

The following documents are compilation of essays from University of Maryland students about Dr. Swope's Book, Need for Magic and his appearance in their class for a Q&A session.

Need for Fantasy

(SS) GEP
TuTh 8:30-9:45AM
Sherman Hall 207
Karen Freiberg

This FYS will focus on critical analysis and reasoning about culture and the social sciences, and on oral and written communication. An interdisciplinary approach will feature Anthropology (social customs and beliefs), Sociology (functions of human society) and Social Psychology (behavior groups), as well as writing skills.

The reading assignments will feature "Need for Magic", a fantasy novel by Joseph Swope, Ph.D. and 3 overviews of social psychology. The chosen novel introduces human needs, motivation, impression formation, attraction, prejudice, cognitive dissonance, social approval, cult membership and other social phenomena which will be the materials for our discussions and student assigned papers.

Before Joseph Swope came to our class my idea of him was as generic as it could possibly be. I saw an old man, possibly balding, with his nose in the air and no interest in how we thought. All he knew was all he cared to know. If there was ever a time I had an egg on my face it was the day we actually met. Not only did Joseph Swope open my mind as a thinker, he filled it with new ways to apply psychology into my writing as well. His experience was the hook, but the things I learned from him are what pulled me right in.

One of the topics that Swope first touched on was why we conform, more importantly, why it might not be a bad thing. He mentioned that it builds a structure for us, helps us not to be alone. The example he used made perfect sense. Swope said that if a kid is bullied at a young age, it can only go on for so long before they either fall into the forever label of loser or decide to use that weakness as a weapon, becoming the class clown. Speaking from experience, he couldn't be more right. It was like my life story being told to me. In a scary way it made me feel not so special, as if this was every bullied kid's path that I was on, but on the other hand I was excited about where those kids ended up and what that meant for my future.

In addition to this we discussed how conformity can be used against our friends in our everyday lives. *the subject about* How we can get them to go along with our ideas through trust. Again, it was one of those experiences where I couldn't help but to agree. These realizations made me want to dig deeper into the why of it all. From what I've gathered about conformity we seem to gravitate toward power sources. This causes people to be easily manipulated, which could be good or bad depending on what the situation is. According to Swope, that's exactly how his fascination

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started as well. Similarly that's how we both became interested in cults as well, which will be my next presentation.

Swope talked a lot about cults and other themes in his book Need for Magic; he broke down how he created the characters and what concept each character represented. However, what I was missing from the discussion was the lack of racial diversity in the book. I think there was a time where gender was brought up, but never race. From what I could tell Swope didn't seem like the type of person to overlook things purposefully, if he did, then there was a bigger plan in the works. But if there was one regret I made from our ~~and~~ and a half long discussion it was not getting the chance to address his omission of other races in the book. If Swope did forget, then that would have been the perfect moment to make that change.

Of all the questions Swope answered my favorite had to be how open he was to discussing his next book. I had expected a few hints but Swope was willing to go as far as character death spoilers. I suppose it's because in the pre planning stages, anything can change. However, the response from the class was enough to make it permanent. Moments like that are what I as an artist aim for.

If I took away anything from Joseph Swope it was that to judge someone before actually meeting them is foolish, of course it is, we're taught this at a young age. But I apparently still find myself doing it from time to time. Joseph Swope taught me a lot about what kind of person I am, and how I could be a more conscientious one. He inspired me with new techniques to apply to my own art, and encouraged me to continue my own dream. Overall, I wouldn't mind conforming to his way of thinking.

In this essay, I will discuss the most interesting pieces of information I gleaned from Dr. Swope's guest lecture in our class. What I found interesting from Dr. Swope's lecture was the things he said about conformity and behavior. After his lecture, I walked away looking at conformity differently. Despite taking two Psychology classes and a Sociology class, his lecture showed me that I had a very limited idea of what conformity was.

One of the interesting things that I took away from Dr. Swope's lesson was that conformity is neither good nor bad, because depending on the situation, conformity can be either good or bad. If this idea was presented to me a couple years ago I would have totally disagreed. Before the lecture, my mindset was that all conformity was bad, not realizing that there are things I conform to on a daily bases. I never looked at following social norms as something that I conformed to. Norms such as not laughing at a funeral, or standing facing the front rather than the back of an elevator, or not sitting directly next to someone on a bus. These are examples of good conformity. Some examples of bad conformity would be things like gang or cult initiation. Bad conformity would be anything that would lead people to do harm to others or themselves.

Another interesting piece of information that I took away from Dr. Swope's lecture was the idea of learning to conform to something you hate. The logic behind Dr. Swope's argument was that when need is attached to a task that you don't like, you will then begin to like it. "You can't do anything for a long period of time and hate it." This idea is something I haven't agreed or disagreed with yet. Personally, I think that once you begin to hate something, you will stop doing it and find something else to meet your need. For example, when you have a job that you don't like. A job also has a need

attached to it, because jobs provide you with money which you use to provide for yourself, family or to pay bills etc. But once you find another job that meets your needs you will go to the next job. Another example, would be as a college student, there have been classes that I've had to take in order to graduate. Due to the presence of a need, I did the work, but I didn't necessarily begin to like the class. An example Dr. Swope used, was sweeping the hallway. The idea was that if your professor provided you with extra credit for sweeping the hallway for a week, by the end of the week you would begin to enjoy doing it. When explained in this way I began to see his point. But, as of now, because this is a foreign concept to me personally I remain undecided about this idea.

Lastly, another interesting idea that I took away from Dr. Swope's lecture was the idea of behavior and how each behavior is connected to a reward or a punishment. After hearing this I was hooked, and began to question all of my behaviors. However, this is another idea that I remain undecided about. What made it interesting was when he asked me why I was shaking my leg. I was both nervous and excited because I didn't know why I was shaking my leg, but after thinking about what reward I may have been receiving from it, I was puzzled.

