BC

1. Great art evokes a sense of wonder. It nourishes the mind and spirit. Is there a particular song, poem, speech, or novel from which you have drawn insight or inspiration?

400 words

No novel has inspired me as much as John Steinbeck’s *East of Eden*. One theme in the book in particular changed the way I view my own religion and the world as a whole. Steinbeck emphasizes one word which changes the whole meaning of religion: ‘timshel’. This word was translated in a way that made it seem like all humans were guaranteed to overcome sin, but in reality and in the context of the original translation, it isn’t up to God to have you overcome sin; rather, it’s up to the individual to overcome sin. Steinbeck manages to convey this meaning through the stories he tells which mirror stories in the Bible, most commonly the troupe of Cain and Abel--brother killing brother. In addition to the main morals of the story, the background of the story enabled it to have an even greater impact on me. Ironically, I read the book at a time of transition in my life. I was moving from Omaha, Nebraska to Carmel Valley, California just miles away from the city in which East of Eden was set. Steinbeck was heavily influenced by the hordes of people heading westward for better lives, particularly the dust bowl refugees from Oklahoma. While *East of Eden* wasn’t about these migrants as much as *The Grapes of Wrath*, both books are about the same spirit of man, the same archetypes of characters: resilient people who aren’t immune to sin. I used to believe in human perfection as a child--at least, in the eyes of God. I truly believed there were those who were born free of sin and remained that way. While I cannot say whether this is true, I can say that I used to wish I was one of those perfect people. It was only after reading *East of Eden* did I realize that I didn’t want to be one of those perfect people. Because of Steinbeck’s work, a core insight of mine is that it is better to overcome sin than to have been born without it. It is these resilient souls who work to become stronger that are most strong in will, and it is these people who are most adaptive to change, a trait I sorely needed and consequently developed after leaving my former life in Omaha behind.

What excites you about the University of Notre Dame that makes it stand out from other institutions?

ND

200 words

When I think of the University of Notre Dame, an image of students and alumni gathering together with locked arms swaying slowly to “Notre Dame, Our Mother” comes to mind. While certainly every college has traditions, no other university celebrates tradition or community quite like Notre Dame does.  From the Alma Mater to the midnight drummer’s circle to the individual mascots and spirits of each dorm, Notre Dame preserves traditions that do more than just celebrate the spirit of the university. These traditions create and reinforce the strongest community between all Notre Dame alumni and students: family. Walking from LaFortune to Alumni Hall, I saw that sense of family in the groups of girls headed to their next class. I saw that sense of family in the old alumni throwing a frisbee with two young students. I saw that sense of family in the mass of Alumni Hall praying together. When I walk the streets of any town and see someone in Notre Dame gear, I hear the familial call of “Go Irish!”.  It is that sense of family and belonging that excites me about Notre Dame.

Min: 0 / Max: 200

What is one thing you will definitely bring to college with you?

When I was about eight years old, my parents went into downtown Omaha and bought me a poster from Thomas Mangelsen, a famous local photographer. This poster isn’t your ordinary poster; to me, it’s very special. Entitled “Bad Boys of the Arctic,” the poster features three polar bears relaxed but aware in the Arctic.  This poster is representative of my room, my home. I am quiet but observant. In my room while doing homework or thinking about life, the polar bears kept me company. Even though we have moved frequently, I have always ensured that this framed picture came with me place prominently in my room. While the poster does represent home to me, it also inspires me in an unexpected way. Because of this poster, I advocate for environmental protection. It was only after studying these furry subjects as a child did I learn that their home was melting, and I remember thinking it wasn’t fair that these polar bears should be my home while they are constantly losing their home. When I go to college, the “Bad Boys of the Arctic” will come with me.  They will remind me both of my home and the need to advocate for the environment to protect the homes of other beings.

