Mary Smith

Ms. Carota

Creative Writing, Period 3

30 March 2012

Dear Reader,

Whether or not your thoughts on witches will be changed after reading this project is uncertain. At the very least, however, your knowledge should be expanded given the evidence provided for you, and it is my fervent hope that you then approach this fascinating topic with a more open mind in the future.

My fascination with witches first began when I was in elementary school, and I was given a children’s book about witches. I was immediately drawn to these sorcerers and the mystifying lives they lead with their black cats, potions, and clandestine deeds. My thirst for witches grew in middle and high school as I attempted to soak up as many films, literary works, and non-fiction materials; in a nutshell, I was charmed with the folklore of the witch!

Modern-day American society views the notion of witches as a symbol of the autumn months, specifically October and its inclusion of Halloween. Witchcraft, however, has been alive for centuries and throughout its colorful history, the enchantress image has changed. Witches were once viewed as realistic beings who roamed the earth seeking to cause harm. Conversely, today’s modern-day witch, although sometimes seen in an undesirable light, holds a more positive image in today’s society; in fact, there are many cultures that currently practice the craft. Research indicates that witches include a vast culture with strong beliefs, religion, and practices. When one explores the life of a witch, one realizes that not only is every stereotype of a witch untrue, but also uncovers that they often do good deeds and perform tasks similar to those of physicians.

Reader, I hope this exploration expands your knowledge of witches and witchcraft and allows you to approach the topic with a more open mind. The goal is that, if nothing else, your journey through this research project makes you think twice next Halloween!

Sincerely,

Mary Smith