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Instructor's Name

ENGL 1013

Date

All-American Boy

As a student begins to lose concentration in class, he or she might notice that the most interesting subjects to study are the other people. If eyes linger on John Doe, one might immediately label him the typical American guy. Having cleanly cut gold curls and a straight smile, despite a couple of rebellious teeth once reformed by braces, and adorned in a comfortable t-shirt and cargo shorts, although usually of a dark hue, he is basically what comes to mind at the title "all-American boy." In some ways, this is accurate. He hails from the definition of a small southern community which is nestled near the northern border of the state with only twelve thousand calling this place home.

Among the peaceful inhabitants are the Does: an average nuclear family composed of a father running his own business, a mother working as a nuclear medical tech, John, and his younger sister. Although he may not recall much of his childhood home, there are images lingering of a cozy playroom and friendly neighbors. As any good American man has done, he played football all through school, even though baseball was more enjoyable to him. He spent a lot of time with his maternal family, the paternal side conforming more to the "crazy Arkansan" stereotype, and followed their example of loving the Lord. Attending the same church for most of his life, John values the Southern Baptist experience of the close-knit congregation. In a permanent display of commitment, he plans to eventually decorate himself with symbols of his unwavering faith in the form of tattoos depicting an ornate cross and a verse of scripture.

His lifestyle away from commitments also carries some stereotypes of a male of western culture in his love of listening to Lynard Skynard, playing video games (his favorite being Battlefield I for its vivid and captivating historical fiction), watching Netflix, and doing computer coding. Coding, however, could also fall into the category of commitments since he hopes to turn this into his career in computer engineering, being drawn not only to the job itself but also to the employment guarantee, comfortable salary, and easy-going workplace. It helps, as well, that he has an uncle working for an engineering company with military contracts. His plans for the future continue this classic American dream, wanting only his career, faith, a wife, and a family.

Politically, he may not be a pure-bred Republican, as the all-American title would suggest, but he considers himself a conservatively swayed Libertarian. He values those wary of the two-party system as well as most traditional ideologies. These values are among the reasons that he would never live in his favorite place that he has gotten to experience, Regensburg, Germany. While the town is fascinating and breathtaking, Germany allows large groups of people, some of whom violently oppose his personal beliefs, to enter the country with little inquiry into whether they are a potential threat.

Even though he will never take up residence in his favorite place, he has lofty goals for life that he fully intends to accomplish, such as to write a book and skydive. As the thought of the latter terrifies most, it unnerves John for reasons other than most would assume. It is safe to say the majority of people would not skydive due to the nauseating height or seemingly endless plummet to the earth. For John, however, the fear lies in the potential impact from such a great height. The thought of the massive amount of damage and poor quality of life in the rare circumstance of survival from such a trauma scares him more than anything, enough that in the

event of falling inevitably to the ground, he would dive head first to ensure no excruciating recovery.

Shades of his personality that lie outside the characteristic of classic boy from the U.S.A. include his love for dark literature. He specifically likes a series depicting a world in which vampires are chosen, not bitten, and recruited to a special school, sort of like a Hogwarts for undead predators. He also loves the father of sinister poetry, Edgar Allan Poe, specifically his short story "The Tell-Tale Heart." From this, it is not too hard to believe his favorite hue is deep midnight purple, the color velveting the evening sky. Another characteristic outside the usual all-American boy is that, given the choice to exist anywhere during history, he would embrace the macabre and partake in the nearly lawless chaos of Victorian England because he would not have to fear the consequences, welcoming a life of thievery and exhilaration.

In this life, however, he intends to tirelessly pursue his definition of happiness: to have absolutely nothing to stress over. While this seems a lofty pursuit to some, he worries little over the outcomes of circumstances, knowing full well everything that may come to pass has been designed to do so. Even in his most painful moment, a break-up with a girl he could have loved, his biggest regret is not that he allowed the romance to blossom but how bitter he allowed himself to become afterwards. Though he has not yet experienced true love, he prizes many tender moments of pure joy, such as a first date. With many joys in life yet to come, and assurance that they will be as they are meant to, John Doe, the friendly face across the classroom, has no fear of falling.