

## What Drives Me

Leah Silva

10<sup>th</sup> grade

Bosque Farms Christian Academy

Reading is great. Whether the book is about that shy, nerdy girl who falls in love with the hot jock or about a swashbuckling girl who totally kicks butt and must save the universe or the outcast boy who has superpowers, books are an escape to me. If my favorite character, Bob, dies, I cry along with the book. Bob was a great person! When the boy falls for the girl and they kiss, I am always ecstatic. Even nonfiction books are interesting. If the book is about martial arts or cooking, I enjoy reading them. Manga and graphic novels are beautiful too. My point is, no matter the kind of reading, I love it, nonetheless. It transports me away from reality for a few minutes, but writing is a thousand times better. I get to make up my own world.

Reading is fundamental. In kindergarten, children learn to read and write. It's a slow process and not many kids enjoy it, but I remember learning to read. I would have to read those really small books that were only ten words long. It wasn't much, but I would feel so accomplished and happy. Even before I could read, I would make up stories and tell my family about a princess or a shark that could walk on land. Looking back, the stories were bad, and I think my family listened because I was a cute baby.

After I learned to read and write, I would write down my stories. I would draw pictures to go along with the book. One of my longest running series was Happily Ever After. It was written and illustrated by Leah. As I got older, I stopped drawing pictures to go with my story. One story I wrote was Sweet and Sour. It was pretty much a rip-off of one of my favorite shows. I would slip in big words like benevolent or philanthropic so I could sound smart. It was always super forced though.

I would share my stories with everyone. I entered a story of mine in a competition when I was still in elementary school. I won first place which was surprising considering I wrote about a worm. After that win, my teachers noticed I had a knack for writing and every year they have been forcing me to write a short story and every year I have placed. I sound full of myself, but it's true!

Now that I'm older, I notice some errors in my favorite books. If there is a grammatical error or misspelling, I find it hilarious. "They used who instead of whom!" Or if the author could've used a better word, I notice it.

Writing is beautiful. Writing is magical. Writing can be funny or dark or touching. The emotions conveyed by the writer is up to the author. It's like a whole world that is up for you to decide by a stroke of the pen or keyboard in this case. Writing drives me.