

## Scholarship Essay

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### The Utterly Human Occupation

Merriam-Webster defines language as “a systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings by the use of conventionalized sounds, signs, gestures, or marks having understood meaning.” If fact, nothing defines or expresses a culture better than language. Thus nothing could be more satisfying, more liberating and more substantial than linguistic expression.

There are stories in my head. There are characters, both extraordinarily unique and inherently familiar that long to manifest. I hear the characters converse in my head. I see them sail across oceans and frolic in the meadows. I feel the pain of their dejection and the grief of their losses. I experience their joy in redemption and their comfort with the resolution. Places, those that are beautiful and wondrous, and others which are desolate and forgotten, warrant incarnation. To express the myriad combinations in my mind, to marshal the chaos that abounds there, is essential to the maintenance of my soul. Since English is my language, an aptitude in that language is necessary for the liberation of the aforementioned and cataloged elements. It follows that rumination in that language will best enable me to do what I must do—what I most desire to do.

In Harpers Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the narrating character Scout describes her friend Dill, “... (he was) a pocket Merlin, whose head teemed with eccentric plans, strange longings, and quaint fancies. Beautiful things floated around in his dreamy head. He could read two books to my one, but he preferred the magic of his own inventions.” I

believe that expression is the most utterly human occupation. I await the opportunity to create my own magic, and I believe that an education in English will best enable me to command my own ideas and images and to externalize the beautiful things that float around in my dreamy head.