

Ani Tapia
ENG 100
Formal Assignment#1: Narrative Project
Mr.Mangini

Humiliating Day

“OH PLEASE DON'T BE ME, PLEASE DON'T BE ME!!!” he says to himself.

“Ani” she calls out, “Come up to the board.” he can feel his heart drop and his cheeks turn red. “NOOO”

Ani is an eight year old boy. It is 3rd grade in Berat Albania, and the 2nd day of English class. It's not a class where you can learn about literature and read books. It's a class where you can learn to speak the English language. In front of him is where the English teacher is standing. She's blond, skinny, tall, and in her 20's. To his right is a big classroom of 25 people and each of their eyes are staring right at him. With an upset look on her face she asks

“Pse je vone dhe pa uniformen” (Why are you late and without your uniform?)

“Sepse po bie shi perjashta” (Because it's raining outside.)

“Ani kjo nuk eshte arsye e mir, kta nuk jan vone” (Ani that's not a good excuse. They're not late.), she says pointing at the rest of the class. “Ata jan ne koh” (They're on time.)

“Me fal” (I'm sorry.)

As he looks down at the floor, his heart being filled with sadness and humiliation like never before, she points her pen at his seat and says

“Kjo nuk lejohet, shko ulu dhe flasim pas classes” (This is unacceptable, go seat and we'll talk after class.)

About 20 minutes pass and the teacher moves on to a new activity. She says “Dije ne mesuam çfarë jan disa forma ne Anglisht. Kur te thras, ajde tek drasa.” (Yesterday we learned what different shapes are in English. When I call, come to the board. His stomach starts to hurt. His legs start to shake. With panic he thinks “O Bobo! Mos me sjedh mua, Mos me sjeth mua!”(OH PLEASE DON’T BE ME, PLEASE DON’T BE ME!!!) He feels his heart drop and his cheeks turn red as she says “Ani... ajde visato dhe skrual rethin ne Anglisht tek drasa.” (Ani.. Come draw and write the circle on the board in English)

“MOS” (Oh no!), He says to himself. “Un sedih çfare është rrethi ne Anglisht” (I don’t know what a circle is in English.)

He goes up to the board barely moving his body and grabs the chalk. He draws a circle. Not knowing what to write below it he takes a guess. The teacher looks “Umm.. Jo. Square ne shqip is katror jo reth.” (Umm...No. Square in Albanian is katror not reth) Now he’s even more uncomfortable.

“Me fal”, he says (Sorry)

“Ska gjë, Do ta ndihmoj njeri tke?” (That’s okay, would anyone like to help him?)

A boy in the front row raises his hand

“Circle?”, he asks

“Po, bravo”, she replies. (Yes bravo) “Ani do te provosh një tjetër?” (Ani would you like to try another one?) He nods his head. “Qysh thuhet romb ne Anglisht?” (How do you say romb in English?)

“Rhombus?” he asks. With the sound of “correct” going in his ear, he feels a great sense of relief going through his body as it didn’t go as bad as he thought it would.

If this scene occurred this way, my life would have been drastically different. I would not be a shy and awkward person. I would like going and saying hi to people. I would raise my hand to answer questions, especially when I know the answer. I would feel comfortable to answer questions starting with "What's your favorite....?" I would feel comfortable asking people questions. I would try to greet people I know in public. I would have no problem with talking to people on the phone, and I would have no problem giving presentations. However, it didn't happen this way. And because it didn't, the reality is that I am a shy and awkward person. I do not like going and saying hi to people. I do not raise my hand to answer questions, even when I know the answer. I do not feel comfortable to answer questions starting with "What's your favorite....?" I do not feel comfortable asking people questions. I do try to avoid people I know in public. I do try my best to avoid talking to people on the phone, and I do hate giving presentations. I am getting better at these things and I'm happy for it. However, looking back I can't help but feel that this scene is the reason why.

