

Shoaib Laghari

English

Narrative Essay

### My Journey

“Shoaib, bring me a bottle of water,” my brother said. Without replying back, I just got up and went to go get my brother, Ali, some water. I had just been staying home, doing nothing, and enjoying doing nothing. I was laid down on the my brother’s bed as I watched him play on our PS3. I think he was playing Call of Duty, he would play it all the time and never let me have a turn, so I just sat there and watched him. Never did I really understand what was going on, me being about seven or maybe eight years old.<sup>1</sup> For around an hour or two, my sister would not stop bothering me. “Come on Shoaib, everyone’s at the playground.”<sup>2</sup> I didn’t want to go, because I was already tired and like I said earlier, enjoying doing nothing.<sup>3</sup> Since I wouldn’t go, my sister was too scared to go alone so we both just stayed inside, but she wasn’t very happy because she doesn’t get the point of video games and wants to go outside. Soon enough, she gets one of our friends’ attention, and walks over. Fatima, my sister, did this kind of knocking and just looking outside of our porch window, until someone saw her and realized that she wanted to come play. In a little bit I hear some knocking on the door, and just look at my sister. After a big, deep sigh, I end up getting up and opening up the door. It was our good friend, Bailey. He has a big brother, who also plays with us as well but he didn’t come to the door. “Hey Shoaib, we’re about to start a game outside. Want to join?” At this time I was still struggling to keep my eyes

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<sup>1</sup> The World of Common Day

<sup>2</sup> The Call to Adventure

<sup>3</sup> Refusal of the Call

open, and I really felt like taking a nap. I just turn around and look at Fatima, and roll my eyes. “Sure, give me a second. Don’t start without us,” I reply. I go into the kitchen and grab a drink. I felt like I needed some juice to wake me up, and even though I didn’t really want to go play outside, I downed the drink and went back to the front door. My sister was in a hurry, so she quickly grabbed her shoes and put them on. I, on the other hand, slowly leaned down, put on my socks and shoes one by one, and just put up an attitude for no reason. We both head outside, and walk in to the playground. We lived in a square-shaped apartment complex, kind of, and the playground was pretty big, in the middle of everything. All of the kids, me, my sister, Bailey, Marty, Eldon, his sister, Nicholas (we just called him Nicky), and maybe some other smaller kids, were all gathered around a table that was placed on the corner of the playground. “What are we doing?” I asked all of them. Marty, the oldest one there, replied, “We’re about to play a game, is everyone good with fake-playing Hunger Games?” They were all excited, other than man hunt, this one was a fan favorite.

Everyone grabbed their “weapons”, as in sticks as swords and stick bows with home made arrows. Marty yelled, “Go!” and everyone who was playing quickly dispersed, spreading out in the playground, outside the woods, even farther out past the complex. At first, I was confused, but my sister grabbed my arm and we took off together. I hated playing a game with my sister as a team, she wasn’t very helpful, but I guess regardless we looked out for each other and kept the other live and well. A few minutes after we are out of the sight of all other players, it got weird. We decided to play the safe game, and ran backwards where no one else went. After a long sprint into the safe zone, there was a loud ringing noise. It was like a beep, but really, really high-pitched. Then, my vision began fading away and everything was turning white, as it

was also ringing very loudly. This lasted about 5 seconds, then I opened my eyes again. I look next to me, and my sister had become a grown woman. I was amazed, she looked like Athena or something, not the little, scared girl she just was moments ago. I looked down, standing, and realized I was much taller, and also a lot stronger. Well, I didn't know how much stronger I was, but you could tell I had gotten a lot more muscular after the transition. That wasn't even the craziest part. After all of that, I had a weird feeling in my stomach. It was like there was someone else inside me, watching over me but not doing anything, just there.<sup>4</sup> We didn't have much time to realize the situation, before we heard a loud whistle from our left. A whistle had symbolized that someone was out of the game, but we also heard screaming, like the person who lost the game had actually got hurt.<sup>5</sup> We were about to go over there, me and my sister, to check on the person to see if everything was okay, then the weird presence in my stomach whispered, "No.." I got scared, but I wasn't afraid of the voice, I was more surprised. "Wait," I said, "don't go, it sounds dangerous." Fatima, confused, turns around and walks back towards me. "What's happening?" She asks, and I reply, "I don't know.." As confused as we both were, we understood that the scream we heard just earlier didn't sound very fake. Then, we saw one of our friends. I couldn't quite make out who it was, because just like us, they had also grown up to adult size. I went up to him, and before I could get out "What's g--", he hit me in the face. "What was that for??" I exclaimed, confused and slightly scared. Then, he went in his back pocket and pulled out a knife. I went into panic mode, but didn't know what to do, then all of the sudden, he fell to the ground. My sister, from behind, had broken off a twig from a tree, and it became a type of throwable dagger. She put it right in his back, and I was astonished. Fatima, my sister who has been scared

