

The ELI STUDENT VOICES



Photo credits: Melina Jimenez, Daniel Mata El Khoury, CIP

Message from the Editor

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue of the ELI Student Voices.

To the students who submitted their writing, thank you for your dedication and steadfastness this semester in managing your classes online and writing such excellent submissions.

To ELI faculty and staff, thank you for being so supportive of our students' writing and for urging them to send in such inspiring submissions.

To the Student Voices judges: Noreen Baker, Victoria Dolce, Patrick Klager, Olga Moody, Tom Ratican, Jennifer Vann, and Christine Voigt, thank you for the time you took to read and judge the submissions.

To all the readers, I hope that you get as much enjoyment as I did from the variety of submissions in this semester's issue.

Lynne Clark, Editor

Winning pieces

First Place

"Life in the United States," by Abdulhalim Alshehri

Second Place

"Something Strange at the University" by Taisan Alshammari, Emma Minaya Tavarez, and Ewaldo Rivas Millan

First Place

Abdulhalim Alshehri

RW 20

Life in the United States

My life in the United States is beautiful and enjoyable. First, in the past, I thought that life in the United States had a certain culture and a certain approach, but when I got here I saw a completely different situation as it was a wonderful mixture of multiple cultures and the beautiful harmony between the people here. For example, there are good shops in all the culturally friendly shops as well as the restaurants. I see a lot of Italian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Arabic, and Mexican restaurants. Secondly, it is a very quiet and amazing world. It has a beautiful nature. You find many forests, lakes, some wildlife, and the ocean. There are many wonderful and large tourist cities as well as small university towns. Many people are interested in education. You see them in the café all day learning and doing their homework, and many people look so peaceful. They are very interesting people. It is a very diverse and fascinating world. I'm having a great time in the United States.



Second Place

Taisan Alshammari, Emma Minaya Tavarez, and Ewaldo Rivas Millan

RW60

Something Strange

Plot: Something strange happens at the university (you define what that was). The strange occurrence causes a problem. The characters work to solve the problem

Characters:

- Leopard Snow--He is a student studying business at the University of Florida.
- Penny Markel--She is a professor in the business school.
- your own characters.

On a lovely sunny day, I was sitting on a bench at the UF campus enjoying the beautiful and refreshing air after a long class with professor Penny Markel. While completely immersed in my thoughts a sudden question pops up in my mind: What could possibly spoil such a perfect moment like this? My thoughts are unexpectedly interrupted by a distant heated discussion that slaps my ears and takes me out of my zen moment, was my classmate Leopard Snow arguing with the professor about the assignment. Snow was trying to prove his point and he argued that the assignment was a **hoax** for the students to look away from the true issue. He said that she should try to avoid this kind of assignment because It can **polarize** the relationship between students and professors. Students also described the assignment as a **trap**. He was trying to point out to Mrs. Markel how **unmanageable** it was to submit such a complex assignment in such a short amount of time. The students needed more time to **hone** their skills and knowledge to elaborate and deliver a high quality content as it was expected from them, without having to deviate from the norms and rules. Snow's **integrity** was non-negotiable, and since he is a very **proactive** man, he was ensuring that this **impediment** did not compromise the group's **willingness** to create the expected results under the right conditions ,and the students were **unwilling** to tell the truth because they were afraid that they'd lost marks. After several hours talking, they finally agreed that for

the student's to be **accountable** she needs to **abridge** the time and complexity of the work she was expecting from the students to submit.

Daniel Mata El Khoury,

RW 50

Quarantine Activities

Quarantine really changed our lives in some way, many people found a new hobby, interest or vocation, there are others that finally had time to do the things they always wanted to do, but they never had the opportunity and others that just limited themselves to do nothing just eat chill and sleep. I'm the type of guy that never had enough time to do the thing I always wanted to do, and that's photography.

Taking photos outside helps me to relax myself and enjoy the beauty of the environment, I like to take photos to the environment, sunsets, beautiful landscapes or just something that caught my attention, I take my bike, my camera and go out to take some good photos. Photography really helped me during quarantine, and just like I did I encourage you to find your hobby or give it some time and try to develop it.



Christ Mane Belizaire

RW 50

Do you think that museums should return artifacts that were taken from other countries during times of conquest or occupation? Explain.

