

Arrogant English Major



EPISODE 1: ILLUMINATION

A MEMOIR WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY ANGELA R. COX

Arrogant English major
Episode 1: Illumination
A Memoir

March 13, 2012

Story and text:
Angela R. Cox

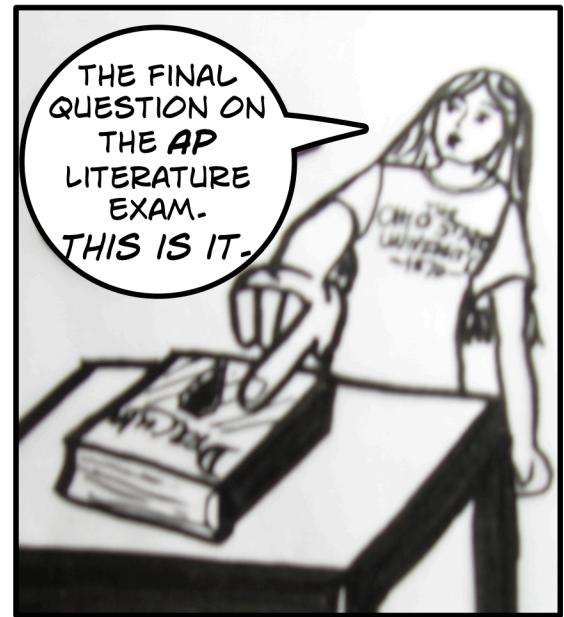
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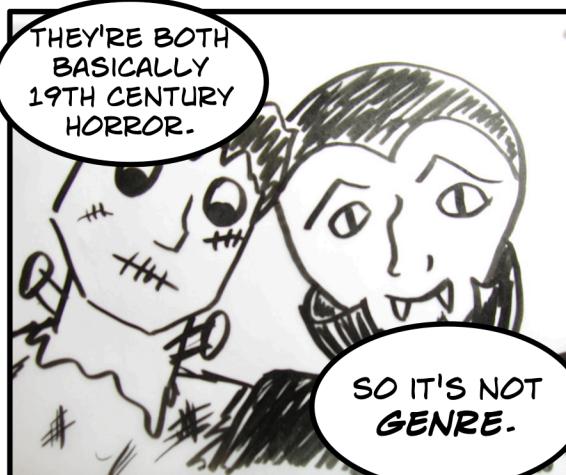
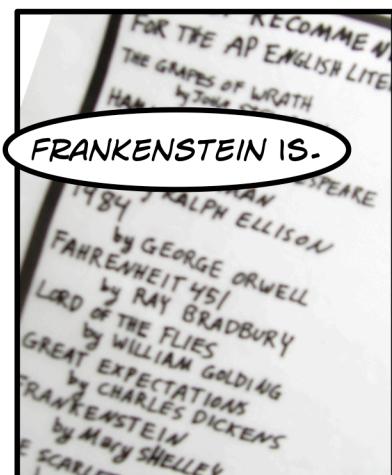
Additional illustrations borrowed from:
Saint George and the Dragon
Written by Margaret Hodges
Illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman

Portrait of Mary Shelley (p. 4)
By Richard Rothwell
Image taken from Wikipedia Commons

The narrative, characters, and scenarios contained herein represent the author's subjective memory; they are not intended to be accurate depictions of history. All opinions expressed herein are solely the author's.

OF COURSE, I NEVER DID TRUST THE LITERARY CANON...





OR IS THIS
LIST JUST
CALCULATED
TO MAKE
PEOPLE
MISERABLE
?

LIST OF RECOMMENDED
THE AP ENGLISH LITERATURE
HORROR AND HOPE DIE
BY JOHN STEINBECK
REVENGE AND DEATH IN
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
AM AND MORE RACISM
BY RALPH ELLISON
TOTALITARIAN GLOOM
BY GEORGE ORWELL
IGNORANCE AND NUCLEAR WAR
BY RAY BRADBURY
EVIL CHILDREN DO EVIL THINGS
BY WILLIAM GOLDING
DASHED HOPES
BY CHARLES DICKENS
PLAYING GOD DESTROYS EVERYONE
BY TOKEN FEMALE AUTHOR
PERSECUTION AND HYPOCRISY
BY NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

AND TO BE

OBSCURE?

IS THAT
IT?!

THE
OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY
-1870-

DEATH
BY GOLDFING

WHY DOES LITERATURE
ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO
DEPRESSING?

ANYWAY...
WHY CAN'T I
ANALYZE A
MORE
POPULAR
WORK?

THE
OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY
-1870-

BUT THIS ISN'T THAT STORY.

This is the story of how

I, an arrogant

English Major,

learned that

Literature

doesn't need to be

WORDS

alone.



WINTER QUARTER 2006

ENGLISH 201: PRE-19TH
CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE



(REQUIRED COURSE FOR
ENGLISH MAJORS)



IT DOESN'T GET ANY MORE
CANONICAL THAN THIS.