In conclusion, I don't like to read, but after Dr. Swope's lecture I can't wait to read the second book. Overall, getting to meet, talk to and question an author of a book was a very exciting experience and one I will never forget. This experience reminded me of why I love being in college. To come into a classroom with my own personal ideas and beliefs about the world around me, and then to have them completely transformed is incredible. Over time I've learned that being "smart" or "wise" is not about knowing all the answers, but knowing the right questions to ask.

There are times when a person reads a novel and gets so interested in the story that they start trying to guess what will happen next. I have personally had this experience with different books that I have read and I am glad to say that Need for Magic is one of the books that gives me that feeling. Dr. Joseph Swope's novel really keeps me interested and guessing what will happen next. That is why I am going to discuss how I would like to see some characters in the novel grow and change as the Need for Magic series moves forward.

To start off, I would like to talk about the main character Keven. From what I have seen in the novel, Keven is shown as a weak character at the start of the book but by the end of the book he has grown to be more confident and curious. However, I still think that Keven has more growing up to do. When Dr. Swope had his discussion with the class, he mentioned that in the coming novels that Keven will walk down a dangerous path when he meets with Sogoth and starts learning more about magic. I think that this will be good for Keven because it will probably help him learn some powerful magic that can be good for defending himself against dire bugs or goblins. However, I don't want Keven to become a dark lord and try to take over Atani or any other kingdoms that might appear in the story. I feel that the greatest change in Keven will come if he ^{over}comes the "dark path" that Sogoth will lead him down, and if he decides to use his magic for good. Not only because that is the right thing to do but because I am looking forward to a big final battle between him and Sogoth.

The next character I would like to see change in the series would be Erin. I know that she didn't really have a big role in the story until the last few chapters of the book but that is exactly why I would like to see her grow. She plays a big part in Keven's life and I think it would be cool if she develops some interesting traits of her own. Rather than being some damsel in distress, it would be nice if Erin maybe learns some magic of her own or another skill that would make her character more remarkable. To go even further with that, perhaps she could use her new found skill to help on a journey to King

Festinger's castle as Erin and Keven try to rescue her father. Not only would this help Erin grow as a character but I feel that it would also bring Erin and Keven closer which is another change I would like to see. With the rescue of her father, their friendship could maybe blossom into a romance. Not only would this add to the story by throwing in a little more emotion, it would also establish Erin as a main character (at least more than she was in the first book) and, not to be cliché, but she could also be the character that could save Keven from the inevitable darkness that he is going to face.

One more character that I would like to see change in the novel is going to be Kiel. As the new leader of the dream, I can expect that Kiel will become even harsher than she was in the first book. This will be a welcome change for me because I will get to see just how far Kiel will go in pursuit of the dream. It would be interesting to see if Kiel struggles with her morality and starts questioning the idea of the dream. However, I would also like to see her come back to her senses. Perhaps an encounter with Keven will change her and she could become allies with Keven to help him battle against Sogoth or Lillandra or maybe even both of them. I would also like to find out more about Elvenwood. I know that Dr. Swope mentions that there are Elves in the world of Need for Magic but the only Elf that we get to meet is Kiel. It would be cool if we could encounter some elves that are different from the one we know because I find them to be an interesting species. The elves that would be introduced could have some relationship with Kiel and add to her struggle with the morality of the dream. Perhaps Kiel could even try to take over Elvenwood because her dedication to the dream is so powerful. I believe that if that were to happen it could either establish Kiel as ruthless in her pursuit of the dream or completely change her outlook of the dream and have her realize that she is making a big mistake.

There are many other changes that I would like to see take place in the next installments of Need for Magic. However, Keven, Erin, and Kiel are the characters that I believe will have a big impact on how the rest of the series unfolds. It really surprised me that I could be so interested in a novel that I

had to read for school but I think it is safe to say that Dr. Swope has found a fan in me and I look forward to his next installment in the series.

Why do we do the things we do? Why do we eat, sleep, have relationships, desire to be respected, etc.? These behaviors all fill particular needs according to Abraham Maslow; the need to survive, the need to belong, and the need for esteem. But what about behaviors such as biting one's lip, scrunching one's nose, or switching positions in a chair? Is a person aware that they are engaging in behaviors like these, and what need do these behaviors fulfill? These questions, brought up by Dr. Swope fascinated me. In this essay we will be looking at what micro-behaviors and micro-expressions are, what roles they fulfill, and what would happen if we eliminated these behaviors and expressions from our daily lives.

Micro-behaviors and expressions are actions that we carry out on a moment by moment basis, and are often not aware that we are doing it, until the fact is brought to our attention. It is easy, and comforting to believe that we have complete control over our actions. But this is not true. We can exhibit control over the actions we are aware of. But can we exhibit the same level of control over actions that are happening at a more sub-conscious level? It is relatively simple to say, "I am going to exhibit control over my need to eat, and thus not consume anything today." But is it as easy to say, "I am not going to make any expressions with my face today" and carry out that demand? Of course not. I believe, that the reason that is not as straightforward to exhibit control over these micro-behaviors and expressions, is because we are not completely aware of what needs these actions fulfill.

Need can be defined as a requirement, or something that is deemed to be necessary. So what requirement do micro-behaviors and expressions fulfill. First, I believe that micro-expressions in particular, fulfill a need for communication. A large part of human emotion, and the human thought process is not revealed with words, but through facial contortions. For example, if you are being confronted in an aggressive manner, your eyebrows may shift to a

down and together position. Your eyes may glare, and your lips may narrow. These expressions all commonly indicate anger. But when was the last time you thought to yourself, "Okay, I am feeling angry right now. Let me furrow my eyebrows, purse my lips and stare this person down."? These facial contortions usually stem from the subconscious, and take place without concerted effort. Second, I feel that micro-behaviors provide comfort. Why do people shift positions in their chair? Because they were uncomfortable in the initial position, and by switching positions they become more comfortable. Why do people blink? In order to keep their eyes from drying out, which would lead to discomfort. In summary, micro-expressions lend themselves to communication, and micro-behaviors aid in our comfort.