Today, many museums around the world contain art and artifacts that were stolen from their countries of origin during colonial rule or looted during war. Museums play an essential role in preserving local culture and history. With heedful documentation and artifact preservation, a culture can be recorded and remembered in spite of that future. It can also be shared and understood by those from different cultural education and backgrounds. Remember the last time you went to an art or history museum. Which pieces attracted your attention? Did you take the time to read the information on the plaques next to them? Did the museum guides tell you where the artifacts were from and how they were acquired? Despite of the crucial role of museum, many scientific review and art articles explain how museums and governments are wrestling with those questions about if artifacts should be returned or not to the countries from which they originated. While some countries try to get back some treasures and artifacts because they belong to the origin country, it's not really enough to give them back for many reasons. In this essay I will try to detail below the reasons why museums should not return artifacts that were taken from other countries during times of conquest or occupation.

Some people say that we can truly appreciate the historical artifacts in its historical context that means the place it was found. In fact, by the loss of their geographical and historical context their meaning can be stripped. However, some of the origin country have lack of protection and they don't have the infrastructure that will assure the safety for those valuable items. As it was mentioned in the text for Rosetta Stone, many artifacts located in Egypt are falling to pieces because of lack maintenance.

In spite the fact that these artifacts are a part of their history that means they belong to the country from which they originated, as museum encourage curiosity and promote cosmopolitan worldview (Cuno,122), the artifacts should not be back where they belong because museums will give tourists the opportunity to discover the heritage of other countries where they can't go.

Despite the fact of some origin country think return these artifacts is the best thing to do morally, the historical context of an artifact is more than just its place of origin. Museum play an important role in the education of civilizations. In fact, Museums possess materials and information that can and should be used in enriching and improving the school curriculum in various disciplines. One of the fundamental objectives of the museum is to educate, and it is only the museum that has the capacity and the ability to impart cultural education effectively.

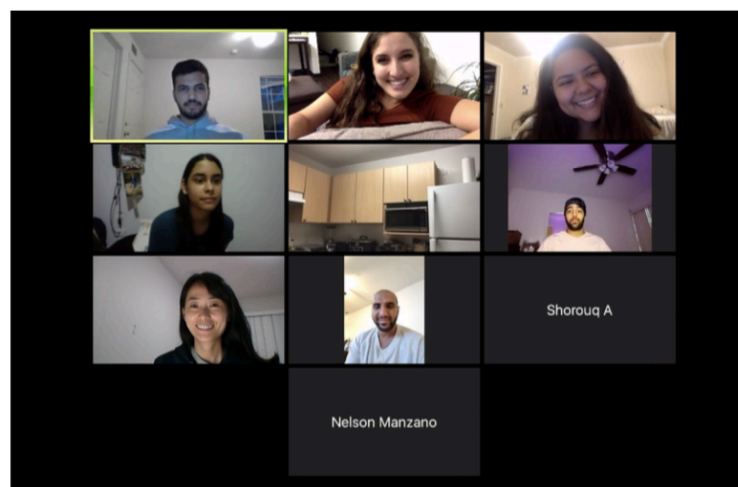
The main role of museums is to collect objects and materials of cultural, religious and historical importance, preserve them, research into them and present them to the public for the purpose of education and enjoyment. Even if Artefacts should be accessible to the largest number of visitors possible, origin of these artifacts should be known. Some information of origin of these artifacts should be written on the plaques in order to show to visitors where and how they were acquired. Some assistance should be given to the country which have magnificent treasure in order to show how maintain artifacts.

Le Hoang Mi Nguyen (Katherine)**RW 50****Tet**

In my country, Vietnam, which is in Southeast Asia, there is a popular holiday named Tet every year in the spring. What do Vietnamese people do in Tet? On the first day of Tet, every family will have a custom to storm the ground. It is said that the first person who comes to a family will be lucky or unlucky depending on their date of birth. Additionally, adults will give money to children so they could have a good year that the children bless. After that, every family sits together for the traditional food such as Chung cake or Tet cake. Some families play cards with their family. Therefore, no matter where they go, they will come back home in Tet for their family. Tet is a famous important holiday in Vietnam like Christmas.

