

“The Vanishees” Continued...

Review:

Before winter break, we read a story called “The Vanishees” by Doug Coupland. As you remember, this story took place in the future, and it involved aliens using their power to make humans disappear from the planet. The remaining humans were given the task of cleaning the entire planet and returning it back to its original, pristine state. Finally, the original 1% of the vanishees, the most beautiful and intelligent people, were returned back to the planet, exactly the way they were when they vanished, except the planet was now, “perfect.” Doug Coupland asks, “What would they make of it? Would they trash it? Would they keep it clean and give it routine checkups?” In other words, would the people turn the earth to a utopia or dystopia?

Writing Assignment:

Working with a partner, (or by yourself), you will continue this story from where it ends. Your story must meet the following criteria, but you are encouraged to use your imagination and add extra details. All stories must include the literary elements we studied in class:

- Characterization
- Imagery
- Figurative Language and Symbolism
- Irony

Guiding Questions:

Before you begin writing your stories, you should discuss the following questions with your partner:

- What is your definition of utopia?
- What is your definition of dystopia?
- Do you want your story to end in a utopian, or dystopian world?
- Do you think the “right” people returned to earth (the most beautiful and intelligent), or do you think there should be other types of people as well? Explain. You can change the ending to include different people to inherit the earth.
- How will the new people create the type of world you imagine?

Steps:

Complete the following steps during class. Each step should be completed in one class period.

1. Brainstorm your ideas and create an outline for your story. This can be done on one piece of paper with both of your names on it.
2. Create a plot diagram for your story. Use the graphic organizer from Mr. Bilandzija.
3. Write your first draft. This can be done on one piece of paper with both of your names on it.
4. Type your final draft in computer lab.