



AP[®] English Language and Composition 2002 Sample Student Responses Form B

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In the midst of chaotic everyday life, a peaceful rendezvous with nature serves as the perfect healing source. Nature is simultaneously mystical, yet unknown, and this is the concept Edward Abbey ~~tries to~~ writes about in his essay about Aravaipa Canyon in New Mexico. Like the many other writers who found solace in nature, Abbey praises, relates, and describes nature.

Romantics believe that noticing the little factors in ^{nature} ~~the~~ are important, and this can lead to harmony with nature. Certainly this aspect of romanticism can be seen in Abbey's essay. Abbey is constantly observing the tiny details of nature, like "the little heart-shaped tracks of the former apparent in ~~the~~ sand." Or he notices how javelina have "tusks, oversized heads, and tapering bodies." These are small details a normal urban-life person wouldn't bother to notice, but Abbey does, allowing him to have a connection with nature. For example, Abbey relates an experience ~~when he~~ where he meets a mountain lion. In "~~that~~ "mutual curiosity," he feels "wonder (over) fear," and for a moment, he feels this bond w/ nature. "I stopped, the Big

cat stopped, we peered at each other through gloom." In another instance, he notices how javeina are "omnivorous, like us, and equally playful." Abbey sees reflections of mankind in nature.

Along w/ acknowledging and relating to nature, Abbey also praises nature. He writes, "any desert canyon with permanent water, like Aravaipa, will be as full of life as it is beautiful." He feels that his brief experience in Aravaipa canyon will 'enrich the urban days to come.' By writing this, Abbey shows the respect and value he feels towards nature. Nature can make a person's senses come alive and enjoy a natural place to the fullest.

Finally, Abbey acknowledges the unknown and ~~incomprehensible~~ sublimeness of nature. He rejects the idea that the world is comprehensible, saying that the world is "infinitely rich in detail." Therefore the "beauty, mystery" of nature cannot be wholly comprehensible. This sense of unknown isn't a problem, but rather an enigma Abbey treasures.

As Thoreau discovered the wonders of nature in a small, unknown place called Walden, Edward Abbey discovers nature at a "small and trivial and

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useless and precious" place called Aravaipa. In his essay, he marvels at nature's unknown and relates to its creatures. A day ~~with~~ with nature, for him, has been rewarding and mystical.

Man's attempt to dominate nature has been an on-going process ever since time began. However, Edward Abbey's essay of the Aravaipa Canyon portrays ~~not~~ a peaceful relationship between man and nature, and not of tyranny. In fact, his awe ~~for~~ nature is prominent. In this account for him, man cannot fully comprehend nature, hence cannot dominate. It is the other way round, where nature's greatness overshadows ours, revealing our ^{own} minute existence. Abbey's attitude is one of love and respect for nature, made evident by his constant praise and appreciation for it.

He relates Fuller's quote of the world being able to be scrutinized. The world for him is too great and large to be fully understood but "comprehensible only in part." In fact, every "portion of its surface" is "infinitely rich in details," revealing his awe for nature. He admits that all the world is not beauty, as he has to "stumble" over the rocks and the "ankle-chilling water," but these memories ^{only serve to} enrich the urban days to come." He feels that nature is equal to the human.

The second paragraph is informative with a lot of descriptive words. In it lies ~~the~~ words like "equally" and "like us." He compares the javelina to humans, and finds the common elements between the two. His account with the mountain lion is another example of his attitude of equality among animals and humans. He ~~and~~ says that there was a "mutual curiosity" between the two. There is a similar and common element of understanding. One is not afraid of the other, but stares into each

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other with equally studying eyes. Abbey unlike the lion, makes a "move to turn." The lion however, effortlessly leaps and melts into the darkness, revealing the ~~of~~ greater capability of animals to humans.

Abbey is a very pro-advocate in supporting the greatness of nature. He optimistically says "the very existence of existence is itself suggestive of the unknown - not a problem but a mystery." He sees it as a positive idea, and not a negative. The enigmatic ~~nature~~ quality of nature is precisely what he feels inferior for. The last paragraph has a repetition of ~~words~~ words and parallel sentence structure. We will never reach it, never reach the heart of it, and never understand even the smallest aspect. In fact, he realizes and admits that is our "redemption."

The essay is informative and full of personal account. As much as he presents objective information, there is also subjective account toward ~~the~~ nature. The beauty of the Aravaipa Canyon captivates Abbey. The beauty insinuated in him, reveals his own inadequacy, and hence humankind's. His appreciation for nature is beautiful, but never superfluous. He feels the folly of the human is the inability to understand nature, and hence never ~~become~~ become one with it.

There are few things in this world more precious than a nature free from the debilitating invasion of man. Edward Abbey successfully conveyed this idea in his description of his time in Aravaipa Canyon. The atmosphere he creates is almost surreal, made all the more so because it is so hard to find today.

Edward Abbey's attitude toward nature ~~is~~ stems from his sense of wonder when visiting the canyon. He does not seem afraid or concerned in any way about his apparent lack of safety. For him, it is a beautifully harsh paradise. The reason for this attitude might be ~~that he~~ the newness, the novelty of this landscape to him. He speaks of earning memories "to enrich the urban days to come." He implies that he must soon return to the city, a place far different from the canyon. Because he must leave ~~it~~, it, and possibly return to a city, where he might ~~be~~ already have been living (therefore giving him a taste of the different), he appreciates his stay here in greater degree, learning that it is not easy to find such undisturbed places in nature. ~~He~~ He believes that the world (exemplified by the ~~his~~ canyon, is "infinitely rich in details and relationships", further fueling his sense of wonder as well as arousing his curiosity. Where others might have abandoned such an idea after contemplating the beauty and mystery of nature, he would go on to explore and attempt to understand it, at least in part. Because he admits himself that it will never be possible to fully comprehend it, not even a place as small as Aravaipa. This impossibility to understand the ~~so~~ simple natural complexity of the world, with man nevertheless attempting to comprehend it, is what makes us human.

Abbey uses several methods ~~to~~ to bring across his ideas. He first opens with an anecdote, the meeting ~~between~~ ^{with} a

mountain lion in the canyon at daylight. It serves to create the singular mood that is prevalent throughout his piece. A mood of intense curiosity and delight in interacting with a new environment, an environment radically different from the one he lived in.

The rhythm of the essay is particularly interesting. Most of the sentences in the piece are quite long, but are contrasted by some starkly short sentences and asides, such as in his meeting with the mountain lion and the brief paragraph detailing his walk homeward.

The diction throughout is mostly simple, which appeals to the reader by giving him something he can read and appreciate. (Through Abbey's choice of direct and effective words rather than vague or technical terms) the piece. He almost creates confusion in the second paragraph when he starts talking about the canyon animals (Sonoran whitetail, javelina). He does go on to describe the javelina, though, and ~~give~~ renames the whitetail as the desert mule deer, which is somewhat easier to recognize. Overall, though, his diction is effective. He actively uses different verbs and adjectives to drive the description home. His descriptions of the animals and his walk home are good examples.

Throughout the ~~essay~~^{piece}, Abbey provides a surprising insight into the workings of a man's mind in respect towards nature. We can see, as readers, that there really is an entire world out there that we know nothing about, and the beauty, ~~the~~ its wild indifference, ~~is~~ is enough to ~~make~~ make the reader to at least try to take in some of nature's beauty the next time he leaves his home.