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English 112B

Professor Mary Warner

Book Talk: *10 Things I Can See From Here* by Carrie Mac



<https://www.carriemac.com/>

**About the author:** Carrie Mac is “an award-winning author”. She identifies as queer. Mac is a widow currently living in East Vancouver with her two children. Mac has written a couple of other books such as Last Winter and Wildfire.

**Summary:** *10 Things I Can See From Here* is a novel about a teenage girl, Meave Glover, who suffers from PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) which is due to witnessing a lady getting run over by a train she was riding on. During this time, Meave is in Vancouver with her dad, pregnant stepmom, and her six-year-old twin brothers. Her time in Vancouver is immensely nerve-racking with her dad’s alcohol addiction and her step mom insisting on a home birth. Since her dad is unreliable, she expects Meave to help out with her home birth. The only thing helping Meave cope with her circumstances is her new girlfriend, Salix. Salix is constant, comforting and helping Meave cope through her anxiety.

**Significant quotes:**

1. “ I wanted to be held by my dad, his big arms tight around me, holding me so that I wouldn’t have to hold myself. But he just wasn’t there” (110) .

 I chose this quote because Meave come to her neighbor, Mrs. Patel’s house, finding her dead. She is deeply disturb and wishes more than anything her dad would be there for her for once. This quote expresses how she feels alone and has to support herself since she does not have anyone she can count on for emotional support.

1. Salix states, “What she did to you was sexual assault. Damn right she should be apologizing. Just because she is a girl doesn’t mean she can get away with forcing herself on you. ” (278)

The significance of this quote is it shows us no one should ever violate us regardless of their gender. Meave is quick to forgive Ruthie who forcibly kissed her because she is her best friend. Meave feels sorry for Ruthie since she rejected her. Salix points out if Ruthie had been a boy she would not feel sorry. Meave knows Salix is right and if Ruthie had been a boy, she would have reported it.

1. “Seeing Salix in front of that orchestra had inspired me. She had felt all the hard feelings, but she had done the hard thing anyway. She just did it. She was prepared to handle whatever happened. Or maybe not prepared, but at least willing to do it and hope for the best. Feel the fear. Do it anyway.” (288)

 I chose this quote because it is one example of how Salix helps Meave grow as a person. Meave is too frightened to drive despite her whole family pushing her to drive whenever they are going someplace. When Meave goes with Salix to support her when she has to perform, she sees how Salix goes through with performing despite being nervous. This inspires Meave to face her fear and drive the family to the beach.

**How I would teach this book to adolescents:**  I would use this book to discuss real issues such as anxiety, family problems, and a person’s sexual orientation. This novel could help a student who struggles with these issues to cope. For instance, Meave handles her anxiety by spending time with Salix since she finds her company calming. This book shows students they should spend time with someone who gives them comfort when they are stressed or scared. Despite the New Dale-Chall Readability Index says the text’s grade level is fifth through sixth grade, I would only teach it to high schoolers. I would not teach this book to a fifth grader or middle school student since there are so many vulgar words and serious issues in the story, which may be too difficult for a pre teen to understand such as Meave’s dad using drugs. I would teach this book to high school students because Teenagers should read this book because either someone they know or themselves may have a parent who is struggling with alcohol or drug abuse. *10 Things I can see from here* helps young adults know they are not alone. From *Adolescents in the Search for Meaning: Tapping the Powerful Resource of Story,* this book would fall under the category of chapter four books about real life experiences. *10 Things I can see from here* addresses real life issues since as PTSD, alcohol and drug abuse, and homosexuality.

**Text Complexity:** *10 things I can see from here* can be read by grades 9-12. Meave is 16 years old. A middle schooler would not relate to her as much as a high school student would. This novel has some difficult issues that would either be hard for them to understand or make them uncomfortable to read about.

**Qualitative:** This book has a ton of imagery of worst case scenarios such as when Meave creates obituaries in her head. This story goes through a ton of topics such as Meave's family life, her anxiety issues and her love life. It is an interesting read and I would recommend it to high schoolers.

 **Quantitative:**

**Dale-Chall Formula worksheet**

Raw score: 2.101 [[ ? ]](https://readabilityformulas.com/dalechallformula/dale-chall-formula.php)

Adjusted Score: (3.6365 + 2.101) [[ ? ]](https://readabilityformulas.com/dalechallformula/dale-chall-formula.php)

Final Score: 5.7 [[ ? ]](https://readabilityformulas.com/dalechallformula/dale-chall-formula.php)

**New Dale-Chall Readability Index:**

Grade level: Grades 5 - 6

Work Cited

Mac, Carrie. *10 Things I Can See from Here*. CNIB, 2017.

Mac, Carrie. “Official Website of Author Carrie Mac.” *Carrie Mac*, <https://www.carriemac.com/>