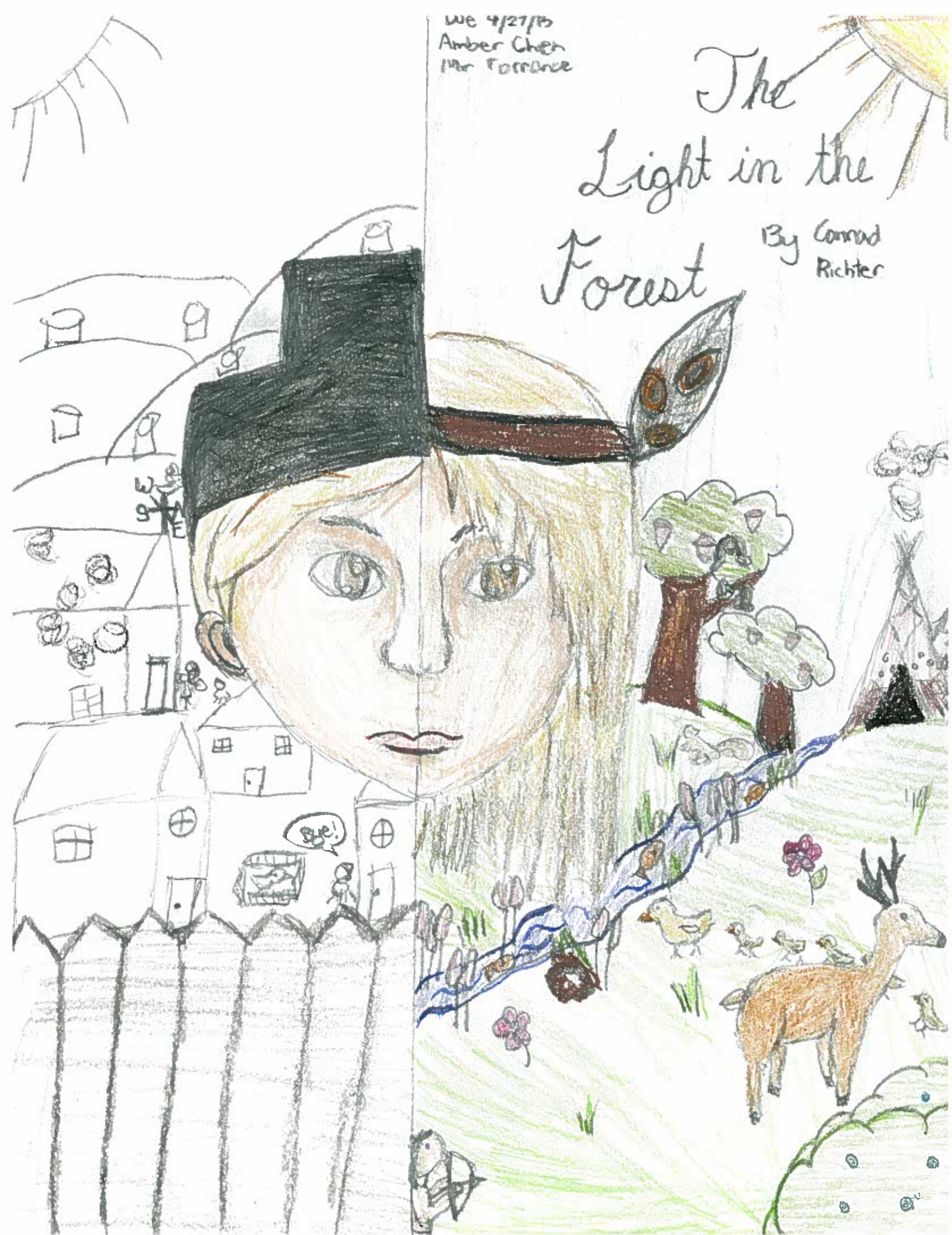


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# The Light in the Forest

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True Son, born John Butler, lived with the Leni Lenape Indians since his capture when he was four. When he was fifteen, word came out that the natives had made a treaty with the white people, but part of the treaty was to give back all of their white captives.....

