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Contextual Practice

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word count 2991

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Writing Analysis

Ye Olde White Hart

When given this writing analysis task, I did not have to think twice about the building I would like to write about. The Ye Olde White Hart public house is situated in the center of the Old Town of Kingston upon Hull, between Silver Street and Bowlalley Lane. This establishment must be one of, if not the most historic public houses Kingston upon Hull has to offer. Rich in history and stories ranging from acts of treason, murder and supernatural sightings.

To non locals of the city, it would be easy to miss this watering hole. The Ye Olde White Hart is hidden away, covered by apartments, a bank and a sandwich shop. Access is through a passageway which is dark but your soon welcomed into light and greeted by a small very pretty court yard which houses the garden area and entrance. On entering the establishment the decor is very much as traditional english pub as you can get. The main two rooms are clad in dark stained oak, with a large Inglenook fireplace which is decorated with wrought iron artefacts. The nooks and crannies give drinkers privacy in what is a relatively small pub. The stone and wooden beams epitomises what english pubs should look like. This pub is a little oasis for real ale and whiskey drinkers, which attracts more mature regulars.

When thinking about the first time I visited the public house, the memory is vivid. It was a dark afternoon so i am guessing it was Autumn or Winter, it was very cold and the rain was relentless. I was looking for cover from the rain and ran into the alleyway which leads to the entrance of the pub. On realising the rain was not going to stop anytime soon and with some deliberation with my brother we decided to have a pint. On stepping into the dark cosy pub I initially felt an air of paranoia, was the older mature clientele staring at me? Did i look out of place? My anxiety was short lived. Seeing the crowded bar and open lit fire gave me visions of a pub straight out of a J.R.R. Tolkien book. Men stood in their usual areas with the regulars drinking from their own tankards, smoke filling the room. It seemed the perfect place to listen to tales of old and new. I can't honestly remember how long I stayed in the pub for but I know I went beyond my one pint quota.

As I mentioned before, 'Ye Olde White Hart' has history. The upstairs restaurant houses an office (Ye Plotting Parlor) and in this office it is told that in 1642, Sir John Hotham and Sir Thomas Fairfax plotted against the king, Charles 1st. Charles attempted to levy taxes called "ship money", most of parliament refused to pay, this included Sir John. This did not go down too well. King Charles was at war with the Scottish and Hull was used as a munitions store. When Sir John refused the King entry to the town on two separate

occasions (I believe this was at White Friar Gate), this sealed Sir John's fate and eventual beheading.

I have also heard stories about the Skull which was found on site during some renovations of the building. The skull which is on display in the pub is rumored to belong to a young boy who was killed by a blow to the head. Apparently fracture marks on the skull lend evidence to this. Many people elaborate on the circumstances in which this murder occurred but the truth is lost in history. The 'Ye Olde White Hart' is a treat for locals and tourists alike and I would recommend a visit.