

Toni Morrison Essay

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These past two years have been extremely difficult for everyone, including myself. But I can say that I learned many new things that have changed and shaped me into the person I am today. Covid did affect me physically and mentally, and never thought I would be where I'm at today looking back at those tragic times.

Growing up, I lived in Southern California with my mom and my two younger sisters. My mom had me at a very young age and was not prepared to have a daughter that young. We went through many obstacles such as being homeless, not having any money for food and the lists goes on. It did not help either that my dad left both me and my mom when I was only three years old. A couple of years later, both of my little sisters were born and I could not be more excited to be an older sister. As me and my sisters grew up over the years our family became a very toxic environment. My mom and my sisters dad would constantly get into arguments every night at dinner to the point where I had to take my sisters into another room so they would not be exposed to the trauma. I had to be the bigger sister and try to hold myself together so my sisters wouldn't see how it was affecting me. What really opened my eyes was when my mom had gotten into a physical argument with my stepdad and I got involved because he was physically hurting my mom and I tried to stop him from attacking her so she could get away. After that incident, I knew it wasn't safe for us to stay there and we needed to get help. I was only 12 at the time and have been exposed to all of this already so I took it upon myself to convince my mom to get us out of that environment. So, after about a year or so we finally moved away and we had gotten our own apartment. We were doing much better but now my mom was working full-time and when she would pick me up from school she would leave me home alone with my sisters to watch them. I didn't mind but over time it became stressful because I felt as if I was raising my sisters.

Fast forward to my sophomore year of High School, I had lost a close friend due to suicide and I became extremely depressed. My mom thought if she moved me to a private school that I would find myself and be successful. Moving schools only made it worse my GPA dropped, I felt lost with myself and my relationship with my became bad. I started to rebel and make bad decisions to help me forget all the pain and to feel numb. But, making bad decisions only made everything worse. My mom go to the point where she didn't know what to do to help me. So, my dad ended up taking custody of me and my mom told me the night before my flight that I was moving. I was in shock I didn't know how to feel or what to say. I was extremely saddened and I had to pack as much as I could and leave the next morning. I was never close to my dads side of the family growing up, so it was extremely difficult to adjust to living with him permanently. I was depressed for a couple months when I finally moved here and when I got enrolled into school, I went for a week and then covid hit. It was all bad timing and only made it worse for myself. But I knew secluding my self from everyone and just staying to myself wasn't going to get me anywhere. So, I took it upon myself to get a job at Dair Queen to distract myself from being sad and to meet new people. After a couple month I became friends with some people and finally started to go out and explore. Over the summer of 2020 I grew my relationship with my dad which helped us a lot. I also built a stronger relationship with my mom regardless of the past.

Junior year we had the option to either do virtual schooling or go in to the school, but for the sake of rising covid cases I did virtual learning. It was definitely challenging and not what I expected at all but it taught me a lot. I would always fall asleep during meeting because I thought it wasn't important and I would fall behind in classes. I realized what I was doing was not helping me at all so I started prioritizing my school work with life outside of school and doing

that helped me so much. I felt more organized and responsible. Personally I felt learning virtually was not for me because I like to learn in person with the teacher. I definitely became very mature and responsible especially after moving states and starting at a new school

I would say these past two years affected me in a positive way mentally and physically and I would not change a single thing. Now I am on track to graduate in May and start pursuing my dream of nursing in the fall.