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When it comes to literacy practices, there are many options as to what can be considered a literacy practice. Many times, certain literacy practices impact different people. For me, two of the literacy practices that have had the biggest impact on me are songs and movies. Songs have had a huge impact on me growing up because being able to picture them in my head made them a lot more enjoyable to listen to and I could use songs to create my own stories. My framework for songs is discourse communities. As for movies, they've easily become one of the best ways for me to be entertained growing up, and as I got older, I realized the lessons many of them taught me and I realized the true impact they had on me. My framework for movies is rhetorical situations. I'll always love and respect songs and movies for the impact they've had on my life and my view on literature.

To start off, songs are some of the most important artifacts in my literacy journey. As I grew up, I listened to many different genres, but the two I would listen to and enjoy the most are country music and beach music. One song that falls under both of those genres is Margaritaville by Jimmy Buffett. Margaritaville is a popular song that mainly tells people not to stress too much about problems in life and to have a more laid-back state of mind. The lyrics: "Nibblin' on sponge cake, watchin' the sun bake" (Buffett, Line 1) are the first lyrics of the song and they represent the idea of leisure and relaxation. These lyrics are important because they stress the importance of being yourself when it comes to music and spreading a positive message, and

that's exactly what Jimmy Buffett has done in all of his music. The lyrics "Some people claim that there's a woman to blame But I know it's my own damn fault" (Buffett, Lines 23-24) are also very important to the song because the meaning behind them is that even though it might be easy for people to blame others for their mistakes, it's important for them to own up to their mistakes. There are several other important life lessons portrayed in this song in addition to these two, all of which are portrayed in a casual and leisurely manner, further strengthening the effect this song has on people. The framework I'll be using for this artifact is discourse communities. Discourse communities are communities of people who share common values, interests, and ways of communicating their values and interests. What Jimmy Buffett does with Margaritaville and all of his other songs is he brings people together who share that similar background and appreciation for beach country music, thus creating a discourse community. I've been a part of this discourse community for a long time because I grew up with these types of songs and I still appreciate and listen to them to this day. It's important to remember: "Genres arise out of social purposes, and they're a form of social action within discourse communities." (Melzer 103-104) These words further support the idea that Jimmy Buffett has created a discourse community through this music. Whether people grew up in a tropical environment or they just stumbled upon Jimmy Buffett's songs and grew their appreciation for his music, it's safe to say that Jimmy Buffett is a great symbol of togetherness and tropical music. Something that's important for people to ask themselves is: "Who are the most experienced communicators in the discourse community?" (Melzer 111) In this case, songwriters are some of the best communicators in discourse communities because they teach important lessons with their songs and bring people

together at the same time. These are some of the reasons why songs are some of the most important artifacts in my literacy journey.

Furthermore, another highly important artifact in my literacy journey is movies. Whether I've been watching them at home or at a theater with friends, movies have always been one of the greatest ways to entertain me. One of my favorite movie genres is comedy. I've always had an appreciation for comedy movies because for the longest time, I've always loved having something to laugh about, and to this day, I love having a reason to smile. A movie that falls under the comedy genre is *Elf*. The movie *Elf* is a Christmas movie about a human who grew up in the North Pole with elves who went searching for his biological dad who lives in New York City. Throughout the movie, the main character named Buddy learns about what it's like to grow up in a human world and the people around him learn what growing up was like for him. Despite Buddy's different upbringing, he teaches some very powerful lessons throughout the movie. One of his biggest quotes is "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." (Favreau, 00:22:15) This quote represents the purpose aspect of a rhetorical situation because it mentions the best way to spread a positive message. These words are a great representation of Buddy's spirit and what he was like as a person. Throughout the movie, Buddy has shown himself as a happy person who loves everyone and everything, and one of the main things he loved was Christmas. His words about spreading Christmas cheer tell people that if they believe in something, they should pursue it and they should tell other people about that part of themselves. The framework that I'll use for this artifact is rhetorical situations. Rhetorical situations can be defined as "the context in which speakers or writers create rhetorical discourse" (Grant-Davie 265) With this movie, the writer took the fictional concept of an elf in a human

world and put together a script and scenes where humans portray the story. Real aspects were combined with aspects that aren't real to produce an entertaining script, and for that, this movie is a perfect example of the framework rhetorical situations. A rhetorical situation can also be seen as "a situation where a speaker or writer sees a need to change reality and sees that the change may be effected through rhetorical discourse". (Grant-Davie 265) The writer created a reality that is completely different than any reality that would be seen in real life, yet a human portrayed it. These words highlight the power a writer has over a piece of literature, as well as how other people view literature. In addition to changing how people view literature, rhetorical situations can change how people view life as well. Due to Buddy's positivity and how he gives it off to everybody around him, other people can easily grow an appreciation for him, and they could learn about what it means to be a good human. As Buddy stated in the movie, "There's room for everyone on the Nice List." (Favreau, 01:10:05) This quote talks about the audience aspect of a rhetorical situation because it's applicable to everyone. This quote and others like it further add to the enjoyment the viewers get from watching the movie. My view on literature was changed because of how well the writer composed the movie and how well certain lessons were portrayed. These are some of the reasons why movies have impacted my literacy journey as much as they have.

In the end, songs and music deserve a lot of credit for changing my literacy journey for the better, and despite the differences between them, they both have taught me one thing: It's important for people to seek out information in ways that interests them and it's important to learn life lessons from different artifacts. In addition to my literacy journey, these artifacts have the power to impact many other people's literacy journeys as well. Artifacts such as beach

country music songs and comedy movies most likely resonate with a much larger number of people and many more people have likely grown a similar appreciation for them. I would not be the writer I am today without having these artifacts in my life. Since a good portion of my literacy journey was affected by these artifacts, I will continue to think highly of them, and I will continue to apply them to my life.

Works Cited

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