All The Bright Places

Book Talk Presentation by:

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ENGL 112B



**Synopsis:**

Two teens in their adolescents go through the struggles of life and feel they can’t take it anymore. In an attempt to end life once and for all with a single jump from the top of the bell tower, they officially meet one another. Because they were at the same place at the same time (and were both in shock and afraid) neither one of them decide to jump in that given moment. Violet and Finch save each other tremendously within the novel and become best friends and lovers as they wander around Indiana together. Despite all the hardships they have been through, Violet and Finch learn to give themselves something to live for.

 

Quotes

1. “Violet smiles back. Immediately, I feel better, because she feels better and because of the way she smiles at me, as if I’m not something to be avoided. This makes twice in one day that I’ve saved her…” (30).

Even though Finch is going through his own personal issues he still has the strength and is willing to ‘save’ a person who needs it. He does this for Violet twice as he pays attention to the expressions on her face and can see she isn’t exactly having the time of her life. The quote is significant because after he saves her twice he feels good about it inside. This is something young adults can try to do in life to make someone feel better and even themselves. Not only that, but he feels better after seeing her smile. A small random act of kindness just like a simple smile can make a huge impact on someone.

1. “Being sucked into a black hole would pretty much be the coolest way to die. It’s not like anyone has firsthand experience…No more worrying about where we’re going or what’s to become of us or if we’ll ever disappoint another person again. All of it—just…gone” (305).

The most significant thing about this quote is the innocence that has to do with it. It is important to realize as a young adult that there are many different types of people in the world. Some people in the world are not afraid of death and are fascinated by it. This quote also shows the reasons behind why this person wants to commit suicide. They just prefer to be gone. Which, is very disheartening because they are not open to opportunities life has to offer and are not taking into consideration the people still living even after they are gone.

1. “Then I think: *You can’t do this to me. You were the one who lectured me about living. You were the one who said I had to get out and see what was right in front of me and make the most of it…But then you leave. You can’t just do that*” (341).

This quote exemplifies that heartbreak and mourning of a person who has lost a loved one due to the action of committing suicide. Young Adults with suicidal thoughts need to know that their actions have an impact on everything and everyone who continues to live in life. The person who ends their own life may be at peace, finally, but that does not mean it won’t place others in total grief for the rest of their life time.

\*\*Factors to take note of: Within the book there are other things to consider and other things that led this person to committing suicide. There was a lot of bullying, physical abuse, and even diagnosed mental illness involved. With that being said I would like to leave these links and phone numbers for anyone who might need it, for help is out there.

**Suicide Prevention:**

Suicidepreventionlifeline.org | (1-800-273-TALK)

**Mental Illness:**

Helpguide.org | teenmentalhealth.org

**Bullying:**

Stompoutbullying.org | stopbullying.gov

**Abuse:**

1-800-422-4453

Who Wrote the Lovely Novel

Jennifer Niven (<http://www.jenniferniven.com/>) is a writer who grew up in Indiana, where the setting of the book is, but now lives in Los Angeles with her cats and her finance! She writes fiction and nonfiction with her books all over the map with almost the same theme in all of them: “ordinary people doing extraordinary things.” “All The Bright Places” is Niven’s first YA literature novel which is a New York Times/International Best Seller! Just like Finch and Violet, Niven loves to wander!

http://mismatchedbookends.blogspot.com/2014/01/interview-with-author-jennifer-niven.html

Text Complexity:

Text Scale: 7.7 Easy to Read

Flesch Kincaid grade level: 5.3 5th grade

An Exeter quality within the book would be how characters go through struggles that teens can identify with. Within the book, as I shared above, there was a lot of abuse, suicidal thoughts, and even mental illnesses involved. This book can be read by 5th graders or kids 10 years of age, although, I feel this book should be read for teens 14+ because there is a loss, a strong love (emotional and physical), and a relationship involved that is geared more to people of this age. Not only that, but they talk about college, which, teens of this age may consider soon.

**Adolescents in Search for Meaning:**

**Chapter 4: Books About Real-Life experiences**

Even though this is a realistic fiction novel, this is something that may occur in any teens life. Personally, I identify with Violet as she losses her first love and a family member. It is a heart breaking experience that can’t be changed. It is an experience and chapter in life that we have to go through and live through. I also identify with Finch as he just wants to live and wander through life! He is the person who shows Violet a meaning in life and takes her to new places she has never been. Because life is about new experiences. Together, they achieve the “perfect” day.

**Chapter 5: Books about facing Death and Loss:**

Violet is a character in the novel that has to deal with the loss of her sister in the beginning of the novel. She loses her through a car accident where she happens to be in the car as well. She always wonders throughout the novel if it was her fault because she tells her sister to take the slippery bridge in winter on their way to their destination. Not only that, but there is another death that occurs towards that end that is way deeper. It is the loss of another human she has a real connection with: her best friend

**Teaching Ideas**

As a high school teacher in my own classroom I would teach this book to bring about the awareness of suicide. Many students may have these thoughts at least once in their adolescents so it is important to address it and make them remember why they are here.

* I would give every student a sticky note and have them write “Before I die I want to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Just let them identify one thing (big or small) that they would like to do before they die. Then have everyone stick it on the wall all over the room and let them walk around to see what other people want to do before they die. This might give them ideas as well as things they might want to accomplish before death.
* Another activity I would want them to do is write on another sticky note “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is life.” This will further address why they are living in this world right now and what truly makes them happy in this moment in time and place it on the walls of the classroom again.

I would tell them that everything they write must be appropriate as it will be kept all over the walls of the room until we are finished reading the book.

* Last activity I would plan for them is similar to what Violet does. She writes a letter to someone who commits suicide. But this time, I will have the class write a letter to someone who once hurt them in any way. Whether it was with a sly remark or a shove. The letters do not have to be sent out to them but fully let out all your emotions on the paper.

**Why read this lovely book!?**

“All The Bright Places” is a novel that brings about many awarnesses that should not be ignored. This book could further address these issues and help other learn to make a difference and take a stand so that another human being does not feel alone. After reading this book, just like Violet, my life is forever changed and I know it will do the same for others in at least one way. Also, the movie is coming out in 2020 so it would be beneficial to read the book before in order to compare the differences!  