

Name: Elliot

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How many books would you say you owned (or asked your parents to buy for you)? 20

How many books would you say there are in your house? 400

How many books would you say you've read in the last year? 8

1. How did you learn to read? How old were you? Did you learn to read before attending school?
Parents/School. I was around 5. Yes, I learned to read before first grade, maybe even kindergarten. I don't remember.
2. Why do people read? List as many reasons as you can think of.
Enjoyment, knowledge, boredom
3. What does someone have to do or know to be a good reader?
Vocabulary, patience, attentive
4. What kinds of books do you like to read? Who are your favorite authors?
Religious, Saint Theophan – The Recluse
5. How do you decide which books you'll read?
I usually read books that are suggested to me.
6. Have you ever reread a book? Which one?
Yes, The Ladder of Divine Ascent
7. Do your parents like to read? What kind of books do they read? Do they ever encourage you to read any books that they've read?
My parents enjoy reading, they read religious books as well. Yes.
8. How comfortable are you with writing? Do you think you can express yourself well by writing?
I have poor vocabulary because I take a diverse reading selection. I feel I express well.
9. What are your strengths as a writer?
I tend to think quickly and write what comes first to mind. Sometimes not a strength but a weakness lol, but most of the time a strength.
10. What are your weaknesses as a writer? What would you like to improve?
My vocabulary is lacking very much, so the point of view I try to portray may seem weak, but I feel strongly about them
11. Do you think it's important to be a good writer?
Yes! Being a good writer is a goal I very much would like to reach. It's more important to me than math, science, even history at times. I feel that writing is just as effective as speaking.

Initial Interview Transcript:

1. Tell me about your experience with reading. What do you read?
I usually read religious books. My mom recommends them for me. And I read the books the teachers assign in school. I also am on the debate team, so I read cases for competitions.
2. What religion are you? Do you enjoy the religious books?
I'm Greek Orthodox, so my mom tells me what books to read that help me understand the religion. I usually like the books she recommends, sometimes they're not interesting.
3. Does your religion value education a lot? Do they place a lot of importance on doing well in school?
Yes, most of the parents of my religion encourage their kids to do well in school and they talk about education a lot during religious events.
4. What is school like for you? Do you find it difficult?
For the most part, school is easy in certain subjects like history or English. I find some things in math and science more difficult. But sometimes school is challenging. I am more involved with after school activities than with academic subjects.
5. What kind of grades do you make?
I make As and Bs. I do better when I'm interested in the class. I work really hard on debate.
6. Are you ever bored at school? Feel like the level of reading is challenging/interesting enough?
Yes, I get really bored with science and math sometimes. That's why I wanted to take science at BSHS. I thought it would help me get more interested in learning about science. I complete all the reading assigned at school. Some of it's really boring but a couple of the books I read were kind of interesting.
7. How many books did you read for English class this past year?
I can't remember...Let me think for a second. (Pause) I think it was about four.
8. Only four? What type of class are you in? Is it AP?
Yep, only four. It's an advanced class. It's in the college prep group.
9. Do you remember what the books were?
No, I can't remember the titles.
10. Can you tell me what any of them were about?
I remember one that was about a black guy in Mississippi. He was in prison, on death row. It was about how he was dealing with it and about people who tried to save him from it.

11. Do you remember what any of the others were about?
Not really, no.
12. What are your favorite subjects?
I like English a lot and I like social studies. But I really like debate much better than the other subjects.
13. Plans for after high school?
I want to go into politics probably.
14. Do you want to go to a four year college?
Yeah, I definitely want to go to a University. I'm very interested in going to Brown – that's why I came to the BSHS program. But, I'm in a band and if things go well with that, I might not go to college right away.
15. What's your family like? How do they encourage you to be a good student?
My parents are very religious and they like to read a lot. I have a sister. My family wants me to do well in school and they encourage me to read and get good grades.
16. Why did you decide to come to BSHS? What did you want to improve?
Like I said, I'm interested in Brown so I wanted to see what the campus was like. I want to improve my reading skills to help with debate and I wanted to get better with my writing so I can do well on the SAT.
17. What goals do you have for the summer at BSHS?
I want to improve my vocabulary. I want to start learning about the Patriot Act, since that is what debate is going to be focused on next year. I also want to become more interested in science so I won't find it as boring at school.