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**ENGLISH 10**

**Brit Lit: Early – Mid 19<sup>th</sup> C.**

QUARTER 1      QUARTER 2      QUARTER 3      QUARTER 4  
**B+**

Paper 1: This is a reasonably good descriptive poem of a sunset during Halloween, but it doesn't have a strong joyful or playful tone. I marked the line that best works towards this tone. In particular, the verb "sparkles" is a great choice. ("Glimmers" and "shines" in the line before it are not bad.) Look at your other verbs and you'll see that they don't speak to the intended tone as well - *arrives, falls, share, crawl, leaves, settles, fight, are overlooked* (passive voice), *sinks, fade*. While it's true that we aren't reading these words in isolation - they have a context - verbs are your strongest words and they need to underscore your tone, not fight against it. Joyfulness and playfulness are uplifting and light. Many of these words are downward or slow: *falls, crawl, settles, sinks, fade*. Others have other negative associations - *leaves* and *fight*. With "are overlooked" you have the passive voice, which is always weaker than the active. I'm not saying you have to rewrite this poem, but if you were to, my first suggestion would be to look at these words and find better ones. This may mean more than just replacing single words - you may have to rephrase whole lines or rework ideas. But you would end up with a better poem with a stronger tone.

Paper 2: This is a very good paper. Technically, it's one of the strongest papers I've seen from you. I had few corrections, most of them minor. The biggest one was to break the second paragraph into two because you have two distinct topics here. And the content is great. You present an interesting picture of yourself using the methods listed in the assignment. I especially liked the story you told about church. You also had a different take on this than I usually see from students. Most of the time when students write descriptions of themselves from another viewpoint, they're overflowing with praise about themselves. You took a humble and sardonic approach. I like that. It made an old assignment fresh for me. Great job.

Paper 3: This is a good description of your friend Zorem and your first impressions of him. You make it clear how you came to those impressions and how each one was eventually overturned. I also like your conclusion. You sum things up but you restate them in a new and interesting way and tell us how this experience changed you. I did break your last paragraph into two. The story about the sleep-over deserves its own paragraph, then you have a nice turn with the sentence that begins, "My entire view of people has changed. . ." That's where your conclusion begins. I also had to insert a few commas. Remember when you join two complete sentences with a conjunction (such as "and") you need a comma. Nice job.

Paper 4: This paper is very strong in its description of sound. You go nicely through your day describing what you hear in your household. You have some good figurative language and onomatopoeia here as well. You're still struggling with sentence structure though, writing comma splices, run-on sentences, and incomplete sentences. One of your incomplete sentences

works pretty well, but the second is less successful. More importantly, I don't think you were consciously breaking sentence structure rules for effect. I think you just didn't realize you were writing incomplete sentences. Once you master sentence structure, you can take liberties with it to create effects, but you have to master it first. We'll keep working on this. Review my comments throughout the paper as well.

Paper 5: These are pretty good riddles, all about animals. But you don't have a lot of sensory information here. The one about the shark includes smell, though it's smell from the shark's point of view, not the reader's. The bat includes sound (sort of) and touch. All include movement, which could be considered sensory detail other than sight if you're thinking of the reader being in the animal's place rather than watching the animal. But you could include more sensory information in all of these to bring them more closely in line with the assignment.

Paper 6: Overall, this is a very good persuasive letter asking for a dog. I seem to remember you tackling this topic last year - so I guess the first letter didn't quite do the job. You have some arguments in here I would expect, but also some interesting ones I've never seen before. I like your creativity. In parts this reads very stiffly and formally, especially considering it's a letter to your parents. But there weren't many grammar corrections. You had one incomplete sentence and some missing commas. Look through the paper to see my comments. Overall, very good work though.

You averaged 81% on your vocabulary work.

You're still struggling with sentence structure and wordiness or awkwardness at times. As you get better at sentence structure it will probably help those other issues too. Also keep working on some punctuation rules, such as commas and apostrophes. Usually your content is good, but sometimes you seem to forget the key points of the assignment. Often your style is enjoyable, but sometimes you get a bit stiff and overly-formal. I'm looking forward to another year together.