At that time, True Son had already learned to think of white people as his enemies. He thought he was an Indian, for his father had said the special words that took out his evil white blood, and replaced it with rich, spiritual Indian blood. When it was time for True Son to leave his Native American family, he fought like a cougar. He couldn't bear the thought to leave his friends and family just to live amongst his enemies. It was like the living death. For days, True Son mourned to see a bright Indian moonlike smile, but instead woke up everyday looking at the hideous white race.

Soon the True Son and the people he was traveling with reached the white settlements. Del, the guard that could speak True Son's familiar language, saw the settlements and sighed with relief that they had reached civilization. True Son, on the other hand, saw the settlements as a threat. These were the villages of his enemies taking over Indian land.

When True Son was brought over to his white family, he was reluctant to eat, put on shirts, pants, and stay. Everything was queer, and the ways of the white man confused him. After days and days of staying with his former family, True Son heard a voice, an Indian voice. It was

Half Arrow, his old friend. True Son rejoiced quickly, but then Half Arrow mentioned Little Crane, another one of True Son's friends. True Son asked to see him, and noticed that Half Arrow looked uneasy. The two boys walked over to look at Little Crane. True Son was taken back with horror. His friend had been scalped by his white uncle.

Now, True Son was ready to leave. He and Half Arrow took off to their home town. Along the road, they avoided men on horseback, passed mountain, and ate Indian cornmeal. Soon they reached home, welcomed with greetings and happiness, but it didn't last long. The men wanted to see Little Crane, taking Half Arrow and True Son along.

They scalped white people along the way and told True Son to act like one, wear a blouse and pantaloons. True Son acted well, but then, in his heart, he must have felt sympathy for the white people and screamed, Run! It's ambush! Shots came out from behind. The Indians were mad that True Son had betrayed his own kind, and voted to burn him alive. True Son's Indian father, on the other hand, decided sternly that True Son was white, and he was no longer his father. True Son is now between the world of white man and Indian.

True Son, or John Butler, was the main character, because he was mentioned most in the text, and was the center of all of the action, because in the text it said, "Nothing on the scene that followed was missed by True Son-the swarming whites in cloaks and great coats, their heads scarved and hatted, and in their midst the sacraficial cluster of captives, mostly young, bareheaded, in a simple Indian dress, with parts of their body exposed to the early winter wind." True Son is in the center of all the action that is going on, like the whites swarming around, he is watching everything, from his spot. The book also mentioned a lot of Johnny's thoughts, because in the text it said how True Son felt toward his white family, like when it said how True Son thought of his white father, "He was still incompresible to his son, in dress and sex like a man and yet unable to rule his own squaw, but being rule by her," The author writes it as a narrator, but it still expresses True Son's thought about his father being weak and ruled by his wife. The story was also about what happened to Johnny, and the story was set up as events that happened in a section of John's life, which makes John Butler the most important character in the book, The Light in the Forest.

Although there were many great parts in the book The Light in the Forest, my favorite part was when Aunt Kate told Johnny to wash up and change his clothes, because it was funny when True Son said, "I go look at clothes," which tells me the way, and how stubborn True Son is in front of his aunt, it was also funny when after the response Aunt Kate gave True Son, the text said, "True Son didn't know every word she said, but he understood enough that cold horror shook him. This strong, ugly white squaw looked as if she meant it." This part tells me how Johnny thinks about his aunt, and in general all white people. If I understood this part from a white persons view, it would be very disrespectful, and I would think of Johnny in a negative way, but according to his experience as a native american and how white men took away native land, the section of the book was funny, and made sense.

As a conclusion, the book The Light in the Forest, had many important points, like how beauty is in the one of the beholder, and how it is like to adjust to a totally different lifestyle when you've been with other people for most of your life. These are important points, because they were mentioned a lot in the book, and the whole story was about how it was like for True Son to adjust to a different family, and what happened because of that. I would like to let everyone know that the book I read was amazing and had a lot of vocabulary I didn't know. Everybody should read the book," The Light in the Forest," it is awesome.