

Balance

Weekly Report 4/16/18 to 4/22/18

Over this past week, I had the opportunity to visit Disney World in Orlando as part of the spring trip event for my orchestra. Despite the twenty-two hour bus ride there and back, it was a very enjoyable experience. Surprisingly, I learned quite a bit, even though the main goal was to enjoy myself, and it has helped me become more knowledgeable about a very important skill: balance.

My first encounter with this was with my peers. With my introvertish upbringing, I was not inclined to a large amount of social interaction, but this idea was largely changing as I wanted to connect with more people and expand my network. I, however, did not have much time to practice this skill throughout the school year as the majority of my classes are shared by close friends of mine, resulting in less communication with people I generally do not talk to. This trip turned out to be a great way to learn about other people's stories as boredom can be a very strong motivator for interacting in a twenty-two hour bus ride and greatly helped me of deciding how to balance my introvertish mindset with my outgoing personality.

My second experience regarding balance in this week actually came from the book *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card. In it, a young boy, Ender, is raised in a brutal environment in the hopes that he will become the greatest general and lead humans to defeat an extraterrestrial species. Before doing so, however, Ender is raised with an older brother and younger sister in which he learns violence and compassion, respectively. Throughout the novel, he struggles to find a coexistence between the two, but in the end, he surpaasses the doubts he placed on himself and saves the human race. Although I doubt that I will be in the same excruciating circumstances

that he was in, I do believe that everyone can relate to Ender as circumstances dictate our lives and change our environment in which we must adapt to continuously. Personally, ISM has been a great environment to find the balance between a good work and fun. Even though my final product, which ironically is about hydrostatic equilibria calculations right now, is quite demanding in terms of creating a useful product, but with a good balance of having a good time, I will end up with a great project.

Until next week,

Sahil Jain