

September 23rd 2024

oh, hello again. i almost forgot you were here.

It was 6:30. My alarm blared a blunt tune—one I was all too familiar with. I lay awake in my bed, admiring the moonlit room. The sun hadn't yet risen. I leisurely roll around, struggling to wake up. As I gradually rose from my tomb, walking through my daily routine, a thought came to me.

*Today isn't so special.*

I show up around 7:55 and make my way to class. Ms. Punch was speaking—telling us *something* about our important cover letters—but I wasn't listening. I can't remember doing anything, and I barely talked. Sans the bell I'd hardly know that ninety minutes passed. In the grand scheme, nothing happened. I made my way to homeroom. At first, I just paced around the room to kill time. I found that fun enough but was afraid of being too much of a social outcast, so I assimilated myself into the larger group. The bell rang at 9:45 and I made my way to the second block. We had a test today. I wasn't prepared, of course, so I half-assed it. I did alright.

I went to ask Ms. Taffy a question, though I can't remember what. What I find out is Ms. Taffy lives by the mantra "Go Everywhere, Talk to Everyone, and Eat Everything". She told me about her voyages and about the secrets to cheap travel. I'll have to remember—cheap flights and no luggage. Soon I found myself bored and found that Ms. Taffy could talk for a *looonng* time. I'm glad she shared her wisdom, though I wish it could have been shorter. Oh well.

At 11:20 it was time for Keyboarding. No, not the kind you type with, but the kind that makes music! In other words, a piano! I could tell you all about Keyboarding, but the block ended before I ever noticed. We're out of time.

And then it was English. I was in the room by 1:40, before the bell rang. Sky was already writing. Gold was reading a novel. I allowed myself to sink down into my seat and too enjoyed a novel. Ms. Sage let us know when our designated silent reading was over and softly instructed us to write an essay.

And it dawned on me. Today had passed me by, just as the weekend had earlier, and not a word had been written on the blank document in front of me. I had to write an essay.

My college essay.

I paced around the room. *How did I go all day without even thinking about it!? What would I say?! What if the colleges think I'm weird!?!* These thoughts raced through my mind. I stalled for time by talking. Talking to Sky, Gold, anyone who would listen. My inner voice is easier to ignore when I'm occupied. My mind wanders when I'm idle. Still, I thought to myself, you can only stall for so long. I collected myself and sat down. I sat and stared at a blank document. I read and reread all the essay prompts, yet all the thoughts, all the *ideas* that were running rampant in my headspace had ... left. Suddenly, it was as if my head was always empty.

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At 3:10 the bell rang, and school was out. I got home maybe an hour later. We took a detour and got snacks. I had nuggets and three chocolate chip cookies. It was a tasty snack.

By 5:00, I was defeated. I had gotten into an argument with my parents. To vent my frustrations, I retired to my room and started typing...

*Writing this here, I've gotten over that argument with my parents.*

*Writing this now, I realize it was never about the essay.*

*I found out what makes today special.*

With love,

tony

*"I'm losing my entire mind*

*'Cause we can't agree on what's wrong and what is right"*

*- JER, BOTHERED*