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Tasks in the order I received them:

Task One: Reflective writing (Jon's Task) = 542

Task Two: Semiotic Analysis (Ryan's Task) = 457

Task 3: Manifesto (Julia's Task) = 460

Task One: Reflective Writing (Jon's Task)

A Reflection of the piece 'Reflux by Chia Schuler'



Shculer, C. 2018.

Anorexia, A cruel mental illness set out to destroy the victims' self-esteem. The distorted view of body much bigger than it really is. It takes over the life of those who get caught up in the rigid routines, consuming every inch of fun and happiness, replacing it with hurt and pain. How does one fall into this trap? Why is persons weight so important? The Image I Have chosen explains the illness quite perfectly with the sad looking eyes and incredibly bony arms. The girl trying to vomit the larger and, in her opinion, 'less beautiful' women she sees herself to be. 'Body dissatisfaction relates to negative evaluations of body size, shape, muscularity/muscle tone and weight, and it usually involves a perceived discrepancy between a person's evaluation of his or her body and his or her ideal body.'(2017:4) As someone who has suffered with this illness in the past, I believe anorexia is often formed in young people due to the need and want to be 'perfect'. In a world consumed by social media it is extremely easy to begin picking yourself apart. Those who are said to be the most beautiful have tiny bodies and the perfect complexion, but many of the photographs you see on the front page of a magazine and on Instagram are extremely airbrushed and edited to look that way.

'Feminist studies have identified another set of contradictory expectations of women. These are aesthetic expectations. These expectations are contradictory in the sense that they are unnatural/ to women. They are in contrast with women's physiology.' (2005:152). The media has poisoned the minds of women, men and young people by giving them the goal try and reach a body standard that is pretty much impossible to achieve, as quoted it is 'unnatural' to look that way. When looking closer at the painting I notice how much detail the artist has put in to really express the feelings of the illness, sharp jagged lines and colours used really show off the negative story behind the image. I am quite interested in the fact the artist has given the girl red painted nails. This suggests that the

girl cares about the way she looks hence why she has been swallowed by an eating disorder to look like those on social media. however, she doesn't realise how she looks to those around her, A frail, unhealthy, almost lifeless person. An eating disorder does not only affect the person suffering, 'Eating disorder Symptoms have a profound impact on those close to you as well as you, the sufferer. Your behaviour may prompt a whole host of reactions – anger, frustration, despair, tears, panic, anxiety or even ignorance.' (2007:2. From my personal experience the suffering my illness had impacted on my family is what made me begin the process of recovery. The painting shows the girl looking so lonely, a blank background with no one around to save her from her own thoughts. I think this image is a very striking and visually lures the audience to look at the wider meaning of what is going on in the painting. It's not just a girl with an odd lady sliding off her tongue, it is a story, of the battles inside her own head.

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Task Two: Semiotic analysis (Ryan's Task)

The primavera by Botticelli



Botticelli, F., 1481 - 1482

The Primavera (1481-1482) 'an allegorical celebration of spring' (2018), is a beautifully detailed painting by Botticelli, 'often interpreted today as a symbol for the renaissance' (1998: 243). At first glance you see 6 women and a man dancing in a forest with a strange ghost like figure who seems to be taking one of the women away, but what does this all mean? Who are these people? Why is there an angel like figure at the top of the painting? It is theorized that the lady in the middle of the painting draped in an orange robe is actually the roman goddess Venus, 'she stands in an arch beneath her son, Cupid, who aims his bow and arrow toward the Three Graces. In mythology, this

trio of sisters often represents pleasure, chastity, and beauty' (2018). The male on left of the painting is said to be mercury, just leaving the right-hand side of the image, 'Zephyr, God of the west wind, cheeks distended as he blows, flying through the trees and grasping Chloris, a nymph of the bare earth. At his touch flowers spring from her mouth and merge with the flowered pattern decorating the dress of the woman next to her' (1992: 30) just leaving the final character in the beautiful flowered dress, 'this is flora, the goddess of flowers and gardens into whom Chloris was transformed after her rape by zephyr' (1992:30) now that the identities of those in the painting have become more clear you can look at the image in a whole new light, the symbolism becomes much more clear, but there are still so many questions left to ask about each character. Looking closely at Mercury it is said that he is 'Separating the clouds allowing spring to arrive' (2014: 10). The graces then dancing around welcoming the beauty of spring sensually in their sheer gowns. also showing the welcoming of spring are the many different types of flowers scattered along the ground, which draws your eyes to flora in her elegant floral dress and flower crown placed on her head, crowning her the goddess of spring. One of the most interesting parts of the image is Zephyr god of air current, descending from the top right corner, his blueish tones work well to represent that he is cold, his cheeks seem full as if he is to blow a gust of wind, it is he who transforms Chloris into the beautiful goddess of spring leaving behind the dark winter, starting the celebration that spring has just begun. To conclude, from first glance to further analysis it seems this image has much more to it than what it seems, it tells the story of spring in a beautiful and rather romantic way.

