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Mr. Coffin
English 521
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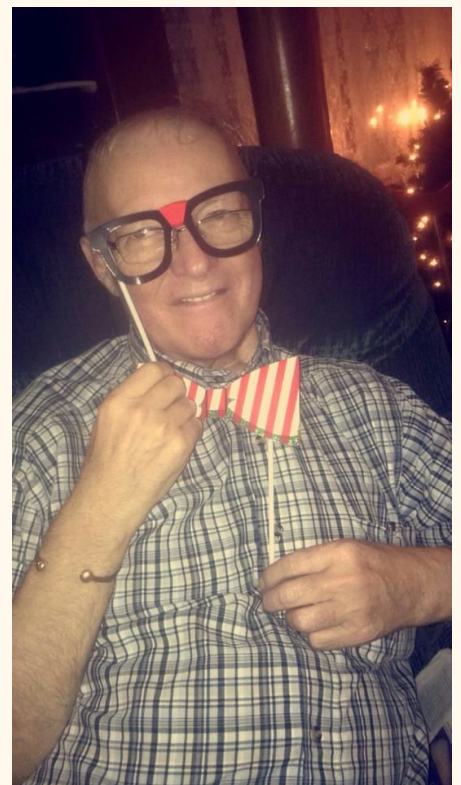
Growing Up.

“That’s the thing about
growing up...”

Non-Fictional Text: Eulogy.

December 25th, 2015 at 5:00 AM. Most people with young kids would see this as a typical time, or almost time, to be waking up to see what Santa had brung. Except for me from here on out, Christmas Day just marks another day that my Papa, Lloyd Arthur MacDonald, had passed away. He was the kindest person that I had ever had the pleasure of knowing. Out of all of the words that make up our english language there isn't one that I could think of that would truly have done Papa's personality justice. Papa really loved life. He created a family with the love of his life, my nanny, Audrey and they had five beautiful children one of which is my mom. Papa plowed many roads over thirty five years with his Caterpillar 101, which he loved just as much as his family. Papa lived 69 grateful years where he had been blessed with a very large family including, his five

children, his seven brothers and one sister, his twelve grandchildren, his four great grandchildren and many, many cousins, in-laws and nieces and nephews. He never took a minute of his life for granted even though he sure did not have it easy. He was sick for a lot of his life and had many health problems that were almost fatal but he had surpassed them, and came out a stronger person because of it. The thing that I loved the most about my Papa was that he never acted like he was 69 years of age. He was very much a youngster at heart which made it so fun to be around him all of the time. I can remember, on countless occasions, where he tried to score me a boyfriend in the lines at Sobeys, or the drive-thru at Robins. He was very kindhearted towards everyone he met and he loved to talk. If he didn't know anyone he would talk to them anyways, and by the end of the conversation he would know them. He is missed greatly by all of his loved ones, and especially "his" puppies Riley and Tucker, and his cat, Lucky. It will never be the same seeing his empty chair at Nanny's but it



makes it significantly easier knowing that he is up in heaven telling his stories with his parents and his daughter who sadly passed away at eleven months. He is buried beside her. Also, the Plowing Match will miss Papa greatly, he was almost a legend around there. If I could see him one more time I would just let him know that we all love him and appreciate everything he has done for his community. I had my Papa around me my whole life and growing up I most likely didn't realize the significant role that he played in my life. Growing up is hard because you start to realize things that didn't even cross your mind as a kid. But, *that's the thing about growing up...* you never know what you have until it's gone. His absence is felt strongly already but I know that I was very lucky to have spent so much time with him as I did. Rest easy Papa and please watch over all of us.



I think that it's pretty clear where my ideas came from to write this. It definitely wasn't hard to do. I chose to write my own version of a eulogy about my Papa and his recent passing. The hardest part is just knowing that I'll never see him again. I couldn't remember a time when he wasn't around, he has always been in my life. He is definitely one of my best friends. Everything that was said in the eulogy came straight from my own knowledge about Papa and his life. Growing up with him was awesome, but I still have a lot of growing up to do and it sucks that he's gone for rest of the time that I will be growing up. I always had four grandparents and now that I only have three it just sucks and it's not fair. He was one of those people that you could never get sick of and who could make you smile even when you felt like you would never smile again.

