“The Sparrow” Reaction to 14-18 Andrew Correll

2nd period

2/25/16

I think it is interesting how the author portrayed Emilio as so dejected after he has returned to earth. Whatever occurred on that planet must have been very serious and very troubling for him. The way that he just has been dejected and looking out at the ocean suggests that he is pondering life in some way. I mean, that's what people do when they are contemplating life–they stare at the ocean. It's a big, stable, yet constantly changing force that handles whatever life throws at it, which apparently Emilio wishes he would be like

Emilio does seem rather lost. Whatever is going on with his family, the ones that beat him up, should prove to be interesting in the future of this novel. I'm sure that will play into Emilio’s search for meaning, which I think is still ongoing with him. He makes hints at being stumped by the precise way everything with the mission is working together, morphing from joke to reality in leaps and bounds. I think his troubled family is a symbol for his still restless soul that is not at complete peace with God yet. Emilio’s hints at the divine intervention that allowed the mission to occur in the first place will eventually tie into Emilio finding a way to come to peace.

The story keeps hinting at how the missionary who was martyred evangelizing the Americas from France might turn out to be a foreshadowing of what Emilio will do. Whether Emilio actually goes back and forgives them, or whether he releases his anger back on earth, Emilio will most likely have some form of closure with the aliens, like the missionary from France had closure the Indians, when he was killed. Hopefully Emilio won’t meet the same fate. I enjoy how the author of the novel skips lots of time on the journey. Other science fiction novels tend to emphasize the trip, but I love the shift of focus toward the mission itself.

19-22 Reaction

This section began with the team preparing for a journey down to the planet and ended in them actually encountering aliens. A lot happened between there! The trip down to the planet was of special note to me. This experience is really going to change Emilio. I remember I went on a missions trip this past summer and the feeling of first being in a completely different world, one that you have no experience in and don't know what to expect. Our plane arrived in the middle of a cold, damp night there and I remember feeling, like Emilio did in the book, that what we were doing was unique, specially arranged. I sat with my friends that I had known all my life, with really interesting, inspired people, and I realized there is no other group of people I would rather be with in a different continent. I remember going and picking up some of the kids who loved going for a 'ride' as I picked them up and lifted them in the air. I remember the joy on their face and I remember how much fun it was for me to talk with them in their own language. The feeling is elating. It is incredibly fun to use something you have worked hard for, like a language in Emilio and I's case, to use to great effect with people. I improved drastically in my ability to communicate over just a couple of days, so I'm sure that Emilio will soon be able to talk with these people very well and get to know them and make friends.

I also can relate to Emilio's feeling that he was being used by God for His purpose. It's is extremely fulfilling doing God's work. When I was down in El Salvador going around to schools and ministering to kids there, I felt an 'otherworldly' ability. Everything I did was more effective than what I normally do. DW described Emilio as a 'saint' the way he looked when he first met the kids. I believe the Holy Spirit gives us extra power when we are doing God's will for us and what He has planned. Everyone has talents and abilities, and I think God gives everyone unique skills because He wants us to use them for His glory. There are certain things I am good at, and other things I am not, and I think that is God's way of telling me what He wants me to do with my life. Also, the things I am talented at I am only good at because of God giving me his power. I've tried doing things with my own ability, with my own strength and "willpower", but I learn time and time again that "Godpower" is so much more impactful.

I love the way God operates. He wants us first to realize we can't do it ourselves so that we are more reliant on Him. He is an "all-in" kind of God that doesn't want half of us, not even ¾, but He wants all 100% of us to be devoted to Him. I've found that by giving up my soul I have found it. What a strange concept! I think Emilio might find his soul soon.