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Monsters and Misfits

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Stranger Things Statement

Fear is an intense feeling that creates a sense of powerlessness in a person. In the TV show *Stranger Things* by the Duffer brothers the abstract emotion of fear is grasped almost perfectly. A series of events including a missing boy, monstrous creatures, corrupt government facility, and a girl with psychokinetic and telepathic abilities occur throughout the first season. The missing boy, Will, is trapped in an alternate universe called “the upside down” (where the evil, inhumane beings lurk), and fear and anxiety is portrayed through him as he perishes from the horror of darkness, and the monsters he encounters. As Will is missing, his friends and family also suffer from cultural fears such as the unknown, as they do not know what has happened to Will. The monstrous creatures and the corrupt government add yet another level of fear in this series as the characters fight for their life against these obstacles. The monsters and the higher level of government show the contrast between good and evil, and the ultimate battle between monsters vs misfits. In my adaptation, I will focus on emulating these concepts of fear in the characters as they fight for each others lives, and I plan to put a bigger emphasis on the cultural anxiety of darkness and the unknown.

One of the biggest themes in *Stranger Things* that jumps out to me and makes the work unique, is the relationships between the characters and the love they share, especially between Will and his mother. In my adaptation I want to keep that same concept, except put more

attention on the feeling of safety when your with your loved ones. The one thing I disliked in this series would be the secrets kept between the young friend group including, Eleven, the girl with supernatural abilities. However, I should keep some level of miscommunication in my adaptation because it's necessary in order to keep the story filled with suspense and to get that same feeling of anxiety across.

The setting and time period of this work is very important to the story line and to change it, it might pull attention to different themes and concepts. Stranger Things is set in the 1980's and takes place in a small town where nothing ever goes wrong, and it focuses on a group of young boys attending school. The main themes portrayed are the ideals of friendship and working together; while also showing the concept of good vs evil. I plan to adapt the setting by changing the characters to be older, bringing them into a higher grade level and making them more mature. I plan to keep the setting of a small town, however, change the time period. For my adaptation, I will keep the key concepts of friendship and good vs evil, but also include a new concept of fear of the unknown. By changing the time period I can also create a new idea touching on cultural issues that focus on today's societies problems.

The main message I tend to explore in my adaptation will be the endless fight against evil hierarchy, which will symbolize the contemporary problem with politics and the fear of a corrupt government. In my adaptation I plan to focus on the battle between the society and their inability to do anything about the problems going on with the people in control. I will be commenting on the cultural fear that overcomes the society as they wonder if their lives lay in the hands of a corrupt higher power. The philosophical idea of the darkness and the unknown, and the particular, disturbed, uneasy fear those bring into play, will propel my adaptation in the right

direction in order to cover all of the main points in my story. I hope my adaptation on *Stranger Things* makes my audience reflect and think about the contemporary problem of a possible corrupt higher power in their own life and make them see hope for the future. I also hope my audience reads into the concept of the unknown, and wonders about the unknowns in their own life that they battle and the effect it has on them. Overall, I would love to take one of my favorite TV shows, *Stranger Things* by the Duffer brothers, and turn it into a new, creative creation of my own, that will include the enlightening on specific topics that I am passionate about.