

Lindsay Anton

Creative Performance

Research Week

February 24th, 2023

Abstract: Performing Arts

Title – Missing Natalie: An Analysis of Grief and Identity

Program of Study – Forensics Public Speaking Interpretation

Presentation Type – Performing Arts

Subtype – Creative and artistic

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Abstract

This study examines a piece of prose literature titled "Missing Natalie," which depicts grief and how it can become an individual's identity. During times of trauma, individuals will attach their identity to the suffering they are experiencing. When someone places their identity in these moments of trauma, it encapsulates who they are, how they think, and how they live their life. Which prompts the research question: how can one heal from pain when that pain is their core identity? Obviously, this does not mean pain should be minimized or tossed to the side; that is how the healing process starts. However, grief is meant to serve individuals in the healing process, but they do not have to become its slave. Through the story of a twin who has lost her

identical sister, Nicole Blackman portrays the emotional journey of loss. This creative performance uses various literary techniques: imagery, repetition, characterization, etc. In "Missing Natalie," the sister's grief is so consuming that it becomes almost inseparable from her sense of self. The sister made her twin her everything, so now there's no room for anything else. She finds comfort in keeping the pain alive because it is her way of keeping her sister alive. Overall, this research performance hopes to show the gravity of grief and identity in a simple piece of prose.

References

Blackman, N. (2001). *Missing Natalie*. Blood Sugar.