MY FIRST ASSIGNMENT WAS
TO READ BEOWULF.



ALL OF IT.



IN ONE NIGHT.

DON'T GET ME WRONG.
I LOVED IT.



AND THE TEACHER WAS AWESOME!

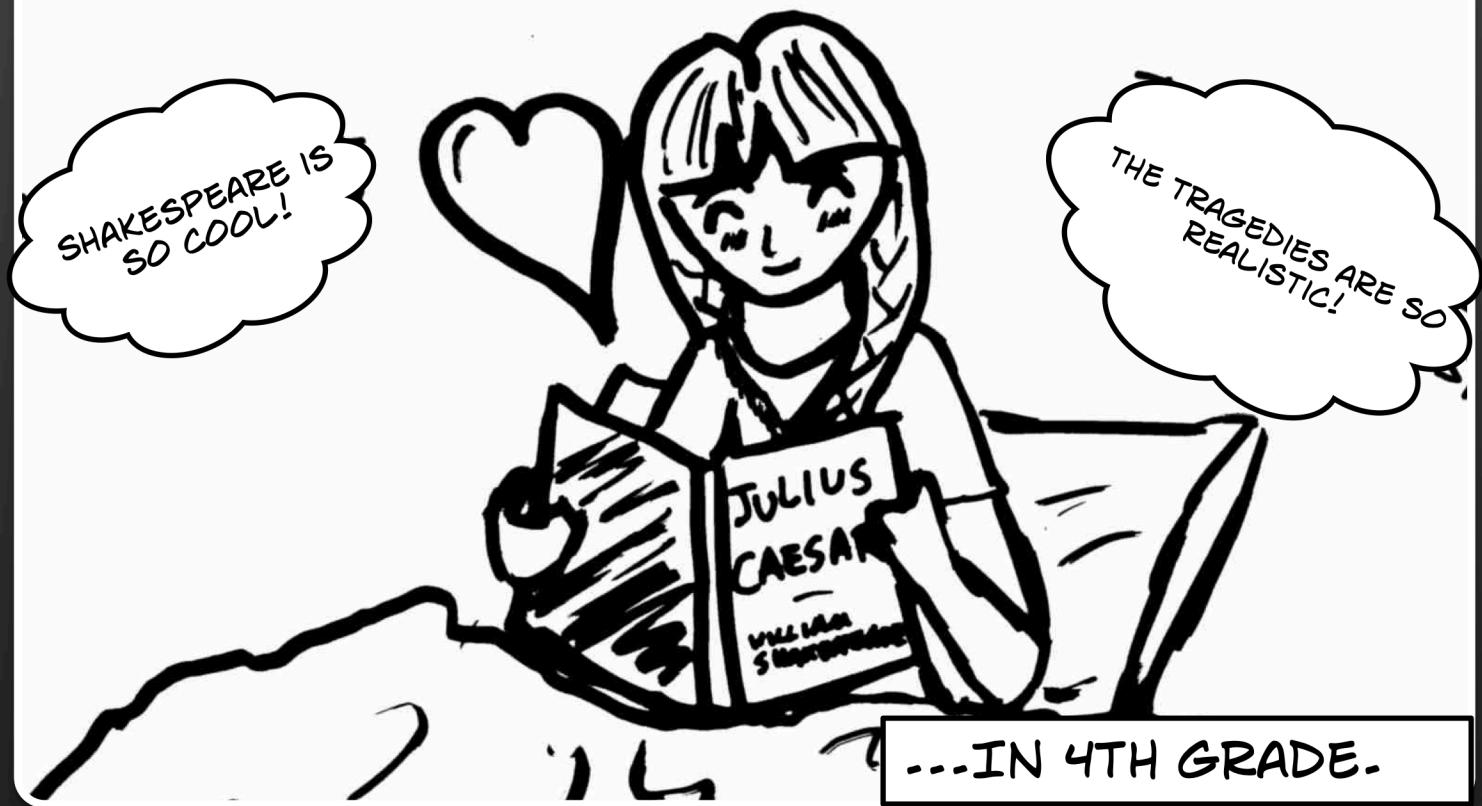
LET'S SIT IN A
CIRCLE TO
DISCUSS THE
READING!



