. I hated myself for what I'd become, I hated that I had no motivation to change. I started getting depressed a lot, and I always sought escape. The only things that came to mind were more drugs.

All of this changed in a summer not too long ago. I met this girl, and a friend of mine suggested that I go out with her, just to give it a try. I did. Why not? I thought. What have I got to lose? I started going out with her, expecting nothing from the relationship. Surprisingly enough I got more than I bargained for. Within a month, I knew she was different and I had this feeling in my heart. I'd been with other girls before, better looking or as one might put "easy", but nothing even compared to what I was feeling. I had never felt it before, and that's when it started. I began to change.

I started cleaning up all of my bad habits.... well most of them. I stopped doing drugs or drinking; I won't even touch them anymore. I stopped being so ignorant of other people's feelings. My grades started improving drastically; in one semester I went from a C+

average to getting straight A's, with a couple of B's. I got a part time job, and now I have my own car. I did all of this out of a drastic need to keep this girl, to have her feel about me as I did about her. I knew I had started to mature.

All of these things happened because of her. I feel good about myself and I'm always trying to be better. I know I'm a better person because of it and that my life will never be the same, in a good way.

We've been together for over a year now. As I'm writing this provincial and starting my next semester I realize that high school is almost over. College is on the way. Through all that I have gained and accomplished, I can feel the stirring of maturity deep within my bones.