

The Teen Scene

Tomorrow's Voices Today

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The Teen Scene is now a fully on-line newspaper. For the work of students from *Brunswick Early College, Cedar Grove Middle School, West Brunswick High, and Leland Middle School* visit cfvts.org



Brunswick County Early College

The Haunting of Leigh Harker A Review

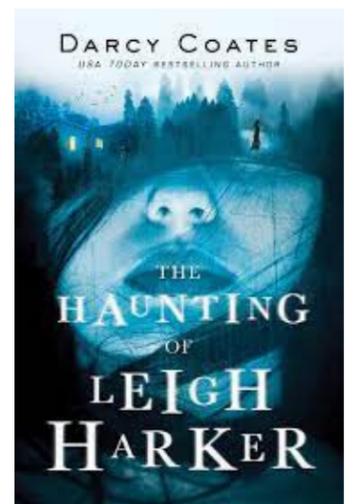
Grace Cairnie, 10th Grade



The Haunting of Leigh Harker is a horror fiction written by Darcy Coates. The story follows a young woman named Leigh Harker as she discovers that her beloved home is being invaded by something horrible. As she struggles to rid her home of this intruder, she discovers things about herself and her home that left her horrified. Will she conquer this infection before it consumes her and her beloved house? Find out by reading this masterful composition.

Ms. Coates has long since proven herself an authority on writing horror. Her ability to seamlessly weave mystery and terror is shown in nearly all her works. However, having read several of her books, it is evident that her true talent is her tantalizing descriptions, specifically of large, old, very creepy houses.

Just a few words in, I found myself completely consumed by this book. Everything from the words themselves to the pictures they paint is exquisitely crafted.



I will not spoil anything, but I will say that the book is filled with twists. These are done as masterfully as the book's other components, each inconspicuous detail building upon itself to create an ending that remains entirely unpredictable.

The characters are built exceptionally well, given how much of the book is committed to developing the plot. In only 352 words, I felt I knew every character, especially Leigh. Everything she felt, I felt. Ms. Coates made it so the book's readers felt fear, sadness, and happiness, alongside its characters.

Consequently, closing this book felt like saying goodbye to a good friend. I think this sadness is worth it, however, given how excellent the book is.

In short, The Haunting of Leigh Harker was full of unforgettable characters, twists, and thrills perfect for enjoying on a rainy day. I highly recommend this book to horror and mystery lovers alike. Whether a stranger or veteran of Darcy Coates's writing, I am positive that you will thoroughly enjoy the journey it takes you on.

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Psychiatry: The Medical Treatment of the Soul

Part 1 - What is Psychiatry?

Nathaniel Brown, 10th Grade



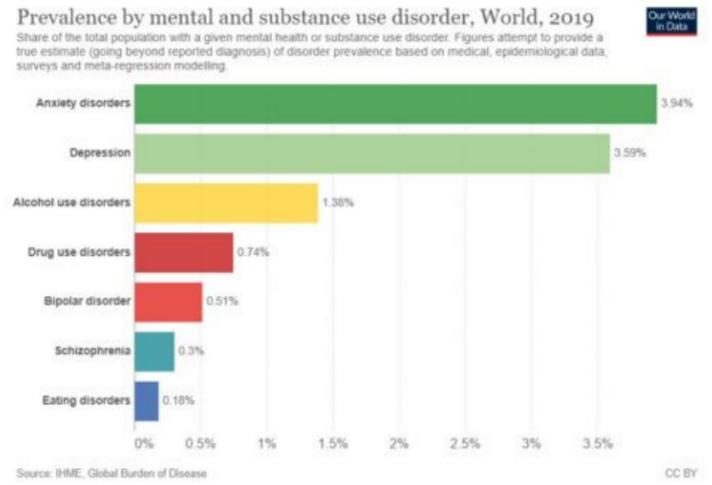
Oftentimes when the need of psychiatric help is mentioned to people without mental health issues, they often overlook its importance. Many people believe that psychiatry is only needed when someone is in extreme mental distress, attempting or having thoughts of attempting suicide, or if they in major depressive episode. Psychiatry can be good for anyone with a mental health concern, no matter how big or small.

Let's start by asking ourselves what is a mental health concern? Contrary to popular opinion, there are several mental health conditions or disorders that even when minor can benefit from being treated by a psychiatrist. Some examples of overlooked conditions are anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), and dissociative identity disorder (DID).

While these I mentioned are neglected there are so many others that are as well. According to Mental Health Association (triadmentalhealth.org) there are more than 200 forms of classified mental illness, and more than 60 million Americans have a mental illness each year.

