

Savannah Gomes

Tasche Bryant

ELA 12 EoC

May 12, 2014

English class this year has helped me develop as a reader and public speaker more than any other class has. Now, I am comfortable speaking to people because I know how to make what I'm saying interesting to the listener, and I'm not afraid to stand up and speak in front of them in the first place. As a reader, I've learned how to reread for clarity, which was something I never would have done before. At first, I thought English class would be the same as any other year, with books and essays, one after another. I didn't realize that we would be telling stories to each other, performing a play, and doing creative projects on books we read.

Telling Moth stories helped me become comfortable with my classmates. My story was slightly embarrassing because it was about condoms and from when I was in the eighth grade. Still, telling my story forced me to stand up in front of the class and tell a story without even a paper in front of me to help. In other classes, I'd usually have a PowerPoint or presentation board to help me, but with my Moth story, I had nothing. It helped me learn to improvise and got me ready for the Macbeth play.

In the play, I memorized lines and practiced for days on end to add emotion and feeling into the words. Some of what we had to do I never thought I could do in a million years. For my sleepwalking scene, someone suggested that I touch someone in the audience, make them a part of the scene. It was weird for me to come out of my shell so quickly for the play, but for some

reason, I wanted to do it. Now, after performing, I wish I had more time on stage. I love the feeling of being on a stage and making the audience feel happy, sad, and everything in between.

Reading Shakespeare was the hard part. I wasn't particularly afraid of reading it, but it seemed like a great deal of work I didn't want to put time into. Once we got halfway through, though, I was reading it like a professional. I had picked up on what certain words and word orders translated to and could gather most of what was going on without No Fear Shakespeare. Reading the scenes twice or thrice was no longer an issue for me because it seemed like an average event required to understand the writing fully.

Through English class this year, I've been able to have fun while also learning how read tough material and how to speak in front of large groups. While this seems like a small task that could happen in a semester, I've been working for four years to master exactly those two tasks. I feel extraordinarily successful for accomplishing what I was aiming for all these years.