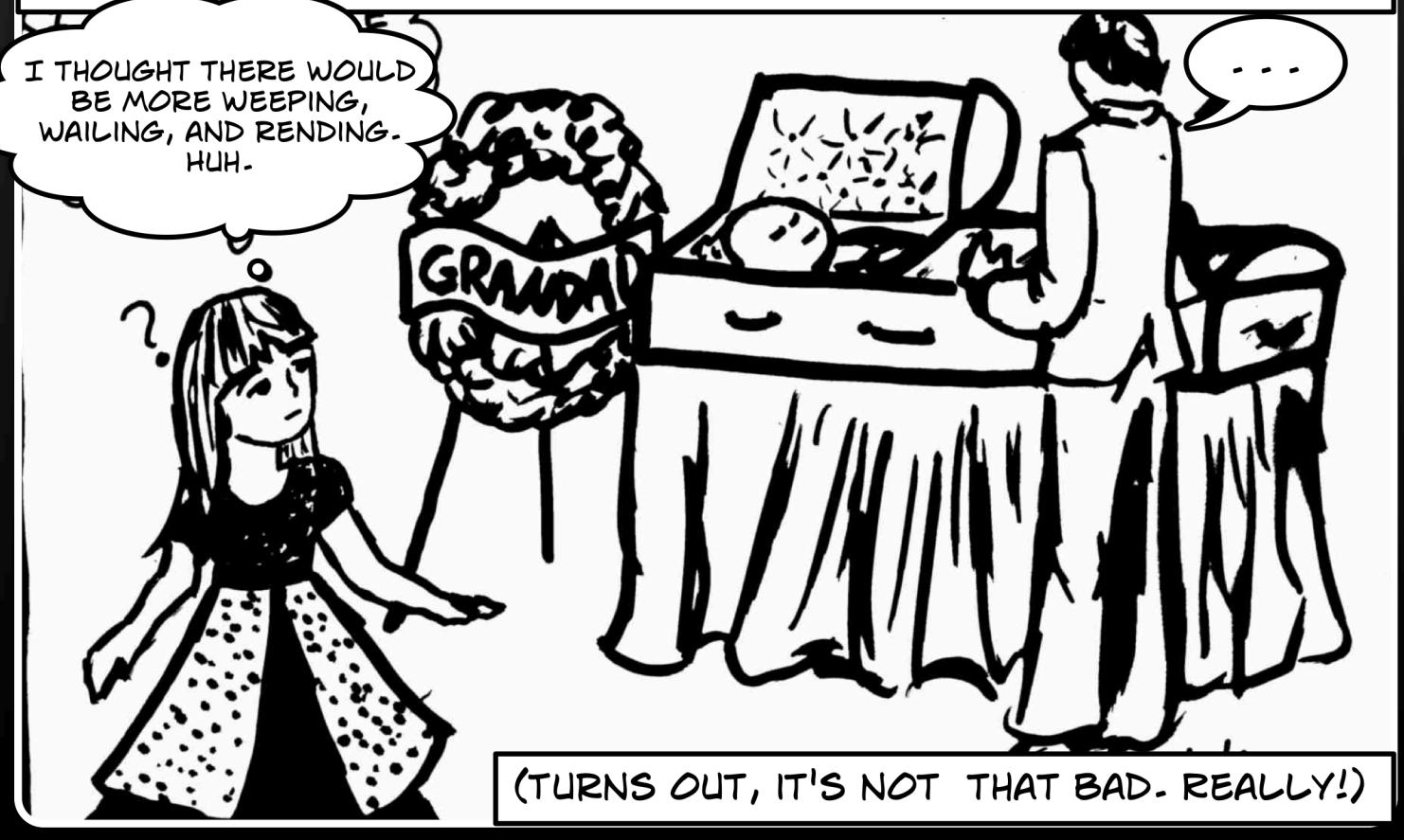
BUT I NEVER FIT IN WITH MY CLASSMATES.
EVERY DAY BEFORE CLASS, THEY DISCUSSED THE READINGS.



ONCE I THOUGHT LIKE THEM...



BUT THEN I LEARNED WHAT THE REAL WORLD IS REALLY LIKE.



BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE
THAT MARKED ME APART IN CLASS
EVEN MORE...



...I DON'T REALLY "SEE
THINGS" WHEN I READ.
NEVER HAVE.

WHAT I DO "SEE"
LOOKS A BIT LIKE
THIS, EVEN WHEN
I'M WRITING MY
OWN NOVELS:



(IF EVEN THAT)

USUALLY WHAT I "SEE"
IS A BIT MORE LIKE THIS:

o o

o o

o o

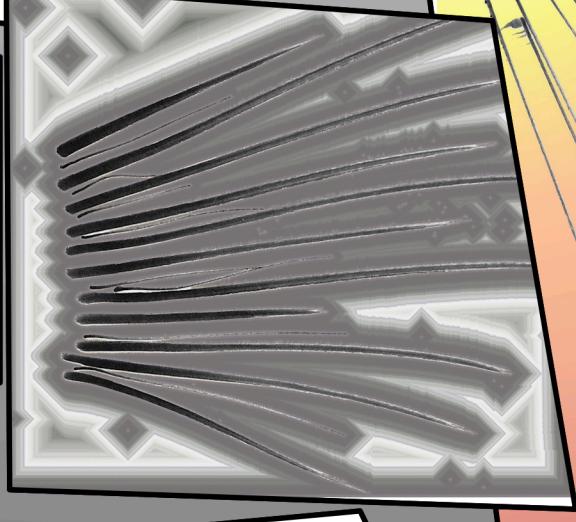
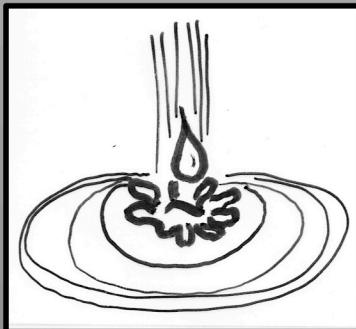
!!?

