New England Common Assessment Program

Student Work Samples
2010

Grade 11

Writing

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When I was 15-years-old, I recieved my first microscope as a gift from my parents. My father had taken it from the pathology labeat the hospital where he works, and it came complete with pre-made slides, tools to make my own slides, and a working light. I was thrilled. I couldn't wait to look at all those little things the human eye can't see. I could look at cells and little microscopic creatures and lady-bug wings. There was so much wanting for me behind the lens.

Dorothy Parker once said, "The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." This holds true for everyone. If you're bored enough, pretty much anything seems interesting, and soon you're brimming with curiosity, wanting to know more and more until there is nothing left to know. This is why I was so excited to get my microscope, and why I want to go into science. Curiosity, the need to know why, is what drives us all to learn new things.

I first became interested in science in the 7th grade, when I fell off a horse and ended up in the hospital with a minor concussion. I wanted to know just how that all worked. Why did hitting my head cause me to lose my memory? Which part of the brain

is affected, and why is it so vulnerable? As I lay in a MRI machine, bored out of my mind for an hour while my doctor checked out my brain, I became curious, and soon, I had to know. I decided that day that I would go into investigative science so that I could satisfy my curiosity about everything

I've read that many people find their true passion or calling in this way. You stumble upon something that really interests you when searching for a way to relieve your boredom. And after that, curiosity cannot be stopped. There is always more to learn, always another question to be asked. It is this insatiable desire for knowledge that is the driving force behind many scientists. It is what drove people to build airplanes, or discover gravity. Without curiosity the world would be a bland place where no one was intellectually satisfied because no one was intellectually stimulated.

They say that curiosity killed the cat, but satisfaction brought it back. Figuring out something you previously did not understand or did not know brings satisfaction beyond measure. It is such an incredibly good feeling, knowing you have conquered and excelled, that your next impulse is simply to do it again. The rush you get from figuring it out is

addicting, and acts as a motivator to continue and try again. This feeling, coupled with an endless supply of questions, queries, and lines of thought means that once curiosity has been unleashed, it can never be taken back. The monster has been awakened, but it often ends up not being a monster at all.

Every little kid knows of the burning desire to figure something out, and the enormous satisfaction in finally accomplishing that goal. It's why we learn language, math facts, letters, sounds, and virtually everything else. Curiosity is what is driving me to pursue a career in science wholeheartedly. It's why I take extra classes, and gaze at old scabs and ladybug wings through a microscope. It's why we have treatment for diseases and 1000 page owner's manuals. Curiosity is unleashed when a person is in their worste state of mind; bored and cranky. And yet it has produced some of the greatest minds, discoveries and inventions in history. It can never be stopped once it has been started. But even, who would want to stop something so beautiful?

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By definition, curiosity is the basic human instinct which, in terms of intellect, forces us to analyze and ultimately question the workings of the world in which we live. This characteristic is paramount to the development of a human being. Dorothy Parker once said, "The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." As opposed to boredom, curiosity can be eliminated by nothing, for it is a natural human instinct and desire. This curiosity has shaped the minds of humans young and old, has destroyed the existence of boredom, and has ultimately contributed to the understanding of our world.

First of all, curiosity has naturally existed in the lives of all humans of a young or perhaps a more aged and experienced persuasion. I have always been a very curious individual. I would pose simply formed questions with complex responces to my parents quite frequently as a myriad of children has done For instance, "Dad, why is the sky blue?" or "Where did I come from?" These questions were asked with great curiosity and a great effort to understand more about the world. Moreover, I would derive short and simple maxims to summarize my observations due to curiosity in a very quick, frank, and blatant fashion For instance, I once told my dad, "... you know, dad— I'm going to die a few years after I'm an old man." I accepted the truth which was gained by my continuous questioning, observing, and reasoning. Though many kids, just like me, were curious at a young age, this type

of reasoning continues to be evident as the human mind matures, for it is simply the biproduct of the aforementioned human instinct. In the grand spectrum, and on a larger scale, this is merely known as the Scientific Method.