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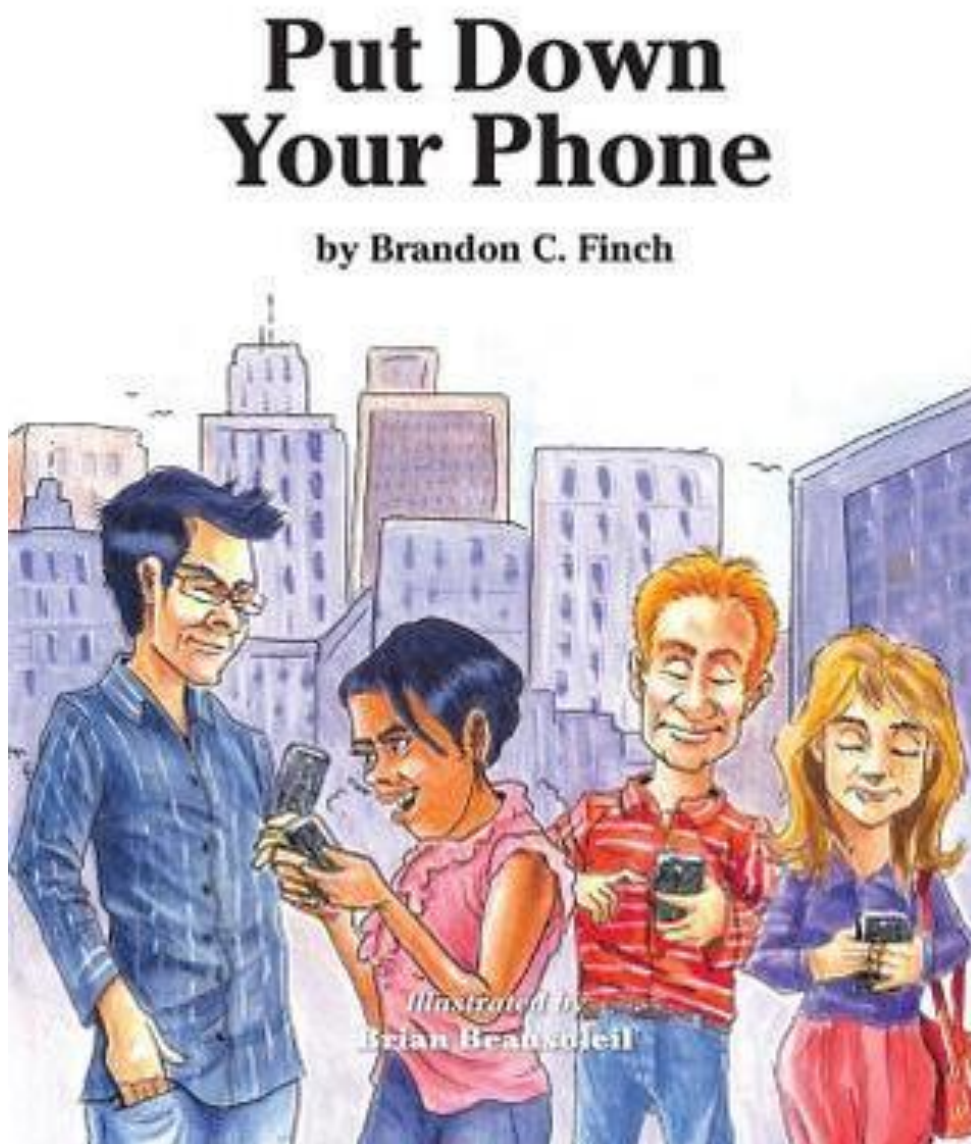
Task 3: Manifesto (Julia's Task)

1. I will always take a minute to look at the world around me, avoid missing out on the beauty of my surroundings by being on my mobile phone.
2. Never accept work from anyone with racist and unacceptable viewpoints.
3. Always carry a sketchbook.
4. Many good ideas come from bad ideas, never bin your mistakes, other ideas will always come from it.
5. If you want a drawing to look like a photograph then take a photograph, art is not all about being realistic.
6. Art does not need to be understood to be considered good.
7. The internet should not be the first source for research.
8. Draw Every day, improvement comes with practice.

Keywords & Images

‘Beauty of surroundings’

1. I will always take a minute to look at the world around me, avoid missing out on the beauty of my surroundings by being on my mobile phone.



