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English IV  
Essay  
4/9/19

## Be Present

Everyone wants to know their future. People always wonder where they'll be, how much money they'll have, or who they'll marry. It all sounds so exciting, but seeing the future may not be such a good thing. *The Future of Us*, written by Jay Asher and Carolyn Mackler, is a story of two teenagers who discover the truth of their future lives and try to change it. They experience irony when they take actions they thought for sure were right, but the results are opposite of what they wanted. Emma Nelson and Josh Templeton eventually learn that they need to let their knowledge of the future go so they can enjoy their present. Being content doesn't depend on their future, it depends on the actions they take in the 'now'.

Emma is the first to find out about the mysterious website. She decides to switch up her eventual husbands because she doesn't believe she is content with them in the years to come. "He's what's making my future suck. If I can get rid of him, then maybe I'll have a shot at happiness"(103). The irony is, Emma thinks she's being wise with her decisions, but she actually has no idea what she's doing. *If she can just get rid of this one guy, it will make things better.* She acts irrationally and everytime she goes back to see her new future, she still isn't satisfied. Even though she sets herself up for failure, she worries she will never find the right man. Those fears don't go away until the Facebook account disappears. When the uncertainty of their unfolding lives comes back, she

knows that it was for the better. By the end of the book, Emma realizes that she should live life in the moment and worry about her fate later.

When Emma sees the Facebook account, she shows her best friend. Josh is ecstatic when he finds out that he will marry Sidney Mills in the future. She is the prettiest girl in school, but he notices later that he doesn't want to be with her. "I'm supposed to be falling for Sydney, and everything appears to be lining up for that to happen. But when I think about my future, I'm not sure that's where I want to go"(271). It's ironic that he thinks he loves this girl, but she turns out not to be the one for him. He made the decision not to be with her even though she was destined to be his. Staying with her and justifying his actions according to the future wasn't the right thing to do, and he figured that out. It doesn't matter what happens in the future if Josh knows he made the right move.

Emma and Josh have doubts about their original beliefs, and they ultimately learn their lesson. Emma became aware that she doesn't need a perfect husband in the future to be happy and Josh understood that having a dream come true isn't all that he needed. All they needed was the courage to accept the unpredictability of life and move on. How their future turned out isn't what mattered. All that matters is now.