Adrian's Unexpected Realities Growing Up.

Fiction Text: Short Story.

I never actually believed my life could go so downhill. I always thought that my whole life had been the ideal life, as far as I was concerned. I had two parents that were supportive and who were still together(in this generation that's a miracle), I had no siblings thus I was fairly spoiled, I had all four of my grandparents, I had good marks and I never had any issues with my friends or family. By my senior year I had been offered several scholarships and life had never seemed better but little did I know things were definitely about to change.

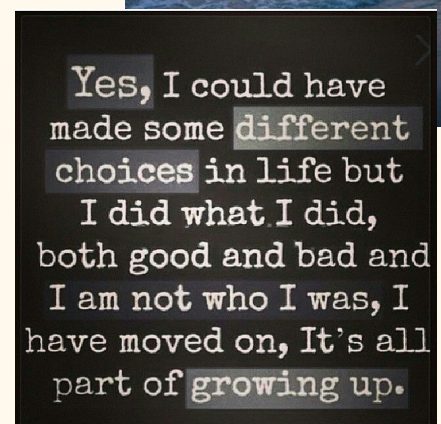
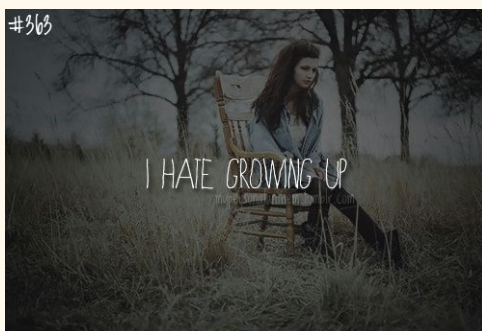
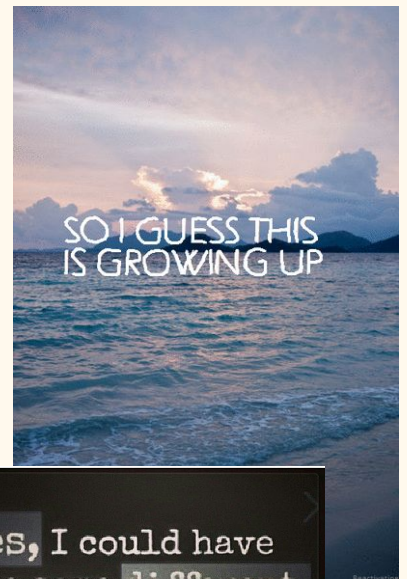
When you have had certain people around you for so long in your life you don't even think twice about them ever not being there. For some reason we all seem to think that the people we love will live forever, until someday we find out that we were sadly mistaken. Growing up I always had a large family and I never really had had to learn things the hard way until the day that I realized growing up is not everything that it is made out to be. My grandmother passed away right before my graduation, and I was absolutely stunned. I just couldn't believe it. I never thought that anything like that would ever happen to me. But I soon realized, *that's the thing about growing up...* we are too busy growing, that we forget our loved ones are growing old too.

As if that wasn't a big enough slap in the face, things continued to go downhill. I soon realized that things don't always go my way. I don't mean to sound like a brat, but this was just awful. I was offered a lot of scholarships but to the schools that I didn't even want to go to. My mother made me apply to these schools because that's where she wanted to end up seeing me go to. I also wanted to go into something medical but my father was an architect so I was told to pursue a career in that field. So, I applied to schools that my father and mother would be happy with and behind their back I applied to one that I would truly be happy with. Not to brag, but my marks are awesome and I was hoping to get a full scholarship so I applied to Harvard Medical School. It ended up that I did get accepted to Harvard Medical School along with all of the other schools not of my choice, but the only one that didn't come with a scholarship was Harvard. Right there and then that was the end of my dreams. There was no way that I could ever afford to go there, and I doubt I would have my parents blessing anyways. I told my mother about the situation anyways and she explained to me, "Honey, *that's the thing about growing up...* you will never always get what you want and money definitely doesn't come easy." That was the end of that.

