

Revised Dead Poets Society Essay

In the movie "The Dead Poets Society" by Peter Weir the boys are deprived of self-expression and creativity in a school setting. They are forced to think in a straight-single-minded perspective that restricts them from reaching their full potential.

At a young age, the boys were required to recite the four honors on demand. They were taught not to speak unless spoken to. The boys could not express themselves through clothing, music, decoration or décor, non-Catholic ideas, and were forced to drop extracurricular activities when asked by a parent or the schoolboard. They dressed the same so everyone was deemed the same and no one could be unique. This was supposed to be the best time of their lives, yet it was being filled with discipline and marrow.

When the boys got a new composition teacher, their perspectives changed. The great teacher, Mr. Keating, taught them to think independently. He did not treat the boys all the same, because they were all unique in their own way. They learned to write poetry and to express themselves. The boys were so expressive with their new perspective, that it infuriated the school board and the parents. Mr. Keating was asked to stop his abnormal teaching practices because they were too distracting. The boys needed to learn the course material in a straight-stay in the box type of teaching method. They were not to express themselves, just learn.

The boys continued the practices of their new perspective. This motivated them more than ever. They were determined on seizing the day, taking chances that they normally wouldn't have. This extremely upset the schoolboard and one of the boy's parents. One parent so furious his boy "deceived" him, that the boy was withdrawn from school to be sent to military school to become a doctor. This was his father's desires not the boys'. Once again, the boy was so deprived of self-expression he could not even stand up for himself. He could not talk back, or state how he truly feels. The boy's emotions dive inward, the feelings build, then explode. The young boy was so thirsty for self-expression that he ended his own life.

The school and the parents explicit sense of discipline made it impossible for the boys to express themselves and grow to their full potential. No one should ever have their creativity or feelings suppressed to the point of suicide. Everyone has freedom of speech and should not be punished for their opinions. Even though the death of the young boy was devastating, the boys learned a valuable lesson. Both the new and the old students were brought closer together. They realized the importance of creativity and continued the practices of their different perspective. In honor of the young boy and Mr. Keating, they never allow their self-expression to go dry.