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Look in a Book



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Through books, Mrs. Nannini is able to step into different perspectives and understand emotions, cultures, and challenges beyond her own world.

When she was younger, she read often and developed a strong habit of reading. However, as she got older and became busier with schoolwork and responsibilities, she slowly drifted away from it.

During her senior year, her teacher, Mr. Hardgrave, helped her reconnect with reading by introducing her to interesting and engaging books. This encouragement reminded her how much she truly enjoyed reading and how important it was to her.

Now, her favorite hobby is reading.

Reading helps her learn how to empathize with other people and experience things she might never go through in real life.

Nannini also believes that reading can improve important life skills such as focus, creativity, and critical thinking as well.

By analyzing stories and characters, she has learned how to think more deeply and express her ideas more clearly. Overall, reading is not just a hobby for her but a meaningful part of her life that continues to shape who she is and who she hopes to become.

In addition, reading has become a way for her to cope with stress and anxiety. Whenever she feels overwhelmed or is struggling, she turns to books as a form of escape. Reading allows her to get out of her head and enter another world where she can relax and reset. It gives her a sense of comfort and control, especially during difficult times.

Nannini's favorite book is *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler. She loves Butler's novel because it has a strong mix of science fiction and action that keeps her interested from beginning to end.

She also prefers book versions to movies as they usually include more detail, deeper character development, and richer action scenes.

She especially enjoys being able to visualize the scenes in her own way, which makes the experience more personal and creative.

Nannini has loved reading for most of her life and continues to find it fun and meaningful.



Opportunities in the Corps

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Liza Koko
Wildcat Times
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Teachers from Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School had the opportunity to attend the United States Marine Corps Educator's Workshop this past February. The goal of this training was to show teachers Marine values and how their recruit training works.

The teachers trained in some of the same ways that Marine recruits do. From physical challenges to teamwork exercises, the Marines demonstrated how they teach leadership and discipline.

Ms. Ortiz, Wilson's librarian, mentioned that the workshop was about leadership and perseverance. "It allowed us to experience some of what recruits go through and better understand their training," she said.

Mr. Burns, English teacher at Wilson, said there were a lot of activities, "fourteen hours a day, we went everywhere from confidence courses to the rifle range ... to see what was available to the Marines."

Basically, they were busy the whole time.

The Marines are about structure and confidence. In the end, students can hope to gain confidence, structure, and learn to get things done efficiently.

According to United States Marine Corps (USMC) recruiter SSGT Dolcine, "The biggest thing from Marine Boot Camp is confidence and overall foundation."

Discipline is a big component of being a Marine but it isn't about what you may think. Ortiz states, "Discipline isn't just about following the rules. It's about having pride in what you do and holding yourself to a high standard."

USMC Recruiter SGT Acabal explains that boot camp teaches structure and habits within the recruits: waking up early, exercising, following daily schedules... All of these help to build strictness and discipline.

Some things were hard.

Ortiz said, "The hardest part for me was getting up at 4:30 in the morning ... also it was frustrating when we did one of the group activities and one of our team members ... wasn't listening to us. The rest





of the team had a better idea of how to do the challenge. So even though it was frustrating, it helped me realize how important it is to listen and cooperate when you're working as a group."

According to Acabal, the biggest challenge for recruits is being away from home for the first time. He states that, "You have to push through homesickness yourself."

Ortiz adds, "I learned that it's important to stay motivated and help develop responsibility. The Marines encourage people to keep pushing forward even when something is difficult. And that's something I want students to remember, too. Even if you don't succeed right away, you keep trying and support each other, and you can get there."

Burns states, "It's a great place to develop habits that will help them, a good place to see different places that they may never see again, and it's a great time to find

yourself and see what you want to do for your future."

Dolcine states joining the Marines gives leadership and management skills. Any rank makes you a leader with responsibilities, and there are also benefits like leadership and management skills, tuition assistance, and financial security.

Ortiz's favorite part of the week was, "Having lunch with a recruit who had been there for two weeks. We learned about his background and why he chose the Marines. [We also] saw some recruits struggling through training and then watched the graduation at the end of the week."

So where can you go if you're interested?

Go to your local recruiting office. Acabal states, "Anybody who thinks that they may be qualified ... [should] come speak with us to learn a little bit about the Marine Corps. We'll give you the rundown about how everything works."

Acabal adds that the qualities the Marines look for in students are, "Anybody who's looking to achieve a future, anybody who's looking to achieve success, anybody who's looking [for a] change or challenge.

If you are a teacher or mentor of students, and would like to attend the Marines Educator Workshop, you can also reach out to your local recruiter.

"I would definitely recommend this workshop to teachers," says Ortiz. "It was an amazing experience. It taught me a lot about how the Marines value leadership and teamwork and perseverance. And this is also an important lesson both in the Marines and in school."