I have learned so much in the past couple of months that I wish I hadn't had to learn. I learned that while growing up you should never expect smooth seas... things can change very fast, spending a lot of time trying to figure things out is okay, tomorrow is never guaranteed to anyone, some people that crossed your path were a lesson and not a blessing, and most importantly you should *grow*. Don't let yourself be

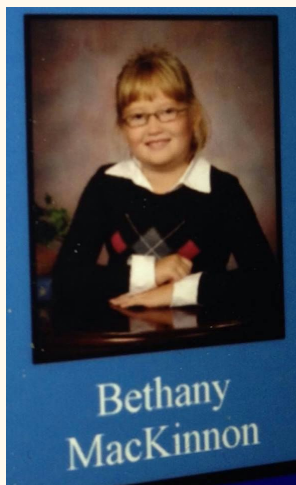
stuck in the past! I never realized how much I could grow up and learn about life in just two short months but I suppose that *that's the thing about growing up...* life is hard.

I chose to write this story because it honestly just sparked my mind. I thought of some struggles or hard realities to face as you grow up, made up a fake character to be the narrator, and established her life. I decided to start it off by making it clear that she thought nothing could ever go wrong in her life, but she soon comes to realize that horrible things will oftentimes happen at bad times nearly all at once. I really like to talk about growing up because I believe that a lot of people truly do forget a lot of the things that I spoke about in this story. It is way more important to go visit your grandmother than it is to go to your friend's party, money will not be as easily accessed as you become older, and life is going to just plain out suck sometimes.



Some things changed,
some things didn't.

Visual text: School photos.





This was definitely my favourite text to demonstrate because I got to go back and see how much I have grown up. I really have changed quite a bit but I also noticed that a lot of things are still exactly the same, such as my tiny pig nose. I noticed that my hair did get darker with time, even though I would never dye it(except for when I dyed the ends red with kool-aid... big mistake.) I couldn't figure out how to get a text box under the pictures like I wanted so I will tell you now what grades all of the pictures are from. The order goes Kindergarten graduation, grade two, grade three, grade five, grade six, grade seven, grade eight graduation, grade ten and grade eleven. I couldn't find all of my pictures but the ones I did find actually do quite a good job of portraying me growing

up! *That's the thing about growing up...* you go to school, and your parents make you take awful pictures that you were, no doubt, not prepared for whatsoever.

They really are growing up too fast...

Informational Text: Article review.

