

Student Exemplar: Rose's 7.3 Archivist Assignment on *The Shape of a Girl*

Use the following checklist to ensure you have completed the assignments entirely:

I have selected the following essential question with this role:
☐ What influence do others have on who we become?
☒ What drives our need to belong?
I have confirmed that . . .
☒ My assignment considers the essential question through the entire text.
☒ I have included a short paragraph that explains the choices I made in creating my text(s).

Rose's 7.3 Archivist Response to "What drives our need to belong?"

When I look at The Shape of a Girl, I think about this essential question the most. I think people either participate in bullying or act as bystanders for a few reasons. I think they are bystanders, because they don't want to be bullied themselves. A person might think, "It is easier to go along with someone who seems strong than to question that person and risk being hurt." What people don't realize is that just going along with a bully only makes that bully stronger. The other reason I think people go along with bullies is the need for acceptance. They would rather be a part of a group than to be an outsider?

On the positive side, I think that people who are concerned about bullying connect with each other, easier than in the past, because of social media, like Twitter, blogs, websites, and other online forums. Even famous people are speaking out against bullying hopes that their voices will be heard and respected.

I have looked for online sources that talk about these reasons for belonging, and I found quite a few good examples.

Cool Groups to Follow on Twitter

@PreventHazing

HazingPrevention.org is a post-secondary group that is working hard to get rid of hazing. They define hazing as "any action taken or situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule, [that] risks emotional and/or physical harm to members of an group or team, whether new or not, regardless of the person's willingness to participate" (HazingPrevention.org, 2011).

It is often done by groups of people, like on teams and in fraternities. I snooped around their tweets, and I found lots of students and professors talking about how much people will endure just to belong.



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Could you bring out the idea that being an outsider would mean they would suffer the same fate?

"with the hope that"

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@TheBullyProject

The Bully Project is a documentary about different groups of people who are involved in the bullying crisis in the U.S. From the website, it doesn't look the film is released yet, but there are lots of people tweeting about standing up to bullies to make schools safer for everyone. I like what I see here, because they are using **peoples'** stories to help change the way people think about bullying in schools and in society. I also like the idea of using film, because people relate better when they can see the people telling their stories and sharing how those difficult events affected them.

people's

The website, <http://thebullyproject.com/resources.html>, has some really great information about how to deal with bullying too.

@extremehome

I know it seems weird to follow a T.V. show for information about bullying, but Extreme Makeover: Home Edition televised a show, after they decided to build a home for a family that had suffered a tragic loss. Their 11 year old son committed suicide in the top floor of their home, while the rest were downstairs. He was bullied in school. Even though he was really smart, he couldn't cope with what was happening to him. This is so wrong! The family dedicated their energy to try change how people think about bullying in schools.

The show started a website that asked people to make a simple pledge to combat bullying. You can find the pledge on <http://register standtogether.tv>. Here's what happened when I worked on this assignment over the weekend:

Friday afternoon: Wow. **I made a pledge to this website**, and I was number 17, 071. In the few minutes it took me to write this blurb, 12 other people made pledges. Pledging might encourage kids who are getting bullied to stand up for themselves safely.

This is a cool thing to do! I like this idea very much! I will bookmark this website to see how many more pledges have been made!

Friday night: Okay, I watched the show and saw them talking about how people can gain strength by connecting with others. They suggested that a sense of belonging can help people overcome their struggles.

Monday morning: Now, I am editing my assignment, three days later, and the number of pledges on their website has jumped to 92 721! I really hope schools make these pledges something the people talk about, so it is out in the open. Kids should feel safe in school.

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Websites to follow

1. *Here's one for hockey fans. Brian Burke, the President and CEO of the Toronto Maple Leafs, talks about a "Take 3 Steps" process that people need to follow to deal with bullying. He's used his influence participating in a parade to focus on tolerance and acceptance of others. Check out the short interview on the bottom of the website:*

<http://blogs.thescore.com/nhl/2011/12/02/on-anti-bullying-and-how-brian-burkes-son-helped-mend-his-relationship-with-kevin-lowie/>

2. *I read that Lady Gaga started a special partnership with Harvard to get people thinking and talking about bullying, through a non-profit foundation called "Born This Way." If so many people are taking their time to make people aware of this issue, I wonder why bullying is still an issue?*

<http://www.educationnews.org/higher-education/lady-gaga-launches-harvard-anti-bullying-foundation/>

3. *This website is really cool, because it talks about how students can use cell phones to fight against bullying.*

<http://theinnovativeeducator.blogspot.com/2011/11/5-ways-to-use-cell-phones-to-combat.html>