

Grimm Brothers Fairy Tale on the State of Education

In a faraway land there was a village. In this village there lived a rich man, his wife, and their one son. The man was a very important member of the village council. His son loved to spend his time playing games with the other boys, but was still quite smart. When the boys of the village became men at the age of sixteen, they were given a test on their intellectual skills. Upon passing they were sent to an elite schoolhouse where they were prepped to be the leaders of the village, bringing wealth to them and their families. The boy ~~of~~ ~~passed~~. After another long day of work the man looked at his son and said "My boy, you will soon become wealthy and ~~do good~~ ~~to~~ this village as ~~my father~~ ~~and I~~ have." The boy nodded and went back to his ~~drawing~~ sketch of a mountaintop. As the months went on the boy's ~~work~~ work began to greatly increase. ~~For~~ Quickly the boy found that he was drawing less, reading less, and playing games with his friends less, until he ~~was only~~ ~~doing~~ ~~his~~ ~~work~~ ~~was~~ ~~only~~ ~~doing~~ ~~his~~ ~~work~~. Eventually the boy became a well regarded, rich councilman. But never in his life again was he happy.

Analysis:

In the story we can draw comparisons

between the father and what the goal of going to college is supposed to achieve. The father is described as rich before anything else about him is revealed. When talking to his son he puts money before mentioning the good things his son will do. This parallels the 'return on investment' offered by colleges. The father also refers to his father and himself going to the same place, implying that things are 'blue blooded' which a lot of Ivy Leagues are. We can also see that the father works very hard and therefore doesn't have a lot of time for much else with the phrase 'another long day at work'. This eventually translates to the son as he gets older which implies a pattern. When you are what America deems successful, that requires continuous hard work as well. We also see that the boy used to be different, he didn't care as much about education (even though he succeeded in it) and preferred to doodle and have fun. From his drawing we know he is close to nature, but suddenly has to leave it be in order to be successful or more accurately, unhappy.