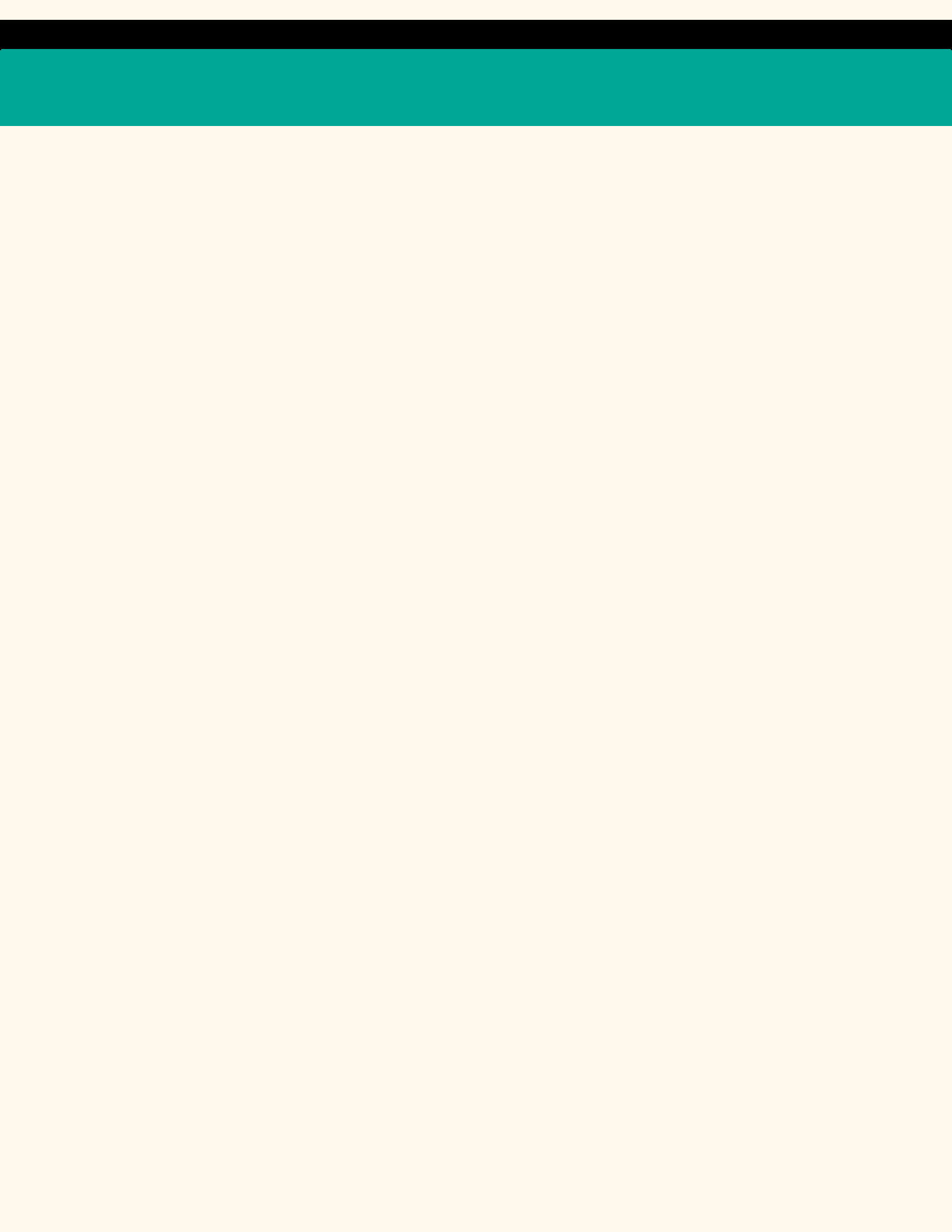
I had actually picked up children growing up too fast in the last couple of years. I remember when I was in grade seven I wore way too much makeup, and I did not own a phone whereas nowadays kids are getting to skip the ugly makeup stage and receive an iPhone 6s. “Children are growing up way too quickly because of a combination of early testing in school, advertising, bad childcare, and a reliance on computer and television, experts warned today.” (Daily Mail.) Children are being asked to do too much at an age that isn’t appropriate and not to mention the overuse of electronics. Children need time to do things wrong and to develop at a slow pace, and not be pressured into acting older than their age. The article *They Really Are Growing Up Fast: Pressures of Modern World Are Eroding Childhood* published by Daily Mail states, “We call on all organisations and individuals concerned about the erosion of childhood to come together to achieve the following: public information campaigns about children’s developmental needs...” We need to bring attention to the fact that children are not

developing at a rate that they should be and are being pressured into growing up. They are skipping all of the phases that they should be going through as a child. They are also spending way too much time indoors. “It also called for initiatives to ensure that children’s outdoor play and connection to nature are encouraged and the banning of all forms of marketing directed at children up to at least age seven.” (Daily Mail.) Children should not have to take tests and assignments or sit all day on a computer, they should be outside learning. In order for a child to grow up they need to be able to learn from experience and be able to use their hands to engage themselves in what they need to learn. *That’s the thing about growing up... times are changing, and kids are growing... but too fast.*



I chose to write about this article because I felt that it had some very strong points. I too noticed that children are growing up way too fast. Children are not growing up at the very same pace that most of my class have. It boggles my mind how mature my youngest sister tries to act, she has to know that she is only twelve. I see mothers pawing their children off to the electronic worlds of iPads instead of getting up and taking their kids to the park. I just believe that it is so important for people to realize that development and growing up all takes time. My cousin knows more about wiis, xboxes, playstations, ipods, ipads and everything else way more than I do and he is only eleven years old. It’s unbelievable how times are changing and even though things are changing rapidly, this is one thing that should not change.





Citations.

"They Really Are Growing up Fast: Pressures of Modern World Are Eroding Childhood." *Mail Online*. Associated Newspapers. Web. 10 Jan. 2016.