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English 162W
Assignment 2- Reflection Essay

The purpose of my project is to focus on the inner feelings of the protagonist of The Tempest, Prospero. As we know Prospero is an evil individual who believes he should be treated as God. In much honesty, I know people who are like this and what I interpret from their thinking and actions is they are so power driven, they miss out on the important little things in life, such as family, friends and love. I want to use a name story comic as a way to show the other side of Prospero.

My project serves that purpose because it is a name story comic. A name story comic, adapted by “Harvey Pekar’s Name Story”, is a simple put together comic explaining one’s name. Perhaps the origin, family history, like or dislike of the name, or any noteworthy experience with it. Using Prospero’s name readers would probably predict that every dialogue will be Prospero bellowing “Power! Power! Power!”. Yet, I’ve done the opposite.

Before beginning my project, I knew that I wanted to do something simple yet heavy. At first, I wanted to create a comic book of the love between Miranda and Ferdinand. However, as I dug deeper into their relationship, I noticed it was very dull. I was stuck. After, I remembered other forms of comics, which brought me to the name story comic. What made me focus on Prospero was how well his character description resemblances the people I encounter everyday. I felt I understood him in a different way and I wanted to provide this second side to him. My first couple panels on page one does give a sense that Prospero is a dictator, “my name is Prospero and you should refer to me as such”. I want this dialogue to let readers know automatically Prospero is stern, so that I can use the rest of the panels to shift their interpretation. If I had

begun with Prospero emotionally breaking down, readers would not understand why he feels this way. I first wrote out a script where every nine panels delivers a different feeling, which slowly runs down to Prospero declaring he is nothing. After I composed the script, my drawings had to mimick the words. This was the most difficult part because I am not an artist. I wasn't sure how to draw Prospero. So I drew him very simple and in a wizard-like way. The lack of creativity in my drawings, I believe, truly puts emphasis on the dialogue, which is really most important. Yes, Prospero's eyes are covered. I did this purposefully to imply that Prospero is ashamed of himself so he covers his face. His long beard shows how worn down he is. I want him to look as he feels, like he is in isolation.

My intended audience are people who feel power is everything. People who channel all their energy and focus into an interest which leaves them feeling alone. Prospero is lonely because he pushes people away and only caters to himself. Prospero is not someone anyone wants to be around therefore he is left with feeling neglected and alone. I want my audience to understand that power corrupts mentally and emotionally.

At first I simply wanted to focus on Prospero as he is told in The Tempest, but I felt that would have been too boring. To repeat the obvious interpretation, which is Prospero is evil. As I think of the term evil and those I associate it with, I can't help but feel sorry for them because they do not really have a place or a person to call home. This may even trickle back to what a utopia means to conniving people. When they get what they want, are they truly happy? For example Prospero accomplished his wizardry and is ruler of an island yet he cast a storm to make amends with his brother. If anything, utopia is not a physical place of perfection but rather a mental one. If you think and feel you are in a perfect state, then you are. I am satisfied with my

completion of this project because I accomplished my purpose, which was to show that power does not equal to happiness.