

The Apartments

So it's Friday and I just finished school so the weekend officially started and my grandpa picked me up. The first thought in my head is what am I going to do with my friends when I arrive. Eventually, I arrive at my grandparent's house and the first thing I do is get something to eat which would mostly be Byrek which is an Albanian food that is amazing but besides that, I would go out and see my friends already doing something and we would play until we would get yelled at to go inside and during the week we would go in until it was pitch black outside. At the time I was in the 1st grade and that was the peak of "The Apartments" that is what I and my friends call it and during that time we would usually play soccer and most of my friends were 3 years older than me but I still had fun and one time we kicked the ball at some guys window and we all ran when he came out, we would also ride scooters around the block and we also would go to this corner store and we would buy candy, and one of my favorite things to do was play Yu-Gi-Oh which is a card game and we would play in the hallway of one of my friend's apartment and we would play for hours and the same with Pokemon but we rarely played it. Meanwhile on my block where I live it was kind of boring because there was not much to do and there were barely any kids on the block so that was the main reason why I would go almost every day to my grandparent's house just to go play with my friends there who are like me and share the same interests as me and that's why most of them I still talk to every day and play. But now everyone moved out including my grandparents so I haven't seen most of them in 6-7 years but the ones that are the same age as me we would still hang out and they are still my main group of friends. But the craziest thing is that some of my new friends used to live in the same apartments and I never knew. And the question is would I go back to the apartment? Maybe, because I still am friends with most of the people from there and with people who lived there too but they are the people who made me, I and they made me like things like soccer which I probably would've never thought of playing the sport but I think it would be nice to meet my friends I haven't seen in a long time and it would be amazing to see how they are doing and what they are up to.

Artist Statement:

My main inspiration for this topic is the school story in Trevor's book "Born a Crime" and how Trevor was saying that he belongs to his people and their culture and that is the same for me and how I belong in the culture of the apartment and the Albanian culture that all of my friends share with me. Also because of Trevor's writing style, inspired me to try to add small details to make the reader feel like they are with me in the story and make it easier to picture things. I tried to make the vignette simple and easy to understand so the reader does not feel overwhelmed and gets confused about what is going on. And about my vignette, I did not add any humor to it because I feel like it would have been forced and that would make it less funny so I just tried to make it more enjoyable to read and not something where the reader is cracking up every sentence they read. And finally, did I explain the culture to an outsider? I think I did pretty well explaining how my life was when I was surrounded by that culture.