BLAH
BLAH
BLAH

_DIALOGUEY
_DIALOGUEY

EPIC SPEECH

=RRR!!!PPP!=



... SCHLEPPY ...

...YEAH.
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

SO NATURALLY...



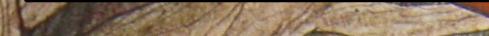
...I DIDN'T FIT IN.



AND SO WE READ...



...AND READ...



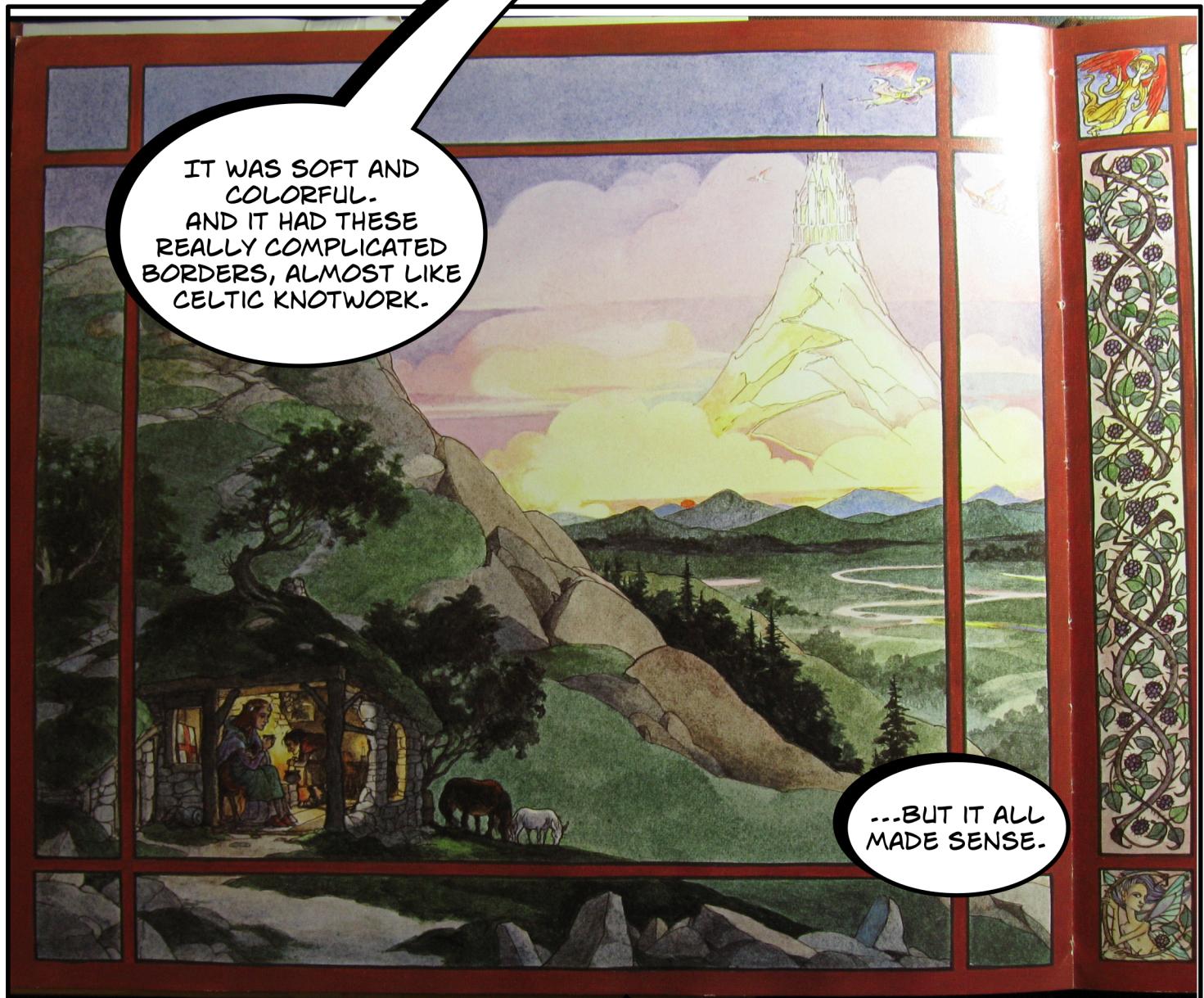
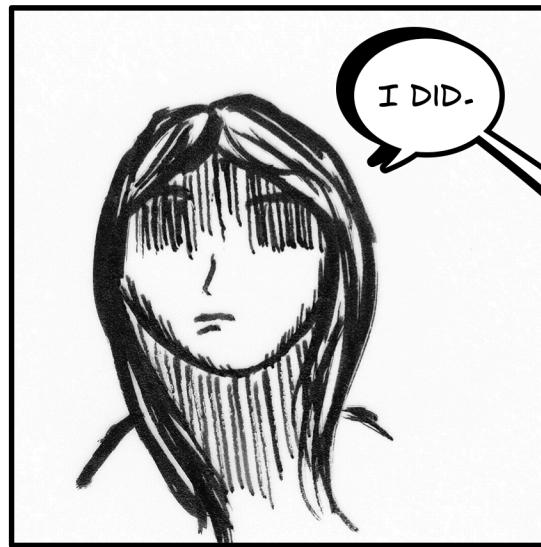
...AND READ...

