

63 Treetop Way
Plymouth, MA 02360

4/8/13

Ms. Katrina Kennett, English Department
Plymouth South High School
490 Long Pond Rd.
Plymouth, MA 02360

Dear Ms. Kennett,

My intentions for this unit was to bring my perspective and view points into other peoples lives. Non-fiction is how we relate to our world today through writing. In my research of non-fiction, I found that I was interested in feelings and emotions and why we feel them. The human mind is very confusing; why people feel different from others is simply mind-boggling. I think I fulfilled this unit with flying colors, it was so easy for me to do and with no boundaries being set, it made me reach higher without you telling me when to stop.

For the past two weeks, I've been working extremely hard on this unit because it's independent work and I enjoy finding things I'm interested in and writing my opinion on them. It's made me more literary by researching topics I want to research and not topics you want me to do (something we don't usually get as much freedom on in school). I can focus more when I enjoy it and it's taught me to read deeper into the text and not just skim for answers. Annotating has become more natural to me also because it helps me to understand anything, or remind me when I'm farther in the text. I valued my topic and thought about what interests me, more than just the first thing that popped into my head. I demonstrated disciplined inquiry by working on my own and at school combined to use my time diligently, so I wasn't scrambling the last couple of days.

For my final product, I wrote [a "this I believe" essay about happiness](#). In this essay I talked about why you need to experience sadness to understand happiness. I wrote it because it simply interested me and I wanted to voice my opinion. I tried to imagine a plain world with no happiness or sadness in order to form ideas on what to write about. My [mentor texts](#) made me think, by the authors asking questions that had no answer, but made me think. My successes were that I think my final product reflected my mentor texts, but from those texts, I embellished those questions and asked the reader to make them think. It's powerful in the respect that it showed happiness in a different light and not just how we see it in day to day life.

I really loved this project and the independence you gave us. I think I fulfilled this unit as best I could. I overcame thinking inside the box on my topic and stretched my mind. I didn't want to have any ordinary topic someone else might have had. I was strong in that I think I convince the

reader of the subject "you need to experience sadness to understand happiness" as well as how they think about opposites and if you should dislike bad feelings. I think happiness can be achieved by the world, but only if each individual goes through a moment of true sadness. Sadness can make a person become kind.

Sincerely,

Joe

Pearltrees: <http://pear.ly/b2LQr>