

Student Name

Teacher Name

ENG 3U

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Student Sample
Personal Essay
ENG 3U

Ginger Gene

Ginger. Ranga. Fire crotch. Red. Carrot-top. And the list goes on and on. A list containing names that I've heard too many times in my life. This always leads me to ask myself: "why do people discriminate so openly against us?" Nonetheless, being a redhead for sixteen years, I have learned to embrace my hair colour and not allow the comments of others to have a negative impact on my life. Rather, I take their name-calling as a compliment, because I know that "gingers", as they call us, are very fortunate to be able to sport such a phenomenal hair colour- from ravishing red to outrageous orange.

Even though I am oh-so very fond of my natural hair colour, I do recognize all the negative things being said about people of my kind. But rather than find them hurtful, I laugh at the ridiculousness of some of the beliefs and comments. For example, in Greek mythology, redheads are said to turn into vampires after they die- not the Edward Cullen-type vampires teenage girls these days are ever-so obsessed with, but rather, the killing, blood-sucking beasts like from the movies *Blade* or *Dracula*. On top of this, they are viewed as violent or false, and according to the French proverb, they are usually both¹. Since it is said that Judas was redheaded, people seem to believe that all redheads are untrustworthy. Furthermore, an old English proverb states that if one stands in the shadow of a person with red hair, bad luck will come upon them. To top off these preposterous

¹ Marie, Carolynn. "Living As A Redhead: How Having Red Hair Changes Everything." *hubpages.com* n. pag. Web. 13 Oct 2009. <<http://hubpages.com/hub/Living-As-A-Redhead>>.

beliefs, during the Spanish Inquisition, it was thought that any person with red coloured hair had stolen the fire of hell and should be burned for being a witch². I think it is safe to say that the ideas that some have in regards to gingers are false and have changed with time, with the exception of the ideology that ginger kids have no souls and that like vampires, “gingervitis” (the disease people with red hair have- according to South Park) is a curse.

I can tell you at this moment that personally, I am only violent and false on occasion, like every other person in the world. I can be very trustworthy and not one person that has stood in my shadow has broken a bone and fallen off a cliff right after. As much as I may be convinced that I’m in hell for 6 hours a day, everyday, I have not yet been down there or stolen anything. I guess we can cross of the witch part- not that there’s anything wrong with being a witch. I happen to know one, and she’s definitely blonde- not a ginger. That leaves one belief I can’t deny. Since I’m not anywhere close to my deathbed, I have not had the opportunity to become a vampire, and thus do not know if this could be in fact true.

End of Student Sample.

² "Facts and Fables." *roodharingendag.nl* (2009): 0-7. Web. 13 Oct 2009. <<http://www.roodharigen.nl/>>.