

English Language Arts 30-2
Literary Exploration Assignment, January 2012
Scored Example

Why is the ability to face hardship an essential human quality? I believe it is an essential human quality because every human being has to struggle with unfortunate events and you cannot always avoid them. Is it a human quality because you have to adapt to understanding that there will be tragedies and sometimes you are the one who has to fix them.

I am going to use the novel *Night* by Elie Wiesel and the film *Hotel Rwanda* by Terry George. I chose this novel and film because I believe both main characters deal with events that fit the criteria of this essay well. In the novel *Night* by Elie Wiesel, Elie is faced with many events that prove that humans can learn to adapt to unfortunate situations. Also in the movie *Hotel Rwanda*, Paul Resembina is faced with challenges that he does not adapt to but does anything to get rid of the problem.

Elie Wiesel and all the other Jews were forced into a concentration camp when he was a little boy, where he was beaten, starved, and made into a slave. Over time he slowly started adapting to his new lifestyle. He knew that he would not get full meals or be allowed to play with his friends. He and his father were separated from his mother and sister. Elie's feet have been destroyed due to the unbearable weather he is forced to work in so he is hospitalized. Soon he finds out that his father will be leaving the camp. He leaves the hospital so he can be with his father even though he is still in tragic pain. Near the end, Elie's father ends up being beaten to death which ends up forcing Elie to be without any family. Even though he does not accept what is happening to be a good thing, he learns to adapt to the way things are going to be. I believe Elie has the essential human quality to face hardship.

Paul Resembina from *Hotel Rwanda* deals with some similar situations that Elie struggles with. Paul's wife is a Tutsi, which to most Hutus believe is like scum or a cockroach. He has to protect thousands from these kinds of people. Paul gives his all to protect the people. He is constantly paying soldiers and giving them anything that is worth something so he can buy more time to save the people. In the end he saves 1200 Hutus and Tutsis from being brutally slaughtered. When Paul is returning back to the hotel after getting food and other supplies he sees that the roads are covered with slaughtered people. In my opinion seeing and helping all those people would force you to do anything to fix this issue and not back down. Paul has the ability to face hardship because it is an essential human quality. He accepts the fact that there will always be rough times but fighting through them can make them better.

I believe everyone has the ability to face hardship because it is an essential human quality. Everyone deals with unfortunate events but you learn to accept and try to fix them. Whether it's saving thousands of people or taking care of a sick child at home, you are sometimes forced to deal with the situation. You never know how strong you are until strong is the only choice you have.