Secondly, many historical figures and rationally renowned scientists have contributed to the understanding of the world around us. It is clear that these individuals were not only curious as children, but as grown men and adults as well. In order to obtain more scientific knowledge of our world, a significant amount of curiosity due to human instinct is required. The whole essense of science is to propose a conjecture, explore this hypothesis, and communicate the results with other individuals so they can build on the knowledge attained. The process depends on curiosity. For instance, Sir Isaac Newton was in a very curious state of mind when he derived the basis of physics to be the mechanics, kinematics, and force analysis of the natural world. Democritus was in a curious state when he proposed the idea of "atoms." The curiosity has taken forms within the individual, not only to contribute to science, but other areas of interest such as theology and government. Moreover, it is merely human instinct to challenge the beliefs of others. Using their curiosity, humans have been known to argue their views on a subject; people young and old exercise this instinct. Children, more often than not, will refuse to believe everything their parents tell them. In order to reiterate, it is this human instinct of curiosity which shapes the world.

Finally, the human instinct of curiosity ultimately eliminates boredom—which is essentially the conclusion at which Dorothy Parker arrives in her insightful quote. If, as she puts it, the cure for boredom is curiosity, then curiosity naturally eliminates boredom. The former is responsible of the efficacey of understanding the world, for when one is not bored, one is highly productive. It is natural curiosity, which Parker claims cannot be cured or destroyed, that causes us to question and understand; it ultimately delivers productivity. Curiosity is the natural force which posesses us to understand our world, and it is a gift of human nature which allows our society to continuously progress and advance through time, for we will never lose our curiosity.

In summary, curiosity is a major part of human existence. It is evident in all people of all ages and can gravely contribute to our understanding of the world as a people. This certain curiosity, which everyone posesses, can cure our boredom and ultimately drive our productivity.

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"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." - Dorothy Parker. I think Dorothy has a very good point with this. It's true, when your bored, that tends to be all you think about and you don't tend to be doing much either. When your curious about something though, you want to figure it out, which leads you to do something and you're no longer bored then are you? It sounds like what she's trying to say is that a busy mind isn't a bored one.

Now I'm not overly curious, but I do almost always have something or someone on my mind, and I'm rarely ever bored or have nothing to do. Granted if something doesn't catch my attention I'll say it's boring or that I'm bored with it, but that's just natural. I'm a daydreamer and a "zoner," if you will. I tend to always be thinking or am curious about something, sometimes so much that I just "zone-out," or "leave planet Earth," as others have told me. It's because I daydream, because I think so much that I rarely ever get bored, which leads me to be very patient. I one time had to wait two and a half hours for my plane to arrive in the waiting room and didn't once get bored. Why? I had something on my mind the whole time I was waiting and it really interested me. So much that it kept me entertained for the whole time. Long car rides don't bother me either, because

I'm always curious or thinking about something, just sitting there watching scenery fly by. Either way, I always seem to be entertained.

Also, my curiosity leads me to try new things with friends and such. Countless times one of my friends would say that we should try this and that, and I would, more often than not, say that it sounds like it could be fun. I learned how to kayak that way and play paintball and draw. I've picked up many fun things to do because I was curious enough to try them.

I really think that if more people kept an open mind, open to new things to try, new ideas, then those people would be a lot less bored. How often do you hear someone who is involved in several extra curicular activities or memberships of some kind say they're "bored?" Not to often from my experience. They may say they're stressed, but the people I know like that are hardly ever bored. They got that way because they were open to new ideas which kept them busy and entertained, and also lead to helping out the community in some cases because of volunteer work. Not once have they said, "I wish I could go back to being bored again." You just can't cure that, and why would you want to.

I've been curious and open minded my whole

life. I honestly wouldn't want it any other way than that. I have fun and rarely ever am I not entertained. To me this quote says to keep your mind wide open, and you'll never want to go back.

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Boredom is a universal feeling that everyone gets once in awhile. Dorothy Parker stated that "the cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." Her statement is completely true. I know this from personal experience with boredom. When I was a child, my boredom caused me to do some very ridiculous things. From experiences in my own life, I have come to understand that curiosity can cure boredom, but nothing can cure a person's curiosity.

I was very curious as a child. I was always trying and doing things that I should not have. Because I was an only child, I did not really have anyone to play with when I was at home. Because of this, I was often very bored. This usually led me to thinking about strange ideas. Ideas like what my dog Tiny would look like in my doll's clothes or how my cousin and I could bake something without any of the proper ingredients. These curious ideas are what fueled my desire to

end my boredom. Once I had an idea in my head, there was truly no stopping me from doing it. Since I was often bored in my childhood, I was also often getting into trouble because of my curiosity.