Victoria Suarez Marin**RW 20****My Favorite Activity at the ELI**

Since I started the first semester at the ELI, I have been wonderful and have met so many great people. They are so much fun, and all thanks to the ELI's weekly activities. Therefore, I'd like to tell you a bit about these activities. Monday is a game night. All the games they propose are great fun. Sometimes I wonder what my favorite game is, but I cannot decide because all games are super fun. On Tuesdays, there are in-person activities that unfortunately I cannot attend because I am not in Gainesville. Whenever my reading and writing partner tells me they are just as fun as online I wish I could be in Gainesville. On Wednesdays, it is a coffee and culture talk. On this day, we talk about a specific topic. I have not been able to attend these because I have the internet problem on Wednesday nights for some reasons, but I hope that at some point I can join more often. Among all the wonderful activities, my favorite activity cannot be left behind. It is on Thursdays, and it is a movie night, which in my opinion should be called a Disney movie night because a lot of movies are usually the Disney movies. After finishing the movie, we usually play Kahoot or do quizzes on characters that they are in the movie. These activities, in addition to being very entertaining, help me a lot to progress with my English. I can also meet people from other levels and thus make new friends. So! I can only tell you that you dare to participate in these incredible activities because you really do not want what you are missing.



Reinaldo Ledezma Colombo**RW 50****The easy recovery of energy**

Over the years, the athletes, trainers, and also the people have look for the way of recovering energy when they are tired whether it's exercising or sleeping badly. They have look for a lot of ways, from healthy food to drink a lot of water, but what if I told you that there is a way that you can get an easy and effective recover of energy? This way of recovering energy is drinking energy booster. These drinks have both positive and negative effects and on this essay we will explore this both positive and negative effects.

When you start drinking this energy booster one of the first and most important effect that you will have is to receive a great amount of energy and motivation, why? Because of the caffeine, the energy boosters are lighter than coffee. This is because coffee is made for being awake and to give you some energy, and the energy boosters are made for giving you energy for doing sports. "A can of energy drink has 80 to 160 milligrams, depending on the size, though such information is not listed on any cans. An eight-ounce cup of coffee typically has 100 to 150 milligrams," (Warner, 2005) coffee has for each 100g of coffee 40/50mg of caffeine, as we see the energy booster has much more caffeine than coffee.

Another effect of the energy boosters is the recovery of energy after exercise. This is more on the field of sports; some athletes need to work very hard, and when they need to recover the energy they lost, they should drink caffeine drinks, because as it said before the caffeine of this drinks give you energy and motivation. For example, "Red Bull (A recognized energy booster), the Austrian company that makes the original energy drink, makes ambitious assertions about its particular blend of these ingredients. The company's Web site boasts that Red Bull 'improves performance, especially during times of increased stress or strain,' 'increases concentration' and 'stimulates the metabolism.'" (Warner, 2005.)

The worst effect and the one because people don't drink a lot of energy boosters is the addictive of the caffeine, "Roland Griffiths, a professor of behavioral biology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, says the amount of caffeine necessary to produce dependency and withdrawal symptoms is about 100 milligrams a day." (Warner,

2005) with the information given before we know that the cans of energy boosters have a lot of caffeine; so, people can become addicted to this substance.

To conclude this essay, we can infer that these drinks can be good for recover the energy we have lost. Thanks to the caffeine people can get more energy and can be more focus on their works; for the athletes this a great point, because some of them have to work out a lot of time and they need this quickly and easy recover of energy. But the bad thing about this energy boosters is the addictive of the caffeine; this can be as addictive as the coffee or even worst. So, when you think about a way of recovering energy, energy boosters are a good option but you can get addicted to them.

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Antonio Gonzalez Marinelli,

RW 50

Quarantine Activities

When you think about quarantine, you think about a boring day in your home doing nothing, but for that reason I tried to do something different and change my routine. What did I do? I started to work out in my garage because it helps you to be energetic the whole day and also if you are in a bad mood it can change your mind about everything and you start to be a productive person. It is important to know that this activity does not just help your mental health, of course; it helps you to keep you in shape and this is really hard to do if you are in your bed just sleeping.

On the other hand, I need to say thanks to the sports like soccer, basketball, tennis and formula 1 because when I do not have anything to do, I just turn on my TV and start watching the games. This is one of my best things to do. I usually did that before quarantine, but now of course I have more time to do it.

You can make your quarantine attractive, just you have the power to do it. - Antonio 2020

Veronika Ledezma Uribe

RW50C

Are zoos ethical?

Imagine living in four walls all your life and the only thing you can do is go to the bathroom and eat in the same four walls. How would you feel? Maybe you feel frustration or you can start suffering anxiety and many related things. Now that you imagine what is to live like this, imagine how animals in zoos feel all the time. Although many people love to go to zoos, it could be argued that zoos are unethical because of the effect that causes in wild animals. Some of these effects that also will be explained in this essay is when animals are in captivity some of them are mistreated, they do not get used to life in a small habitat and as a consequence of this they start experiencing psychological issues like depression and anxiety.