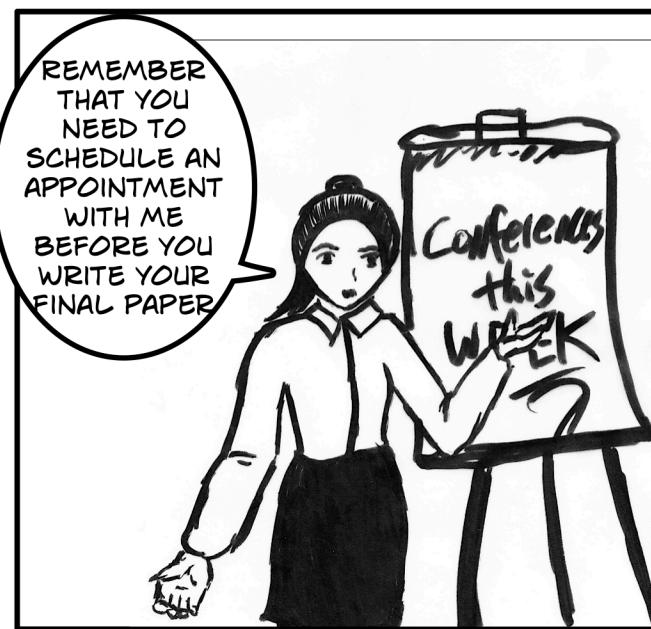
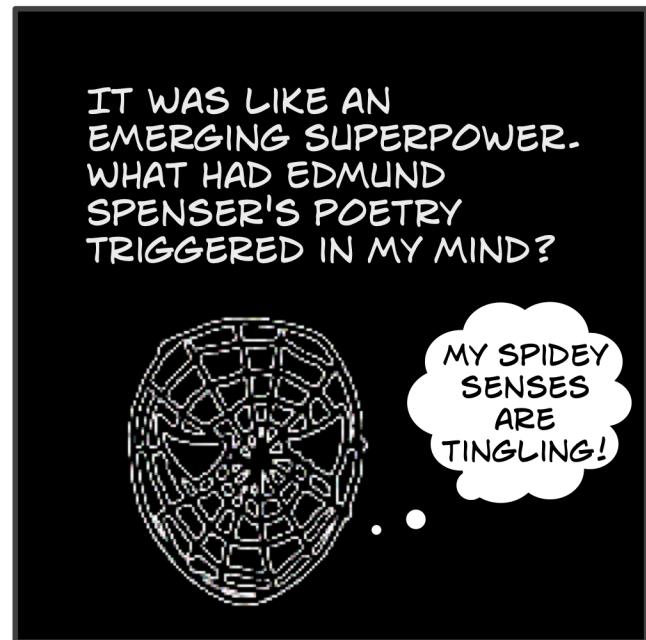


UNTIL...









WHEN I WAS LITTLE, THERE WAS
THIS BEAUTIFUL PICTURE BOOK.

WHENEVER I WAS SAD, OR
BORED, OR SCARED, I WOULD
SIT IN THE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY...

...AND JUST STARE AT
THOSE PICTURES FOR
HOURS, STUDYING
EVERY DETAIL.

I WANTED TO
UNDERSTAND
EVERY PART
OF IT.

SAINT GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

WHAT DID THIS
BORDER MEAN?

AND WHAT WAS THE
POINT OF THE CAT?

AND WHO WAS HE?

AND THE BLOOD...

...AND THAT
PRINCESS.
I WOULD GAZE AT
HER FOR HOURS.

...I WANTED TO BE HER.

THEN, THERE IT WAS...



Amazon.com: Saint George and the Dragon (9780316367958): Margaret Hodges, Trina Schart Hyman: Books - Mozilla Firefox

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www.amazon.com/Saint-George-Dragon-Margaret-Hodges/dp/0316367958/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1330412255&s

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Saint George and the Dragon (Paperback)
by Margaret Hodges, Trina Schart Hyman

