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Essay 1; Shelli King, Memes, Aug 30

**Corrections/Comments in Highlight**

Shelli King in her assignment “Discussion 1” posted a picture of a dinosaur with the words “Scientists say they can recreate living dinosaurs within the next 5 years”, on a bottom row another line of words **You could probably delete “words” it’s not really necessary.** states “there’s literally 4 movies showing why this is a bad idea” (making reference **Referencing? You could rework this sentence as “referencing the Jurassic Park Movies” I think it would flow a little better.** to the Jurassic Park movies where dinosaurs are created by scientists, and then wreak havoc on the public). This picture posted is called a meme. Pronounced meem **add quotations on meem?**, they simply are pictures with witty, clever, and humorous wording that allows **maybe a different word choice, such as prompt the viewer?** the viewer to feel a variety of things from comic relief, to personally attacked. They are a product of the ever-growing world of social media, where one bad picture, or a simple misinterpretation of views, to even the latest post on Twitter, can lead to a barrage of these memes flooding around the internet for everyone’s enjoyment. **I like this sentence.**

One might say that these pictures are no more than mindless entertainment for an uneducated person. Another might say, however, that some memes are flooding with literary undertones. It is true that the comics are created for humor and amusement, but that doesn’t take away from the fact that many memes require the viewer to think, at least a little, about why the picture is funny. **Good ideas, could you expand more on this portion of the essay? Perhaps this is where you could bring in some citations from our readings. To give better clarity as to how they interact with your argument?**

We can take, for example, Nike’s black and white picture of ex-football player Colin Kaepernick staring firmly into the camera with the caption “Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything”. Kaepernick is one of the most controversial characters of this decade with his decision to come out against racial injustice and fight for social equality. However noble his cause may be, it didn’t take long for the masses on the internet to make a mockery of it. Self-made comedians posted pictures of other celebrities with captions that made literary jabs at their character. One such example had a picture of Baltimore Ravens former linebacker Ray Lewis in a similar pose to Kaepernick, with the words “Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing someone”. The wording changed from *something* to *someone* is a literary jab at the common belief that Lewis got away with a murder he committed earlier in his career. Another spoof of the Kaepernick photos that made its rounds through the internet was a picture of Squints Paladores, a character from the classic movie “The Sandlot”. In the movie the young ball player pulls off a plot to kiss the life guard at the pool he was at, which got him and his gang banned for life. Someone took the opportunity to use a picture of the Squints and use the same wording on the original photo. Some might not appreciate the humor, or even understand it, but with a brief review of the literary undertones you would see the joke of Squints being banned for life from the swimming pool as a mocking comparison to Kaapernick and Nike’s “sacrificing everything”.

People who view memes could draw a comparison to the works of cartoonist Gary Larson, who was known for all of his “The Far Side” comics. The comics were simple, but yet if you wanted to get the jokes intended, you had to think more than just mindlessly viewing the illustration and moving on. The same thing applies to memes. They are viewed on a daily basis by millions of people in all languages, and they each have their own unique literary devices in play to create a reaction from the audience.

Memes may not be the Dialogues of Plato, or any of The Great American Classics, but they do have literary value, even if just a little, that can help sharpen someone’s range of literary abilities.

**Feedback**

1. **I like that you have chosen to write about memes, however, I do think your argument could be fleshed out just a little bit more. You have interesting examples, but I feel like the commentary is a bit lacking. I think what would help with this issue is drawing from examples and concepts from our class readings. Our essays are required to have scholarly information and subsequent citations. Make sure you have both of these in following essays.**
2. **A few sentences feel a bit wordy, I think they could be reworked to flow more naturally.**
3. **I also think it would be useful to tie these ideas specifically into Shelli’s specific meme.**
4. **Overall, I think you have a really good bassline and a lot of substantive things to work off of. With a little bit of tightening and applicable material, this makes for a cohesive and interesting paper.**