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English Composition 2

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Essay

"Miss Brill"

In "Miss Brill" much of the story's effect comes from the discrepancy between the way the world sees Miss Brill and how she sees herself. Miss Brill seems to be a woman who is an elderly woman. Miss Brill finds joy in the weather, her fur, and in her secret "theater" that she believes goes on in the park. Miss Brill loved listening in other people's conversations; this was one of the reasons to go the park. "On her way home she usually bought a slice of honey-cake at the baker's. It was her Sunday treat. Sometimes there was an almond in her slice, sometimes not. It made a great difference".

Miss Brill was not seen as a great celebrity or as a great movie star. Miss Brill was barely noticed by the other people in the park. No one looked

up to Miss Brill for anything. The only time she is really noticed is when she is spying in on other people's conversations. A boy and a girl notice Miss Brill, "No, not now," said the girl. "Not here, I can't." The boy replies "But why? Because of that stupid old thing at the end there?" "Why does she come here at all -- who wants her? Why doesn't she keep her silly old mug at home?" It's at this point in the story where Miss Brill realizes what the rest of the world really thinks of her; that she's just a weird old woman who comes to the park all dressed up for nothing.

In the beginning of the story Miss Brill feels as if she's a movie star attending the Emmy Awards. Putting on her fur makes her feel more like a famous celebrity about to walk downtown to the park. She had a "special" seat that was just for her, so she could sit in and listen to other people's conversations. She felt if she would miss attending the park one Sunday everyone would notice and miss her gravely. She felt that every Sunday was like a play and she was the star of the show, and there would be no way the show could go on without her.

At the end of the story reality finally hits Miss Brill. Reality hits Miss Brill while listening in on the young man and young woman talking to each other. By them talking badly about Miss Brill made her realize know one

there really cared if she was there or not, in fact they would have preferred Miss Brill not been there at all. She realizes she isn't an actress, she isn't a famous movie star playing the star role in a play, and by her finding this out it wakes her up to the reality. Miss Brill is a just a woman no one really pays attention too, just another woman sitting at the park.

The significance of the ending is the abrupt reality Miss Brill has to come to terms with. Usually on the way home from the park Miss Brill stops by the baker's and gets a slice of honey cake, it was her Sunday treat, but this Sunday was different, Miss Brill had realized that she wasn't a famous celebrity, she realized that no one would notice if she had missed a Sunday at the park. Miss Brill realized she had been living in a box her whole life just like the fur she took out every Sunday on the way to the park to play her starring role.