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Honors Thesis Personal Reflection

Writing *Micah* was the perfect challenge for me. My main struggle as a writer is finishing certain projects, as I have countless unfinished stories that have been set aside. However, by committing to the creative writing thesis, I was forced to write something from start to finish in a timely manner. Also, having a small group of classmates who were experiencing the same thing was comforting and encouraged me to work harder. My peers are all wonderful writers (and helpful critics), and I challenged myself to keep up with them. This is not an experience that I will forget, as it has changed how I view writing for the better.

I am fond of the story I created, and I am proud of my growth as a writer. The main bulk of my piece's importance comes from its form, which was not something I had focused on before. Most of my writing would be considered genre fiction, so it was refreshing to challenge myself with writing outside of my comfort zone. I took great care in deciding what made it into the story and what got scratched, and the final product looks nothing like what I imagined when I first conceived of my idea for the thesis. This has inspired me to create more pieces like *Micah* and to break any old writing habits that are holding me back. But I will always be fond of sappy romances and will probably never escape the genre completely!

Having to leave school so close to the end of my senior year definitely made things more difficult. I, just like everyone else, was filled with stress and uncertainty. After adapting to online classes and being holed up inside my house, though, I was able to focus on my writing more than usual. I had more time to sit and think about my writing without other obligations pulling me

away from work. Of course I would have preferred to finish my final year on campus, but I took the situation and turned it into an opportunity to grow as a writer.

When I reread *Micah*, I find bits and pieces that I might want to revise in the future, but I am thrilled with how it came out in the end. The support I received from my peers and professors was amazing, and I could not have done this without everyone cheering me on. *Micah* will always hold a special place in my heart.