



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Walking in the Steps of my Literary Heroes

Name: James Walter Doyle

Other Team Members:

Program: New York City Program

Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001

Location Visited: United Kingdom, Ireland, Scandinavia

Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 01

Project Summary: From the rolling hills of Scotland, to the bustling streets of London, my European trek gave me the opportunity to explore the famous setting for many of the literary works I use in the classroom. This experience allowed me to further understand each author's purpose as I immersed myself in cultures I previously was only able to read about. My students are now able to listen to my audio journals describing how I was lost in the Theater District of London. They are inspired with my photos taken on top of the mountain that overlooks Edinburgh. They interact with teachers who are teaching American Literature to their students in Copenhagen. My blogs and written journals have created new interest for my students who now appreciate literature and how immortal it truly is. Ibsen and Dickens used to be just a bunch of old dead white guys. Now, after seeing the museums and exhibits erected in their name, they have begun to think about how they will leave a lasting impression on this world. It is no longer foreign to them why Oscar Wilde appreciated the finer things in life after seeing photos of his home. Watching a video production of Globe Theater performance made my students feel as if they had access to Shakespeare's mind, and for the first time saw why theater is meant to be performed, and not just read. Most importantly though, my students have a new sense of motivation to explore these texts because for the first time they have a direct connection to them; their teacher actually walked in the footsteps of the characters I have long cared about.

Career Impact: * Provided the opportunity to immerse myself in the cultures described in the literary works I use in class

- * Interacted with professors and experts who have new insight and approaches to literature
- * Explored various exhibits and museums that contained original manuscripts and journal entries
- * Found a new love and appreciation for authors I previously had not studied
- * Found a new sense of independence and maturity while traveling along
- * Gained a greater sense of understanding of the significance that the setting has in relation to the author's purpose

Classroom/Community Impact: * Created a network of international teachers and students who can interact with my class via technology

- * Gained a new sense of energy and vitality which translates to more patience in the classroom
- * Gained new approaches and breadth of understanding for the works I present in class
- * The photos and journals act as primary sources in their own literary analysis and understand of the setting
- * Motivation and performance has increased as a result of piqued interest
- * Students feel empowered to achieve their own dreams after watching their teacher explore his own

Open Response: * Tumblr.com is an amateur website creating system where photos, videos, and dialogue can be posted

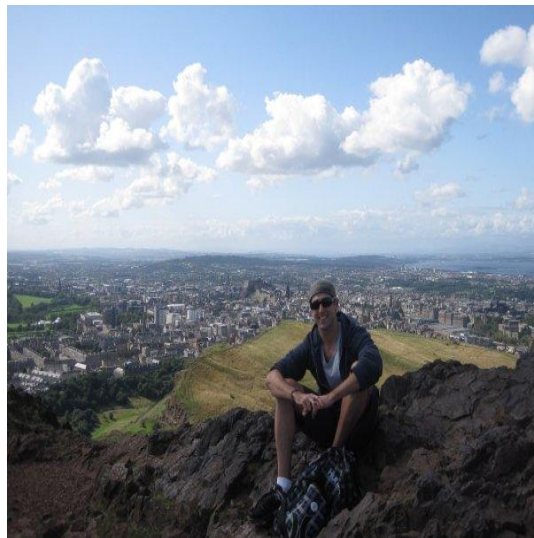
- * Currently teaching A Picture of Dorian Gray and using photos and journals as supplemental materials
- * Students are creating a "pen pal" system with students abroad where they keep each other accountable for assignments and content
- * Creating power point to accompany Professional Development that I am leading entitled "The Power of Primary Sources: Make Yourself Part of the Lesson."
- * Plan to teach Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes, a work I was first introduced to by a professor I met with while traveling

Quote: My summer abroad has transformed my teaching, and I have grown in ways I never thought possible.

Photos:



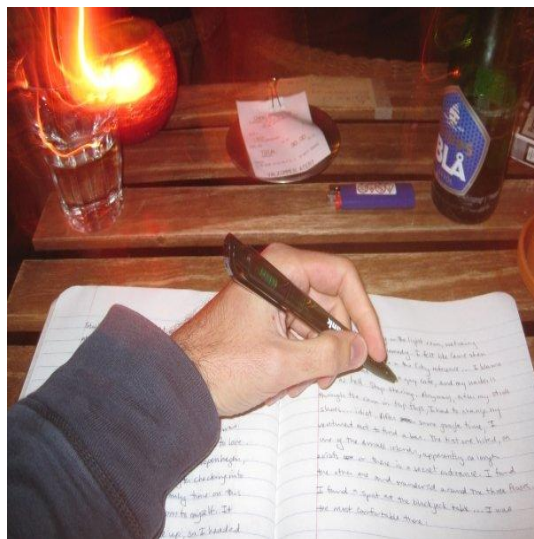
Signing the peace wall that separated Protestant and Catholic Belfast



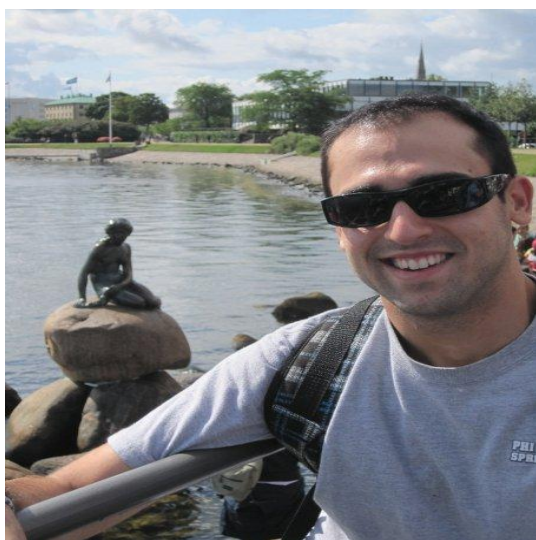
A view of Edinburgh from the top of Arthur's Seat



All locked up in the London Bridge Prison



Capturing the moment in my journal while in Stockholm



Me and the very Little Mermaid in Copenhagen



The famous mural paintings of Belfast



A tradition Scandanavian lunch of a hot dog and mashed potatoes in a tortilla



Here lies Henrik Ibsen.