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CMM 240 A - Spring ‘22

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**QCQ 5 for: Making new media make sense. Baym**

Quotation (with page number or parag number or time stamp if video/audio)

Those who are dipping into so many subjects and gathering information in a summary and superficial form lose the habit of settling down to great works. Hurried reading can never be good reading. Pg 32 Para 2

Comment (250-500 words)

I understand the words of 1894 in Baym’s article. Maybe its because I am older and I have read many books that have touched me. There is nothing like having that rectangle object in your hands, cropped and bound and smelling like an adventure. If I had to describe reading a book to someone who has never read one, I would say there is a vibration that lull’s you, entrances you, like the flute of a snake charmer or the pied piper. Seducing you into the mystery of what is inside. Its quite magical if you think about it. The places you can go inside your head because of a book.

When we skim and summarize as we most often do in social media, are we really getting the most out of the written world? I say world because the typed word, is a world. A world of its own. I do agree that most of what we read in our daily life is in superficial form. Still to this day, much like 1894. Though, I do agree that hurried reading can never be good reading. Hurried reading doesn’t completely stick. It’s in one ear and out the other. Our minds sifting through the irrelevant. Though what is irrelevant to me may not be irrelevant to you and vice versa. It is not often that we find what we are reading as interesting, compelling, insightful, or thought provoking. Much of it is quite boring to tell the truth. When I read something that has no spark, no life, no hook to it, I often think to myself, well, that was a waste of time. Did I just get ripped off?

I find I feel this way about many things I read on social media, but not many things I read in books. Maybe it is because when I read a book, I get to choose it. I get to read the back cover description, where as in social media (like it or not) it is all in your face. Sometimes like a train wreck. Sometimes disturbing. Sometimes its somewhere you never should have been, or even wanted to be. You just got sucked in.

Being lured into good or evil by the pied piper or the snake charmer of social media is a battle we fight every day as we sift through record breaking amounts of data, in search of the silly, funny, interesting, hopeful, informative and relevant. Hopefully, we choose the right path each time we approach that fork in the road. We now find ourselves bound to the internet and social media as tight as the binding in a book. The average person can now see things and communicate with people from all over the world thanks to social media. It is wonderous. We must balance life with it though. Social media can sometimes become “a little too much”, just as life can sometimes become “a little too much”. Learning to balance this is the key. Social media has a memory, but not the kind of memory you have. It never will, because it doesn’t feel.

Question:

If you looked back at the story of your life, would you want to read it in a book or on social media?