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Eng. 110 H4

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A powerful, recurring emotional theme is played out through lives every day. The types of food eaten act as a mirror into our emotional state of mind. Preference dictates the specific type of meal established for each emotional occasion. With so many unique opportunities food offers, specific types of food have come to represent certain emotional aspects in life, with the capacity vary culture to culture, family to family.

The universal celebration of life is often stapled around a specific person's interests, with a day dedicated wholly to them. Birthday cake is a regularly customized treat specifically for the recipient, a representation of love and happiness felt by the presenters. Raymond Carver's *A Small, Good Thing* follows this well-known tradition as "she ordered chocolate, the child's favorite. The cake she chose was decorated with a space ship and launching pad under a sprinkling of white stars, and a planet made of red frosting at the ether end. His name, Scotty, would be in green letters beneath the planet" (202). To celebrate Scotty's birthday, his mother made him a specialized cake that she knew he would enjoy as a sign of love and celebration. In Hunter Marcoux's "My Favorite Meal to Pig Out On," an interesting meal was experienced when "I realized that my fantasy meal had come to life... everything was green." Marcoux's family had made him green ham styled after his favorite book. Like the mother in Carver's story, Marcoux's family created a meal specifically designed to make him happy. Food acts as a mirror of expression to show those we care for a fraction of the well of emotion we hold for them.

There are times in life when a dish, brought about by those who care, represents something different entirely. Compassion, empathy, sorrow-- food has the power to convey

Comment [1]: add "our"?

Comment [2]: I really like how you are very broad with your ideas and bring up intriguing points right off the bat. I am understanding what you are trying to get across, but I think if you add a little more detail to each of your sentences I think that could help strengthen the points. I'm also not completely clear what your thesis statement is, so maybe mention the stories you are quoting and then state your thesis?

Comment [3]: This is a good start to a well organized essay...I would add more to the intro so it feels less rushed and reread for basic errors

Comment [4]: Another thing to make sure you do is introduce the essays/authors/story you are going to be using in the paper

Comment [5]: who is the "she" the quote starts with? Add a bit more background detail into the quote here.

Comment [6]: I would introduce the story some more so that there is context for the quote

Comment [7]: maybe put this before the quote so its clear to begin with. you can always restate after

Comment [8]: I would cushion the transition from quote to quote with more explanation

Comment [9]: Maybe introduce this essay prior to making this point

Comment [10]: Excellent addition of detail about the quote here

Comment [11]: I like how you connect the two stories clearly here

Comment [12]: try to clarify the wording here a little bit. Maybe say "food acts as a mirror to show those we love an inkling of the deep emotion we hold for them". Not great so maybe think of something better!

Comment [13]: I feel like this is a weird phrase here...when talking about food its not usually "bought about"

Comment [14]: or you could say "of conveying"

unspoken words between two people. Lindsay Watts offers a compelling example of comforting food in her essay "A Change in Comfort." On the worst day of her life, Watts "couldn't help but catch a whiff of the cheese-covered noodles steaming in front of me; it was mac and cheese. Yet again, it comes to my rescue." This meal was present during a traumatic time in Watts' life, made and given by her mother who knew "macaroni and cheese has been [Watts'] comfort food through the good, the bad, and the ugly." In making this dish for Watts, her mother exemplifies her understanding and compassion in her daughter's difficult situation and offers her a consoling element.

Likewise, Carver establishes a moment of emotional connection between the baker and the parents who just lost their son when "he served them warm cinnamon rolls just out of the oven, the icing still runny. He put butter on the table and knives to spread the butter. Then the baker sat down at the table with them. He waited. He waited until they took a roll from the platter and began to eat. "It's good to eat something," he said, watching them" (217). With nothing to offer the grieving parents but the fruits of his labor, the baker gives them a small reprieve in the form of fresh, warm food. Like Watts' mother with macaroni and cheese, the baker establishes an emotional connection with the people through food.

Food can also represent a mutualistic emotion, rather than an offering of understanding and compassion. A strong underlying tone meals can represent is that of love and happiness.

Ashleigh Jackson provides a concrete example of the power food wields in life, how it has the unique characteristic to bring people together. In her work "MasterQuiche," Jackson describes "a time when everyone in the family comes together; my nana, pops, mom, dad, brothers, aunts and uncles, and their kid. My favorite part of camp is when my nana bakes that one special meal: quiche... a special dish we have only as a family." As a meal that brings the whole family together, quiche represents a physical manifestation of the love shared among Jackson's family.

Megan Libby offers a similar experience in "Nana Banana Cream Pie." Libby offers a moving scene in which "[My grandmother] places the sunshine yellow pie in the middle of the table, and

Comment [15]: you can add [] and change the words in the quote so they make sense grammatically with what you are writing

Comment [16]: I think there is another word you could add that would sound better as it relates to a meal

Comment [17]: try to explore further into this situation so people can feel the hardship that Lindsey endured

Comment [18]: I do think you need to go into more detail about what this situation was so the readers can truly understand

Comment [19]: Add some more of your thoughts here

Comment [20]: Just kidding I think google docs is messing up the paragraphs haha

Comment [21]: Should this be indented for a new paragraph?

Comment [22]: I think when you have a quote this length you're supposed to indent but I'm not positive...also you could use less of it maybe so that the paragraph is more your thoughts too

Comment [23]: I like how you tie these two ideas together and I think you justify your reasoning well.

Comment [24]: Indent here as well?

Comment [25]: need something here

Comment [26]: Make sure when you use quotes you are using them to support your ideas and not the other way around...This feels a little like there are too many quotes and not enough explanation (but it's the first draft and a great start!)

no matter what the conversation was previously, the atmosphere in the room completely changes. It is as if we have gained a newfound togetherness, and the negativity is pushed out of the room." In the presence of this pie, the whole family gathered around the table ceases to be individual entities, but a single mass focused on one thing and one thing only: banana cream pie. Such a distinct, profound emotional and physical response in the face of a single dish, an understanding among the entire family. The banana cream pie acts as a tether of understanding among Libby's family and strengthens their connection with each mouthful, much like Jackson's quiche. Both dishes are physical representations of the strength of emotional connections among both Jackson's and Libby's families.

Comment [27]: Make this a block quote, more than three lines

Comment [28]: This is a great start to a paper, you just have some things to add/take away. Make sure not to force quotes and to introduce the authors/essays in the intro somewhere!

Comment [29]: I think you have many strong ideas in your paper. You express them very well and it was a very interesting read. I think if you introduce your sources in your introduction and add a little bit more into clarifying your opening ideas in your intro that would be beneficial. It must have been hard to bring in so many sources, but I think you are relating them well. Nice start!

Comment [30]: The paper is very good. It flows neatly and you present some great ideas. In some places there is room for you to expand on some of the ideas you express. However, I believe you are in a good spot in this process.