In the second paragraph, it was mentioned that it is easier to exhibit control over behaviors, when we know what needs they fulfill. So, if we know that we are making a certain face in order to communicate a feeling without verbalizing it, why not just say, "I am going to exhibit control over my emotions by eliminating all facial expression."? One could do this, but in doing so, would have to also acknowledge, that the need to display emotions is something that should be inhibited. At the root of the matter is the question, "Is it a bad thing to have needs, and does it make a person more powerful if they don't have any needs?" No, I do not believe that it is a bad thing to have needs or want to fulfill those need. Having needs makes a person human. So why do people want to eliminate their needs? Often the answer is, "To become more powerful." To an extent I agree with the fact that the lack of needs contributes to the gain of power. The ability to exhibit control over the needs described in Maslow's hierarchy would be beneficial, and in some ways, an attainable goal. But I do not think that it is possible to achieve the same level of control when considering micro-behaviors and expressions. The reason that these behaviors and expressions occurs without our awareness, is to preserve our working

memory. Could you imagine if you had to consciously map out every facial expression that you had to make? Your mind would be so overwhelmed that it would not be able to function properly. At this point, domination over need would be detrimental.

The question that Dr. Swope brought up in class, regarding whether one could exhibit control over micro-behaviors and expressions fascinated me. Until his discussion, I was not aware that a category existed under which behaviors like "shifting positions in a chair," could be classified. It wasn't clear to me what Dr. Swope's opinion was on whether micro-behaviors and expressions could be actively controlled, but in my opinion they cannot be. Unlike the behaviors that are described in Maslow's hierarchy, where we are aware of what actions need to be taken in order to fulfill particular needs, we are often not aware of what needs micro-behaviors and actions fulfill and thus not consciously aware that we are participating in such activities. Another reason that we are not consciously aware of the fact that we are participating in micro-behaviors and expressions is because these behaviors often stem from the subconscious. To actively have to process facial expressions, and small physical movements would overwhelm the brain's capacity to function normally. In the case of micro-behaviors and expressions, lack of control is a good thing.

Literature is an important asset in the social, political, and economic development of the human race. It is used as a weapon to stop social injustices, a teaching aid for young generations and as a record to preserve history. It is also used for entertainment. Since early stages of human development, humans have used literature for different issues. For instance, different forms have been used to criticize or shape political leadership. Other forms have been used for economic earning or criticizing social evils. The novel *Need for Magic* is not an exception. It is an important piece of literature that has been used by Joseph Swope to teach social psychology. It also serves as a tool of entertainment since the fiction story is interesting. The paper will analyze the novel *Need for Magic* regarding the decisions made by king Donius in respect to his daughter.

It is evident that the king adored his daughter princess Helena. The love facilitated all the decisions that the king made. For instance, the king chooses to support his daughter in all her activities. According to the culture of the community, a parent has the responsibility of following up the actions of his daughter and correcting her in some of her decisions. To the contrary, the king always supported his daughter in all her actions without evaluating more details about them. It is a factor that could have made the daughter make wrong decisions that could affect the reputation of the royal family, or even harm their leadership, considering the fact that they were leading a monarchy where hereditary leadership is practiced. I do not agree with the king's decision to support her daughter. Although she had the ability to influence many things, it was the responsibility of the king to act as a parent and guide his daughter on how to practice good morals for the better future. In addition, considering that she was a member of the royal family, who was prepared for future leadership of the kingdom, it was important to keep an eye on her to prepare an excellent future leader of the kingdom. It is always good to acknowledge and

appreciate good actions through support. However, the king could act more as a parent to his daughter and avoid being manipulated.

The king also made the decision to support her daughter's ideology of studying and practicing witchcraft. Witchcraft is among the most influential things in human psychology. It made princess Helena control all the prominent people in the land and earn support from them. The magic power made her manipulate leaders and members of the general public through promising them that the magic power could give them what they needed. The practice could be harmful to the land since it made her have the power to control and manipulate all the people in the land. This factor could make her lack criticism in case of misconduct. It is evident that during the time of the story, magic art was among the most promising careers. Therefore, I agree with the king's idea to support his daughter. However, it would be more important if the king offered advice to his daughter either directly or using elders on how to use magic in the kingdom without affecting the reputation of the royal family. In addition, I agree with the king's ideology to support his daughter in the issue because it made her influential and manipulative - things that are important for a future leader.

The king's decisions to pass the throne to his daughter is also a tough decision that the king made without having much thought. It is evident that princess Helena was more influential in the land. Her influence was caused by the fact that she had the ability to manipulate people using magic and the fact that she was the daughter of the king. However, it is important to consider that her influence could make her mislead the kingdom. Therefore, it would be better if the king chose one of his other children to inherit the throne. I disagree with the king's decision to choose princess Helena as the one to inherit the throne. As development was occurring in the region, many people would learn modern sciences that can disapprove magic and witchcraft.

this could make her lose popularity. Therefore, it would be better if the king focused on leadership traits while choosing who was to inherit the throne.

To sum up, the novel offers a good lesson about social psychology. It indicates how the psychology of human beings can be manipulated irrespective of their position. The king made many decisions in respect to his daughter princess Helena. The princes were able to manipulate the king and other citizens of the kingdom using magic. Many of the decisions made by the king were not appropriate for the kingdom or the well-being of the royal family in the future. However, princess Helena's ability to manipulate and influence the social psychology of her father and other political leaders made her succeed in earning support from them.