Most of the people think zoos are for the education of the kids and are for entertaining. They think that zoos educate the public about animals and conservation efforts. They also believe that zoos which keep animals in captivity are good for the education of the younger generation. Many of the animals that are kept in captivity suffer animal cruelty. Hundreds of “gold-standard” zoos and aquariums are being accused of mistreating animals. These zoos and aquariums worldwide let visitors pet, feed, and take selfies with animals. Now my question is, what kind of education is this for our kids? Is this the things we want our kids learn from a zoo? I do not support neither believe that is good that our kids learn how to be cruel to innocent animals from a place that is supposed to take care of the animals they are keeping in captivity.

So many people believe that keeping animals in captivity is saving them from extinction and other dangers. Is true that zoos saved some species from extinction and they are trying to prevent the loss of other species like polar bears, tigers, wild African elephants and many other animals. However, wild animals are not designed to be in captivity, they are meant to be free in their original habitat. Wild animals like African Elephants are completely prepared to live in their original habitat without any help. What I think we can do to help

and prevent the extinction is stop the illegal animal hunt and give a punishment to the poachers, instead of keeping these animals in captivity.

Some people think when they keep animals in captivity they can give better help, for example with the food and the medicine. They provide a “better life” to these animals, giving them special treatments like medicines, medical exams and special food, that are not found in their original habitat. What they do not know is that animals are not used to being in captivity and neither are used to medical exams, people with cameras, special treatments and many related things. The consequence of all this is that at long term they begin to develop psychological problems, such like anxiety, depression, behavior disorders and many others. These problems are never seen in these animals in their original habitat, and some animal behaviorist says that these psychological issues are due to a new environment to these animals. So, it is true zoos helps to save animals with diseases, but keep animals in captivity is not the best way to give them help.

To conclude this essay, we could see that keep animals in captivity it is no ethical for the main reason that animals are being mistreated in many zoos, when they are supposed to give them a “better life”. Also, animals can survive in their original habitat without any help. And the last reason is that animal when they are in captivity, they start developing psychological issues and traumas that can cause dead. So, what I think is that we can provide help to animals without putting them in captivity. Like I say in the first paragraph you would not like to live inside four walls, without any family, with people staring at you and taking pictures of you. It is more probable you would not like that. So why we do not put all the animals in captivity in freedom?

Justin Sosa**RW 50****Stress in our lives**

These days many people suffer stress always and they do not know what they can do with the stress or what are the reasons of the stress. Actually, as much as adults and adolescents suffer from stress, but the stress sometimes can be helpful. Stress is a normal thing that everybody has. People have to know how to manage their stress. There are several effects of the stress: activating the hormone cortisol, chronic stress, and changing the brain.

First, activating the hormone cortisol is an important effect of the stress. Always when people start to feel stress, they activate the hormone cortisol, this hormone can be good and bad in different ways. When people activate this hormone just for a short time, this can help people to lose weight, be more activate, increase appetite, and focus. Furthermore, high levels for a long period of time of cortisol can be harmful to the people, causing chronic stress.

In addition, chronic stress is another important effect. Chronic stress occurs when an individual has high levels of cortisol. Chronic stress can desparate people. Some of the effects of the chronic stress is hair loss, acne, sexual dysfunction, headaches, irritability, muscle tension, difficult to concentrate, and fatigue. Also, it can interrupt the process of telomeres.

Finally, changing the brain is another effect but not the less important. In the video, How Chronic Stress Affects Your Brain, the narrator said, “chronic stress, like being overwork or having arguments at home can affect the brain size, its structure, and how it functions, right down to the level of your genes.” (Ted-Ed, Nov 2015). When the brain changes the size is when it shrinks the prefrontal cortex.

To sum up, stress for a short time can be good in some ways to people sometimes, but when it is for a long period of time is going to be harmful. Activating the cortisol hormone, chronic stress, and changing the brain size are important effects of the stress in some ways good and bad. People have to know how to manage their stress or control.

Sometimes the stress can be good to the people to activate themselves or to be prepared to something.

