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Beef is for Dinner

Gary Steiner and Natalie Angier give us quite a bit of information to consider. “Animal, Vegetable, Miserable” and “Sorry, Vegans: Brussels Sprouts Like to Live Too” both make a reference to Issac Bashevis Singer. In singer’s story, “The Letter Writer” Singer called the slaughter of animals the “eternal Treblinka”. Singer gives animals a voice. Treblinka refers to concentration camps. Singer paints a picture of animals being eternally paraded to their deaths. Steiner argues that humans ingest nutrients without consideration to how animals are treated. And Angier believes that humans do not consider how vegetables feel when they are consumed.

There has to be some middle road. Enjoying our nutrients and respecting out foods feelings.

Gary Steiner berates humans for eating the flesh of animals. The author reminds us that even a scratch cannot be covered without the slaughter of an animal. The adhesive is a product derived from animals. I admit that my vegetarian friends tend to be vegetarian based on specific health needs or their belief system. In Steiner’s article he writes, “Let me be candid: By and large, meat-eaters are a self righteous bunch”

Most family’s seems to be self-righteous meat-eaters. My family prefers trying to be in the middle of this debate. The middle is going to stores like Trader Joes to purchase organic meat. We do often eat tofu and beans as an alternate source of protein. Kale contains high amounts of protein as well. My brothers often hunt and fish. They are respectful outdoor enthusiasts that use the entire animal so there is no waste. Hunting is a way to thin deer herds. Serving a vegetable as a side to what is on our table was never considered cruel until I read what Natalie Angrier wrote.

Natalie Angier explains how plants “forage” for resources and “anticipate.” Vegetables recognize light, listen to chemical signals, and talk. Linda Walling of the University of California, Riverside, explains that plants have an immune response. Certain plants exude a poison when they are being eaten by a bug. Angier wants us to consider the vegetables feelings.

Since reading these articles the sight of a calf at a farm makes me sad. The calf is being raised for only a short time for my consumption of veal marsala. We will never look at a field of vegetables the same way either. The four dollar ear of roasted corn from the state fair seems very different now. We might never again be able to enjoy our yearly tradition of butter soaked roasted corn on a stick.

Works Cited

Steiner, Gary. “Animal, Vegetable, Miserable.” *The College Writer: A Guide to Thinking,*

*Writing, and Researching*. 5th ed., edited by VanderMey et al., Cengage, 2015, Chapter 18-1e.

Angier, Natalie. “Sorry, Vegans: Brussels Sprouts Like to Live, Too” *The College Writer: A Guide to Thinking, Writing, and Researching*. 5th ed., edited by VanderMey et al., Cengage, 2015, Chapter 18-1e.