Need for Magic was a very interesting book and the cliffhanger at the end left me wanting more. There are a couple of things that I would like to see in the next installment of the Need for Magic series. First, the background of Lalandra was not explored in the first installment and needs to be expanded upon. Also, Kevin's unknown father is the perfect opportunity for a plot twist later in the series, adding depth to Kevin's character and to the character of his father.

Lalandra was introduced as one of the main antagonists in Need for Magic. Her character so far has been a cold manipulative one who will do anything to gain control over others. The only back story we receive regarding her is during Sogoth's flashback. She was shown to be responsible for the death of their mother. This shows her character, but doesn't elaborate on why she wanted their mother dead. Was it to gain power somehow? Was it at the request of her father, whom she was learning from? This needs to be elaborated on to flesh out the character of Lalandra. Also, how did she manage to insert herself into such a high position in the court of Atani? A chapter about her manipulating her way from being a simple tutor for Princess Helena to running the country could provide insight into her character.

Another aspect of Need for Magic that is ripe for expansion is the identity of Kevin's father. While the identity of Kevin's father could remain an unknown for the entire series, it would be much more interesting for one of the previously introduced characters to be revealed as his father. So far there are a few possible fathers for Kevin. The first, and perhaps most obvious would be Gareloch. This, however, might undermine Gareloch's assessment of Kevin. Gareloch noticed Kevin because of his observations about the motives of the town bullies and his boldness confronting them. However, if Gareloch was Kevin's father, he would have taken him as his apprentice regardless of actual talent, making Kevin no more special than any other teenager.

Also, the moral alignment of Gareloch would most likely not allow him to abandon a woman with his bastard.

The other possible father is a much more interesting. I think the best father for Kevin would be Sogoth. Sogoth is a powerful mage whose wizard price was his loss of all morals. Abandoning a bastard with a woman would be entirely within his character alignment. As Joseph Swope revealed during his lecture, Gareloch will die in a future book, sending Kevin into a depressive state. This is the perfect setup for a Darth Vader like moment, except instead of the protagonist rejecting his evil father, Kevin could join forces with Sogoth. Another reason that this would be a good idea is that it would fix a plot hole. Lilandra tried everything that she could think of to try to deal with the dragon and still failed to even provoke a response. On the other hand, it took Kevin a simple sublvato to wake the dragon and have it help him for a short while. Wizards in Need For Magic world can learn from any combination of the branches of magic. Lilandra certainly learned at least some rudimentary magic during her long life, even if her focus was on the power of need. Yet in spite of this, she utterly failed to wake the dragon. However, if Sogoth was Kevin's father, it would make sense that the dragon, who Sogoth bound to his will, would recognize Kevin as Sogoth's blood and be forced to help. This would neatly repair the hole and make for an interesting situation. Kevin and Sogoth could join forces to combat Lilandra. The story could either end with Sogoth becoming good, or sacrificing his life to help Kevin defeat Lilandra, redeeming his character.

I think that the addition of a back story for Lilandra and the revelation of Kevin's father would help make the sequels more interesting. The expansion on the motivations behind each character would make for a deeper story. It would help the reader to become more invested in

the story and attached to the characters. Need for Magic is an interesting book and has a good amount of potential.

After reading Need For Magic for the past couple of months, I thought the ending left a lot of food for thought. With everyone having their own agenda I can only imagine what will happen in book two. ^{A new paragraph} One thing that I would like to see happen would be more involvement of Keven. I felt that there were way to many characters ^{and he} that they should have spread out the other characters throughout other books. I know that Keven was just one of the main characters but, in my opinion, I think it would have been better to give him more pages. I enjoyed reading about him and Gareloch. Though their conversations were short, the way in which they spoke to each other was enjoyable to read and that's what I would have liked to see.

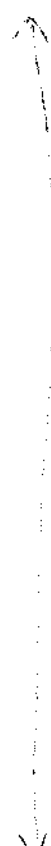
Another thing that I would like to see in the second book would be a more in depth look at Sogoth. To me he felt like a minor character but with a big role. I would enjoy reading more about his past and I would like to read more about him ~~and~~ being involved with Keven in some way. In Need For Magic, his role was limited and he was kind of a viewer throughout the story. When Sogoth spoke to Gareloch, to me, it felt like that was most Sogoth was involved throughout the entire book apart from ^{*} when he caught the dragon.

Now speaking of the dragon, I think that if ^{he} they can play a big role, like the next enemy for Keven and everyone, that it would be awesome to read. Not just because I enjoy reading about dragons and them destroying things but because they were taken lightly in the first book. ~~that~~ I would like to see them come back in a group. ^{not a complete sentence} And maybe even the goblins. Their role was small throughout the entire book but I think they could somehow sneak themselves in and play a part in the second book as well.

Of all the characters from the first book, the only one to really catch my attention was Kiel. Her background story really caught my attention when I read it ^{and} from the way she was ^(New sentence)

introduced into the story I figured she was going to play a bigger role. But after reading the ending, I am excited to see how she takes on the role as the new leader of 'The Dream.' When she was given this role towards the end of the book I got really excited. Her role was kind of simple in the beginning so with the role she now possesses leading up to the second book, I look forward to hopefully seeing a more aggressive character especially as she looks for the person who killed Lilandra.

There are so many characters that I would like to see have more prominent roles, but then the book would be very long. I just look forward to reading more about Keven and Erin's relationship, especially since they are stuck together at Ducca's Vineyard. I wouldn't mind having the book be a little bit longer than the first one because that way they could add more detail to the stories and give characters more pages so that they could have better stories.



