

Write Now

Volume 6, Issue 1

October 2010

Tutorial Center Hours

Mondays

9:00-3:00

Tuesdays

10:00-3:00 & 4:00-7:00

Wednesdays

9:00-3:00 & 4:00-7:00

Thursdays

10:00-3:00

Inside this issue:

Where is Captain Planet Now? 1

Overcoming Our Doubts in College 1

Any Dream Will Do: An Explication of a Passage from Milton's *Paradise Lost* 3

Write Now Authors:

Editor:
Tyler Standridge

Featured Authors:

Melissa Booe
Tyler Standridge
Jennie Dote

Faculty Advisor:

Courtney Miller

Where is Captain Planet Now?

By Melissa Booe

Growing up, kids are faced with subliminal messages every day. Their cartoons deliver them secret morals of the story, while their favorite Disney shows find "fun" ways to explain the facts of life, and commercials sneak in more than marginal amounts of propaganda in the guise of the favorite cereal brands and afternoon snack companies. No one questions these hidden messages because, most of the time, the underlying concept is a good one. More recently, the main idea that snack companies and toy makers have been trying to convey through advertising has been one that food distributors and commercial groups directed towards all ages have been pushing quite aggressively over the last decade: going green.

Kids everywhere are told to: Recycle! Reuse! Younger and

younger generations are being taught to emphasize energy conservation, mostly in the form of simply turning off the lights, or the stereo, and closing the door when the air conditioning is on. With political advisers and board of education members alike searching for new and efficient ways to promote our nation's new appetite for environmental awareness, especially when directed at the youth of our country, I have to ask the same question on everyone's mind: where is Captain Planet now?

Captain Planet was an animated environmentalist television program, written and created by Ted Turner and Robert Larkin III. It only ran for about two years, from 1990 to 1992 and then continued for a short stint as a Hannah Barbara produced syndicate. The show's cast consisted of an animated cartoon "super" man who was



Captain Planet

called "Captain Planet" and had powers regarding his concerns with the earth's environmental health. He had helpers or sidekicks who doubled as American

See Captain Planet, Page 2

Overcoming Our Doubts in College

By Tyler Standridge

Have you ever thought that a class was too difficult and that you would never be able to pass the course, let alone get a good grade? How many times have you given up on studying for a test because you thought the material was too hard for you to handle? I used to think that there were things that I could never

learn, no matter how much I tried, but someone close to me has recently changed my mind.

My younger brother is afflicted with Autism. Autism is a mental disorder that affects one in everyone one-hundred and fifty kids in the U.S. The symptoms are very different from person to person, but kids with the disorder typically have a hard time conversing with oth-

ers, empathizing emotionally, and general trouble with academia.

Like so many others who have his disorder, my brother has struggled just to keep up in school. In order to combat his communication problems, he was put into speech courses. Because of his low grades and test scores, he was almost re-



Captain Planet and the Planeteers: Earth, Fire, Wind, Water, and Heart.

“ ‘Miraculous’ makes it seem like it happened overnight, or that some supernatural event occurred in which his Autism suddenly disappeared.”



Tyler Standridge (left) is in his first semester tutoring English. He is studying computer science and English. After graduating with his AA, he plans to continue his education at CSU, Fresno and find employment in software development.

Captain Planet continued from page 1

Teenagers. They represented certain elements, such as: wind, earth, water, fire and then lastly, to incorporate the moral message present in the show, heart. The premise was based on an assertion that “we are all connected” and that if we do not help Earth, she will not help us, in a very action figure sort of way of course. There is even a character meant to represent Earth, Gaia, who helps the planeteers aid Captain Planet in dealing evil polluters, natural disasters, and other economically unfriendly menaces. I’m simply shocked that Al Gore hasn’t had a field day with this already.

With an upcoming presidential campaign wading listlessly on the horizon, I’m shocked that

candidates and promoters alike haven’t resurrected this almost twenty-year old cartoon. It seems the perfect avenue for brainwashing our youth (for a good cause, of course) while still providing them with a very entertaining and mildly interesting plotline. Stereotypical? Absolutely, but has our media or entertainment industry ever cared about being predictable? Definitely not. In an age where “going green” is the new “share your toys” motto for our future generations, I think a rich, oil tycoon or business mogul somewhere needs to hop on this idea immediately. No one cares about Carmen San Diego anymore, we have bigger fish to fry, (or should I say, not fry, fry your tofu instead). So I ask you America: where is Captain Planet now? •

Overcoming continued from page 1

tained on more than one occasion. Homework that took other kids a half hour to do would take him hours to complete. He was put on a special diet to help regulate his abnormal behaviors (and yes, it did work to an extent). His struggles were numerous, and the rewards were seemingly few.

