

Servando Melendrez

Dr. Sparks

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Literature and Identity Reflection Activity

While reading the requirements for this assignment, I tried my best to think about which piece of literature most affected my sense of self. I thought about this question quite deeply, and the series that came to mind isn't your conventional book. The piece of literature I'm talking about is the comic book series *Invincible*, written by Robert Kirkman. Literature comes in many different forms; it doesn't have to have the constraints of being a book. As long as the story is deep and it resonates with people, that is when it really becomes Literature. *Invincible* does a great job of being a real form of literature with its great characters and depth. The underlying themes of this story really connected with my own sense of self, and I relate very well with the main character, Mark Grayson. Ever since I first watched the show and started reading the comics, *Invincible* has shaped my sense of self in a lot of ways because it shows that real strength is not about never being hurt. Real strength is about getting destroyed by life, feeling the weight of it, and still choosing to stand back up with hope.

One of the main reasons *Invincible* connects with me is that Mark Grayson is not a perfect hero. His name is "Invincible," but the story proves time and time again that he is not. He constantly gets beaten down physically, emotionally, and mentally. He loses people, gets betrayed, and has moments where he clearly does not know if he is strong

enough for the responsibility placed on him. That is what makes the story feel human to me. Mark's power is not interesting just because he can fly or has super strength. His real power is that he keeps trying even when trying hurts him.

I relate to this character because, despite all the crazy fictional aspects of the story, at the end of the day, he is a person who goes through struggles and continues moving forward despite it all. We all go through struggles in our lives, and it's easy to feel overwhelmed and want to give up sometimes. Invincible reminds me that even when things get tough, struggle does not mean failure; it means growth. Struggle itself is proof that you are trying to grow. You don't become stronger by avoiding your problems; you face them head-on despite how overwhelming or stressful they may be.

I have had moments where I felt overwhelmed by school, responsibilities, my relationships, and the pressure of becoming the person I want to be. Despite that, I try my best anyway, and I always try to grow into the best person that I can be. I've gone through the wringer myself: wildfires, deaths, and housefires in the past four years of college. There have been many tough moments in my life, but I am set to graduate this semester with a 3.5 GPA despite it all. It would've been easy to get distracted from school and focus on other things, but at the end of the day, I have a responsibility to myself and my future. I think it's poetic that this story ultimately has a happy ending for the protagonist. He lives a happy life despite the extreme hardships and near-death experiences he has dealt with. Typically, with a story like this, it's easy for things to take a pessimistic approach. However, Invincible sticks to its themes of hope despite hardship, and that resonates deeply with me.