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### Personal Narrative Essay

I believe that dreaming of becoming a character in a film or cartoon should be one of the most flashing memories of everyone's childhood when we set our first goal in life. As an ABC(American born Chinese) who grew up in China, English cartoons and films had been my first “English teacher,” these English entertainments were the torches that lighten my path of literacy development, which makes the first time where I had an English cartoon movie in front of me, one of the significant moments in this development, after experiencing 5 years of soaking in English entertainment, imitating those line and tones from those characters, had helped me improved my fluency in English speaking, which also improves my socializing after coming to America.

Time went back to 2011, when I came back from Chicago at the age of 7, I was ended up living with my grandparents' place in Fuzhou, China to start and finish my elementary, My beloved Asian grandparents is obviously a member of those elders who has a dream of attending college, since I will be sending back to America after five years, they end up deciding to give me extra education on English, hoping me to understand and speak English before going back, so they began sending me to English tutors, after schools, memorizing dictionaries at home, restricting those Chinese entertainments and focus on English entertainments. From my memories those after schools, dictionary memorizing did indeed improve my English skills but what really motivates to interact and learn English were those English entertainments, my admire on those entertainments started from how those characters in the films were built with unique characteristic, how they address their lines in unique tones and clever structures,



all the way to how those stories were structures, how different climax transfer to the next, and those unexpected ending, when compeering to the plain white light of the stories with those heroes and crimes, pure justice VS pure evil stuffs that shows up on Chinese children's channels with simple character changes, for the young me those entertainments from a different culture were a rainbow suddenly after a huge rain.



“Kungfu Panda”, “Transformers,” “Toy stories” and Disney cartoons were those cartoon films that I watched repeatedly, these films were those few movies that I can still vividly imagine nowadays, under the strict rules of my grandparents. houses, these movies had been the few entertainments for me. The classic Optimus lines: “One shall stand one fall” and “Autobots roll out” had been the line I imitated the most, the deep and sensual voice acting from Peter Collum brings me a much more unique character different from those cute voices from those Childrens' shows, from the movie “Kungfu Panda” and “Toy story” the colorful characteristics were shown from the characters’ tone, figure and how they act, vivid animations, and more overly the surprising and divertive ways that makes you laugh or cry, all different and seems much more supreme from the children shows for that naive me. So, I started to imitate the tones of those characters imaging as a transformer shouting to fight, becoming a toy that joins into the adventure of exploring my owners' rooms, walking through jade palace in “Kungfu Panda.”

After coming back to America, with the increasing interaction with English language, from shows, books, websites, games, peoples and music, the more that this language impresses me, I could tell

the background and playstyle from the lines in the game, from the usage of the characters words. I was impressed on how the performers brings out jokes in the stand-up shows, how different authors wrote in verities of ways that sometimes I do not even understand them. After I started junior high in Brooklyn, I meet Chinese friends some were not even capable of talking in fluence English at first, but they slowly started to learn from the environment and had their own style of writing; as for me when I came in class, I slowly realized how my English had been already styled, how



were able to read and write in a much native tone, I was impressed on how I were able conduct idea fastly that guides me to have those idea of how read and write, and insert styles into essays, all of these idea from those childish entertainments.

This theme of talking about how those kids' cartoons and films affect my literacy development might seem childish and naïve, but I had to say that this is most important part that really shows me how English language can be used that were different from mandarin, how much more I could learn in this language that's other than ABCs and "hello how are you today" "I am fine thank you and you.." I believe that a person's childhood should be the most important base for a person's growth and those entertainments that may seem to be naïve or useless, had their own way to insert their cultures inside it, apart from making us laugh, this might also be significant for the peoples to understand about the world they lived in and the world they never seen before.

