

First Last Name → Shelly Durham
Assignment → Literary Connection Paragraph
Date → 10/24/2014

TITLE → Out of My Mind – Connecting with Melody & Maria

SIGNIFICANT QUOTE

“Maria got up and started dancing! She clapped loudly, never quite on the beat, but

to a rhythm that was all her own” (96). *This reminds me of* a line I’ve often heard quoted:

(PG#)

“He marches to the rhythm of a different drummer.” Both expressions seem to celebrate

our differences. I like that because for much of my life, when I seemed to be out of step

with the “norm,” I felt ashamed to be different. What I’ve been learning for 52 years now,

is to be comfortable with what makes me different, but more than that – to embrace those

differences. It hasn’t been easy. Shame can create a lot of negative energy like anxiety and

it zaps you of the positive energy it takes to learn and be creative. **I think this may be a**

message or theme that Sharon Draper wants her readers to understand. When we perceive

of a *normal* that must be reached by all, we create a system that rejects others or makes

“outcasts” (99). Seeing the kids from Room H-5 through Melody’s eyes makes me want to

do a better job of seeing those who are often made outcasts in our own school.

CONNECTION

SO WHAT?!

- 1) SIGNIFICANT QUOTE. Begin with a short passage that seems important or reminds you of something you’ve noticed in your own life or somewhere else.
- 2) CONNECTION. Make a connection: Text to Self, Text to World, Text to Text. Or make a non-connection. “This is *not* like me because...”
- 3) SO WHAT?! How does your connection add meaning to the text? What message or theme might the author be trying to get across to the reader?
- 4) WORK CITED. Use MLA Style to cite your source, the text you are writing about.

Work Cited

Draper, Sharon. Out of my Mind. New York: Anthemum. 2010. Print. ← MEDIUM (PRINT, EBOOK)
AUTHOR LAST, FIRST TITLE CITY: PUBLISHER ©YEAR