Despite his disadvantages, my parents never gave up on him. They took all the necessary steps to make sure their son got the best education he could obtain. They drove him to his special after hours courses and regularly conferenced with teachers and administrators to keep him on the right track, and they sat down with him for up to six hours at a time just to finish a homework assignment. Yes, that’s right; they often took six hours to do elementary school homework.

At one point, I thought none of it would ever pay off. I figured that my younger brother would always be dependent on our parents, or perhaps, he would someday be dependent on me. I showed some support on the surface, but internally, I didn’t think he ever had a chance. That changed not too long ago.

Upon entering middle school, a place where I thought he would sink rather than swim, my brother had a breakthrough. He was taken out of remedial courses and put into a “normal” curriculum in which he excelled. A’s and B’s showed up on all his report cards, and his test scores were consistently above average. I was amazed and shocked that the person I hadn’t given much hope for had overcome his disability and was now getting better grades than I did at his age.

At the time, I didn’t know what to make of his sudden success. Some might throw the word “miraculous” around, but I don’t feel like that’s appropriate. “Miraculous” makes it sound as if it happened overnight, or that some supernatural event occurred in which his Autism suddenly disappeared. I would describe his breakthrough as a result of hard work and perseverance from my brother, my parents, and all the teachers and academic counselors that aided him throughout his struggle.

All of this got me thinking about my own academic career. I asked myself, “How many times did I give up on a course, a test or a homework assignment because I thought it was too hard?” I suppose the only appropriate answer is, “Far too many times.”

Why do I tell this story? I tell it because I see so many students give up on themselves after they’ve hit some sort of brick wall. Students come to a point where they can’t quite figure out something that their teacher taught them, they can’t understand a math problem, or they don’t know how to start an English essay. We’ve all had these experiences, but we can’t accept defeat when we come across them.

If my brother’s story proves anything, it would be that with some hard work and dedication, anyone can do well in school, whether its elementary school, high school, or higher education. College is never easy, but that doesn’t mean you can’t accomplish your academic goals. Don’t give up on yourself; if my brother had, he wouldn’t be where he is today. •

Any Dream Will Do: An Explication of A Passage from Milton's *Paradise Lost*

By Jennie Dote

In the mid-1600's, John Milton rewrote and embellished biblical history in his epic poem *Paradise Lost*. Milton's educational background in the faith and his disagreement with the Church of England led to his work, in which he sought to explain the "ways of God to man" (Milton 1:125-126). Through his explanation, Milton repeatedly stresses Adam's love for Eve and the manipulative and self-seeking nature of Satan. This excerpt foreshadows the climax of the epic poem: the fall of man through Eve's eating of the forbidden fruit.

This passage from book five begins with Milton establishing Adam's adoration for Eve. He does this through phrases which emphasize love. Adam calls Eve his fairest and his espoused, and his gift from Heaven. His actions towards her exude adoration as he hangs over her enamored as he hangs over her enamored as "looks of cordial love...[and] beheld/ Beauty" (Milton 5:12-13). Adam's love is depicted as an active and thriving passion; he reaches for his lover and is found "embracing" her as he softly wakes her with warming imagery of the day and ability to spend time together. Milton uses appealing imagery and subtle alliteration to soothe readers and enamor them. Overall, Adam's heart for his beloved also appears to be an allegory for Christ's love for the Church as well as the Christian's viewpoint of a beloved and the bridegroom.

There is then a shift in voice and tone for the following ten lines when Eve awakes distraught. Milton utilizes cacophony to cause unrest and discomfort as Eve explains to Adam that she has had an unsettling dream in which she dreamt not of daily life in Eden, "But of offense and trouble, which my mind/ Knew never till this irksome night..." (Milton 5:34-35). This rough and restless

section makes way for her account of someone whispering in her ear and calling to her.

The reader recognizes the whisper and his literary voice by his lulling and repetitive tonality in which the fallen angel's character is revealed as a master manipulator whom attempts to appeal to Eve's curiosity. Alliteration is heavily utilized in lines 38-92 as Milton not only gives Satan his own distinct voice within the poem but also affects Eve's dialogue. She describes the visitor in her dream as a creature from Heaven similar to those who visit them in the Garden; however, manipulation can be detected as she depicts "his dewy locks distilled/Ambrosia" (Milton 5:56-57). She continues in lines 64-70 and relays that he *paused* at the tree and he *plucked* the *fair fruit, fruit divine, forbidden* here and only *fit for gods*. This alliteration not only reveals his cunningness and influence but also reinforces Eve's dream-like (almost inebriated) state. This transcends to the way man romanticizes time under the influence of Satan and his lures.

Within Eve's account another cluster of imagery occurs. There are several references to eyes through the use of gaze, behold, and sight. These references all link to a vision of unparalleled beauty and nature's desire. This imagery preludes the appearance

of the tree and is a foreshadowing of what may belong to Eve if she partakes of the forbidden fruit. In this, Milton acknowledges man's temptation through his vision and every present lure to sin.

