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English Composition 1001: Essay 4

21 November 2011

Skinny Jeans and Toms

Whether or not general business is the best major for Aron Felkins, his dream of opening a music store makes him a pretty cool dude. Raised by his mom along with his two brothers, Arik and Alek, things were pretty tough for this Arkansas native until his mom married his step father, a minister from a local Christian Church. Never knowing his own biological father, Aron took well to the new father figure in his life and says that his relationship with both of his parents has never been better. His stepdad, Jamison, played a part in his happiest childhood memory when he bought Aron his first guitar and taught him how to play. From then on, Aron has wanted nothing more than to have a music career with far fetched dreams of becoming a rock star; he thinks that he is on the brink of reaching that status. His chill, laid-back attitude draws people towards him even though he claims that he has no idea how to tell if people like him or not. He has no problem strumming to the beat of his own strings and dreams of opening a music shop in a big city like downtown Dublin, Ireland. This eighteen-year-old college freshman is very realistic in saying, “Honestly, I have no idea (what my future holds for me). I'm kind of just winging it right now until the right moment when I just know what I want to do.”

I ask the question, “Why do you love music so much” without knowing how long his answer is really going to be. Before he replies with a quote by Charles Kingsley, his smile brightens like a five-year-old boy opening presents on Christmas morning. “There is something very wonderful about music. Words are wonderful enough; but music is even more wonderful. It

speaks not to our thoughts as words do; it speaks through our hearts and spirits to the very core and root of our souls. Music soothes us, stirs us up, puts noble feelings in us, makes us cringe, and melts us to tears; and yet we have no idea how. It is a language by itself, just as perfect in its ways as speech, as words, just as divine, just as blessed.” After I discover why music is what matters most to him, I notice *The Devil Wears Prada* written in black, white, and red ink on his wrist band. Knowing that this *wanna-be rock star* could not possibly be wearing an advertisement for the movie, I ask him to tell me about it. He responds with, “One of my favorite bands, they have a cool sound that I like listening to.”

The recurring theme of music continues to come up during the conversation, but one other idea crossed his mind: religion. Assuming that the skinny jeans and toms represent some sort of rock star, anti-Christ attitude, he is often overlooked as a religious person. When I ask him about his faith, he responds by saying, “One thing people will not usually guess about me is that I’m a Christian.” It is hard to believe that someone who listens to such insane metal core rock would live such an open Christian life. He believes that God came to save everyone, so that we can live in heaven full of joy for eternity without disease, war, anger, or anything that is not good. His faith has led him a long way away from darkness and his attitude supports all things Christ like. The awesome influence of having a minister for a step dad has increased his faith in Christianity tremendously.

Aron Felkins may decide to stick with his major of general business and open a music store after he graduates, but for now he is learning to be content with the person he is and is enjoying making other people smile with his music.