## US HISTORY

QUARTER 1      QUARTER 2      QUARTER 3      QUARTER 4  
A-

Your timeline and map are good.

You did a great job explaining why you would have preferred Maryland over the other colonies. You list social, geographical, political, and economic reasons and support them all very well. This shows good understanding on your part of the colonies and how they varied. Your letter as a Loyalist is also very well done. You marshal some intelligent arguments and present them well. Although there's less historical detail in your third project, a letter from the Constitutional Convention, this is still well done. I like that you chose to be a delegate from Maryland.

You chose a really interesting topic for the special project – the Royal Proclamation Line. I've never had a student write on this before. Almost all my students choose something flashy like the War or the writing of the Constitution. I love that you picked a relatively obscure topic, but, correctly, one that had a tremendous impact. You also did a very good job on the report.

I love the alliterative title of your editorial, but "Bothers" should be "Bother" ("Brutes Bother"). You did a nice job on this, with a good pro-colonist slant.

I had a little trouble reading your test, but it looks like you scored 71% on it. You lost a lot of points for the Constitutional principles, and these are definitely worth reviewing. They're not just random dates and names that you can be excused for not recalling, but central to

American government and justice, and the ideas will be important to understanding American history and civics.

You did a very nice job rewriting the Declaration of Independence.

For your book report, you wrote on *1776*. Overall, this is a good report. I'm glad you chose a somewhat more challenging book to read (adult-level), and this is an excellent book. I enjoyed it very much. I'm glad you note the limits of the book, but these are not necessarily faults. As you pointed out later in the paper, there is so much information on the Revolutionary War, that a writer must choose to either limit themselves in some way or write a very large tome. McCullough is a fine historian and even finer writer, but he writes popular books for mass consumption rather than academic studies. He chose certain limits for the book to maintain an acceptable length and provide focus. It's true there may be issues that you (and no doubt others) would like to read about in regards to the War that aren't addressed here. And that's why other people write other books on the same topic (but with different focuses). I understand why you refer to the book as a primary source, and it's true (and to the book's credit) that it uses many primary sources. But the book itself is still a secondary source, as it is written by someone who did not witness the events first-hand. Instead, he is telling the story of first-hand accounts through his own lens. I had a couple of other minor comments in the paper, mostly as regards style and grammar. But I'm glad you enjoyed the book and you wrote a good critical summary of it.

I struggled somewhat with what grade to give you. Other than your test, this is all A- and B-level work. Your test impacted your grade a little, but because it's first quarter I'm a bit more lenient. You now have a better idea of what these tests will be like, so I'll be a little stricter in future. (Of course, your other work always is counted as well as your test grade.) But you really did do a nice job for the most part this quarter, and it looks like you've learned a lot. I was particularly impressed with your first two projects. I'm always looking for a lot of historical detail in projects, and I also like to see students bring in more unusual (but still important) historical events as well as demonstrating their knowledge on the major issues.

	QUARTER 1	QUARTER 2	QUARTER 3	QUARTER 4
<b>ADVANCED MATH 1</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>		

You scored 90% on test 4B and 88% on test 8B. These tests were barely legible for me. I don't know if they're written in light pencil or if the originals are dark but the scanning process is poor, but I need better copies in future. Thanks. You averaged 94% on the daily work. Your scores for the first two quarters are 92% and 91%.

	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
<b>PHYSICS</b>		

Overall, your labs are good, though for some reason you sometimes collected data (for example, times) without writing it down in your labs. Be sure to report all data you collect in these experiments. You are taking this through a class, and they will be issuing semester grades. I'll wait for those and record them here.

	QUARTER 1	QUARTER 2	QUARTER 3	QUARTER 4
<b>PE</b>				

You submitted 10 hours. On your REAP sheet, I need you to write specifically what you did (running, swimming, tennis, whatever) rather than just PE. You don't need to go back and redo this one, just be more specific in future. Thanks! When this reaches 37.5 hours, we will give you credit for one quarter.