

Lit Log #2: Author Emulation

Piece Title: The Sea Turtle Nest

As they walked along the shore the boy squatted down to look at something.

What is it?

This rock looks funny. See?

The boy handed the stone to the man and he held it. It was cold and gray and hard but it was shaped almost perfectly round. The man realized what the thing was.

It's not a rock.

It's not?

No. It's a sea turtle egg.

An egg? Is a sea turtle going to come out?

Probably not. Sea turtle eggs are usually white and fragile. I think this one died a long time ago inside its egg while it was still very small.

Oh.

And besides sea turtles usually put their eggs in deep holes so they can hatch underground and nothing can get at them. So you wont spot a good egg just lying around in the sand.

Okay

The man could see the look of disappointment on the boy's face and thought about all the marine animals he would never get a chance to see.

Papa?

Yes?

What do the holes look like?

You mean for sea turtle eggs?

Yeah.

Well. It depends on the type of sea turtle I suppose. Most just look like big holes in the sand.

Do you think that could be one of them?

The man looked to where the boy was pointing. It was well camouflaged, but it did indeed look like a sea turtle nest. It sat there like a sandy miracle, its residents oblivious to the broken and charred world around them. Normal sea turtles wouldn't lay eggs this late in the year but then again even the word normal itself was a relic. How could anything have survived for this long?

Can I go take a look, Papa?

Sure, but be careful not to cause a cave in.

Okay.

The boy went over and peeked in the hole and when he ran back he was smiling.

Papa, I saw a few good eggs. Do you think they will hatch?

With the freezing cold the man didn't think the sea turtles would hatch at all and even if they did all that awaited them was a gray and dead sea. But then again a mother must have survived long enough to hatch them so maybe the fragile creatures did have a chance.

Maybe. Who knows? Anyway dont eat any of them or you'll get sick.

I know that, Papa.

Just checking.

Explanation for the piece:

For me my favorite part about the road is the back and forth dialogue between the man and the boy, so I knew going in I would want to write a piece that included that. I also think that the book spends way too little time on the coast and the things that happen there for all the hype that it got, so I knew that I wanted a scene that took place on the beach. As for why I chose sea turtles, I thought it would be interesting to take one of the more vulnerable species of our world and have them be the hardy species that come onto the scene of the coast. As for why I think this scene matters, it's the hope of new life. Everyone and everything in this book so far has just been dead or dying for years so I think this scene with the sea turtle nest serves as the new sprout from the dead trunk, so to speak.

Specific details:

- This scene takes place near the end of the book after the man and boy fire the flare gun but also before their stuff gets stolen.
- As in other instances of the book where he notices important details (seeing smoke the man can't see, hearing the dog, spotting the cabin) I decided to have the boy be the one who notices the egg and sea turtle nest.
- I made up the part about sea turtle eggs turning gray when the turtle inside dies, but I think it fits with the whole dead and gray motif of the world so I just took some artistic liberties with it.