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<sup>4</sup> The Meeting with the Mentor

<sup>5</sup> Crossing the First Threshold

of spiders and cockroaches, just killed someone right in front of me. But, I guess she saved my life, so I thanked her and grasping the idea of this new world we had been put in, we better understood our main mission.. to get back home alive.<sup>6</sup> We scramble and decide we've had enough of this high risk action, and go back to cover and hide for a bit. We also decided to lay low because all we had was my mini sword/blade that I didn't know how to use and Fatima's collection of kunai. In about 30 minutes to an hour, we had already heard two more loud whistles, meaning two more people had been eliminated. Counting the ones from earlier, that meant that four out of nine are already gone.<sup>7</sup> Including my sister and I, that mean there were three people left to deal with, or for others to, but we have to confront at least one. With only three other people going against us, even though we didn't know if they were all by themselves, or one team of two, or even a team of three, we decided to move out since we had a lot of space left uncovered. We also thought it would be best to go on the offensive rather than being eliminated first. From a distance we saw two people we recognized, Eldon and his sister. They hadn't seen us yet, so we sneaked behind them. Fatima, being as clumsy as she is, steps on a stick which makes a loud "CRACK" sound. They both turned around instantly, as Eldon shouted, "Who's there!" We came out from the bush, and revealed ourselves to them. They were both armed with weapons, Eldon had a long sword and his sister had a dagger like mine. Thinking back, this had been so abnormal because just yesterday, Fatima and I were eating dinner at their house, and now we're face to face with stares of death. The first thing they did was Eldon charging right at me, as my sister and his backed away. But not only did they back away from us, they went closer to each other. I don't recall seeing what happened with the battle of the sisters',

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<sup>6</sup> Tests. Allies and Enemies

<sup>7</sup> Approach to the Inmost Cave

but all I could think of is the man sprinting full speed in front with a sword. I dodged and rolled out of the way, and then we clashed blades. He kicked my leg, and I punched his gut with my unoccupied hand. As I noticed he had become tired and weak, I waited for him to stab in with his sword, and then snapped it out of his grip with a kick. Unarmed, he tried to dash towards and tackle me, but I had no choice other than to put my blade right through him, as he fell on his knees. Then, breathing heavily, I looked over. I saw my sister standing, with bits of blood over her body, and Eldon's sister disappeared. I didn't bother to ask what happened, so we just moved on. We were almost done, with just one more person to defeat. As I was tired and distracted at the time, I heard a thud behind me. I turned quickly, and it was Fatima. She was laying on the ground, not moving, with an arrow to the back. I didn't have time to go to her, I realized I was in trouble and a lot because an arrow meant a bow, and a bow meant Marty. Marty, like I stated earlier, was the oldest of us all, and was the only one of us who knew how to make and use a bow. Another arrow came down, but it missed me by a couple feet. Quickly, the subconscious that probably saved my life earlier spoke again, telling me to attack quick and not let him think about what's happening when it's happening. As he jumped down from the tree I discovered where he was at, I quickly counter attacked. Ending the intensity quickly, I threw my dagger at him with full force, as soon as he landed, not giving him time to react. Unexpected as it was, it hit him, and then he slowly collapsed.<sup>8</sup>

The loud ringing returned, and everything began fading into bright white, until I couldn't see anything. I had already recognized this as what happened when we came into this world, so I was expecting to be out. When everything went back to normal, I was a kid again.<sup>9</sup>Marty was in

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<sup>8</sup> The Supreme Ordeal

<sup>9</sup> Seizing the Prize

front of me, just laying down, and getting up. My stick that I had thrown at him was just sitting next to him, and he was picking it up. I looked around, and everyone that was “dead” was just going on their knees and getting back on their feet. We all walked back to the table we started the game on, and chatted for a bit about everything that happened. I don’t think they experienced the same thing I did, because they were talking of stick swords and play bows, where I was seeing real stuff. After that, my sister and I walk home, exhausted from everything that had just happened.<sup>10</sup> I came back home, much happier than I was at the start of the day, and glad that I went outside. I had learned a lot of things from this journey, and lessons that could reappear in my life later on.<sup>11</sup> When I walked in, I grabbed a Caprisun, jumped on the bed, and just laid down to watch my brother still playing Call of Duty, as he was when I left. Finally, everything was back to normal.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> The Road Back

<sup>11</sup> “Resurrection”

<sup>12</sup> “Freedom to Live”