5-1-2002

Reflections of the Evaluator of the Essays

Jan Albrecht
Concordia University - Portland

Follow this and additional works at: http://commons.cu-portland.edu/promethean

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://commons.cu-portland.edu/promethean/vol10/iss1/13

This Essay is brought to you for free and open access by CU Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Promethean by an authorized administrator of CU Commons. For more information, please contact libraryadmin@cu-portland.edu.
REFLECTIONS OF THE EVALUATOR OF THE ESSAYS

Evaluating the written work of others is never an easy task. One looks at the presented materials, and knows that long hours and hours of editing have gone into the final product. Good writing is a form of art. Just as painting, sculpting, or dancing, can be appreciated, so too can good writing.

There are very specific steps taken in an appraisal of this kind. First, the essays are read "for pleasure." One looks for a delicious introduction that "draws" you into the paper, a certain flow of the wording that is creatively appropriate, and a dynamite ending that leaves you wanting more. Notes are taken as one reflects on what has just been read. Next, a simple scale for adjudication of each of the common criteria for essay writing is developed. After waiting several hours or even a day, the essays are read once again - this time with the aid of the evaluation piece. Final notes are taken, and the determination is made.

Selecting an ultimate winner from among winners is not an easy task. It is, however, quite satisfying - the only thing missing was a hammock to swing on and a tall glass of lemonade for refreshment.

Selecting an ultimate winner from among winners is not an easy task. It is, however, quite satisfying - the only thing missing was a hammock to swing on and a tall glass of lemonade for refreshment.

Congratulations, essayists. Your work is appreciated.

Dr. Jan Albrecht
Professor of Education

CUTE AND COUNTING: THE BODY IMAGE LOW DOWN
AMANDA LARSEN
1ST PLACE WINNER

Picture this: a 5'4", 120-pound teen girl with an hourglass figure and who is a walking Abercrombie model. What young girl wouldn't want to look this way? There are many factors that have helped shape the gender role for girls, such as the media and entertainment industry, who have formed a stereotype for the adolescent girl, and many girls will go to extremes to reach that Barbie-girl ideal. Also, peer influence has intensified the issue of body image for female adolescents and has caused problematic outcomes when this perfection is not reached. Like it or not, in today's society, girls are expected to have a certain look.

When contemplating the components of body image, two immediately come to mind: clothing and body physique. For most teen girls, the issue of clothing surfaces from the time the sun rises until the time it sets. Let's use a typical Friday in October as an example. Before school, the perfect outfit must be chosen, and it usually takes numerous attempts before that is accomplished. Let's begin with a cream sweater and jeans. That's fine for the moment, but maybe jeans would look better with something more casual, like a three-quarter sleeve shirt and fleece vest, perfect for a fall day. But this outfit is much too "scrubby," so the sweater goes back on with a pair of khaki pants. Now for shoes, there is a choice between black boots, brown Doc Martin's, or white Sketchers. The boots sound pretty good, especially if the ground is wet. Is it perfect now? Well, for the time being, yes, but choosing outfits for a workout, the football game, and the after-game dance is a completely different story.

Being trendy can be an obsession. Brand name clothing is a hot item for teen girls, and they will pay almost anything just to have "GAP" embroidered onto the front of their t-shirt. Having the right look is very important, and the "in" styles become obvious as every girl sports a short skirt and skimp top or capri pants and flip-flops. Girls get ready for school as if it was a fashion show, and the hallways are the aisles where the girls model the hottest styles and latest fads. Those that choose this "profession" usually group together and form the popular cliques in schools. Those that don't choose the life of style are usually left out and are often isolated from the attention gained by popularity. It is for this reason that many schools have decided on uniforms as the dress code. When everyone is dressed the same, there is no visual wealth or style disparity, and theoretically, students will be deemed popular by their personality rather than their dress. But a person's image is not based solely on their choice of clothing. The other component of body image is physical looks, and this may be the most crucial component of all.

If it appears that adolescent girls obsess about their clothes, they may obsess over their bodies even more. Physical attractiveness is a top concern in the life of young girls because it is associated with popularity. Consequently,