

ENGLISH

I believe the written word is mankind's greatest achievement as it acts as a gateway between us and centuries of ideas, connecting us with some of the most eloquent minds in history. I have a passion for literature and my desire to learn more about it provides my motivation to be a committed student. My school studies throughout the years have introduced me to brilliant creations from writers such as John Steinbeck, Alice Walker, and William Shakespeare where I have been able to study texts and become captivated by their characters and their ability to carefully influence and even manipulate reader's emotions while stretching the boundaries of imaginations.

As well as reading novels in their raw form, I also enjoy exploring other adaptations that have been made such as film and radio creations. For example, I have a great interest in the Sherlock Holmes series written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and after reading his stories, I found an appreciation in not only the film versions of the series but especially the recent adaptation made by the BBC. The creators took the work of a unique writer and carefully rewrote the series into a modern day script using particularly clever language and by finding the current equivalents to aspects from the past.

As part of my Welsh Baccalaureate I volunteered 20 hours of my time to take part in a project called TextNow, which allowed me to accept responsibility in a reading program on a one to one basis with a younger student with the aim of increasing their average reading age ability. Since I have had a passion for reading for as long as I can remember, I relished the chance to share my enthusiasm but also used the experience to gain more of an understanding for other people's reluctance to read. I enjoyed my role as a guide and took pleasure from seeing my student flourish as a fellow reader as he progressed and increased his range of vocabulary.

I have held a part-time job since the age of 14 as rather than being idle, I prefer to have something to work towards and achieve. For three years, I worked hard as a waitress; a position which highlighted the importance of being professional at all times and opportunity to learn how to balance my academic studies, outer school activities as well as my job. Also, for the past two summers I have worked at Saltern Caravan Park; a job that I found requires strict time keeping, organisation and discipline. I chose to complete my work experience at a local factory; Reeve's Calendars as a computer design student. I was introduced to all the positions held in the factory before settling in the design department where I used my IT skills to the best of my ability and was able to complete customer orders and run them to print. I also designed my own personal header and followed it through the different stages of creation before I had my own personal calendar printed and bound. While this wasn't a position in which I was able to pursue my love of English, it was an opportunity to appreciate a different working environment and become aware of the skills required for a position of responsibility in design and management.

My decision to study English Literature is fuelled by my desire to continue developing my appreciation of the power a language can hold. As part of my Welsh Baccalaureate Investigation, I looked into whether or not it worth keeping dialects alive that are only spoken by a minority of people. Personally, I believe every language holds equal importance to its native speaker and they should be cherished. Human nature is of great interest to me and by continuing my studies in this area I will have the opportunity to further develop my understanding of morals, motives and their influence throughout society.