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04/10/15
First Year Seminar

I would like to have an imaginary conversation with one of my favorite character^s from the novel "Need for Magic". In this essay I will discuss some of the things I would ask, or tell, this character. I think we would enjoy this time together and I will explain why. I chose Gareloch to be part of my imaginary conversation because he's a very intriguing character to me, who brought interest and inspiration to the book. I feel like this would be a great opportunity for me to talk to him if it has ever happened in real life. Not only it would benefit me but also it would help me see what he sees towards around him in life. I have lots of questions in mind and have always wondered how did he become the person he is now. Gareloch is a Master Wizard which no one knows and he's very optimistic^{about} on how the world will turn out. *(He had no hope)*

The way Gareloch played out in the book is very inspirational to me because of how he interacts with peopleⁱⁿ is very different in terms of speaking in a different accent, or leaving people questions. Like the way he taught Keven was also inspiring but funny as well because he ^{did} does not answer directly towards ~~to~~ anything Keven asks. He mostly returns questions back and it ^{got} gets annoying. I can imagine myself in the same situation as Keven and ^{kept} kept asking one another^{back and forth} back and forth, which would be interesting. Mainly, I would like to ask him how did he become the person he is now, and I can see him answering with an accent saying, "Lad, yer life and me life is no different. Us humans come across to many things.. to learn and explore what's right or wrong fer us. 'Tis the way of it." *(Something he would say that is not a complete sentence)* Inspiring or anything in that manner. I also think he will say something that will leave me

*great teacher
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puzzled. This would lead me to ask him if he developed some sort of method to teach individuals like Keven, or is that the same way his previous teacher taught him. He would answer, "Lad, we encounter many things we can learn from someone else's experience.. and if yer as wise as I am, you would not let anyone tell you what to do but find the need you seek from the person who is teaching you." Gareloch would reply in this manner because when he ^{parent to me} was teaching Keven, he ^{at Keven} wants to experience things for himself.

What I can tell ~~to~~ ^{think} Gareloch is he had me thinking differently towards life and provided me with a new perspective. He basically said one of the simplest things we usually say, but in a very different manner and it kept me thinking or ^{saying} see ^{in a new way} newer things than usual. He clearly observes the littlest things that surround him. ^{like bread left} Reminding me how Keven had to go through a hard way of learning from Gareloch, ~~and~~ I think that is a better experience than anything else besides learning it on your own. Other than that, I don't expect much from the character, however, it would be an honor for me to experience what Keven has been through.

Don't add one more thing to conclusion!
One more thing, I also imagine learning simple magic from Gareloch but I don't think he will respond directly to whatever I would be asking. This would be a great experience because he will provide insight and a broad view on life. If I was Keven and being taught by Gareloch, I think I would be having the same issue thinking about choosing my own path whether ~~it~~ it's the right or wrong way.

Not quite 2 full pages

Lilandrja

need for magic

"Need for Magic" by Joseph Swopes was a great novel. The story takes place in a region called Atani. The author tells the story from the viewpoint of 9 different characters. This allows you to form your own ideas about each character. The story is about a brother and sister who are both trying to gain power. While Sogoth the brother steps back and lets his sister take the lead, Lilandrja becomes a force to be ~~wrecking~~ ^{deat} with. Lilandrja takes the city of Atani by storm and gains a tremendous amount of power in a short period of time. The story shows how Lilandrja's need for power effects everyone. Through the eyes of the 8 other characters you see the domino effect Lilandrja creates. Since the story was told from the point of view of all these different characters, I developed a connection with almost all of them. In this essay I will discuss the things I would like to see happen in the future of many of the characters from the novel "Need for Magic", and explain why.

Lilandrja was by far my favorite character from the novel. She knew exactly what she wanted and how she was going to get it. She played her cards so well and let all the chips fall exactly where she wanted. What I loved most about her was that she was a woman. A lot of novels I have been reading lately all have powerful male characters and are lacking in the female department. It was refreshing seeing a woman be this powerful. At the end of the novel, Joseph Swopes implies that Lilandrja is dead but we don't know for sure. I would love to see Lilandrja make a come back and seek revenge. It would make for a very interesting plot twist.

My second favorite character was Keven. Keven's trait transformation throughout the novel was inspirational. At the beginning of the novel Keven was lost

and had no purpose. He was the towns' bastard. He was constantly bullied and put down by the towns' people. Watching him leave the town that brought him nothing but misery, made me so happy. I am so excited to see all the adventures that are in store for Keven. Now that he is a powerful wizard, I would love to see join the Wizards Palace. I would also like to see him find a way around the wizard's oath. I don't want him to be bound by any of those oaths. I also don't want him to lose his humanity/moral conscience. I hope the second novel also brings Keven love. I want him to have the opportunity to fall in love and be happy. Hopefully ^{he} him and Erin can pick up where they left off years ago.

Another character I can't wait to read about in the second novel is King Donius. Throughout the novel I had mixed feelings about King Donius. I didn't know if I liked him or if I thought he was weak. I'm hoping that King Donius honors some of the new changes in Atani. Even though Lilandra was very radical at times, she did implement some great new legislation. One of her better works ^{was} ~~would be~~ eradicating slavery in Atani. I hope that King Donius will see what a good thing that was. Most importantly I hope he raises the baby that was spared from being sacrificed well. I hope he learns to be more understanding and open-minded. I can't wait to see how the new baby changes King Donius. I hope the baby grows up to be the next just ruler of Atani.

Lastly, I would love for the elf to let the 'dream' die. I don't want to see her try and salvage what little is left of the 'dream'. I also hope that Sogoth doesn't bring Keven any trouble. I hope he isn't threatened by Keven's newfound power. I hope ^{he} him and Keven actually decide to work together. I would love to see Sogoth mentor Keven and help him get even stronger. Most of all I hope that Gareth and Keven don't grow apart. I love the dynamic between them and I want them to grow closer.

Overall "Need for Magic" was a great novel. I can't wait to read the next novel and see how the story progresses. Hopefully some of the things I want to happen actually do.

