

Multimodal Literacy Narrative

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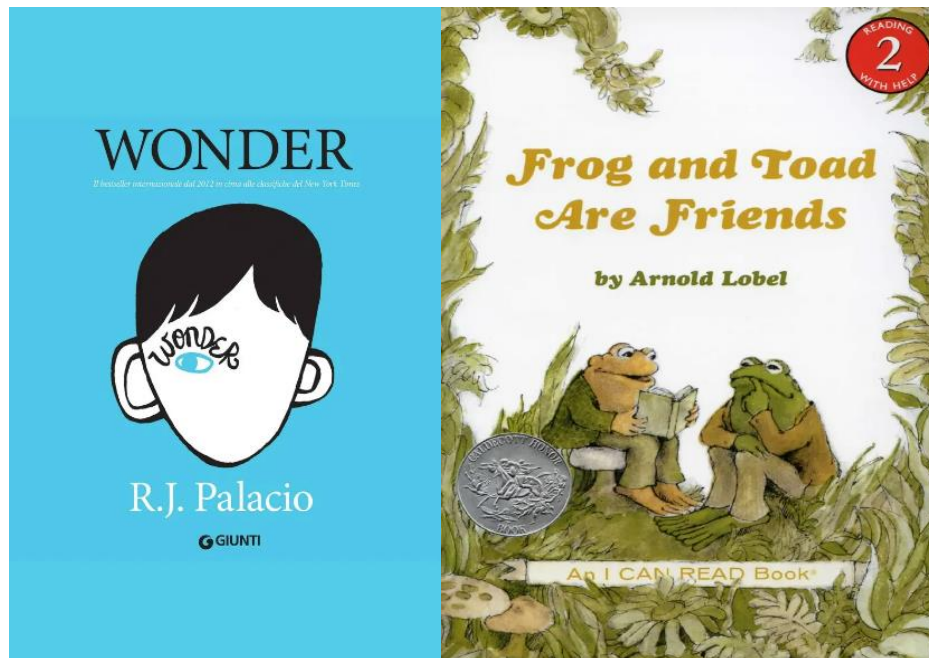
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Literature has always been an interesting subject to me. Even though I've always found literature to be more challenging compared to other subjects, I always thought it was important and I was always amazed at just how much information each piece of literature has. I was especially impacted by literature in my younger years, more specifically early elementary school. Back then, I was very impressionable, and to be surrounded by books, movies, and other forms of literature that had very powerful meanings and messages was life changing. Around that time, I remember reading a lot of fictional books with lessons that could be applied to real life. Some of these lessons include friendship, patience, and perseverance. Seeing how big of an impact lessons like these had on story plots, I've tried applying them to my life. Because of this, my life has become more beneficial and a lot more meaningful because I've made stronger connections, learned more about respect and how to treat others, and become smarter. In addition, my love of reading has changed for the better because I've been able to read many books with an interest in what they could teach me. Despite the fact that my interest in reading became much stronger when I was younger, grammar and communication haven't always been easy for me. I went to speech therapy for many years as a kid because of my difficulties with communication and understanding literature. In speech therapy, these challenges have improved, and I eventually got to the point where I didn't need it anymore. Someone who has greatly impacted my view of literature and how to write is my mom. Over the years, she has given me some great advice on editing my writing, as well as the best ways to portray my thoughts, experiences, and any information through writing. This has greatly helped me throughout my life in terms of doing good on important assignments and getting into a great school such as UCF. I know that at UCF, my writing will become even better and the next steps in my writing journey will be full of new experiences. There's more where my past experiences came from.

A book series that has greatly impacted my literacy journey and that I have fond memories of is Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel. This is the series that I looked forward to reading the most when I was a kid. I was around seven or eight years old when I really got into these books. There are four books in the series, and I've read every one of them many times because of how good I thought the books were. Some of the lessons I learned from Frog and Toad are friendship and loyalty. Throughout the books, Frog and Toad have gone through hardships yet they help each other find ways to get through those difficult times. These stories were a great way to tell me that no matter what I go through, having someone or a group of people to lean on for support will always help. As stated in the book Frog and Toad are Friends, "What you see is the clear warm light of April. And it means that we can begin a whole new year together" (Lobel, 1970). This is a quote that Frog says to Toad, and it basically means that whenever a new opportunity comes, it should be approached with an open mind. It also means that if there are people to explore those opportunities with, supporting each other and staying close with those people is the best thing anyone can do. Friendship is one of, if not the most common subjects portrayed in the Frog and Toad series. Frog and Toad have gone through good and bad times together, and they've made good and bad decisions, and despite all of the hard times, their friendship never dies, and they manage to keep each other strong. The bond that Frog and Toad have also sends a message that people should enjoy the simple things in life. In the book Frog and Toad are Friends, it also states: "In the evenings we will sit right here on this front porch and count the stars" (Lobel, 1970). These words highlight the importance of enjoying the beauty of life, even if it means doing something as simple as looking at stars. As long as you're around people you care about, you're in a good position in life and you have everything you need. These are some of the many ways the Frog and Toad series has impacted my literacy journey.

Another way my literacy journey was impacted was through the book *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio, which happens to be a movie as well. I remember around the time I started middle school reading *Wonder* with my class and then seeing the movie later on that year. It was by far one of the greatest and most impactful experiences I've had in literature, being able to imagine the story in my head and then see it in real life. Similar to *Frog and Toad*, *Wonder* features many great lessons and ways to look at certain situations, as well as life in general. One of the most important principles I learned more about through *Wonder* is kindness. One of the main reasons for this is because *Wonder* is about a kid named August with a facial deformity going to public school for the first time. Throughout his journey, August teaches other people the importance of kindness and he learns about how it feels firsthand, despite that not always being the case for him. Despite facing bullying and betrayal by someone he thought was there for him, August has learned the importance of pushing through difficult times and benefiting from them in the end. As stated in the book, "When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind" (Palacio, 2012). This quote makes it clear that if people are kind, the world will be a better place. In addition to kindness, *Wonder* makes it clear that people shouldn't overthink or worry about a situation too much, because once it's all said and done, people will realize that stressing out and worrying was pointless. As stated in the book, "Now that I look back, I don't know why I was so stressed about it all this time. Funny how sometimes you worry a lot about something and it turns out to be nothing." (Palacio, 2012). I have a lot in common with these words because I have a history of overthinking, and I still sometimes do it. I also can think of many scenarios where I was overthinking and then afterwards, I realized that it was all in my head and that it was unnecessary. These are two of the many ways in which my journey in literature was changed through *Wonder*.

In conclusion, some of the most important lessons and principles I've learned in literature throughout my life are exploring new opportunities, enjoying the simple things, kindness, and not overthinking. These lessons have greatly impacted my writing today, mainly because of the multiple perspectives I need to consider before making an opinion or writing about something. Not long ago, I remember watching videos about different dialects and the importance of valuing multiple viewpoints and then participating in discussions with classmates about what we learned. Frog and Toad & Wonder have similarities to these discussions because they all make it clear that the world is a much better place when everyone works together and helps one another. My journey in literature would not be complete without these novels and I will always be thankful for what they taught me.



## **Works Cited**

- Lobel, A. (1970). *Frog and Toad are friends*. Harper, An Imprint Of Harpercollins Publishers.
- Palacio, R. J. (2012). *Wonder*. Alfred A. Knopf.