Identity Project: Explanations

Images

* Espresso Machine: My dad and I are lovers of coffee. Some of the most heartfelt and emotional conversations that we have had have been over two cups. I cherish these moments with my father, as I know that he will one day will no longer be with me to share a cup and talk.
* Bakery Window: I love bakery treats. My aunt Sue and I frequently will travel to Huron Bakery to score an almond croissant. I resemble my aunt more than my parents.
* Library of books: I read constantly, with my favorite novels being the English romance classics. I believe through the words of the past, that we can learn about the future. Reading has also been an outlet for me when the depression takes over, as I am transported to another world where my problems seem so small that they are almost nonexistent.
* Starry sky: I frequently go to secluded spots around Marquette to sit and watch the stars (when the clouds allow). I have always found such beauty in constellations and the way that they mean something different to each person. To me, they embody forbidden secrets. These secrets that you don’t tell another and reconstruct themselves into the bright lights that litter the sky. Another part of me believes that perhaps they are our loved ones that are now passed. I recommend watching the Princess and the Frog for this reference ☺
* Lavender field: Lavender is one of my favorite scents. It reminds me of my grandmother’s living room; warm and inviting, fresh and clean. This said living room is the place where I have cried, smiled, laughed, and experienced my first heartbreak since high school.
* Monarch butterfly: Along with stars, I believe that our loved ones reincarnate as monarchs or butter yellow butterflies. I have a fond memory of my grandma Sally and I releasing monarchs together when I was a child, and now that she has passed, I see monarchs frequently around my house, NMU, and my yard back in Wisconsin. I have a tattoo for my grandma of a monarch and her death time of 5:55 am.
* Racks of Clothing: I love thrifting as I believe that everything can be used more than once or be turned into something that one may not have thought of when it was originally created. I love the thrill of the find and the memories that I have created with my best friend Katie as we have gone together.
* Crema, Italy: This picture of two chairs and a table are from the place of my dreams. I have not had the chance to travel the world, but the day that I hopefully do, I would immediately go to Crema, Italy. This small section of Italy is rich in architecture and the setting of one of my favorite novels, *Call Me by Your Name.*
* Peony: A peony is my favorite flower and I frequently picture a bouquet of pink and white peonies in my hands as I walk down the aisle on my wedding day one day.
* Sugarloaf Mountain: I love hiking and the way that it clears the mind. When I have a particularly bad day, I like to hike up the mountain and sit on a boulder on the top- imagining my problems falling off the cliff side and into the trees that populate the forest floor.
* *Wuthering Heights* and *Call Me by Your Name*: These are the first two novels that have ever made me truly feel something in regards to a love so deep that it consumes you. These books shaped me as a human being and taught me that the expression of my love shouldn’t be feared, but encouraged.
* Crinkled Sheets: I think that sheets contain so many stories. I think that this is pretty self-explanatory.
* Girl crying glitter: This image is so pretty to me, the realization that showing sadness does not make you weak and can be rather beautiful.
* Roller-skating scene: I feel like this image is the embodiment of my youth. I should be expressing myself in a matter that suits me, participating in things that I find fun.
* Pink Sweater: I chose an image of an oversized sweater because I think it represents my insecurity. I have struggled throughout most of my life to accept my body and spend a lot of money on clothes that are oversized to hide my figure. I wish that I could find something that made me feel beautiful in my own skin. ☹
* Sheet music: My grandpa Pete and I listened to classical music every night at the dinner table before we went to bed for the night. He just passed away in December and I still miss our private times over the computer together listening to Shubert.
* Clouds: I tend to think of myself as a rather airy and light person. I try rather hard to not take life too seriously and live in the moment.
* Plants: While I wish that I was a good plant mom, I have to admit that I have a rather terrible green thumb. One day I hope to have a house full of plants, as I believe that they breathe so much good energy into any given place.
* Hammock: I love hanging in the trees and listening to nothing but the sound of tranquility. It eases the mind and helps you breathe when oxygen feels like it is impossible to obtain.
* Blond: I love Frank Ocean and the music that he composes and releases. Each song that he produces is so full of meaning and emotion, I find it so easy to relate to the lyrics and find peace within the melody.
* Journal: I frequently write to clear my mind. I was a successful poetry writer in high school and had a few of my pieces published by a poetry magazine.
* Birkenstocks: While it may seem materialistic, Birkenstocks have become a staple in my life. They are one of the few material objects that I reward myself by buying brand new, and I always wear them down until they are no longer salvageable.
* Titanic Movie: This is the first movie that I watched as an “adult” that depicted a real life human tragedy. Loss has been so prevalent in everyday life, we fail to recognize the importance behind it. This movie helped me realize this importance.
* Life Guard tower and Beach: POTENTIAL TRIGGER: This was the first place that I visited after I contemplated suicide in high school. Looking into the waves helped me recognize the waves of torment that I would bestow upon my family and friends if I went through with my plan. It was a really eye opening experience for me and I am thankful for it.

Quotes

* “He’s more myself than I am. Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same.” – Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

This quote to me was the first experience that I had where I realized that love, if not careful, could damage not only the two of us, but the people that surround us. This quote symbolizes the act of expressing love without saying the words “I love you”.

* “Perhaps we were friends first and lovers second. But then perhaps this what lovers are.” – Andre Aciman, *Call Me by Your Name*

My first love was my childhood best friend. The loss of his friendship and the relationship that we had, really hurt me emotionally. This quote was the first that summed up my thoughts on the subject of the meaning of love.

* “Is it better to speak or die?” – Andre Aciman, *Call Me by Your Name*

I feel like this quote calls me out on my indecisiveness as a human being. I am always second guessing myself and it really shows in my work and personal relationships. As much as I wish this wasn’t the truth, I am working towards improving this self-degrading state of mind every day.

* “Our hearts and our bodies are given to us only once…” – Andre Aciman, *Call Me by Your Name*

I live by this quote every day. I think it really challenges my tendency to overthink and asks me “why not?”