

CLIFF NOTES

For those of us who did literature up to grade 13 your Cliff Notes was your BFF. Cliff Notes were the abridged version of the literature books you read for exams – namely Shakespeare. The old English on reflection was dramatic and intriguing, but back then it seemed laborious and tedious because the truth of the matter was who spoke like that in modern times?

It assisted you to decipher the themes and imagery of the literature you read, and most importantly strengthened your cognitive thinking and stretched your mind to dig deeper into the stories you read. BUT Cliff Notes was an aid it was not intended to replace reading the novel.

I am an avid advocate of literature, as it stretches the mind, it builds your vocabulary, expands your knowledge base and forces you to think – most importantly enables you to rationalize the cause and the effect of the stories outlined.

Unfortunately like everything else we have “Cliff Noted” many serious aspects of our lives away – looking for the quick fix instead of the soul searching to rectify the situation, not taking time to understand the true depth of the problem. Being thorough and purposeful enables the true solution to problem solving.

“Cliff Noting” your lives mean that you are incapable of seeing the “big picture”. Some people want to be numb and devoid of this, BEWARE - at some point in time you will pay the consequences.

“Cliff Noting” stymies the intellect – I quietly marvel with my daily interactions of the new bar(s) set by the Intelligencia. Today we have lost our voices and mimic ourselves through other people’s words because we chose not to exercise our right to think. The new “15 minute fads” have now been the iconic quick fix which unfortunately is deeply imbedded in our society no one is interested in stimulating right brained activities anymore.

“Cliff Noting” your lives don’t make you slick or sharper, it simply means that you have garnered some borrowed time, but remember that TIME has a unique way of catching up with us.

If we stop to analyze the world and its economics we have spent several decades “Cliff Noting” our lives away so much so that people depend on this crutch, that they are unable to think independently anymore. This is where the laws of the universe come into play, as matter in any shape or form will fill a vacuum (i.e. density, liquid or gas)

So here is the Challenge – let us be the Captains of our own destinies and fill that vacuum with meaningful possibilities. For those of us who had the foundation in literature let’s be problem solvers and build a sound knowledge based community for future generations. It worked in the past to maintain our current relevance and existence to coexist in this dynamic environment, as we have been able to adapt and sometimes defy some of the changes we are challenged with. Therefore let us surge ahead and create a stable footing that future generations will be able to pattern and have the ability to survive.