In this paper, I am going to be talking about behavior aspects of social diffusion in relation to the book *Need for Magic*, and its reflection in our modern communities. Social diffusion or Mob psychology, can be defined as the loss of one's identity and the reflection of the behavior of a crowd. This aspect increases as the crowd size increases. This social feature is related to "Need for Magic" because, there are a lot of moments where the people outside the city of Atani have the urge to join Lilandra in fulfilling "The Dream," and as they all gather in the city this simple urge turns into an unending quest to execute Lilandra's plans. It fills their very need to live because they are in a single community where everything that is carried out reflects back unto Lilandra and their need for her approval. As such, they behave more like the people of Atani and develop their characteristics over time.

Mob psychology occurs in a number of different places in our society today. Most individuals, especially the peers, lack the confidence and full understanding to identify themselves clearly, they are at a point in their life where they are still trying to find themselves and be their own person. At this delicate stage of vulnerability most of them find support in joining groups or clubs where they relate to. The activities and members of these clubs greatly influence the behavior of such individuals. They often feel the need to be accepted and included and so they participate in activities even if they seem abnormal to them. Gradually their personalities fade away and they gain the behavioral pattern of their group members. Most of the time the people undergoing these changes do not realize how much of an impact their society has on them until they cannot think for themselves anymore. In "Need for Magic," social diffusion was a common social aspect where Keven himself experienced a brief session of mob psychology. When Keven was taken to Atani against his own will, he first arrived in denial and shock at how dedicated the people were to serve and impress Lilandra. He could clearly see their flaws and obsession and he acknowledged that it was abnormal to sacrifice one's life so fervently just to please the regent. As he got more accustomed to the city and communicated more with his fellow soldiers, he gradually gained

the excitement and adoration for Lilandra without even meeting her. He copied the way that his group thought in order to relate better with them and not be left out, in other words he experience social diffusion without even realizing it. His hatred for bending him against his own will and taking him away from Gareloch simply vanished and all he cared about in that moment was pleasing Lilandra. After his main need for caring for somebody overshadowed everything else, he saw how brainwashed and mindless everyone else was and the few who had a strong will were still acting in the unity of the crowd. Social diffusion can therefore be a very dangerous aspect when nobody stands up for what is right.

A situation of social diffusion in our society can be experience in most colleges. College is a filled with a great population of insecure, vulnerable teens or young adults who will do anything not to stand out. As such, they find ethic groups, sororities, or sport groups to social with other people who share their common interest. The members of their group may not associate with a group of certain people, avoid a certain type of food, or have certain rituals. As much that individual may not like the idea of engaging in some of those activities, he/she does them anyway in fear of being rejected by their group. Groups or societies in college also serve as a sense of comfort and support system, a college student will generally feel more confident engaging in activities with a familiar group of people. College students after spending a greater part of their time around other familiar people, unknowing generate their traits and characteristics. Social diffusion plays a huge part in our society, it is a comfortable but not necessary productive social aspect which needs to be controiled better. Although they are general regulations and boundaries which every society should follow, people need to have the opportunity to sort out their lives individually.

The Future of The Need for Magic

In this essay I am going to discuss my feelings towards the future of several characters and a civilization in the book The Need for Magic. My main focuses will be Kevin, Sogoth, and the dwarfs. These characters and group are the ones that I most identified with ^{richer content} and the ones I would be most interested in following if I chose to read the second book.

I am going to start with Kevin. The story of Kevin is one of the most clear in the book. He is the kid that came from nothing and is destined to be one of the most important people in existence. In this book, he is destined to be the hero. Call me diabolical, but I would love to see Kevin lose his magic powers. Once Kevin lost his magic powers he would have to return back to his life. I wouldn't want to see him return back to his village, but I would like to see him go about his life as a normal person. If Kevin lost his magic powers it would put an emphasis on the title of the book, The Need for Magic. He would be unable to help his friends fight Sogoth and in effect, readers would understand what the true need for magic is in this world: to stand up to Sogoth. I would like to see this happen because it would stray away from the generic story I spoke of above. I understand the value in a "rags to riches" story has ^{to it} to some people, but I really think that this is too common and not overly creative. If Kevin came from rags to riches and became an average person, that's ok too!

Second I am going to talk about what I would like to see in the future of Sogoth. In Sogoth's future I would like to see him succeed in his quests. When Sogoth succeeds I would like for everyone in the kingdom to be ok with it. I think it would be silly if the

Very interesting

people in the kingdom realized Sogoth was really not a bad guy. And to add a psychological aspect, people break out of their brainwashed states and realize that they have been manipulated. Sogoth would aid in rehabilitating the population and establishing what the people consider to be a real “dream.” It would be great if this helped conclude the book by stating that Sogoth’s legacy would survive in infamy. I would like to see a change in interpretation by implying that you should not judge a book by its cover. The reason I would like to see this happen is that it would be a silly conclusion. It would be great to sit back and listen to the feedback from readers who love this book and had it end in a way that no one would have guessed.

Last, I am going to talk about the Dwarfs. In the book following The Need for Magic I would like to see the Dwarfs with a more significant role. I would like to see them using their specific skills to establish a more powerful integrated society for everyone. It would be great to see them in a friendly state embracing and teaching humans in Sogoth’s dream of a society. It would be interesting to see Dwarf officials in cities and maybe even as a main character helping Sogoth plan out the future for the kingdom. As simple as this seems, I would like to see this because it would allow readers to explore a little further into dwarf culture by having them more involved in a story. It would be interesting to me to see dwarfs out of their natural elements and interacting in a more appropriate manner than projected in every story I ever heard.

While most people would consider the future I have created for this book to be absolutely ridiculous, I would love to have this as the end to The Need for Magic. In most stories I feel like I can tell you the ending without seeing it, but if this was to happen in the future for these characters and group, I would not be expecting it. This would force

me to read on. I would have to know how far I could be blown away with this twist of an ending. In most aspects, I am someone who likes to stray from social normality's and having the future of this book altered in this way would suit me perfectly!

