Journal 1: Tyrant’s Law

In the fantasy book I am reading one of the characters, the antagonist has a power where they can tell if someone is telling the truth or lying. Now this power can be fooled if the person really believes they are telling the truth. I have thought about this power a lot and I am trying to decide if it is evil or good. At first, I thought it would be awesome. It would remove all doubt if you could trust someone. You would always know if they were being honest or believed what they were saying. You could get rid of all the people who are just polite and know those that were loyal. Yet, what if truth is always changing, what if one day something is true and the next it is not. If you believed that you did not like me but then realized you did it might be too late if I knew your previous truth. Humanity is plagued by doubt would getting rid of it be bad. I think it would be. It would destroy privacy, faith, and lead to the destruction of gray areas. Society would be cursed with certainty. Doubt allows us to grow. The truth is often in the middle in the gray areas. This power would lead to a rigidity and fear in society. It would lead to a thought control state like in 1984 where big brother is always watching. Life would be devoid of meaning. Honesty would become a weapon instead of a test of character. The main character uses this power due to his own insecurity but it leads him to further insecurity. Without the power, there would be no way to know who attempted the assassination but when they know for certain it leads to war. The certainty led to a war that weakened both sides and will steam roll into other wars. Maybe some lies are for the good. I believe the theme of this book will turn out to be that truth is malleable and needs to change.

Journal 2: Tyrant’s Law

The author did a great job today of writing a fight seen between the protagonist Markus and a jungle cat. He used many similes to create tension and suspense. The one that stood out to me the most was “The beast curled against itself like a runner protecting a stich.” This allowed me to visualize the beast being tired and wary. We have all had a cramp when working out or running. Therefore, it made the scene more real to me. It drew me in and made me hold my own breath. The tone was hushed and silent. It felt like when you see a great match in any game. Where the two players are tense making moves, looking for a weakness. The suspense made this scene impossible to ignore. It connected to me on several levels because the author made the competition real.

I also saw more character development in Markus. He made two comments that allow me to understand Markus better than I have before. When he finished fighting the cat he said “your time now kitty, my time later.” He also responded, “Had better days and had worse” when asked if he was all right. These two statements are very telling about the mindset that he has as he approaches a suicide mission to defeat the goddess. As a mercenary Markus lives every day as if it may be his last. He has lived with death most of his life so he does not fear it, it just is. In his conflicts he knows life is not certain and you have to do your best to win until it is your turn to lose. It reminds me of the rocky speech when he talks to Creed’s son about the idea that life is not about whether you get knocked down it is about whether you get up when it happens because falling is the only guarantee. The second comment shows me that Markus does not believe in complaining. He rides life like a roller coaster. He takes the ups and downs and realizes most of the ride is in the middle. This characteristic makes me like Markus because he lives in the here and now. I believe due to this he truly lives.