This passage closes with Eve's account that the *guide* has *gone* and she is *glad* to wake. Milton ironically expresses her relief to be back with Adam in the Garden where she believes sin cannot occur by using her dreamlike tonality.

Therefore, this passage foreshadows Eve's (and mankind's) eventual fall from grace. It also serves to expose her perfect relationship with her beloved before the fall at a time when his love appears to be unconditional and fully encompassing. In this passage, Milton also seeks to explain Eve's motivation for sinning as being enticed by Satan before the Serpent appears. For readers, this unheard of account of Satan's encouragement via a dream may lead them to question the canonized account of scripture and helped to fulfill Milton's need to "justify the ways of God to man" (Milton 1:125-126). •

"This passage foreshadows Eve's (and mankind's) eventual fall from grace."



Exile of Adam and Eve

Quick Grammar Tip

There describes a place or existence.

There is no reason to call animal control on the neighbor's cat. I'll just bring it back over there.

Their indicates possession.

Their cat is always in my yard!

They're is a contraction of they are.

It's just because they're out of town.



Jennie Dote is a third-semester English tutor. She is a Liberal Arts major, and plans to pursue a teaching credential and Master's Degree in Special education.

"Milton uses appealing imagery and subtle alliteration to soothe readers and enamor them."

STATE CENTER
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT

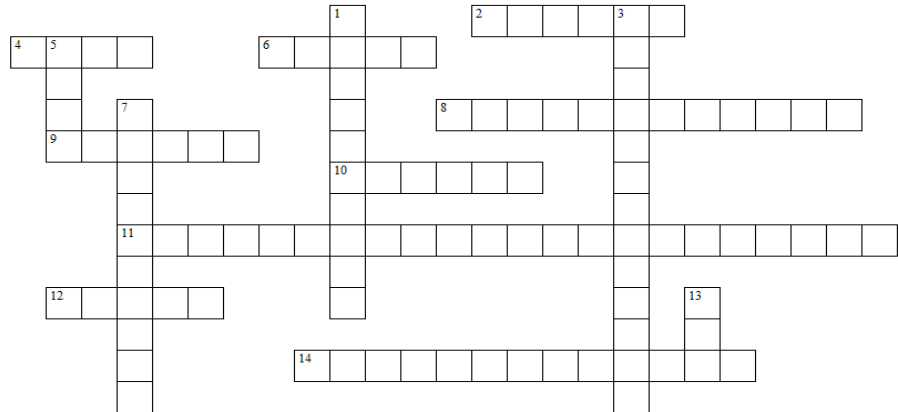
10309 N. Willow Avenue
Fresno, CA 93730

Contact: Courtney Miller,
Writing Center Coordinator
Phone: 559-325-5248
E-mail:
courtney.miller@sccd.edu



willow international TUTORIALcenter

The job of the writing center is “to motivate students to accomplish these long-range goals—becoming full-fledged members of the academic community (social constructionist theory), helping them develop effective strategies for negotiating each stage of the writing process (cognitivist theory), and using the assignment to express their own ideas (expressivism)” from Margot Iris Soven’s *What the Writing Tutor Needs to Know*



ACROSS

- 2 Fight against, attack, assail, assault.
- 4 Character in Captain Planet that represents Earth.
- 6 There, their, or they're that implies possession.
- 8 The repetition of usually initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words or syllables.
- 9 Writer of *Paradise Lost*.
- 10 A mental disorder with symptoms that include difficulty hard time conversing with others.
- 11 And general trouble with academia.
- 12 There, their, or they're that implies position.
- 14 Ecological superhero (two words).

DOWN

- 1 Milton acknowledges man's what through his vision and every present lure to sin.
- 3 Of or relating to the governor.
- 5 First man.
- 7 Captain Planet's posse.
- 13 First woman.

Literature of the Month:

from *Paradise Lost*, Book Five

To find thee I directed then my walk;
An on, methought, alone I passed through ways
That brought me on a sudden to the Tree
Of interdicted Knowledge. Fair it seemed,
Much fairer to my fancy than by day;
And, as I wondering looked, beside it stood
One shaped and winged like one of those from Heaven
By us oft seen: his dewy locks distilled
Ambrosia. On that Tree he also gazed;
And, 'O fair plant,' said he, 'with fruit surcharged,
Deigns none to ease thy load, and taste thy sweet,
Nor Good nor Man? Is knowledge so despised?
Or envy, or what reserve forbids to taste?
Forbid who will, none shall from me withhold
Longer thy offered good, why else set here?

- John Milton

Word of the Month:

Impugn v.
1. a fight against; attack, assail, assault. a fight in resistance against, withstand, oppose 2.
Assail by argument; call into question; dispute the truth or validity off; oppose as erroneous.

Example:
In the current gubernatorial race, candidates impugn each other's record.