Now that you know who needs a psychiatrist, let's talk about what psychiatry is. According to the American Psychiatric Association (psychiatry.org), "Psychiatry is the branch of medicine focused on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental, emotional and behavioral disorders". People may choose to seek psychiatric help for many reasons such as thoughts of suicide, visual or auditory hallucinations, or even a panic attack.

Psychiatrists are trained to pick up on



things so small you couldn't even tell anything was wrong. So, when faced with the question of is seeking psychiatric help worth it? Ask yourself, are you willing to risk your own health?

The biggest takeaway I hope you received from this is that you do not need to wait until you have a mental breakdown to see a psychiatrist. Their job is to prevent that from happening.

Maturing

Jessica Gomez, 10th Grade



When I was young, I thought that maturing would be like flowers blooming in the spring. Easy, simple, and beautiful with no stress at all. I believed that there would be some hard but not difficult moments that would help me mature. I had to learn that blooming is more complicated and more stressful than it seems to be and not that beautiful.

At age 11, I got my first period. I was terrified because I didn't know what was going on. Was I going to die? My stomach hurt so much that I thought I was going to pass out. My mom explained that it was all part of maturing and that things would be easier from now on. But would things get easier?

Walking back from high school when I was 15, I passed by a group of older men. "Hey, babe, you got a boyfriend? Dang girl, that your butt is popping. You'll look so much better in my bed. I want to lick your --" I was utterly disgusted by their comments. I decided to ignore their comments. My friends had once told me to ignore men's catcalls, so I did. My mom told me that the catcalls from men would eventually stop. But would they truly stop?

At the end of high school, when I was 17 and a month away from my birthday and graduating from high school, I received terrible news. Someone had broken into the house and had robbed 2,000 dollars from the save. They had a gun with them and had murdered both my parents because they didn't want any witnesses, but before they could hide my parents, the police got there. I was left all alone and had to live with my grandparents. My grandma told me that things would get better, and I had to stay strong. But would things get better?

After a couple of years, I graduated from college and started working as a dental hygienist. I was now 25, and I had brought myself a house, had a husband, a car, and a pet dog that I named Biscuit. I know a silly name, but he made me happy. My life was coming together like puzzle pieces coming together. I remember thinking to myself that things were getting better.

Unfortunately, a year later, there was a house fire. I was asleep when it happened, and now I'm in the hospital trying to stay alive. My skin is swelling, I have blisters, and I can't move. It felt like someone had repeatedly beat me with a bat for over an hour. It hurts to open my eyes, let alone keep them open for a small amount of time. I can only listen. I had heard that I was burned badly, which I had already figured out. The doctor had said that I might die.

I started to think back on life. At 11, my first period, at 15, the first time I had gotten catcalled; at 17, my parents died, and now when everything was good, I wouldn't be able to enjoy it. Things happen for a reason, and all those events have matured me and shaped me into the person I am today. As bad as those things were,



they've helped me. I looked around the room to see my husband crying, and a tear slipped down my cheek looking at him. I closed my eyes and everything faded.

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Leland Middle School

Writer's Block

Lily Rae Bradley, 8th Grade



I sit here, waiting, staring at this empty screen. I had so many ideas and hitches until this point. Until I open the computer and click on the docs. Only to this point, I will stare at the same white screen, as if there

is a large wall blocking my path to my imagination. And so, I sit her, just staring, fidgeting with my fingers, typing a letter but then deleting it.

Over and over and over again. I think back to dreams or memories, but none seem too good to write about. Nothing seems too good to explain.

Nothing seems to be good for adventure. Nothing.

So, I stare at the empty screen again. Eyes drooping, mind shutting down. Until the screen is white no more. It is black.

I wake up, my eyes gazing around, my curiosity feasting on every little thing here. Soon I won't be interested. I act as if it will disappear at any moment. But it doesn't.

Soon my hunger for knowledge dies away as I stare out at the empty, black room.

But a speckle of something pops out of the blue. A burst of light dashes around, as if it is leading me somewhere. So, I chase it. Until it leads me to a large brick wall.

I furrow my brow and walk up to the wall, the iridescent spark levitating beside me.

I rest my hands on the wall. It is cold and rough. The bricks scratch my

palms. I push on the wall, with much force, but it doesn't seem to budge. I groan and anger starts to swell inside me. With fury I run back and dash forward, smashing the wall with my side. But it doesn't leave a mark!

"What is wrong with you?!" I groan as if the wall could answer me. And. It. Did.

"What is wrong with you! You're the one trying to knock me down!" It replied simply.

"Well, I wish to get past!" I retort, the fact of the wall talking to me just now kicking in.

