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Section 4

Theater: *Generation Me*

*Generation Me*, an original play written by fellow Sacramento native Julia Soto and performed by high school students in the theater company Flying Monkey Productions, explores the life of a teenager in its most accurate form through the suicide of an adolescent boy, named Milo Reynolds, who gets caught up in the overwhelming pressures and demands of high school life. Although not necessarily a warning against suicide and self-harm, *Generation Me* sets out to put teenagers in their respectful places by introducing to them the reality of the world around them. For instance, generally, teenagers believe that they are invincible, supreme, and even special, assuming that they possess valid and important opinions and unique and attainable dreams. Egocentrically focused and ignorant of the workings of the real world, adolescents fail to perceive their insignificant roles and contributions in society, eventually becoming disillusioned with life when they are forced to realize their mediocrity. Although quite depressing and even personally disheartening, this play still definitely possesses various poetic qualities, especially the fact that it aims to promote a greater awareness and consciousness of reality, urging people, especially teenagers, to approach life from a more inclusive and complete perspective, so that they do not end up alienated, isolated, and hopeless. *Generation Me* truly exposes people to the dangers of human society and to the ruthlessness of human nature, ultimately encouraging them to progress poetically towards more compassionate and considerate beings. By forcing adolescents out of their oblivious states, causing them to be more aware of their responsibilities

in society as well as of the circumstances surrounding their lives, *Generation Me* ultimately acts as a poetic catalyst for the improved well-being and functioning of the community.