

Preface



Our purpose in writing *Young Adult Literature: Exploration, Evaluation and Appreciation* is to open the door for readers to explore young adult literature. To do so, we have tried to establish a foundation of knowledge about young adult literature while providing pathways leading to the literature itself.

New to This Edition

In addition to the updated popular features from the second edition such as Considerations for Selecting Young Adult Literature, Expanding Your Knowledge with the Internet, Connecting Adolescents and Their Literature, From Page to Screen, renamed From Page to Screen with the Common Core, and Collaborating with Other Professionals, the third edition includes a number of new features.

Much of the content within chapters has been rearranged to make the book more user-friendly.

Throughout the chapters, the discussions and lists of young adult literature have been updated to include literature published since the second edition of this book and literature that reflects some of today's concerns, such as bullying and cultural diversity, including sexuality.

We firmly believe a number of young adult texts are complex and can serve multiple purposes, including encouraging critical thinking. The new Using the Common Core: Developing College and Career Readiness feature is found in selected genre chapters and is designed for teachers and library media specialists. It is influenced by the Common Core State Standards for the English language arts. Sample questions about selected young adult literature are included, all of them designed to encourage critical thinking.

Chapter 3 presents a new section on standards, including information about the Common Core State Standards for the English language arts, a new Expanding Your Knowledge with the Internet feature based on the Common Core State Standards, and several revised Connecting Adolescents and Their Literature features that include resources for teaching English Language Learners.

A new section on using international picture books with young adults is included in Chapter 12. There are suggestions for picture books that teachers can use throughout

the secondary school curriculum, with information on choices to add to the school library media center.

The completely new Suggested Readings section in each chapter features recent journal articles, including those from leading young adult literature journals such as *The ALAN Review* and the *Signal Journal*, that help teachers and library media specialists continue learning about young adult literature beyond the information included in this book.

From Page to Screen has been renamed From Page to Screen with the Common Core, and the suggested activities are influenced by the Common Core State Standards for the Language Arts. We have also made it easier to discern the source of the movie ratings indicated, and we have updated movies to motivate readers and class discussions about books now available as movies.

Organization

A young adult literature text must allow you, the reader, to find a balance between actual literature and the instructional text. For you to be able to guide young adult readers, you will need to read age and developmentally appropriate literature, finding your own favorites and learning firsthand how enjoyable and meaningful these books can be.

You will need more than just your own experiences with the literature. To use this literature effectively with young adults, you will need to form clear objectives:

- Know what literature is available and be familiar with a wide range of genres
- Appreciate, understand, and evaluate the literature
- Develop ways to connect readers with the literature

This balance is important, because young adult literature is a significant aspect of middle and secondary school curricula as well as an invaluable source of enjoyment.

With the current emphasis on literature-based instruction, literature across the curriculum, reading to learn across the curriculum, and the use of literature to integrate curricular areas, the use of young adult literature will become increasingly important for all middle and high school teachers and librarians. Slim enough to guarantee that you have the opportunity to read the books themselves and comprehensive enough to ensure that you understand adolescents, their literature, and how to connect the two, the third edition of *Young Adult Literature: Exploration, Evaluation, and Appreciation* will help you provide a rich educational experience for adolescents while nourishing their love of reading.

Driving Principles

For a young adult literature text to be truly valuable, it must accomplish specific goals:

- Provide readers with the knowledge of quality, age-appropriate books.
- Offer information on literary exploration, emphasizing the evaluation, teaching, and appreciation of young adult literature.

- Be sufficiently concise, allowing readers the time to read the literature itself.
- Use technology as a means of learning more about young adult literature and about making it an integral part of the middle and secondary curriculum.
- Include both fiction and nonfiction as well as graphic formats in order to reflect the reading interests of all students and to meet the needs of both classroom teachers and librarians.
- Recognize and value students' diversity.

Recognition of and Commitment to Diversity

Diversity must be respected and recognized in the middle and secondary school curriculum, and young adult texts need to reflect our nation's and schools' growing diversity. Rather than segregating multicultural literature in a single genre chapter, we interweave diversity and multiculturalism throughout the text. The following threads will help you address and celebrate diversity in your classroom:

- Exploring diversity—cultural, gender, ability, and sexual orientation
- Identifying multicultural literature
- Selecting and evaluating multicultural literature
- Uncovering multicultural literature for and about specific cultural groups
- Investigating award-winning books with multicultural representations
- Integrating multicultural literature throughout the curriculum
- Discovering appropriate literature that crosses curricular boundaries

Exploring, Evaluating, and Appreciating Young Adult Literature

Special features blend with chapter content to support the book's three underlying and unifying themes.

Exploration: Get to Know the Students You Teach and the Literature That Interests Them

- Chapter 1 discusses adolescence and how it affects your students.
- Chapter 7 examines fantasy, science fiction, and horror, all popular genres with adolescents, and explains how to use a reader's interest in these areas to literacy's advantage.
- Chapters 9 and 10 examine nonfiction formats that are useful for promoting reading across curricular areas.
- Chapter 12 explores the popular and burgeoning areas of graphic novels, comic books, and other nontraditional literature such as picture books and magazines, providing an excellent way to motivate young readers.

- Diversity and multicultural literature are major threads that run throughout the book.
- Suggested Readings in each chapter list journal articles and books that will benefit your teaching.

Evaluation: Learn What Makes a Young Adult Title Great

- Chapter 2, “Evaluating and Selecting Young Adult Literature,” sets the stage for a text intended to help you select the finest examples of young adult literature.
- The Considerations for Selecting Young Adult Literature feature in every genre chapter provides clarity on how to determine the value of specific titles.
- The Young Adult Books feature in each chapter helps you choose the best titles for your students.

Appreciation: Help Young Adults Learn from and Love Young Adult Literature

- Chapter 3, “Teaching, Using, and Appreciating Young Adult Literature,” helps you see how best to use young adult literature in your classroom, including ways of integrating curricular areas.
- Chapter 4, “Protecting Intellectual Freedom,” along with the discussions in various genre chapters, will help you learn how to address censorship.
- The Expanding Your Knowledge with the Internet feature enriches your teaching with technology.
- The Connecting Adolescents and Their Literature feature includes activities for teaching, exploring, and helping young adults appreciate young adult literature.
- The From Page to Screen with the Common Core feature in each genre chapter explores the best film adaptations of young adult literature, providing opportunities to engage readers and compare films to books, as suggested by the Common Core State Standards for the English language arts.
- The Collaborating with Other Professionals feature provides preservice and in-service teachers and library media specialists with ideas for collaboration on topics being addressed in the text.
- Young adult literature is a valuable resource that can promote meaningful literacy learning. The Using the Common Core: Developing College and Career Readiness feature offers sample discussion questions influenced by the Common Core State Standards for the English language arts.

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