**Interview Notes from December, 2013**

Subject: English, Drama and Education

University of Cambridge – Homerton College

Education Interview

* I was given an extract from an educational review discussing the various viewpoints surrounding class streaming according to children’s academic ability. I was asked to write an answer one page long giving a brief summary of the information and adding my own thoughts and conclusions in response to this.
* In the interview itself I was asked the following questions; other questions followed from these
  1. Why do you think we stream children according to their ability?
  2. Do you think that we should have independent schools? Can you tell me some of the advantages and disadvantages of having state-run schools?
  3. If you were Michael Gove (Minister of Education at the time), how would you reform schools in your area?
  4. Have you experienced any teaching which has, in your opinion, been of poor quality? If so, why would you say it was poor? How would you change it?
  5. Why should we bother educating everyone up to the age of 18?
  6. Do you think University is a good option for everyone? Do you think there are alternative options for preparing young people for employment?
* I was given two poems to look at and compare. The first was ‘Eurydice: from the World’s First Wife’ by Carol Ann Duffy.
* The second, I can’t remember but it was written in the 1600s and was in the third person.
* I was then given an extract from Ovid’s ’Metamorphoses’ about Apollo and Daphne (20th Century translation). I was simply asked to write a few comments in response to the extract. Perhaps, thinking about characterisation of Daphne in comparison to modern characterisation of female protagonists.

English Interview

* In the English Interview, I was asked a few questions about the first two poems. I spoke about a feminist interpretation of the Duffy poem.
* I then spoke briefly about the Ovid extract and the representation of Daphne as a seductress who tempts Apollo. I also mentioned that the representation of this woman in 8 AD is strikingly similar to some of the depictions of women within society today.
* I was then asked about the books I was studying at the time. I replied that I was reading ‘The Wasteland’ (TS Eliot) and ‘Heart of Darkness’ (Conrad).
* They asked me what I thought of ‘The Wasteland’ wondering if I found it too ‘esoteric’ and confusing.
* They asked me whether the structure of the poem was key to the portrayal of its true message. I replied that it was certainly important, but not vital as themes (motifs) running throughout the poem still provided some form of unity between each of the sections, therefore, the order and rhythmical/rhyming structure was not necessarily neede in order to discern the meaning behind the poems. I was then asked whether I thought the poem could be used to create a play on modern Britain during the early 20th Centure.
* Finally, I was asked about my EPQ. It was entitled ‘Is the teaching of Shakespeare relevant today? If so, how do you teach it in a modern context?’

Drama Interview

* This was more of a workshop than an interview. This was because all the interview candidates were doing the workshop together.
* We were given a few warm-up activities.
* Then we were given a picture of ‘The Scream’ by Munch (1893)
* We were then asked to get into groups of 5 to produce a short dramatic piece as a response to this picture.
* Finally, we were asked briefly about our interests in drama and what plays we had been part of or seen over the last few years.