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Narrative essay
English 11, 2017

Shattered Colours

As the laugh track filled my room and the light bounce from wall to wall and into my eyes, a

 thought grew in my mind. Mr. Moseby was black.

 If nine year old me was not playing with his toys, he was watching TV; more specifically the Disney channel. The many selection of shows on air at the time made sure that I was always satisfied with what was on. I was watching my favourite show at the time, The Suite Life of Zack and Cody. The episode that was showing that night was an episode that would stick with me throughout my childhood. The episode was about the twins were going to an alternate universe where their friends and family were dissimilar to what they were familiar with. Mr. Moseby was a rapper, London Tipton was intelligent, and Maddie was a rich dumb blonde.

I'm 16 now and I have not seen a single episode for a couple of years now. I now spend my free time swimming in a sea of Facebook photos and Tumblr articles. It was late in the winter and the orange skies came to greet me earlier than usual. I was reading an article about how The Suite Life Zack and Cody broke many stereotypes. The article mentions how the episode ,where the twins go to an alternate universe, portrays the characters as they usual stereotypes. The article then explains that the episode was to show the viewers how silly the characters were. I had not noticed but the room was filled with darkness, I had lost track of time and did not noticed how late it was.

"The Suite Life of Zack and Cody broke stereotypes!" I said to myself as I was drowning in the blog post. Out of all the articles I read that night, that particular blog post imprinted into my brain. I remembered that when I was younger I would watch that show religiously. I knew when a new episode aired and made sure that I wouldn't miss watching it. But even after all the episodes I saw I never noticed the stereotypes that were broken in the show. Many of the characters were portrayed as the opposite of their infamous stereotypes. London Tipton was a dumb Asian, Maddie was a smart blonde, and Mr. Moseby was a successful African American. When I was younger the key to what I thought was an entertaining show was good jokes and original material. The colour of the character's skin and the stereotypes they portrayed was not a priority to me. I asked myself "were there more shows that broke stereotypes?" So I did my research. I found out that the Nickelodeon show "rugrats" also broke stereotypes. Chas Finister was a single Father and Charlotte Pickles was a successful woman in a man's world.

That was when I had an epiphany. Most of the children shows that I grew up with broke many of their stereotypes. The characters were well written and complex to the point that I would often forget about the colour of their skin and the stereotypes that brought along with it. I know now that cliché writing and targeting ones stereotype is not the most important thing in making a successful TV sitcom.