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Oscar Wao Essay Draft #3

Male dominance has been around for quite some time, and no one even questioned it until the past 50 years or so. But what's more interesting is that male dominance is still largely present in the Latin American culture, posing to the people that, that's just what love is. In the book, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz, it shows various examples of Patriarchy within the different stories that are told by the different characters in the book. The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao take place in the DR (Dominican Republic) and the United States during the time of Trujillo's Ruling(1930's-1990's) With various perspectives of different characters within a Dominican family. Oscar Wao, feeling left out from being a true Dominican, is a fat ghetto nerd who struggles tirelessly to prove his Dominican self by finding love. But the other family members also share out their own struggles they had within their life. Throughout the many personal perspectives that each character shares out, at one point they share out a relationship they had. But after a close examination of each perspective, one thing is clear: patriarchy shapes how society sees love.

The gangster had 2 relationships at once, proving to Beli that men decide their fidelity. Beli's relationship reveals the fact that men choose their relationships. Beli met the gangster at a nightclub in the DR. It was there where, after a few days, Beli became his lover. But what wasn't

revealed until after, was that the Gangster was married. "...but there was one important item he'd failed to reveal. He was married...he was dominicano after all."(138). This quote is saying that the gangster didn't tell Beli he was married and because he was a Dominican and he had to be married. This revealed to Beli that men choose how they remain faithful or to cheat on women they love. This overall proves that in a relationship, men are the ones who choose how their relationships are, modeling to the rest of society that having multiple women is normal and that's what love is.

Lola's relationship with Yuniór reflects Oscar's and Lola's meaning of love through a man's point of view. Yuniór was Oscar's roommate and friend while they both attended college. While developing their friendship, Yuniór decides to shed some truth to Oscar about how to be a true Dominican. "Did I try to help him with his girl situation? Share some of my playerly wisdom? Of course I did".(173). This quote is saying how Yuniór tried to help Oscar by teaching him to become a "player". This shows Oscar, that in a relationship, it's important to have "playerly wisdom" because that's how dominicans are towards love. This illuminates Oscar into thinking, that to be in a relationship, it's important for the man in the relationship to be a player, and that love is just being like that. But when Yuniór decides to go on a relationship with Lola, the older sister of Oscar, his urges couldn't resist and started meeting with other women at the same time discreetly, which led to their breakup and separation. "One day she called, asked me where I'd been the night before, and when I didn't have a good excuse, she said, Goodbye Yuniór, please take good care of yourself and for about a year, I screamed with strange girls..."(324). After Lola figured out that Yuniór has been going out every other night with other

women, she decides to remove herself from their relationship. Lola's sees that through a man's eye, love is just having multiple women. Because Yunion decided to be with other women, Lola's perspective on love changes from loving one person to love is having multiple women at the same time regardless of having “loved” someone.

Oscar's relationship with Maritza and Olga showed Olga and the people around them how love's is supposed to be like. When Oscar was in grade school, before he turned fat and became a girl repellent, he had dated 2 girls at the same time, Maritza and Olga. Maritza had very good looks and made him popular, while Olga sometimes smelled bad and wasn't allowed inside his house. After a month of the relationship, Maritza made Oscar break up with Olga because she only wanted Oscar. Oscar did what he was told and Olga broke out crying. “And how Olga had cried!...he couldn't stop himself from wondering how much his cold-as-balls breakup had contributed younger her present fucked-upness.”(15). This quote shows how the breakup had terribly affected Olga and Oscar's thoughts about how he contributed to her current state. This shows how Olga saw love as just plain lust for men who will choose looks over what's in the inside. This shows how in a relationship, Olga feels like the man has to choose which relationship is beneficial to him regardless of feeling guilty of other girls' feelings. But before they broke up, everybody around Oscar would say how much of a man he was by dating two girls at the same time. “Look at that little macho, his mother's friends said. Que hombre.” This shows how people around Oscar would praise him for “being a man”. Because of these comments, it made Oscar feel like it doesn't matter if you have more than 1 girlfriend because that's how love is like, according to the people around him. This proves the fact that because

Oscar is a man, he gets to decide whether to love one or multiple girls, leading Olga to discover that men truly decide how love is like.

In conclusion, based on a man's leadership in a relationship, the man gets to decide how people see love based on their choices in a relationship. Belli learned that if a man has multiple relationships, then it's love. Oscar also learned that in order to become a Dominican he has to have multiple women and everybody will acknowledge him while Lola realizes that a man can go with different women and still love. Olga learned that looks are everything to what a man wants and you need good looks to be loved. All of these examples have raised new understanding for the characters in the book and will generally cause them to adapt to love standards. This is a clear example of modern patriarchy in the modern world and how it shapes how everybody sees love.