4.5 out of 5 stars (56)
Paperback \$7.99
Add to Cart
115 used & new from \$0.33

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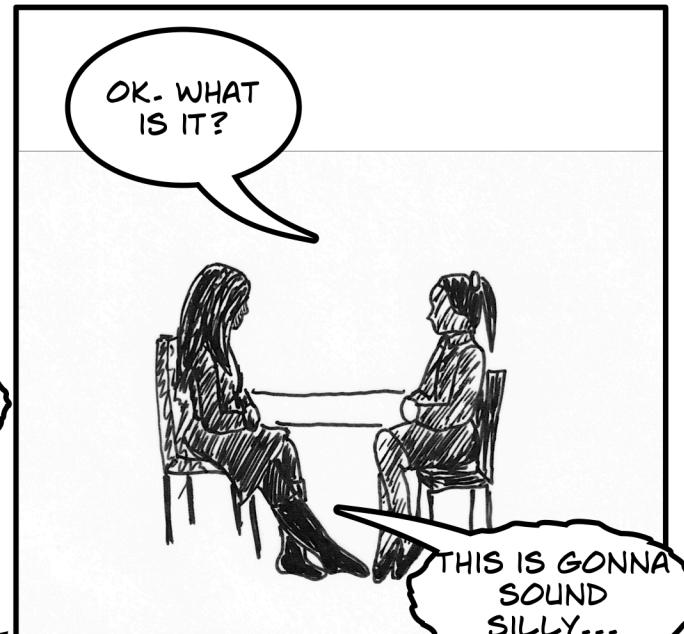
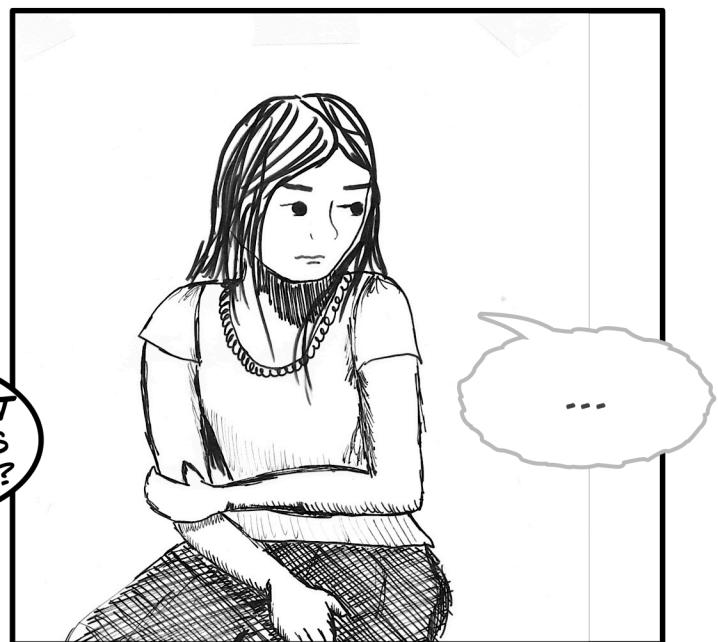
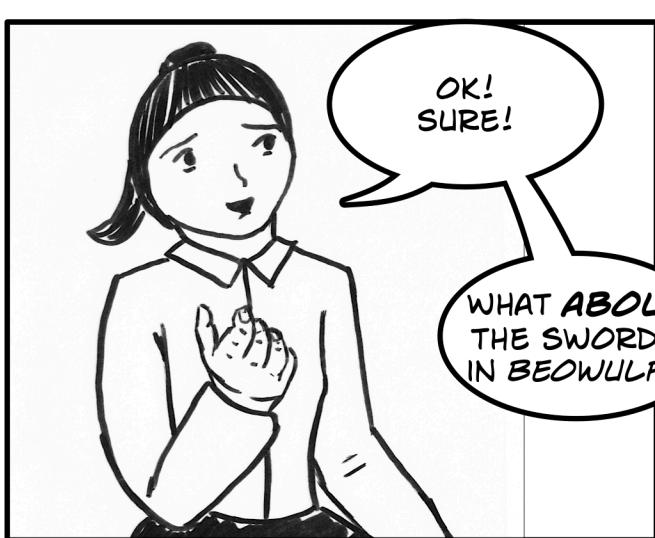
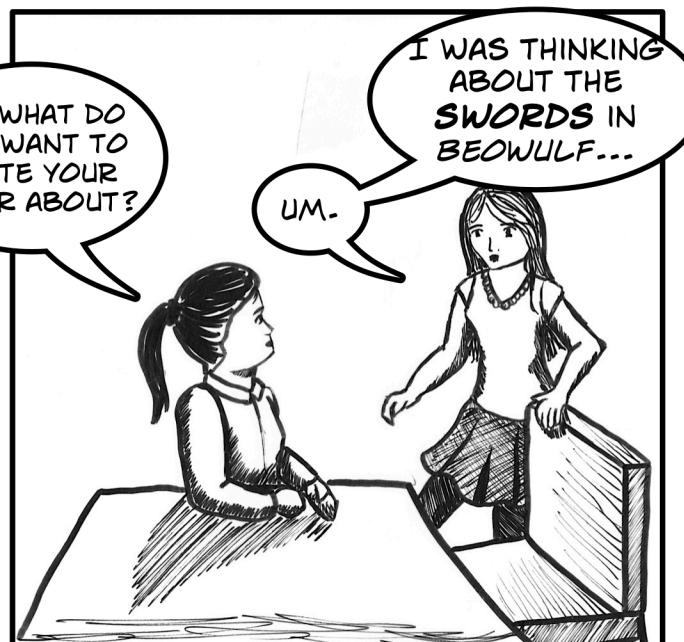
SAINT GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
A Golden Legend Adapted by Margaret Hodges from Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queene*

