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Professor Warner

English 112B

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*Every You, Every Me*

By: David Levithan

Photographs by: Jonathan Farmer



 About the Author

 

<http://www.davidlevithan.com/about/>

Source: <http://www.davidlevithan.com/about/> & the back of *Every You, Every Me*

Picture:<https://www.slj.com/story/2016-margaret-a-edwards-winner-david-levithan-talks-about-his-work-and-craft>

David Levithan was born on September 7th in 1972. He graduated from Brown in 1994 and published his very first novel, *Boy Meets Boy* in 2003. He is proud of his works as seen on his webpage. He is also best known for *10 Things I Hate About You*. The Idea for *Every You, Every Me* came when Levithan saw the photo that is seen on the cover on the fridge of Johnathan Framer’s house. After that, Farmer gave Levithan pictures and Levithan wrote a story around the pictures he was given.

 Summary

 *Every You, Every Me* surrounds a young teen boy named Evan. Evan only has one best friend in the whole world. Her name is Ariel. However, Ariel has gone missing and Evena is alone or so he thinks. Evan finds an envelope and in it is a picture of him. These pictures of him keep coming until one day Evan finds a picture of Ariel. Follow Evan as he finds out who is stalking him and Ariel’s boyfriend Jack and find out what exactly happened to Ariel.

 Quote #1

“It must have been late last year. We’d escaped into the trees to hold hands and talk. This wasn’t unusual for us to do, I loved it so much and I wouldn’t have remembered this time as different from any of the others if it hadn’t been for what you’d said. I don’t want to remember this. But I have no more control over my memories than I do over the past.” (25)

I picked this specific quote of the novel because it shows how much Evan cares and misses Ariel. This is the time of the novel when Evan is recalling his friendship with Ariel. For many years it was just Evan and Ariel and they were inseparable. Evan cares for Ariel deeply and he is hurting from her not being around. Evan does not want to remember the past because it is painful for him but he cannot help but remember Ariel and the relationship they shared.

 Quote #2

“There was this one model who looked icy to the touch, in total control. I told you that, and you said, “That’s what makes it a good photograph. You think you know what’s going on in her head. But the truth? No matter how good a photograph is, you can never tell what’s going on in the person’s mind. There’s no way to get from here” (you pointed to the room) “to there” (you pointed to her head).” (58)

This specific quote is a good example of Ariel hinting that there is something going on in her mind. It alludes to how Ariel appears on the outside but it is unknown on how she is actually feeling on the inside. She is creating the perfect picture that she is mentally stable and she does not need any help. There were signs throughout the novel with Evan’s flashbacks on how Ariel was not doing well.

 Quote #3

“Wasn’t that what made us feel responsible—not for what happened, but responsible for you? We always felt responsible for you. That’s the nature of connection—not just the attachment, but the responsibility.” (71)

At this point, Evan is reeling and under constant stress from the envelopes of photographs. Evan feels responsible for Ariel. Since their friendship was so strong, Evan feels as though he could have done more for Ariel. Other teens might understand how it feels to have a strong connection with someone since they might relate to the relationship between Ariel and Evan.

 In a Classroom Setting

 For this specific novel, I would use *Every you, Every Me* in a mental health unit. Throughout the novel, Evan struggles missing his best friend Ariel and also struggles on the stress of being stalked. It is revealed throughout the novel that Ariel is also struggling mentally. It would be a good lesson on how to receive the proper help for their mental health. In case someone is struggling, I would include a trigger warning for this novel as it mentions self harm and suicide. If someone does not want to read these parts of the novel, I would give them the page numbers when these topics are heavily discussed so they feel safe reading the novel. I believe a good age for this novel is 16-17. Teens should read this novel because it shows the different severity of mental health. Along with the novel, it would be important to schedule a speaker to come to the class such as one of the school counselors, a local mental health activist. During this time in school, it i s essential for the students to know it is okay to reach out to an adult in their time of need. Evan is a good example of taking care of a friend by seeking out help when it is needed.

Chapter 4 of *Adolescents in the Search for Meaning: Tapping the Powerful Resource of Story*

• Because they might have a sibling or a friend who has mental or physi- cal exceptionalities and find themselves having to protect that person from intolerance or hurtful comments. In a larger scenario, they might be called to make some difficult decisions as do the protagonists in *Of Mice and* Men and *The Silent Boy.*

• Because they might be the only source of support for a peer who has confided in them.

Chapter 5 of *Adolescents in the Search for Meaning: Tapping the Powerful Resource of Story*

* Teens may be caught up in stressful things and losing sight of what’s really important
* Teens can learn that we all have strengths we never imagined
* Teens can learn that even when it’s filled with pain, life is worth living

Evan is under constant stress throughout the whole novel as he is trying to discover who is sending him the photographs of himself, important scenery of his friendship with Ariel and even photos of Ariel. He becomes so obsessed with finding the photographer that he even loses sleep some nights as he is scrolling through the internet. Evan blames himself for Ariel’s “disappearance” ; he becomes very reserved and doesn't speak to many people. However, Evan is the one who calls for help when Ariel is trying to harm herself and this is revealed at the end of the book.

Chapter 6 of *Adolescents in the Search for Meaning: Tapping the Powerful Resource of Story*

* Teens might be tempted to commit suicide
* Teens might be overwhelmed with problems and need to know there are other ways to handle seemingly insurmountable difficulties

Ariel is revealed to have wanted to harm herself and Evan is the one who ran for help. This book is a good example that it is okay to ask for help when you need it. The book later reveals that Ariel is now seeking treatment for her depression. Teens who are tempted to commit suicide can learn that it is okay to reach out for someone. Teens can also learn it is okay to seek out treatment.

Chapter 7 of *Adolescents in the Search for Meaning: Tapping the Powerful Resource of Story*

* Teens may need to test their courage

It is extremely courageous of Evan for running to Ariel’s parents house to tell them that Ariel is trying to commit suicide. He spends the novel feeling guilty about sending Ariel away but he understands how important it was for Ariel to be seeking treatment.

Chapter 8 of *Adolescents in the Search for Meaning: Tapping the Powerful Resource of Story*

* Might have friends who are considered “odd” or whose lifestyle is unlike others around them

Evan is considered odd and reserved without Ariel. Teens might be able to relate to Even being so reserved. However, teens might also be able to relate to Ariel’s personality and mental health. Since there are two different personalities in the book, teens might learn that they are not alone in how they are feeling.

THE NEW DALE-CHALL READABILITY FORMULA

Score: 48 [ = reading scale ]

Reading Difficulty: Easy

Grade Level: 4

Age Range: 9 years

Lexical Text Density Analysis

Text Score: *51.1%* | [ ? ]

Density Range: *50%-59%* | [ ? ]

Scale: *Above average density* | [ ? ]

Lexical Word Diversity Analysis

Text Score: *71.7%* | [ ? ]

Diversity Range: *70%-79%* | [ ? ]

Scale: *High diversity* | [ ?

Works Cited

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Swan, Jennifer Hubert. “2016 Margaret A. Edwards Winner David Levithan Talks about His Work and Craft.” *School Library Journal*, 2016, [www.slj.com/story/2016-margaret-a-edwards-winner-david-levithan-talks-about-his-work-and-craft](http://www.slj.com/story/2016-margaret-a-edwards-winner-david-levithan-talks-about-his-work-and-craft).

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