

Essay #3 Rough Draft

Please note this is a CONNECTIONS to LITERATURE essay, so the format of the paragraphs reflect that.

Last, First

Sheely

English 10

Connections to Literature

March 10, 2015

Introduction: Literature, Author, and what you will be discussing with it.

Supertyphoon Paka

In third quarter we read diverse selections that covered many different human emotions and experiences. One that stands out for me is *And of Clay Are We Created* by Isabel Allende.

Having experienced a supertyphoon while living in Guam, I feel that I can make a connection to this piece of literature.

In this paragraph, describe BRIEFLY the piece of literature.

In the story, *And of Clay*, Allende recounts in a “historical fiction” the experience of the village Armero that is destroyed by the eruption of Nevado del Ruiz in Columbia. Over 20,000 people die in the avalanche of mud and ice that are released when the volcano erupts one night in November. In the morning, rescue crews and news reporters arrive and do their best to save the survivors. Azucena is a little girl who is trapped in the mud, and when a reporter, Rolf, sees her, he does everything he can to save her, but in the end she dies. Through the three days that she is trapped, the story recounts all the efforts the soldiers, doctors, priests, and other rescue workers do in an attempt to save as many people from the disaster. It also describes the frustrations felt by the rescuers by the politicians and the bureaucratic red tape that keeps them from saving more people.

In this paragraph, describe your connection experience.

One day in December, the typhoon warning system alerted us that a massive storm was on the way. For two days the island braced for the storm’s impact. Supertyphoon Paka was so big that it took more than a day for it to cross over the island of Guam. The wind machines broke

Essay #3 Rough Draft

at 225mph, so we know the winds were even stronger than that. The day after the storm passed, families came out of their homes to view the devastation. Sand and water damage had taken over the main road around the island. Cars and trucks had been tossed like hotwheel toys. People had lost the roof off their homes, leading to everything being blown away. For weeks there was no power or running water. The U.S. military had to bring in water trucks to distribute water to the villages.

Your analysis-Why are these experiences still the same.

I think people everywhere always react to disasters in similar ways. Those who are inclined to help will bring food, water, blankets and other supplies to the people who need them. Those who are inclined to take advantage of people will look for ways to make a quick buck, or to gain from the pain of others. And those who have looked into the eyes of survivors who have lost everything, will never be able to forget that experience. The main reason I think that these experiences are so similar is because human nature hasn't changed much in the last few thousand years. In times of duress, our true nature-good or bad-comes out.

Conclusion-an observation that relates back to the type of essay you wrote.

Although the death toll with Paka was nowhere near as bad as the Nevado del Ruiz eruption, in the aftermath of any natural disaster there will be human suffering. And when human beings suffer, we write stories about it, to remember, to share our experience, to validate what happened. This is how we connect to one another over time and distance.