There was one incident that I can remember that was much worse than anything else I had ever done. It happened when I was in first grade. I was sitting in my room alone and bored as usual. Then a very strange idea popped into my head. I started to wonder what would happen if I cut my own hair. This idea led me to do something very impulsive. I got my scissors and cut a little off one piece of hair in the back. Then the situation got worse. I do not know what possessed me to continue to cut that same piece of hair, but I did. Eventually it got so short that it became this funny clump of hair that stood straight up in the front. When my mother saw what I had done, she freaked out. To fix my hair, my mother had

to take me to a salon. The hairdresser had to give me bangs because that was the only way she could fix it. I ended up having bangs for three years because of that incident. My curiosity did cure my boredom, but it ended up in a horrible outcome.

There is definitely no cure for curiosity. As a child with my crazy antics, nothing got rid of my curiosity. Once an idea or question got into my head, it would not go away until I acted on it. It is human nature to be curious about different things. Because of this, there is no stopping curiosity. No matter how many times I got into trouble or someone told me not to do something I had to do it anyway. When it comes down to it, one cannot stop curiosity and certainly cannot cure it.

Anyone will tell you boredom leads to curiosity. This is how someone gets rid of their boredom. One cannot get rid of curiosity. People are curious by nature and it is a natural and common thing. One can cure their boredom, but they cannot cure their curiosity.

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The quote by Dorothy Parker, "The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity" could mean many things. This quote means something different to me then to other people, because everyone has their own point of view. To me, this quote means that whenever you are bored, you can become interested (curious) about something to get you mind off of being bored. Once someone becomes curious about something, they can never be bored again.

Some people use the word boredom too often. If someone is honestly bored, there are always ways to become unbored. Besides the easy things like go for a bike ride, read a book, or call a friend, curiosity is the best way to fix boredom. When you become curious about something, you want to know everything about it. Finding out that you do not know something, will make you even more curious. Boredom will instantly be gone once you become curious about something.

There have been many times throughout my life that I have had dull moments. →

I am however always able to stop being "bored" once I become curious about something else. An example of a time I felt bored was last weekend. None of my friends could come over, it was raining out, there was nothing good on TV, I had just finished my book, and I was home alone. Flipping through the chanels on TV, I saw a show I normally just skipped over. I stopped and realized the show was about ghosts and haunted houses. Without even realizing, I watched the whole hour of the show and thats when I knew I wanted to know more about ghosts and spirits. Boredom can easily be cured by a little curiosity.

Curiosity is something that can overwhelm a person. Once someone becomes interested in something they were curious about, its hard to become uninterested. Like the quote says, "There is no cure for curiosity." Curiosity comes in all sizes. Everybody becomes curious about something, whether it be something as small as what they will have for dinner or something as big as if their sick mother will be okay. Many people do not realize that they are curious about many things everyday. →

There are many different ways people could take this quote, "The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." I think that this quote is true. Becoming curious in something will take your mind off boredom, and its almost impossible for people to not be curious anymore.

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"The cure for boredom is curiosity There is no cure for curiosity." This quote was writen by Dorthy Parker. To me this quote means that if one finds boredom with how their life is going, than become curious. Try new things, and get out there. But also if you're too curious, nosy, or risky you might get yourself into trouble. This quote makes you think about the pros and cons of being curious, and/or living a curious lifestyle. It makes one really analyze how you want your life to turn out, though some just jump into life and are naturally "curious" beings. In my life I would prefer balance.

This quote applies to my life in a way of me both being curious, and not being curious enough. I am very cautious about being curious about my future and transitioning into adulthood. Every teenage wants their "plan" to work out, wants to be happy, healthy, and successful. Alot of individuals are a little too curious, or not curious enough,

but I know there won't ever be a perfect balance because life has ups and downs, and everyone has highs and lows. No one wants to have something you want dearly, especially something like the plan for your life, to be taken away or not reachable. That's why it's very scary to be leaneint in one direction in reference to this quote. Balance is the answer. And having balance with curiosity isn't only for your life plan and achieving your dreams, it's in everything we have and do everywhere in the world.

