**File Name: A7R The Fight for Education**

**Argument**

**Grade 7**

**Range of Writing**

**The Fight for Education**

*I ran as fast as I could. I could see my destination just ahead of me. Just a little further, I kept saying to myself, just a little further and I will have made it to the land of the free and the home of the brave, the land of opportunity.*

*Diego finally got to his destination. He had gotten to America without getting caught. Now he could get the education to become a mechanic.*

Like Diego, many illegal immigrants come to America every day for a better life and a better education. Whether these illegal immigrants should get the education they came for is very controversial in today’s economy. Some Americans think that illegal immigrants shouldn’t be eligible for instate tuition, but other Americans think that these illegal immigrants should be eligible for instate tuition. I am one who thinks that illegal immigrants should be eligible for instate tuition.

One of the most important arguments is that illegal immigrants pay taxes. By buying goods in America they are paying sales taxes, and in April most files and pay their [income] taxes. In fact, illegals pay about nine billion dollars in [Social Security] taxes every year. Where do these taxes go? They go to lowering the cost of instate tuition, making it so affordable today. So why shouldn’t the illegal immigrants be eligible for instate tuition when they are helping to lower the price of the tuition?

Another important argument is one that our forefathers set forth to make a better nation. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal…and hold unalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” If we are truly equal, then illegal immigrants deserve the same rights as we do for instate tuition.

However, some Americans say that illegal immigrants don’t deserve instate tuition because they are sending money back to their home country and families. But we do not know how much money they are actually sending back, and besides, this helps spread the money around. It may even help a foreign country to get out of poverty. This could actually stop more illegal immigrants from coming to America because they would be stable enough from the money that is being sent to them so that they don’t need to look to the land of opportunity for a job.

In conclusion, illegal immigrants should be eligible for instate tuition so, like Diego, they can follow their dreams. If you ever have to take a side on this issue, I hope you will consider mine.

**File Name: A 9-10R Is It Love?**

**Argument**

**Grade 9**

**Range of Writing**

**Is It Love?**

One of the most misunderstood emotions is love. There are so many

different perspectives that it can be interpreted as something completely opposite

of its intention. Harper Lee, the author of *To Kill a Mockingbird* states that “it’s

a love story, plain and simple.” This statement confuses many people because her

book is anything but a romance novel. However, that is not the kind of love she is

referring to. This is the love among family, friends, neighbors, and enemies. This love

is called *agape*, and as Martin Luther King defines it, it is “a disinterested love in

which the individual seeks not his own good, but the good of his neighbor…it begins

by loving others *for their sakes*…it’s a love seeking to preserve and create community”

(King 19-20). In *To Kill a* *Mockingbird*, love is brought up in many ways. Love is

shown throughout the book as different actions by the characters coming together so

they can understand each other.

Atticus shows love towards his neighbor Ms. Dubose, even though she is

completely disrespectful towards him. Everyday she insults Atticus and his children

because he is defending Tom Robinson, but he does nothing to stop her. Instead, he

sends Jem over to her house everyday for about a month to read to her. One day,

it is Atticus who goes to her house, and he stays for most of the day. When he returns

home, he tells Jem that she has died, and the reason he had to read to her was because

“ Ms. Dubose was a morphine addict”(147). Atticus knew that she wanted

to die free, and he helped her achieve her goal by sending Jem to read to her, so

she could get her mind off the drug. “She said she was going to leave this world

beholden to nothing and nobody” Atticus tells Jem (148). This is when Atticus and

Jem realize her true determination to no longer be a morphine addict, and it’s in this

way that they both truly understand her. Even though she was dying, Atticus still

sends Jem to read to her everyday to help her become sober. Even when she is dying,

Ms. Dubose is still trying to conquer her addiction, and it’s for that reason Atticus

says, “She was the bravest person I ever knew” (149). Love is shown here

because even though Ms. Dubose is completely disrespectful towards Atticus,

he steps up to help her die free. This is an example of agape because instead of

fighting hate with hate, Atticus loves Ms. Dubose, and by doing so, he is able to

understand her, and therefore love her.

Another place love shows up is during the trial. Atticus truly believes

that Tom Robinson is not guilty, and he goes out of his way to prove his point in

courts. A majority of Maycomb is mad at Atticus for even taking the case, let alone

actually trying to set him free. Atticus turns to the jury and tells them, “I am confident

that you gentlemen will review without passion the evidence you have heard, come to

a decision, and restore this defendant to his family”(275). Atticus fights as hard as

he can to prove his case, but it just isn’t what people want to hear. The jury votes

Tom Robinson guilty, and less than a week later he is shot. This upsets Atticus, and

especially Jem. But Atticus comforts Jem by telling him it affected somebody on the jury,

because one of the Cunninghams wanted to vote ‘not guilty”. Confused, Jem says,

“ One minute they’re tryin’ to kill him and the next they’re tryin’ to turn him loose…

I’ll never understand those folks as long as I live” (298). Jem is too young to really

understand, but Atticus knows his case is changing the views and thoughts of racism

in their community. After the trial, Atticus is surprised to find that the entire black

community gave his family a surplusof food as a thank you. This touches his heart

because he starts crying, and he tell Calpurnia to“Tell them I’m very grateful” (86).

We again see love in this situation because Atticus got the jury to understand Tom,

even though he ends up dead. Also, when Tom’s friends and family reach out to thank

Atticus for his efforts and his true support in the trial, we can see that there is

understanding. One step at a time, Atticus is changing the thoughts of the people

in the community to make it stronger by using agape.

One of the places we see the most love is with Boo Radley. He is just a

misunderstood man who Jem and Scout torment and talk about throughout the

summer. Boo, however, does little things to change their opinion of him. One night

when there is a fire, Boo Radley comes out of his house and puts a blanket on Scout

without knowing- a very loving and caring gesture. When Jem tells Atticus, he says,

“Someday, maybe, Scout can thank him for covering her up” (96).After

this, the kids start thinking of Boo differently. One night, after the play, Jem

and Scout are attacked in the woods by Mr. Ewell when they are walking home.

Suddenly, somebody kills their attacker and brings injured Jem home. It’s not until

they are home that Scout realizes it was Boo who saved them. “Hey, Boo” she says (362).

This is the part of the story that the reader sees how much Boo Radley loves Jem and

Scout. When Scout looks out from Boo’s porch, she glimpses his perspective, and

summarized the events that took place over the summer, and thinks, “Autumn

again, and Boo’s children needed him” (374). Boo cares for these children so much

that he considers them his own kids. This is another example of agape, because he’s

giving without expecting anything in return. It’s when Jem and Scout finally realize

this that they know they love him back, which brings them closer together.

We see countless examples of love throughout the book through the characters

actions. Martine Luther states that agape is “understanding” (King 19). The more the

characters understand each other, the more they come to care and love each other. This

makes them all, as a community, much stronger. “It’s a love story, plain and simple”

Harper Lee states. Not a romance, but a book in which agape is shown throughout.

This is a book of understanding, and when there’s understanding, there is agape. This

love is important because this is what human nature needs in order to become united.

King and Lee see this importance, and consider agape a tool used to bring people together

to make a stronger community.

Works Cited

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