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Mihyang Kim, Oscar (Nicolas) Moreno Mendivelso

RW 60

The problem: Laboratory explosion

The cause: The professor (Penny Markel) decided to take the laboratory instead of the classroom because there is no electricity in the business building, and one of the students (Leopard Snow) played with a rare material by mistake which caused the material to spread right away and burn the laboratory.

Laboratory Explosion

Leopard Snow was on the way to meet Penny Markel, his professor, on campus. All of a sudden, there was a huge sound of explosion. At first, he thought it was a **hoax** but he was terrified when he saw a building in front of him. That building, which was supposed to meet the professor, was firing. He called the professor, and fortunately he was not inside of the building. Even though they thought that the situation was **unmanageable**, they knew that the **integrity** of the building was in danger. They had a **willingness** to help the situation and **accountability** to protect campus as a student and a professor. They are **proactive**, but fire is a big **impediment** for them. First, they called 911. However, they were not sure if they had to go inside of the building or not. They knew if they went inside of the building it could put them in a **trap**. They went inside safely and helped people who were in the building. In order to **abridge** this incident, as future manager, the student saw this as an opportunity to **hone** his business skills **polarizing** his ideas and using the problem-solving strategies that he learnt in classes.

Daniel Mata El Khoury**RW 50****Antiquities, Theft or not?**

Artifacts are hidden all around the world; they were left by pharaohs, kings, cities or valorous people. These objects have an enormous price in the market which can lead into many problems such as, sells in the black market, thieves, damaging places or the object or even conflicts between countries which is going to be discussed in this essay. To evaluate if a country should give or return the artifact to another there are many factors, but this essay will focus on three of these, the safety of the artifact, the risk of moving it between countries and the benefits of having the artifact in a country. According to Kirsty Rice in a text published in 2015 “The collection of antiquities done properly to further the education and appreciation of an artifact is a beautiful thing; artifacts should be able to be shared and should be displayed for people to see. However, I do not support when the removal of an antiquity is detrimental to the integrity of the piece.” The knowledge of this let us infer that there is no unique answer to this question, and the possible answer would be that every case is different and should have different answers.

The most important thing to do with an artifact according to Rice is to maintain its safety, because it is valuable and contains information about the past. Some countries like Egypt that lack funding and support are known to have a high demand on the black market and low security for their museum. This means they are more likely to suffer from thieves and issues than countries like United Kingdom who invest much more money in high security museums, infrastructure and research of artifacts. So as a researcher the artifact should always be maintained in the safest country.

Following the last paragraph to keep safe the object, sometimes we have to move it long distances, but moving such an object is very difficult and delicate, is an arguable action to do and a risk to take. Due to the care, the problems in the transportation vehicles or the vulnerability of the object moving it between countries is highly dangerous and something that depending on how beneficial is to the artifact then think about taking the risk. The idea is to keep the best treatment possible even in the transportation because they are objects of study and educational antiquities.

Having an antiquity in a country means many benefits, because artifacts give information, education and persuade foreign people to visit which helps with the economy. Morally speaking, this benefit should be given to the country where the artifact was found, and most of the times that is not the case. “Many artifacts removed from their country of origin were not freely given; artifacts were frequently taken through colonialism, conquest, or theft. Today, hundreds of museum pieces are the product of thieves taking advantage of situations in the past. Theft remains a common occurrence on even famous and wellattended archaeological digs—to say nothing of grave-robbing and treasure-hunting.” (Steenburgh, 2018) This situation aside the safety of the object, is not morally correct and a good point for those who agree with keeping them in their origin countries.

In conclusion, there are many factors that determine the case, and giving a definite answer is something very difficult. What is known is that independently of every case it must always be first the safety of the object. However, there are moral thoughts that should be evaluated before deciding what to do. This problem affects many countries in the world and creates many conflicts. The two sides have very strong arguments, but with that in mind I will always endorse that the main priority is that the artifact has to be kept safe.

Donal Bissante

RW 50C

Zoos and Ethics

Keeping animals in zoos isn't a new activity. Some animals like giraffes, bears, and dolphins were kept in captivity long time ago. There are a lot of zoos in the world. They are made for the entertainment of people, the conservation some of species, the scientific researches and the pedagogy. Some countries invest in zoo activities for the development of tourism. In zoos, animals aren't free and they can't do what they want when they want. They are obligated to live out of their natural and usual habitat. There are feeding by people that keep them in captivity. They are frequently visited by some people. They can be stressed by the different modifications in the areas they live. Their behaviors can be changed and cause psychological and physical damages. Some people think it isn't ethical to

keep animal in captivity because there are not enough arguments to justify the importance of zoos. In captivity, the health and the mental of animals are affected negatively. However, it isn't unethical to keep them in zoos. Experts in biology, ecology know the normal conditions to keep animal. Several reasons justify the importance to keep animals in zoos.