Santa Clara University's strategic vision promises to educate citizens and leaders of competence, conscience, and compassion and cultivate knowledge and faith to build a more humane, just, and sustainable world. What aspect of SCU’s strategic vision appeals to you? Why? (between 150 - 300 words)

In today’s American society, it’s pretty hard to ignore the current happenings of politics. Most people tend to take one side or the other and defend it to the death, and I try to maintain political neutrality and I try not to be particularly inflammatory about my personal beliefs. What I cannot remain passive on, however, is the absolute absence of ethicality and morality in American politics. I take problemwith the prospect of an elected official, somebody the American people chose to best represent themselves and their priorities as well as lead them, being morally flexible when their own personal interests intermingle with their official duties. While American politics may be the foremost example of an absence of morality, there are a multitude of other examples: corporations breaching their privacy policies, media outlets selectively reporting news to appeal to their audience, even something as mundane as students cheating on homework.

The aspect of conscience in SCU’s vision particularly appeals to me, as I am one who considers ethics on a daily basis. I am a founder and the current president of my school’s Ethics and Philosophy Club, and so it is only natural for me to consider morality and conscience in the context of everyday life. SCU’s focus on morality and ethics piqued my interest and maintains my admiration, and I hope to be able to partake in the conversations at such an esteemed bastion of morality.

4. Lost your keys? Alohomora. Noisy roommate? Quietus. Feel the need to shatter

windows for some reason? Finestra. Create your own spell, charm, jinx, or other means

for magical mayhem. How is it enacted? Is there an incantation? Does it involve a

potion or other magical object? If so, what&#39;s in it or what is it? What does it do?

Imagine waiting in line to ask a question of somebody, only to forget what you were going to ask. Imagine misplacing your phone or keys and then quickly forgetting where you set them down. Imagine accidentally walking in on your roommate without knocking while they were getting intimate with their significant other, and you wish you could just ‘unsee’ it. Now, imagine all these scenarios with the addition of my personal fix-all for people who want to undo their last brain activity: ‘cerebrundo’, the magical spell that rewinds the state of a brain thirty seconds prior the current state.

‘Cerebrundo’ is the wondrous spell created to alleviate the smaller problems in life. You can use it to remember where you put something by resetting your brain to when you were making the memory of where an item was, or you can use it to conveniently forget something that happened in the last thirty seconds. Your body, however, remains in the same location. Suddenly, you can unsee your roommate and their romantic—but strangely enacted--affairs. Simply shut the door, shout “cerebrundo!” and slap your forehead really hard. You will instantly dissolve any memory of such gross (like, really gross) things your roommate is into. Instead, you will be left with an intact mindscape and a giant hand-shaped red mark on your forehead.

In addition to fixing some smaller issues, it also acts as a great gift in certain cases. Say you took a bite of something absolutely incredible, and you want to experience that same memory again. By casting ‘cerebrundo’, you get to relive that same bite. Alternatively, if you saw a great meme online and want to laugh really hard again, you can keep the meme on your screen and cast ‘cerebrundo’. You won’t remember the first taste of the food or the hilarious joke, but based on the throbbing pain in your forehead, you’ll know that you recently casted ‘cerebrundo’ and are probably in for a treat from your past’s future memory. Hypothetically, it is possible to cast several ‘cerebrundos’ should one want to undo sixty seconds or more of brain activity, but one should be careful about it. One probably wouldn’t remember why they cast the spell in the first place, which would mean waiting thirty seconds to remember why they cast it only to undo the last thirty seconds in order to remember what they want to remember. One could also leave a reminder to continually cast the spell, but without a friend to stop them, one might go too far and end up with a brain maturity far below one’s body maturity.

Alternatively, one may cast it on others to forcefully remove a memory from them.

Simply shout “cerebrundo!” and slap the other person’s forehead. This version of casting, however, is not perfect, for the caster will also rewind their brain activity by thirty seconds. For better or for worse, the caster will undo their last thirty seconds of brain activity no matter whose forehead is slapped. This imperfection acts as a safeguard to prevent maliciously intended people from repeatedly casting ‘cerebrundo’ and sending somebody back to their childhood permanently. This version of casting is not advised as it often leads to confusing messes and broken relationships.

One should be careful, however. It is imperative to leave a reminder not to do the thing they just did, otherwise their brain’s activity will repeat itself and they will make the same mistake over and over. While the memories do overwrite if one casts this spell, one may end up creating the same memory for one’s self anyways. In the case of the kinky roommate, if you don’t put a sock on the door handle to warn yourself of your roommate’s activity you may just bruise your forehead from all the ‘cerebrundos’ you’ll have to cast.