**Theme Collage Reflection**

In Thornton Wilder’s, *Our Town*, the topic of “daily life is prevalent. Throughout this story, different aspects of the daily live of the people of this town are revealed. Such aspects include, hobbies, occupations, foods, routines, and characteristics of the town. This topic gives insight into how simple, yet interesting Wilder describes the town.

At the beginning of Act I, George is asking for money from his parents and Mrs. Gibbs replies, “Strawberry phosphates- that’s what you spend it on.” (p.16). This supports the fact that a popular drink, and one of George’s favorites, is strawberry phosphates and people must drink it pretty often. Specifically for George, it is implied that is was probably a part of his daily routine to buy strawberry phosphates.

In the middle of the collage, there is a panoramic illustration of a family. The style of the image is vintage, which is intended to represent how the story of *Our Town* took place in the past. This image shows how the rural lives of these people were strongly family based and depended on one another. One instance of this is when George is asked to help his mother chop the wood.

The cycle that is presented, “wake up- survive- sleep- repeat,” is used to emphasize that the people of Grover’s Corners lived a simple and not incredibly eventful life- as opposed to the life in the city. There wasn’t much going out or extravagant entertainment around Grover’s Corners other than people duties, such as school, work, religious involvement, and house chores. People’s days would normally come to an end at around 8 PM. This can be seen when Dr. Gibbs speaks to his son, George, “Wonder what could have happened to your mother. Choir practice never was as late as this before.” And George responds, “It’s only half past eight, Pa.” (p. 38).

The choir practice seems to be a major occupation for the women in this town. As shown in the middle of the collage, a church’s choir practice taking place. This aspect of daily life reflects on how rural areas of the U.S. such as Grover’s Corners have a stronger religious inclination and involvement than more urban places.

This aspect of a simple daily lifestyle is also seen in the occupations of the youth in in this town. George for example, spends most of his time in the baseball field when he’s not in school and sees it as a priority over certain other things (such as chores). Also, Emily in the amount of time she spends studying and doing homework. As, commented by George, “You certainly do stick to it, Emily. I don’t see how you can sit still that long. I guess you like school.” (p. 29).

Finally, another aspect that supports the fact that people in Grover’s Corner live a simple life is that they are really into gossip. As stated by the Stage Manager, “In our town we like to know the facts about everybody.” (p. 7). This quote shows that the lack of activity or interesting things going on in this town, people resort to gossip and talking about other people and getting in their business for entertainment.

The “daily life” of the people of Grover’s Corners provides information as to the type of lifestyle that they live. Whether it’d be from occupations, to values, to routines, they all show how the people of this town live simple, yet interesting lives.

Word count: 574