Some people argue that animals are stressed in zoos, they don't want to eat so they have physical and psychological problems. However, the managers of zoos respect the environmental conditions of animals in zoos, they feed them with their usual foods. Animals' foods contain all the ingredients animals need for a good diet. Some preys are included in the foods of animals in zoos. Animals' nutritionists use some vegetables, fruits and frozen animals such as snakes, mice, smaller birds and mammals in their foods. The animals eat vegetables and small animals in their areas. When they eat them, their behaviors are closed to animals that live in forest. Physically and psychologically, animals don't have any problem to live in zoos.

Some psychologists say there are several ways to learn about animals. They state that Watching movies and documentaries about animals is one of method to know a lot of things about them. There are a multitude books about animals that can educate people without zoos. However, we can learn a lot of things when we visit zoos in person. Zoo is an important tool to educate people about animals. When children visit zoo, they observe a lot of about ecology, biodiversity, life of animals and their behaviors. The knowledge of zoos 'visitors are generally increased about the biodiversity and how to protect the biodiversity. They understand different relations between animals and environment. When children see animals in zoos, they feel more relationship with them than look them on TV or whatever screen. So, zoos educate people and they can have good behaviors to biodiversity, environment and animals.

In zoos, animals are deprived of its natural habitat, social structure and companionship. they may become bored and depressed. For these reasons, people think the population of the wild animals will decrease because they'll die. But there are many other reasons for the dead of animals. People want more areas for agriculture, they destroy the natural habitat of animals. They hunt them for doing business with some companies.

We can have extinction of some species of animals. So, zoos protect animals from extinction.

They help to improve research about animals and environment

To conclude, keep animals in zoo may infer they suffer psychologically and physically. But animals can develop in zoos. They can reproduce and allow the conservation some species. They are fed well, they live in the similar area of their natural habitat. Zoos educate people and influence their behaviors about biodiversity. Zoos contribute to the researches on environment science. So, zoos benefit people. It is not unethical to keep animals in zoos. There are different important specimens of animal in different zoos in the world.

Justin Sosa,

RW 50

Quarantine Activities

My favorite quarantine activity is walk around of University of Florida. Every day I go outside to walk and know new places or buildings from UF. When I finish my last class at 2:40 PM I just start to prepare my food, check the bus, and leave my home. There are beautiful places in UF, one of them is the Lake Alice. Two months ago, I was in my listening and speaking class with Matt Goode, and he told to us about the Florida Museum of Natural History-Exhibits. That was an amazing experience because it was free with my Gator ID, and also all of the museum was amazing. Walking around UF I saw many stadiums of different sports that I did not see before.

50% of my visit to UF was jogging or walking, and the other 50% was by bus. It is amazing when I visit UF jogging or walking because I can see everything and pay more attention to the different parts or if there have educational signs I stop to read. When I visit by bus is only to a specific part of the university or I wake up that day very lazy to walk. My last visit to UF was yesterday to Plaza of the Americas, when I went to the ELI activity.

Lutfa Akther, Razan Omar, Ana Rodrigues Da Silva

RW60

Plot: Something strange happens at the university. The strange occurrence causes a problem. The characters work to solve the problem.

Characters:

- Leopard Snow--He is a student studying business at the University of Florida.
- Penny Markel--She is a professor in the business school.
- your own characters

STUDENT Leopard Snow: Professor Markel, would you mind if I gave you my assignment two days after the correct date? I need to postpone it, because it is **unmanageable** during the time you gave us.

Professor Markel: Leopard, you need to be more **proactive** if you want to take part in a business world. You need to figure out if your choice is a **trap** or not, because all the time you are not ready for the activities in this course. Due to a competitive business world you must be able to be on time with your duties.

STUDENT Leopard Snow: Professor, being a **willing** student takes time, and I am in the Preparatory Year of Business Course. I don't have a lack of **integrity**, I only have to **hone** my time management to better performance in your classes.

Professor Markel: Some students think that completing their duties on time is a **hoax**, because it doesn't matter for their grades, but it can sharply reduce the grades. Punctuality and **accountability** are one of most important qualities in business.