Our guest Mr. Joseph Swope was a very interesting man. I was glad he was so animated and enjoyed talking about his book, good or bad. ^{The New York Times} What I found most interesting about our discussion is when he talked about conformity. ^{He said} ~~On how~~ bullied kids are conformed into the role and label themselves as victims, later to become a class clown. I disagree with his theory about that discussion. I know a few people who were bullied who became strong individuals who speak their mind and do not tolerate hideous behavior from others. Sometimes they may have their dark days of asking themselves why this is happening to them when they did not do anything to deserve this, and feel as though no one cares, and even may have that moment of giving up. ^{he} But every one of them fought to make this torment stop.

One of my best friends today told our high school class about a day when she was bullied in middle school ^{during} as a presentation. It was crazy. I saw her as a strong girl with a huge backbone ^{to be} and would say anything that was on her mind. Also, she knew how to keep someone in their place or knock their ego a few pegs down if they ^{were} are rude. In middle school, she was the new girl like a few others that came to our school in 7th grade. She was a sweet girl. One day this guy in our grade started to mess with her for no reason. He always made fun of certain things about her every day. He made her new experience in a public school awful. ^{But} one day was the last straw and she broke down. The boy came to class one day and dropped a jug of lotion on her desk saying she needs to fix her skin because she looked like a gator. She had eczema, a skin condition, she could not control it. What made this worse was that it was her birthday. Everyone in her classroom just laughed and the teacher never said a word. Some bystanders who didn't say anything just watched this go on, not wanting to be bullied or be laughed at as well.

That day she went home in tears and her mother found her in her room crying hysterically and wanted to know why. She kept the truth about being bullied from her mom half of the

school year, she did not want to worry her and wanted to stop the bullying herself, or ask counselors or teachers for help, but they never came to do their job. Her mom didn't tolerate this terrible behavior towards her daughter so she came up to the school and demanded a meeting with the principal and faculty demanding why they didn't help her child when she needed them most. None of them had any words to say knowing that everyone was at fault. She demanded something to be done with the bully and ^{for them to issue} an apology for leaving her child in danger in a place where she thought her child would be safest.

That night her mom gave her a talk how she shouldn't let people bully her, ~~like that~~ and to fight back. This made my friend feel a little better knowing someone cared, and it gave her courage. She said ^{that} after she met me it gave her even more of a voice because of how loud spoken I was, ^{and} she wanted that too. After a while, I saw her growing into the person she is today. ^{She is} An outspoken strong young lady. I feel Mr. Swope theory is really rare these days seeing a victim turn into a class clown. Everyone wants to be funny, but not be a class clown. In my eyes to be a class clown, a person is putting in a lot of work to be someone they are not and do stuff they don't want to do, ^{they do this} but to avoid getting bullied, ^{they do this} they do this role. That seems tiring.

Another friend of mine was also bullied in her middle school. Similar to my other friend she had no ^{understanding} justification as to why. In elementary school she loved school more than anything, but then ^{she} started to resent each day she had to go back. She became very shy and soft spoken in classrooms and at home. There was a friend of hers who everyday would do something new to torment her, and then apologize and ask for forgiveness at the end of the day. This included instigating fights with large groups of girls or spreading rumors. Things began to escalate when her own math teacher began to join in one the bullying, and never once did she

Speak up to stop the teasing directed at her or any other classmates. Countless times ^{my friend} she would leave that classroom in tears, hiding in the bathroom.

She claims if not for the few friends she had, she doesn't know how else she would have survived. Although the bullying was never stopped, she had support to get her through. ^{at} In return she became even kinder to individuals than spiteful, and ^{now} tries to help her friends when needed. She knows that this is not always the result. Another student who was also bullied did go on to become a clown and less of a person than he was, ~~but that is not to say that this is their fault.~~

97 There are so many more factors that go into the results of an individual dealing with bullying. Some end tragically, but many turn into life changing stories for the better and brighter hopes for change. To make such a large overstatement that they turn into class clowns would be wrong to think since you would be leaving out the good outcomes as well

Summary

I would like to have an imaginary conversation with Gareloch. I believe even a short conversation would be extremely insightful, and leave me with a different perspective on life.

First I would ask Gareloch about how he would deal with some of our modern social issues like racism and classism. I believe getting his take on issues like this could bring about a wiser solution than any other that has been brought about. Besides his magical abilities, he is a philosopher. He questions everything and has searched endlessly for the answers to questions he has so asking him about our social issues could bring about better solutions.

Then I would ask Gareloch about his childhood. I'd like to know exactly what kind of experiences he had as a child growing up to be a wizard, or if he found his power later in life. I'd like to also ask about his wizard training, how he became so powerful and the events leading up to him facing the dragon. I'd be interested in the events in his life that made him the wizard he was. He wasn't just any wizard, he honed his craft and possessed extreme determination to become the best wizard he could.

Next I would ask him what he saw in me, what kind of potential I have and what I could become. If there is any hidden potential I haven't unlocked yet I'd like to talk more with him about how I can utilize that potential. I think we all have endless potential when we are born but the events in our lives and our environment limit them to the point where we lose potential. I'd like to know what potential I have and what potential we have as the human race in the near future and long term.

I would then ask him what exactly it takes to be a wizard, if there are a specific set of traits required or if anyone can do it with enough practice and determination. I'd like to know if he believes he was destined to be a wizard or if certain events shaped him into wanting to become a wizard. I'd also like to ask if he ever had any doubts about learning magic and his own potential.