Finch, B., 2016. *Put Down your phone*. USA

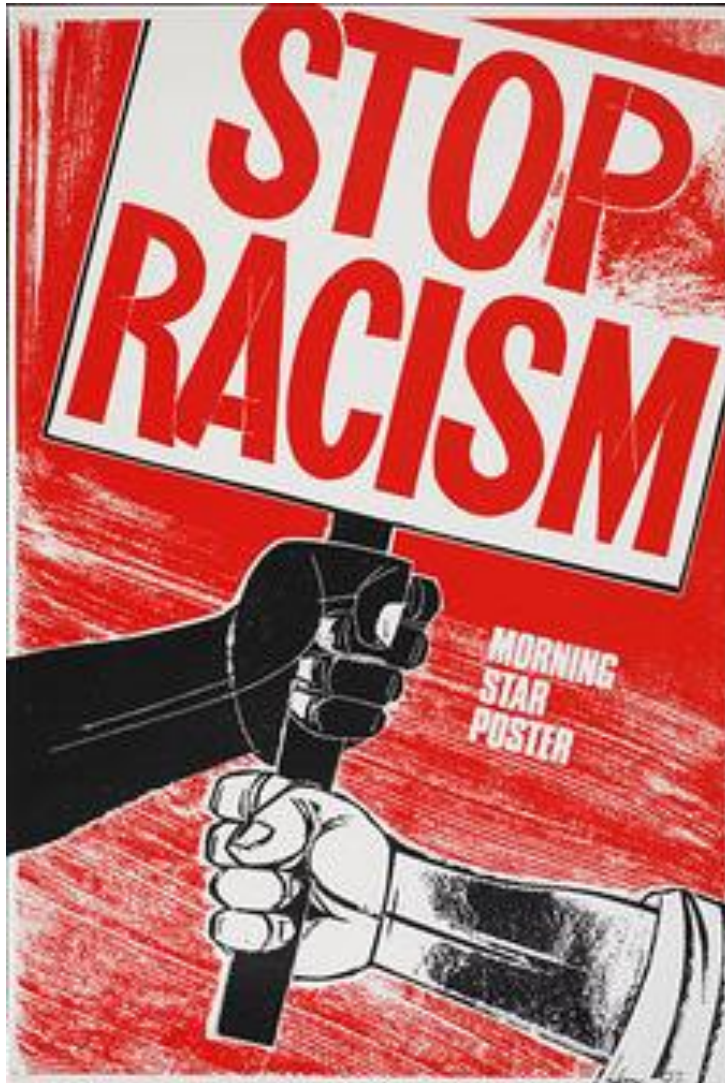
‘Do you remember back in the day, when people talked, and kids would play’ (2016).

Today, mobile phones have become a necessity for most people. A small device where you can contact friends and family, take photographs, read the news, play games, and so much more. Why wouldn't you want such a handy tool in your life? Whilst being extremely helpful when needed, using a mobile phone too much can cause many problems. Constantly looking at your device can stop you from seeing the beauty surrounding you, the world is an incredible place and these days people seem to prefer to see it through other people's eyes on social media. Having an addiction to using your mobile phone can also cause problems with your relationships. ‘Addiction to social networking, dating apps, texting, and messaging can extend to the point where virtual, online friends become more important than real-life relationships.’ Constantly being on your phone can cause a block between you and the real world. Its time to switch off, talk to people face to face and see the world.

Keywords & Images

'Racist and Unacceptable'

2. Never accept work from anyone with racist and unacceptable viewpoints.



Sprague, k.,1997, *Stop Racism*, Poster, UK.

'Racism is a complicated part of the social world' (2010: 10). Sadly, after many battles for equality, racism and other forms of prejudice still exist today. I think it is extremely important in all forms of business to refuse any work from those with discriminative viewpoints no matter what the pay-out. Art can be an excellent way spread the message of equality through posters, street art and other illustrations. I believe any artists who believes in eliminating all forms of discrimination should do their part to spread the message with platform they have. Art can tell a story, spread a message and most importantly could change the world. We should all come together and make a stand for equality and fight those with outdated and offensive views that have no place in our society.

Keywords & Images

‘Art is not about being realistic’

5. If you want a drawing to look like a photograph then take a photograph, art is not all about being realistic.



Picasso, p., 1932, *Girl Before A mirror*.

Some people are led to believe that within art, the more realistic it is, the better it is. I believe that this way of thinking is mostly untrue. With the invention of art techniques such as abstract and cubism some of the most popular art is not actually very realistic. For example, Picasso is one of the most famous artists who has ever lived ‘Born in Malaga the 25th October 1881’ (1985: 10), his work was often created in the cubist style. In my opinion it is incredibly important try and look at form and shape of what your drawing, however, when creating an outcome, adding your personal style and

touch is crucial to create something unique and original. There are no rights or wrongs when creating a piece of art, but I believe everyone should have their own style, simply copying a photograph is just boring!

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