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DC English IV  
Essay  
19 of November 2019

### Beauty of the World

The beauty of the world is seen through sights, exploration, and physically being there to appreciate it. However, in *Have You Seen Luis Velez?* by Catherine Ryan Hyde, Mildred Gutermann is a ninety-two-year-old woman who is blind and half deaf that sees the world differently. She does not only show Raymond how she is able to identify the bright side of life but helps him in seeing how she views it. Mildred does this by relying on her senses, a situation being described to her, and remembering her past lessons of life.

Through the past years, Mildred learned to rely on her senses and to trust those around her because anyone could harm her accidentally if not seeing her. Many of her experiences that involve other people are not good because they either ignore her or avoid her, “Most people don’t stop. Most people hurry by. When I ask a question, they hurry faster. I wonder why we’re all afraid of one another”(12). This does not bother her too much because she uses this as an excuse to take her time to discover the hidden values of the world. Sometimes it is easier to be lost in the world of beauty and other times there is a risk of falling into despair. Mildred has seen the worst and the best part of life. Despite those experiences, she thinks of the reasons why it came to be and the fact that “[she is] always trying to think of beautiful things [so she] can share with you about the world, but usually you can’t see them”(295). It reveals that Mildred has a talent for seeing the wonders and sometimes it comes in silent ways such as music or silent acts of compassion. Music is the best way to show a person how lucky they are to be living in a world. It can bring various emotions of happiness, sadness, or maybe anger at times. During one

of her outings with Raymond they went and saw a cello player performing on the street. The song made her realize that music is a good way to teach the unseen miracles of the world.

Raymond, being her caretaker throughout the book, has to describe many situations, objects, and places for Mildred to be aware of. Through his actions, she sees the selflessness and his caring attitude towards her. It did not only show his beautiful personality but the resilience to make sure she is okay at all times. It inspired her to make sure Raymond has a place to belong and feel loved. Whenever Raymond warns her about having to step up the stairs or anything that might harm her, she would say, “[I] have lived ninety-two years, Raymond, and if there’s one thing I can tell you, it’s that we are never so unique as we think we are. We are all people“(78). This displays her characteristics of being humble and wise. Mildred has a talent for using whatever situation they find themselves in and make it the best. She does not need to see to know something terrible has happened to transform the situation into something admirable.

Mildred’s past is filled with lessons she learned the hard way and dealing with guilt from the Holocaust as well as making happy situations. Mildred has survivor’s guilt due to the fact that her father found a way to get their whole family out of Germany, “Money bought us our lives. And that is called privilege. We bought our lives, while those who couldn’t afford to were slaughtered like animals” (259). In one instance, Mildred finds herself listening to the cello again and that reminded her of her father playing the cello but “never touched the thing. He brought it with him but he never took it out of its case again, right up until the day he died. So it’s very emotional for me to hear the instrument played” (293). Despite all of her past struggles, Mildred has remained strong in her beliefs and skills that she gained the skill to always look on the bright side. She is proof that not everything has to be perfect to be able to see what life has to offer.

Beauty of the world comes in many shapes and forms. For most of those sightings, a person does not have to be able to see the value. It was proven by Mildred who saw the treasures that anyone or anything can bring into existence. Mildred was able to teach several characters throughout the book to look at their society in a different view. She uses her emotions and senses around her the most as well as the descriptions and her past lessons she learned to help her reinforce her idea that beauty can be hidden unless people are aware of it.