I would enjoy this experience because I've always wanted to talk to a philosopher or someone of great wisdom. No one has all of the answers about life, but some have many of the answers and I believe Gareloch would be one of those people. I think this talk would bring about a lot of answers I have had about my life and bring peace to the things that trouble me. Overall I would just enjoy taking in the wealth of knowledge Gareloch would have to offer and applying it to my life.

More clearly, but what is your comment?

...and what is your comment?

Dr. Swope's Class Discussion

I enjoyed having Dr. Swope come in and talk to the class about his book. In particular there were two things he said that caught my interest. The first thing he said that caught my interest was his process of writing the book. The second thing was when he discussed how a person cannot hate something and continue to do it.

I was very excited to read *Need for Magic* because I was really interested in the concept of the book. I've always been fascinated with teaching complex concepts in fun ways like stories. So when I found out that *Need for Magic* was a fantasy story that gave examples and taught Psychology concepts I was very eager to read it. However, when I did read the book I was very disappointed. I found that there were quite a lot of literary mistakes which made the book very hard for me to read. On my own time I enjoy reading, so it is always a letdown when I get excited over a book and it is not good. When I found out that Dr. Swope would be coming to speak to the class I was very eager to find out why he wrote it the way he did. I did not need to ask that question because he answered it for me while answering another student's question. Dr. Swope said "I dabble in writing...I didn't really think about what I was writing down I just went with it." For me that answered any question I had about all of his writing errors. I also found it interesting how he later said that if you want to go out and try something you need to go all out with not just half way. Yet to me his writing does not reflect putting 100% effort. When Dr. Swope asked us to tell what we didn't like about the book I stayed silent because I knew there was no way for me to convey my feelings without sounding insulting, which was in no way my intention.

The point Dr. Swope made about a person not being able to continue doing something and hating it, also stuck with me. I personally disagree with that point because, as another student pointed out, there are people who have jobs they absolutely despise but continue to do. Now it

might have been the way that Dr. Swope was explaining his point that was making me not understanding it, but I don't think he was making a convincing argument. However, I do agree with his point that people can do things to make the hated task more tolerable, but I don't think that necessarily means they stop hating the task. Also when He made the remark of how a lot of people in a bad situation just accept their role annoyed me. I think that was due to the example of the person being bullied that he used. Almost my whole life I was bullied for one reason or another, but I never accepted my role as a victim. I would always fight against those who would harass me, and I'm not the only one who does. It is true that there are those who don't fight their situation and accept it, but I feel that there is a far greater number of those who fight to change their situation however they can.

Having Dr. Swope come in and speak to our class was very interesting and educational. Telling us how he wrote his book and talking about how a person can't continuously do something a still hate, were two things that really stuck with me. These two points were of such interest to me that I still think about them and even talk about them with my friends.

Prompt: In this essay I will discuss the things I would like to see happen in the future of many of the characters from the novel "Need for Magic", and explain why.

"Need for Magic", written by Joseph Swope, had a rather unsatisfactory ending. The climax of the plot didn't appear until the last five pages of the book, leaving no room for falling action to give the reader a sense of completion. Instead, the reader is left to wonder about the outcome of the story, and to think about what would happen with the characters further along. This essay will explore possible endings for various characters from the novel.

The book had two major villains, the brother-sister pair of Lilandra and Sogoth. The more active villain, Lilandra, was last seen carried off by the Dragon, still alive. Because the first book was primarily centered on Lilandra's struggle for power, it would be logical that the second book should turn to following Sogoth's alternate path towards power. For Sogoth to rise as the main villain, Lilandra needs to die in some form or another near the beginning of the book, preferably killed by the Dragon. Sogoth would now have the attention of the readers. In the first book, Lilandra tried to achieve her goals through manipulating need. The second book would focus on Sogoth's way of achieving his goals, through raw power.

Ideally, neither way is the best way to achieve one's goals. Instead, the most successful character would be Keven, who would find a way to defeat Sogoth as well. Keven would find an alternate path, after mastering both need and power, to be successful. It is still unclear just what his tools and mentality will be. However, Keven will undoubtedly end up the hero, as he did in the first novel, as the reader is enlightened about human psychology through his struggles.

Gareloch, Keven's mentor, isn't a very important character. He's there mostly to guide Keven. In the second novel, hopefully Gareloch will finally introduce Keven to the Wizard's Palace, the best place for Keven to learn about power, as it was also the same place Sogoth

learned. Being in the Wizard's Palace would allow Keven to have a period of training, letting him develop as a person while growing in power. Many heroes go through grueling training; Swope should explore the psychology behind it, and why training episodes are so popular.

The character with the most leftover work to do is King Donius. His kingdom is in shambles after Lilandra and the spread of her cult. She also spent far too much money, got involved with the dwarves, and created an enormous military, all problems which aren't going to simply disappear. Somehow, Donius has to get his people back on track. With the death of his daughter, he now has to raise an heir from scratch, most likely the baby he adopted that was supposed to be sacrificed. Throughout the second novel, King Donius will be struggling to repair his nation.

As an added complication, Donius will also have to defend against another enemy, Kiel. The young half-elf was entrusted with continuing Lilandra's Dream, and she had a large number of military recruits to help her. Donius' largest problem in the second book will be dealing with Kiel still trying to violently enforce the Dream onto Atani, and trying to recruit citizens to the Dream. The following won't be nearly as large and influential as in Lilandra's time, but there will still be enough people to cause problems. In essence, hopefully Swope will view Kiel's group as terrorists of Atani, and explore the psychology and problems associated with terrorists.

In conclusion, the second book will go in an interesting direction. With Lilandra dead, Sogoth will rise as the main villain, only to be defeated by Keven after he has had his training at the Wizard's Palace. Donius will struggle with Kiel's terrorist group as he tries to repair Atani. As for the remaining characters, such as the Dragon, the Dwarves, and various other citizens of Atani, their paths are less clear. However, the second book will end up discovering another path of psychology other than need.