At the end of the class, Professor Markel talked to her dean who gave him this advice:

Dean Pitt: Professor Markel, It is the professor's duty to **polarise** between two groups who can complete tasks within due time and not due time, so the Professor can solve the problem quickly by reducing student **impediments** that are going on.

Professor Markel: Thank you, Mr. Pitt. I will be in touch with him to make sure that he can improve what he needs.

Mihyang Kim**GW****So Now We're Even**

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley's book, *The War That Saved My Life* (New York: Puffin Books, 2016) is about a story of Ada, a 11- year-old girl with a disability, and Jamie, her younger brother, during World War II . They live in London and their mother was abusive to them. Ada has a club foot and due to that, her mom never lets her go out of their house in her life. After her mother goes to work and Jamie goes to school, looking out of the window is the only thing that Ada can do. She cannot read and write. Even though she is 11 years old, she is not educated. One day, Jamie told Ada and his mother that his teacher said all children had to leave London because of the war, and when Ada asked her mom what she should do, her mom said that Ada would not go anywhere and be stuck in this house. However, Ada and Jamie evacuate from London to the countryside at the break of day when their mom is sleeping. In that place, they meet Susan, their new guardian, and for the first time they feel loved and cherished. In other words, they find their new lives there. This book broke my heart at the beginning because the way their mom treated the children was unbelievably harsh, but fortunately, since they met Susan, the story became beautiful. Looking at Ada's change through Susan, I realized that accepting love and being taught is really important to all humans, especially children.

Every child deserves to be loved. Nevertheless, Ada never thinks she deserves love. When I read this book, the thoughts that Ada is thinking about herself are miserable. Her mom always tells her that her club food is her fault and she is ashamed of Ada because Ada is a disabled person. Ada's mom does not even let Ada use the toilet in the house, so she has to use a pot in her room. This is terrible and extremely abusive to her, so reading this part was really hard for me. At this moment, I doubted this book is truly good for children. However, after Ada meets Susan and receives love from her, Ada starts realizing what love is. Because of her abusive mom, accepting Susan's love takes forever for Ada. Ada always doubts why Susan is so kind to her and thinks that Susan will leave her someday. This broke my heart. Healing a wounded heart takes a long time, so we need to take care of children more.

I confirmed again education is crucially important for children. Ada is 11 years old but she cannot read and write, so Susan teaches her how to read and write. Finally, Ada became

able to write her name for the first time. Also, Susan keeps telling Ada that having a club foot is not her fault and it can be fixed. For real, Susan takes her to the doctor so that the club foot is fixed. As Susan's trying to build the relationship with Ada, she starts to think that the club foot is not her fault, and she deserves better. When Ada had to come back to London, her mom treats her as usual, but Ada does not tolerate her mom's treatment like she used to. For the first time, Ada asks her mom why her mom never tried to fix her foot. If she had not met Susan, confronting her mom would have been impossible. Before she met Susan, she did not know how to express her thoughts and could not think the way she was being treated by her mom was not appropriate. This is why I think education is vital for children to form their perspective toward their lives.

The war didn't save only two kids' lives. It saved Susan's life as well. When Ada and Jamie arrived at Susan's house, she was living alone. She was depressed after losing her best friend who used to live with her. She did not know the purpose of her life, so when a government official asked her to accept the two kids, she did not want to, but she had to. Building the new relationship between them was a complicated adventure. At the beginning, Susan was not pleased to live with the kids, but she was a nice person, so she tried her best to treat them like her children. As time went by, Susan has sincerely loved them, and when they had to return to London, she was deeply sad. On the other hand, since Ada and Jamie experienced the love from Susan, living with their mom was hard to stand for them. Eventually, they escaped from their mom again, and Susan also left for London to meet them. They met each other in London together, and Susan realized again how she loves them so much. When they came back to Susan's house, her house had been destroyed in a bombing. If she had not left for London, she would have died. Susan said, "The two of you saved my life, you did." Ada said, "So now we're even." This conversation is the last part of the book and strongly touching. Love is so powerful. Not only being loved but also giving love is meaningful and motivates people to live positively.

This book is my first book that I read in the U.S. What if Ada had not met Susan, and what if Ada lived with her mom forever? When I asked this question to myself, I shook my head. Looking at Ada's change, I became aware how love affects and changes people. I highly recommend this book to those who want to read deeply touching story.

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