

Afterword
By Sarah Smith

I'm sure you are now sitting there in astonishment, just as the boy did in his grandmother's attic. Who could have ever known that something as simple as the study of English could contain such an amazing variety of things? You might have already known that English is defined as, "a course or individual class in the study of English language, literature, or composition," but that does not even begin to cover all the incredible things you just read. That is because what you just read was not put together by simply average student writers. The theories, analyses, and explanations presented to you were the results of a semester's worth of research by some of the University's most dedicated students.

Professor Broad's English 100 class is not one to brag. They are not likely to tell you the countless hours they spent researching their topics. They probably won't tell you how many nights were spent in the library or in front of their computer. And they definitely wouldn't tell you how they did all of this while reading and analyzing a 600 page novel for class as well. But they did, and this amazing compilation is the result.

Unlike the boy, you didn't have to find a magic lamp in an attic to find this unique look at the world of English Studies. That opportunity is also afforded to you by the diligent students of room 221A. Even after all their work to complete their projects, they came together for one last class effort to create their sourcebook, to create the representation of their experience in English Studies.

As you probably noted when reading this distinctive collaboration, there are many things discussed that a person would never think to relate to the world of English in a classroom sense. Most would never think of computers, the internet, or The Lord of the Rings when they think of English studies, but that is what makes this group of students so extraordinary. Simply told to research something in the field of rhetoric and debate, literature, or linguistics, they came up with 20 amazingly unique and diverse subjects. Old literature, children's books, songs, and movies were analyzed, critiqued, and looked at from different views, satire and slang were finally explained to those who use them everyday without knowing why, future writers learned how to write exceptional research papers and novels, and soon to be teachers saw the differences between learning first and second languages and the elements of each.

Like the boy with the magic lamp, I hope you learned more than you could have ever dreamed through your readings of this book. I hope that you reread chapters throughout the years, and that you pass it along to others so they can share in this amazing experience. Because, as we all know, knowledge is power, and as Walt Whitman said, "Our knowledge is the amassed thought and experience of innumerable minds."