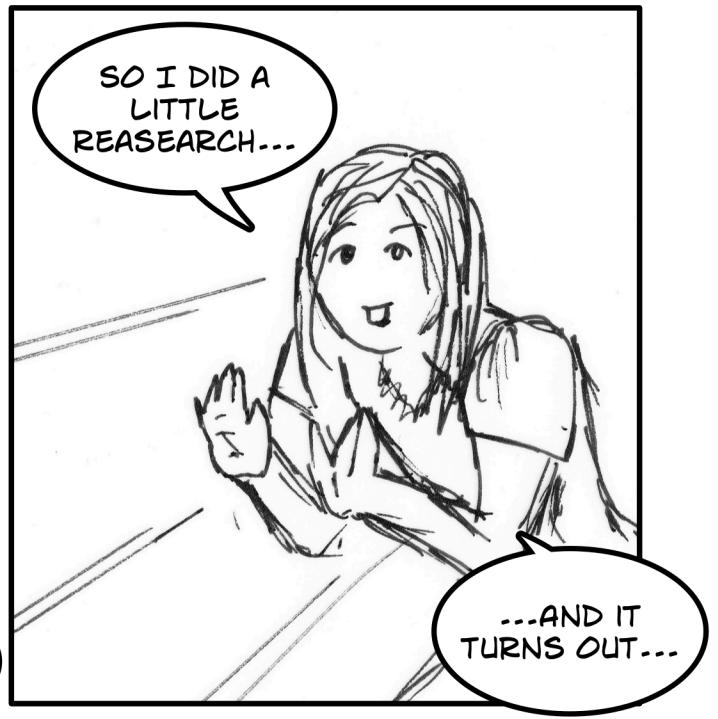
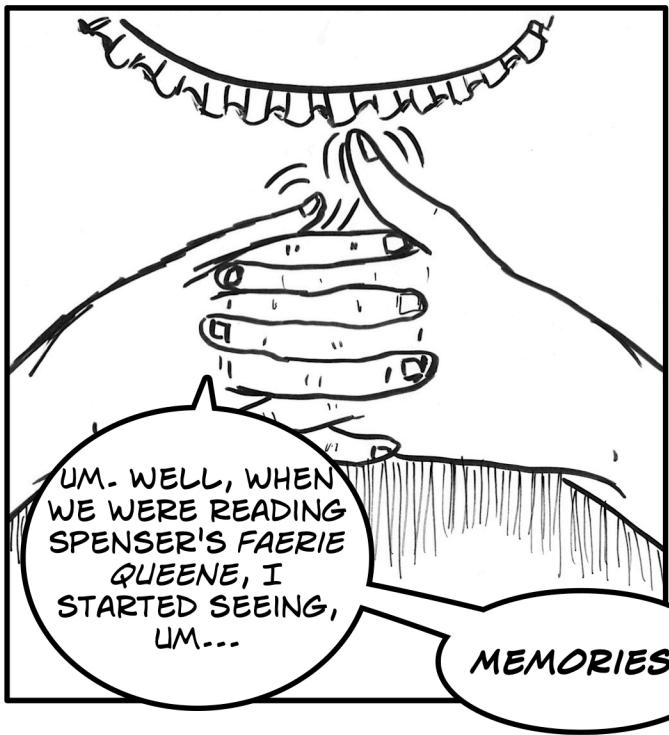
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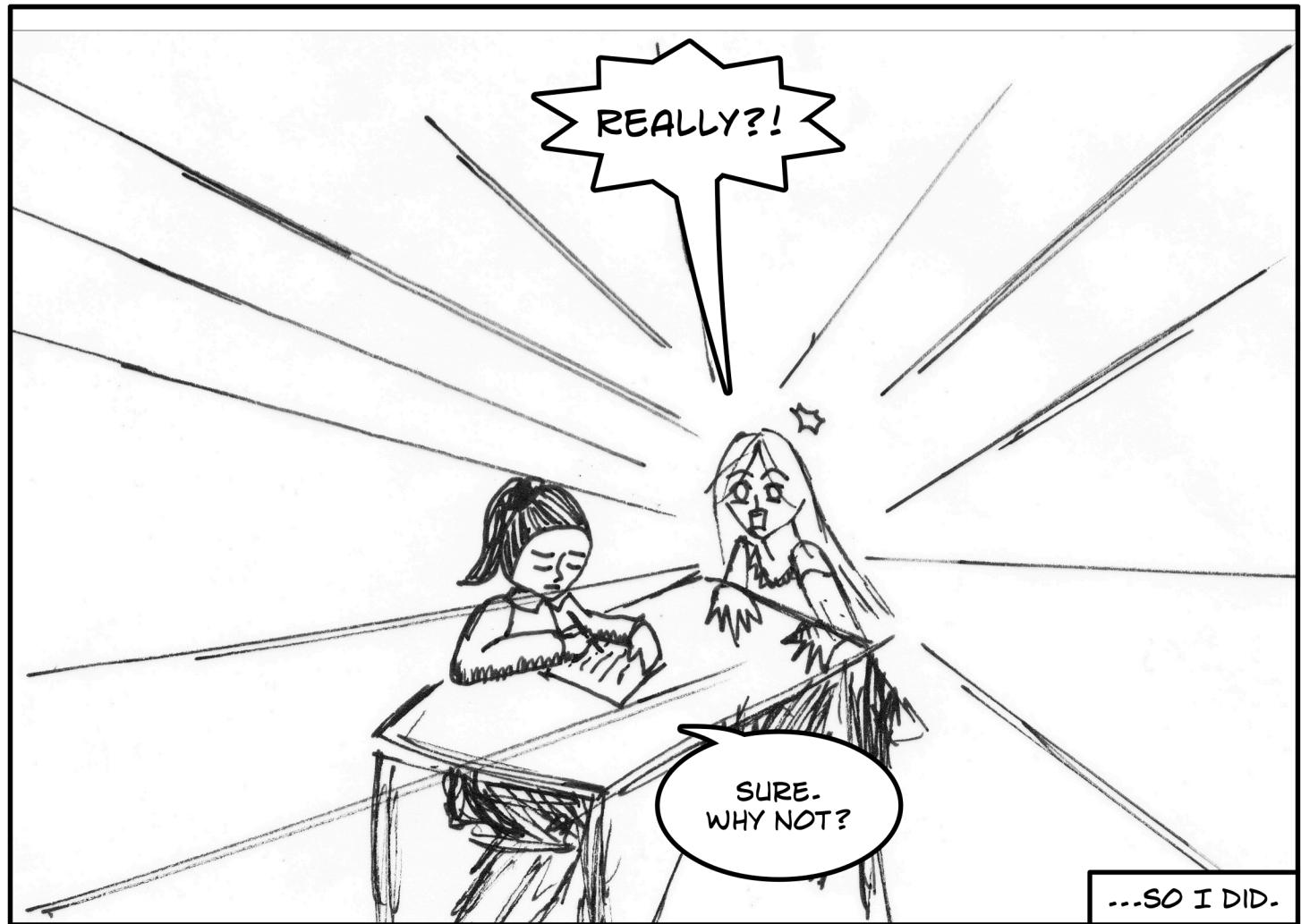
LITTLE, BROWN and COMPANY
BOSTON LONDON TORONTO

