

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~~ have." The boy nodded and went back to his ~~sketch~~ sketch of a mountaintop. As the months went on the boy's ~~work~~ work began to greatly increase. ~~He~~ Quickly the boy found that he was drawing less, reading less, and playing games with his friends less, until he ~~was only~~ was only doing his work. Eventually the boy became a well regarded, rich councilman. But ~~never~~ in his life again was he happy.

Analysis:

SUCCESS = UNHAPPINESS

In the story we can draw comparisons

First thing you learn
↓
money > all else
↓
Father = traditional goal of college

Family tradition
↓
parallels "blue-blooded" Ivy League legacies

Father's mentality has transferred to the boy
↓
pattern
↓
American Dream

cycle of work = work = priority
Mentions wealth before "good things" money > good works
parallels "return on investment" offered by colleges

BOY = CLOSE TO NATURE
↓
Has to leave it in order to be "traditionally" successful