English 7 – Bystander, Open Response Question #1 – Due Tuesday, November 17

Something caught Griffin’s eye and he smiled to a lunch aide as she passed behind Eric. “Hello, Mrs. Rosen,” he said in a cheerful voice. “How was your summer?”

“Oh, hello, Griffin,” the woman replied.

She was an older woman with black hair, around fifty, small and trim and tidy, and she reminded Eric of a kindly mouse. She seemed pleased to see Griffin Connelly. There was genuine warmth in her voice.

“You are getting so big,” she noted.

*Ugh,* every grown-up said that. Eric shot a look at Griffin, watching for his response.

“Eating my Wheaties!” Griffin replied, flexing his muscles and smiling. “How’s that dog of yours? What’s her name again”

“Daisy,” Mrs.Rosen replied. Then her face changed, the smile dropped, and she looed ten years older. “I’m afraid we had to put Daisy down.”

“Oh, too bad,” Griffin said, putting on a sympathetic face. “Daisy was a great little dog.”

And so the conversation continues, the older lady conversing with dear, sweet Griffin Connelly. To Eric, there was something false in Griffin’s tone. Too cheerful, too sweet: the wrong note. For ninety seconds, Griffin Connelly became the most polite, mild-mannered by in Bellport. Strange.

When she walked away, Griffin smirked at Eric. “That old git’s loaded,” he said. “I’m telling you, she has more money than Oprah. She lives around the block from me; I’ve done some odd jobs for her in the past. You should have seen that little dog of hers, Eric. It was one of those – what do you call ‘em? – lapdogs that just barked and barked and barked. Stupid animal. I’m glad it’s dead. The world is a better place.”

What does Eric learn about Griffin’s character in the excerpt above from James Preller’s young adult novel, *Bystander*? Support your answer with important and specific information from the excerpt.

Answer the question in one paragraph that includes:

* an opening sentence that answers the question and includes the title and author of the book
* three supporting details to support your answer
* short quotations (ideally, three) from the passage that illustrate your supporting details. Challenge yourself to include these quotations gracefully in your discussion of your supporting details.
* a closing sentence that summarizes the information in your paragraph and (challenge task!) suggests at the importance of this as a general topic of consideration.

Refer to the rubric on the reverse side of this assignment for scoring guidelines. Your paragraph should be typed, double-spaced, and have an MLA heading.

*Bystander,* Open Response Paragraph #1 - Rules of Emphasis: Check off each rule when you have looked it up and written out the rule on the line.

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