THE EXPLANATION.

- Li... Amazon.com: Sai... W IM - hrhZerik EN 12:58 AM







The Argument

"a noble knight was riding across a plain" --Hodges



"A Gentle Knight was pricking on the plaine" --Spenser



"he was bound on a great adventure, sent by the Queen of the Fairies to otry his young strength against a deadly enemy, a dragon grim and horrible" --Hodges

Equivalency of texts

"Upon a great adventure he was bond,
That greatest Gloriana to him gave...
To prove his puissance in battell brave
Upon his foe, and his new force to learne;
Upon his foe, a dragon horrible and stearne"
--Spenser



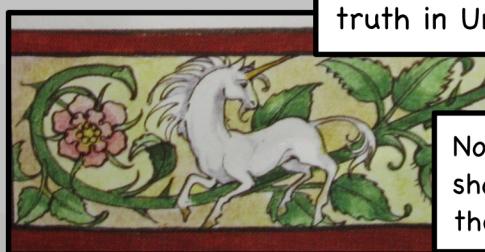
Tudor roses represent Spenser's allegory of the Faerie Queene as Queen Elizabeth I

"In many respects, it is Hyman's illustrations, not Hodges's writing, that make this adaptation fit so neatly into the structure of the original text by Spenser"

--"Spenser in Adaptation and Various Audiences"
March 2, 2006
(My final paper for English 201)



These pictures show The Red Crosse Knight's commission in the Faerie Court



The unicorn represents purity and truth in Una



The stag represents the knight's youth and eagerness to prove himself

Note the buds: they show potential for the characters

(AND SO ON...)

SO I DECIDED TO TEST THESE BOUNDARIES,
IF BOUNDARIES THEY REALLY WERE...

COULD I DO MY
FINAL PAPER ON
SOMETHING LESS...
TRADITIONAL?

SURE!

...LIKE, SAY, A
VIDEO GAME?

I DON'T SEE
WHY NOT!

BUT, THAT QUARTER, I STUCK
TO CHILDREN'S BOOKS.
THE GAMES WOULD WAIT.

YOU SEE, THIS
WORLD OF COLLEGE
IS STRANGE...

MORRILL TOWER

...AND THE
POSSIBILITIES
ARE ENDLESS!