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Reading Response 5- The Orchard Short Story & Thoughts

Once upon a time, there was a small boy. Very small boy, but a very good boy. He lived on a farm with his parents who happened to be farmers to the finest apples in the county. They had a huge orchard of trees behind their house. I mean, the orchard when for miles. When the boy tried to count how many rows there were, he would lose count, due to the large amount of trees. Anyways, all his life, the boy was used to apple. He ate apples for breakfast, apple sandwiches for lunch and apple stew for dinner. Of course after each meal, it was followed by a delicious, freshly baked apple pie. You would think the boy would grow tiresome of the same foods, but he never did. He grew up loving the apples. Occasionally, the parents would present the boy with other fruits, such as bannanas or oranges. The boy did not mind, he enjoyed them as much as apples. The boy lived this way for a very long time and since no other children lived around his farm, he grew fond of the apples. The apples had become his friends. He would spend days around the apple orchard running around and eating apples.

Occasionally, there would be rotten apples, but he would just throw those out, because it served him no purpose. Anyways, the boy grew and soon he was no longer a boy. He was now a man. He enjoyed the apples, but seeked other orchards. His parents did not disagree and allowed him to venture. So, the man travelled across the road to the farm on the other side of the county. At the new farm, he met with the farmer, who welcomed the man. The man asked, "May I see your orchard sir?" and to that the farmer replied, "Of course, but you will have to tend to them for a while as I am not young enough to do it". The man agreed and walked towards the orchard. He knew not to expect apples, but still expected some, however when he saw the orchard, he nearly lost his breath. It was an orchard he had never seen before. Full of every kind of fruits. Oranges, strawberries, cherries, pears, kiwis, mangos, pineapples, peaches. The list went on. He could not believe it. But one particular fruit stood out the most. The banana. There was an extremely large amount of bananas. But he did not mind, he was more bewildered by the rest of the fruits. Slowly, but surely, he ate every kind of fruit there was and learned to fully enjoy their flavors. He lived there for a while, before returning home. Upon

return, the man saw his apple orchard and it was still as beautiful as he had left it. He would also remember the other orchard and that too, was beautiful. The man smiled at the great flavors of the other orchard, but knew his home belonged with the apples, because that was what he grew up with. He was an apple.

Ultimately, the campus climate was a big culture change to me. Even though the variety around campus isn't the most diverse, in where the majority are asian or white, it was still a change for me personally. Coming from a mexican dominated community, I was not used to seeing that much change. Most of my suitemates come from different countries and have different values. Personally, that really showed me how small my community was and how much cultures vary in the world. I think I would have to both agree and disagree with Kong. I agree that there is definitely a lack of culture if you look at the school as a whole. However, if you are like me, you are able to see the different cultures among the school. I obviously understand that UCSD could use more ethnicities, but the fact that I was able to learn so much from other cultures in the short time that I've been here, shows that UCSD is definitely heading in the right direction.

Furthermore, UCSD could also improve the form of interactions among the different communities. There could definitely be more school wide events embracing every culture. This would allow for everyone to learn about each other cultures in a fun and enjoyable manner. Instead of forcing classes, the school could celebrate different holidays that only specific cultures celebrate. This is one of the steps UCSD will be able to create a larger variety of cultures in the school.