

Eric Lake: Mathematical Sciences

Mentor: Kris Ellingsen -- University Honors

Rebirth

Rebirth is an epic novel which tells the story of a country on the brink of war after the execution of its monarch, and it is up to a fallen princess to save the nation, despite her hatred of her father and the country he built. The book explores themes of justice, racism, and reincarnation. But readers only care about themes when there exists a compelling story driving them forward. As such, my goal was to discover the proper elements in creating a story. The easiest way to do this is to implement realistic characters that the readers can care about sufficiently to push them through the book. Fantastical settings are another way to generate reader interest, as well as confront complex themes. *Rebirth* fuses mythology--the idea of reincarnation--with science, to form a unique magic system. The setting allows me to explore how a society changes when reincarnation and souls are verifiably real, as well as other themes, in a more direct manner than other genres could accomplish. Though the book has become much longer than intended, the finished product has successfully made readers fall in love with the characters, and has made an impact on readers.