

NOLAN

Opening the car door I could smell the dust, drying my eyes as it rose into the pale white cliffs. Previously I had been looking down, but had been brought back to reality by one solid clap of thunder. It echoed off the barren walls with a resonance I had never heard. Eyes filled with curiosity, I looked forward unto the road to see a mushroom cloud of dust and smoke, revealing to me what would take years for me to forget. A truck had veered head on into an oncoming semi right in front of us. Slowing to a halt on the side of the road I slowly stepped out of the car, eyes fixed upon the semi-driver climbing out of his truck unscathed. My attention then turned to the flipped over Ford F-150 in the ditch. Nobody came crawling out of that car. I ran over and looked in the window to see the hollow figure of the driver, crumpled into the seat. I couldn't believe it, here I was in the middle of nowhere, trying to resuscitate a man I'd never met. The ambulances didn't come for 45 minutes, by then this individual from the truck had passed while I had been giving him CPR. When he did, it all came crashing down on me. Too many emotions to calculate, drowning my thoughts in a crashing thunder of grief and guilt. Had I done enough, had I done everything I could to save this mans life. That one question has chewed at me ever since, hounding at my dreams and my conscious whenever I put my keys in the ignition of my car. Remembering it all crashing down caused me severe anxiety for some time, I still blame my severe anxiety when I'm driving on that moment. When the ambulances and sheriffs left, I was in no better place than before, parked on the side of the road with nothing but my thoughts to discomfort me. Flashbacks of the crumpled man, the child's seat in the back of the car. This man was a father, A child is growing up without a father. Is there anything else I could have done?

Creative Writing Reflection Sheet

Name: Nolan Stowers

Title: Moment Story

1. What stage of the writing process are you at with this particular piece of work?

Check all that apply

- Just getting started Still exploring Know what I want, but not there yet
 Need others to read Need more time Need to leave it alone for a while
 Have specific questions Feeling good Totally bumfuzzled

Explain:

I liked the prompt of writing to a certain moment; it gives me an opportunity to be very descriptive and creative. I feel as though my writing strays from one individual moment and sort of hovers over an entire scene. I would like to focus in on one specific moment or scene instead of capturing the whole experience.

2. What was the original spark for this piece of work?

This moment really stands out in my head when I look back on my life, it was very traumatic and eye-opening at the time. I'd like to think that it changed me as a person, which makes it a perfect moment to write to due to the fact that I started the moment a different person than I came out.

3. List three things you like about what you've written? Give examples...

-I like some of the descriptive writing that I used to give context to my setting
Ex. "I looked forward unto the road to see a mushroom cloud of dust and smoke"

-I like the image that I can provide the reader with along with some insight into how traumatic an instance like this can be.

-I like that the writing is short and concise, though I do stray from topic quite a bit.

4. What's non-negotiable for this piece of work? What are you sure isn't going to change?

-I'm not opposed to any changes.

5. List three things you're struggling with and want to improve in this piece?

-I want to focus in on one specific moment and elaborate, I don't know which exact moment yet though.

-I'm struggling with some of the descriptions and word choice; some of the writing sounds a bit cliché.

-I'm struggling with some syntax errors.

6. What feedback do you expect readers will give you?

-Some of the writing sounds cliché and dry.

7. What would your response be if you receive this feedback?

- I'd like their opinions on how to change it.

8. List three questions you want to ask your readers?

- Do you understand the setting?
- Is the story intriguing enough to continue reading after the first sentence?
- What else can I explain to make my writing better?