

Vignette

A culture that I am a part of (that I honestly didn't consider a culture until this assignment) is being a grandchild and on top of that, being the only grandchild for all of my grandparents. I've always been close with my grandparents, since before I can remember. I have a lot of grandparents (six to be exact) and I'm closer to some than others. Two of my grandparents who I'm particularly close to, are my Grammy and Zayda (Yiddish for grandfather). Zayda is my mom's dad and Grammy is his wife. I guess that would make her my mom's step mom, but she doesn't really consider her that. They've been married since way before I was born, so I don't consider Grammy anything other than my grandmother.

They are two of my favorite people on this planet and they've always been there for me. Not only that, but they've shaped me into who I am as a person. I would describe my grandfather as sophisticated, kind, thoughtful, empathetic, quirky, witty, unselfish, well-rounded, he can talk to you about anything, he's always reading and journaling, and he has an extremely contagious laugh. He's an overall great guy. We have tons of inside jokes, and during quarantine he learned how to Facetime people so we Facetime all the time. My grandmother is generous, progressive, thoughtful, creative, crafty, easy-going, talkative, friendly, forgiving, and kind. I love the relationship that I have formed with both of them and how we only get closer as I get older. Being their only grandchild, it's always just been the three of us together, which I think has made it so easy to bond with them. Being the only grandchild is a huge part of my identity and that's why I wanted to explore it in this vignette.

They've been married for 30+ years and they're honestly couple goals. They hold hands when we're on walks, they always dance together when we put on music, and they're constantly in tune with each other.

Something that we have bonded over is going to the theatre together. The two of them helped introduce me to my love of plays and musicals. Over the years, we've gone to quite a few shows together and it's always tons of fun. One play I specifically remember going to was called *Cabaret* that we went to in 2017. It takes place in a Berlin nightclub in 1929. It was on Broadway for a while, but we saw it at the Arden. I sat with my grandparents at a small table right next to the stage, with a lamp and a

phone perched on top. I immediately fell in love with the show. The characters, the songs, the vibes, the set, I loved it all. It was like nothing I had ever seen before.

My grandfather and I sat close the entire time, singing along to the songs and laughing together. I distinctly remember one particular moment, when everything went quiet and the phone on our table rang. I had no idea what to do. Everyone was looking at me, including all of the actors. Zayda nudged me and I picked up the phone.

"Hello?" I said, probably no louder than a whisper.

"Not for you, the other guy!!" yelled the person on the other end of the line.

The look on my face must've been the funniest thing because I quickly handed the phone to the man on stage and awkwardly sat back down.

The three of us laughed and laughed during the car ride home. I have no doubt in my mind that this is a memory I will treasure forever, a memory that reminds me of all the great times I've shared with my grandparents at the theatre and how it's helped form my identity of being a grandchild.

Artist's Statement

I really enjoyed reading this novel, it was nothing like anything I've ever read before. The way he so easily talked about his childhood, his writing style, and his story telling technique. I had never written anything like this, and reading Trevor's memoir really opened my eyes to all the other ways I could be writing. Trevor's writing style got me to be more casual while writing this, instead of how I usually write.

I tried my best to explain the culture of being a grandchild as best I could, even though it was kind of strange to illustrate. I had a hard time wrapping my head around being a grandchild being a culture. I had to write and rewrite what I had written so many times because it never came out right. I eventually wrote it the way I liked, and that's what you just read.

The story telling techniques I employed in this vignette are telling the story the way I talk, I attempted to make it personal the way Trevor did, I tried to tell the story the way I remember it, and to describe my grandparents the way they really are and make it seem like you had never talked to them before.

The essential question that is answered in my vignette is "what influences my identity?". The answer to that question is, my family. My family is a huge part of my life and they've turned me into the person I am. They've opened my eyes to new opinions, new thoughts, how to be the best person that I can, and so much more.

The connection from Noah's memoir that influenced me was the relationship I felt like I formed with his mom. It was hard not to get attached to her, she was a great character and just an overall interesting person. I loved the stories Noah told about him and her and the relationship they had. The relationship they had reminded me of the relationship I have with my mom. Constantly making jokes out of everything and chasing each other around. Patricia made Trevor who he is and he really displayed that in this novel.

Noah explored his sense of belonging and his identity in every single chapter. Whether it was him finding his belonging of his race, gender, relationship with his family, he was constantly discovering himself. In chapter nine, he talked a lot about how he had no sense of belonging in Eden Park. And then again in chapter eleven, he couldn't find a place to fit in at Sandringham High School. It was diverse, but he didn't know where to go.