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CRP Reflection

Reflecting on *The Bluest Eye*

When I first read the prompt (#3) for the critical research paper, I was stumped. I had no idea how to approach it, or what to talk about. The prompt asked to analyze and discuss the author’s critique on society based on the texts we have read so far. I chose to write about *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. Now, this novel has a lot going on, and I mean a lot. It has a lot of different perspectives, and each of the characters presented each have a story of their own. I found it quite difficult at first to just pinpoint one specific event or character and focus on what was Morrison trying to say about their society based on what that character was going through or the significance of the events. At last I settled with a topic that although it’s presence is evident throughout the novel, it is a less talked about matter. I chose to discuss the child neglect and abuse that most of these children, more specifically Junior and Pecola, endure throughout their young lives, and that Morrison is critiquing society on it’s lack of available resources for children and overall serious situation when it comes like this.

Some of the struggles I had while composing the essay was connecting the analysis, outside sources, and Freudian concepts together smoothly. Since my outside sources were mostly factuals, which i chose specifically to emphasize the severity and importance of the topic, I found it a bit challenging incorporating it into my analysis for how each character has endured abuse and how it is portrayed through Freudian concepts. This led me to introduce the outside sources into a different separate paragraph in which I explain how the characters are affected by these struggles. The in class peer reviews helped me through this process as well. What helped me most as well was receiving insight from my classmates and getting their different perspectives on how and what I can add/remove or improve, and sometimes on the correct interpretations of the text as well.

Overall I enjoyed writing this research paper. I gathered all my knowledge from the entire semester, and applied the techniques that have been practiced as well. I learned how to broaden/expand my analysis to the extent where repeating myself was less of a challenge than my previous papers. This paper was also something new/different for me in which I gained more knowledge and experience in including outside sources to support my thesis, new techniques and skills that I can now perfect and apply to all papers.