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Learning How to Love Reading

The first experience that I can remember about my literacy history was when my father would make my siblings and I every Sunday look at the newspaper and find an article that we took interest in. We started this when I was in the fourth grade till, I was in sixth grade. I did not want to partake in this because I did not like reading and writing. My dad would have us look for an article that we liked, mine would always be about sports. He would have us cut it out and highlight main points through the writing and then have us write about the article. Even though I picked a topic about something that I like I never was able to enjoy reading it and writing about it.

Now looking back, I can see what my father was trying to get us to do. My dad was trying to get our creative side out of us. Within the writing part we would have to create a story with it and then explain why we pick that certain article. He was trying to build our reading and writing literacy. While my dad was my first literacy sponsor, my biggest sponsor was my teacher Ms. Driggers.

Back in 2014, sitting in Ms. Driggers English class the grade started reading a novel, *The Outsiders* by author S.E. Hinton. At the time, reading a novel was not what I wanted to do. The first day we started reading the book I was not interested in reading any further. By the second

chapter, I felt myself driving deeper into the book. By reading this novel I realized, at the time, that it's not that I didn't like reading, it was no one showed me that I can find something to read that is interesting to myself. Ms. Driggers did that for me, she showed me that reading does not have to be an assignment, it can be for your pleasure.

Ms. Driggers was my seventh and eighth-grade teacher; in my college English class, we read Deborah Brandt's essay in *Writing about Writing*, about literacy sponsors. I can see that Ms. Driggers is one of many of my literacy sponsors. During and after reading novels, she would help us understand ideas and explain to different points that were trying to be made. If it was not for Mrs. Driggers, I would not enjoy reading certain novels. She opened a new spot in my brain that loves to read. Without having read *The Outsiders*, I would have never read the novel if it was for someone pushing me along.

After finishing the novel, my classmates and I were asked to write an essay based on *The Outsiders*. In seventh grade, I did not take a liking in writing just like with reading. I most commonly enjoy writing when I did creative pieces or just free writing. I was never passionate about writing unless it had to do with something that I like. With reading, I can visual make the story, but with writing, I am having to create and visually think of the story. Which happened when writing the essay about *The Outsiders*. I love the novel, but I could not form my thoughts into words. After reflecting on what I had read over the month and a half and writing about it. It changed my perspective on reading and writing. Ever since reading, *The Outsiders*, I have enjoyed reading other novels that spark my interest. When it comes to writing I have figure out that I love to write on my own time or work that I for myself.

After reading, *The Outsiders*, it had shaped my view on reading for the better. Finding a book that I could read repeatedly was something that amazed me on another level. For once I

was passionate about reading. Since reading the novel I figure out that I can now go into reading, a novel, article, or journal with an open mind. I still to this day get frustrated with reading things that are not interesting to me, but I understand that everything you read is not going to appeal to you.

Looking back on my literacy sponsors I have to different people trying to express my writing and reading. Through both experiences I have learned a lot. With both experiences I have learned that I love reading about this that I am passionate and interested about. The biggest difference from both sponsors was the age I was at the time. When think that when I was with my dad I was a little to young to understand why he was making us do it, but at the same time it showed me that just because I don't like something I should still try my hardest on everything. With Ms. Driggers I was a little older and new that school was something that I need to go into with an open mind.