"What if you're not meant to get past? Huh? What about that?" It snapped.

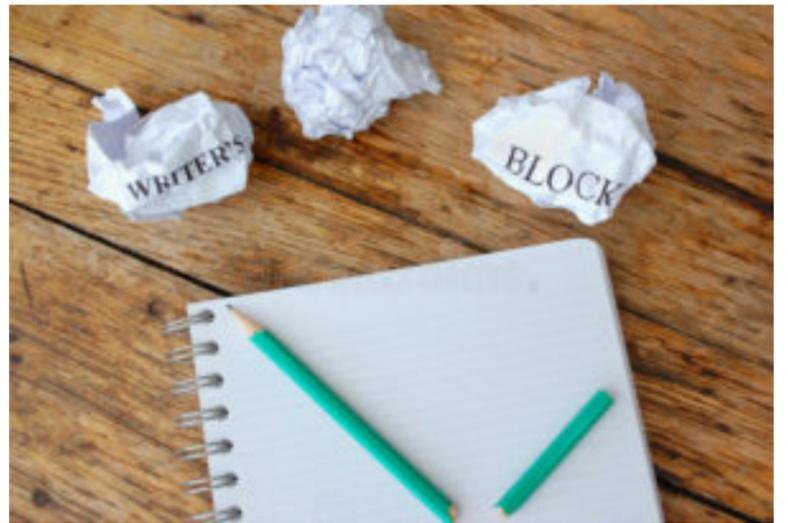
"What?" I ask, looking up at the source of the noise. "But this fairy thing led me here, so of course, I'm supposed to get past!" I point my thumb at the floating spark beside me.

"Oh... Silly, silly, silly. I can not believe you trusted such a creature!" It exclaimed.

I glanced sideways, confused, and studied the hovering orb. It just drifted there, unresponsive.

"What in heaven's name do you mean? That thing is perfectly fine! You're the one who's blocking my way, not it!"

"Hmm... Have you ever heard of writer's block?" It asked. "Yes." I nodded.



"Then you must know that I'm not the obvious. You're just following your obstruction. The farther you go with it, the harder it will be to find a way out. I suggest you go."

It speaks. I stare for a moment, my mind flaring with questions. I eye the orb once more and turn around, back the way I came. I headed in the opposite direction where the orb led me. It vibrates as if it wants me to turn back. I shake my head and keep walking, but it tries to stop me. I walk around it and I see something ahead of me. Like a bright, glistening light, calling for my imagination. I start to race forwards, faster and faster, as to where the orb can't keep up.

Suddenly everything starts to slow down into slow motion, and I notice I am leaping, almost touching the glowing light. Before I know it my brain flashes with images and ideas, almost like a dream. My head jolts up. It seems that it was just a dream... But imagination and ideas spiral throughout my head, and I smile and turn to the blank computer screen. Flexing my fingers, I start to write.

Forever Yours

Kieran Daniels, 9th Grade



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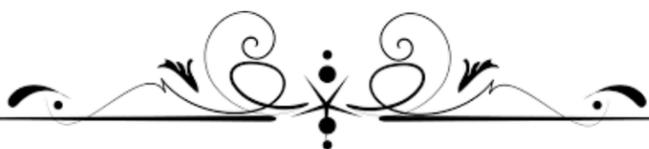


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What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) premier scholarship program. Nearly 80,000 high school students each year compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is "Why Is The Veteran Important?"

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state, and national levels. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$156,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 84,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

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Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national levels. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. The first-place national award is currently \$5,000. The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 to be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

For details go to: vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Patriots-Pen-Entry-Form-Fillable.pdf?v=1&d=20220408T154335Z&la=en

Why Write?

Gerald Decker, Publisher of Teen Scene

Basic writing skills are so important to one's ability to reach one's potential in their academic endeavors.

An article published in 2020 by Easy Reader and Peninsula entitled "The Importance of Writing Skills: Why It Matters to the Student" gave five reasons why teens need more writing is important.

They are:

- Because it Improves Communication Skills,
- Because it Sharpens Creativity and Imagination Levels,
- Because it Widens Knowledge Base,
- Because it is Vital to Academic Success, and
- Because it Increases the Level of Confidence.

It is a very short article and explains why each of these is important to the young scholar.

Check it out at:

easyreadernews.com/the-importance-of-writing-skills-why-it-matters-to-the-student/

Sports are an important element in our academic careers. But could you imagine how good our writing would be if we practiced writing with the same intensity as high school athletes practice their sport? Many of them will never play that sport beyond high school. Writing skills will be needed your entire life.



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