Our world leaders, and/or country leaders also need to find some balence in this quote so not to lead to conflict. Many leaders are too curious and get us the people, unwillingly caught up in wars and other events that could/has ruined countries. But if you're too cautious it may have the same affect. Most of the time other countries are too curious or cautious towards other countries, and it only ends in conflict. We're

supposed to look up to our leaders, and to see them struggling makes many people question how everything around them will turn out, and what toll it will proceed to take on our everyday lives, and futures. No matter what religion, race, gender, sexual preference, or cultural difference, balence is everything. We're all spinning around on the world under one sky and the principles of a happy, strong, and curiously balenced individuals are shared everywhere even if not enforced.

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This quote is said in such little words but have so much meaning. This quote also means something to me personally because I get bored on a daily basis. In fact, to take my mind off being bored, I will think of interesting/unique things.

With all that said, curiousity does indeed cure boredom. I notice that whenever kids/people lose interest in what they're doing, they turn to something they know absolutely nothing about. Why? Curiousity puts the fun back in the picture.

Another good example of curiosity curing boredom is a personal experience of my own. When I was working at a resturant about a year back, it got very old to me. Setting the tables, clearing the tables, cleaning the tables, and do it all over again. I got so bored with that routine that

I ended up quitting and working at a lawyers office. Why? I was curious to see what the environment of a lawyers office was like.

Trying to figure out why birds fly, wondering why the sky is blue, or why we have fingernails... you name it, curiousity defines it.

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I have always been told that curiosity killed the cat. this saying has always intrigued me because without curiosity and the natural human wonder, where would we be? If no one ever questioned anything then what would the world be like, would we even be as technologically advanced as we are? The quote by Dorothy Parker has opened new doors that lead to other relms that I knew I didn't know. This may be a bit confusing, that's okay philosophy is confusing.

This quote is simple and sweet, to the point at first glance. But once analized a bit further, we find that it is the threads that hold the fabric of life together. When someone doesn't understand, that is curiosity, to ask what something means is to be curious. Curiosity is in everything, and everyone. It literally is why we are who we are today.

Before now, I have never heard that quote before, what she has

Stated seemed like common knowledge, part of instinct to know that. But once it is put into words, it can further be analized.

Curious, is what we do, what we are, and how we should be defined. Curious by nature. We can not stop it and we can not know everything. To know everything would mean to lose all curiosity in life, in the meanings of life.

Then there's boredom. One who is never bored is always curious. To be bored would mean to have no questions about anything. So since boredom is the lack of questioning and curiosity is questioning, it is obvious that that one is the cure for the other. Also since curiosity is genetically engineered in humans, or all animals for that much, we can never cure it. It is with out doubt, always going to be with us.

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The quotation "The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." by Dorothy Parker, to me means that if you are bored then you can become not bored by being curious. If you are curious then you can be curious and you don't have to do anything to not be curious. An example of this could be if I am bored then I can find out something I want to know or I can go out somewhere and discover something new and with what I find out I can use in someway to not be bored.

If I'm already curious about something then I can continue to find things about it and that may lead into finding something else I may become curious about. This could continue on forever and I can never get bored.

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The Cure For boredom is curiosity. There is no cure For Curiosity.

When Im sitting Doing nothing is when I get bored When I get bored I wonder What to do and then I try to Find Some thing to Do Like I had never Rode a bull intell I was bored one day and Decided to Ride the bull even though I knew I shoudn't it DiDn't Matter Because I was Bored and thats all There was to DO.

Like a have horses and there Fun to Ride but I always get Bored so I get on them Backwards, Stand up on them, Jump them. Ride Them in the Dark.

Im Never Really that bored and IF and when I Do I always Find Some thing to Do.

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curiosity is when you
wonder about Something. So
you want to try it. Playstation
2. South park family guy are
not boring.

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well I think that the cure
For boredom is Curiosity There
is no cure for Curiosity means
that when your bored you
get curiose and when your
curios you just keep being
Curios Cause there is no
way not to be curios inless
you would rother be bored.

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quatation mean a lot
of something. That a lot of
something she want you have
more of something that
you did not have want
you was younger or older
you can have more than one
house or more than one
care. But quatation is not
that is like Love.