

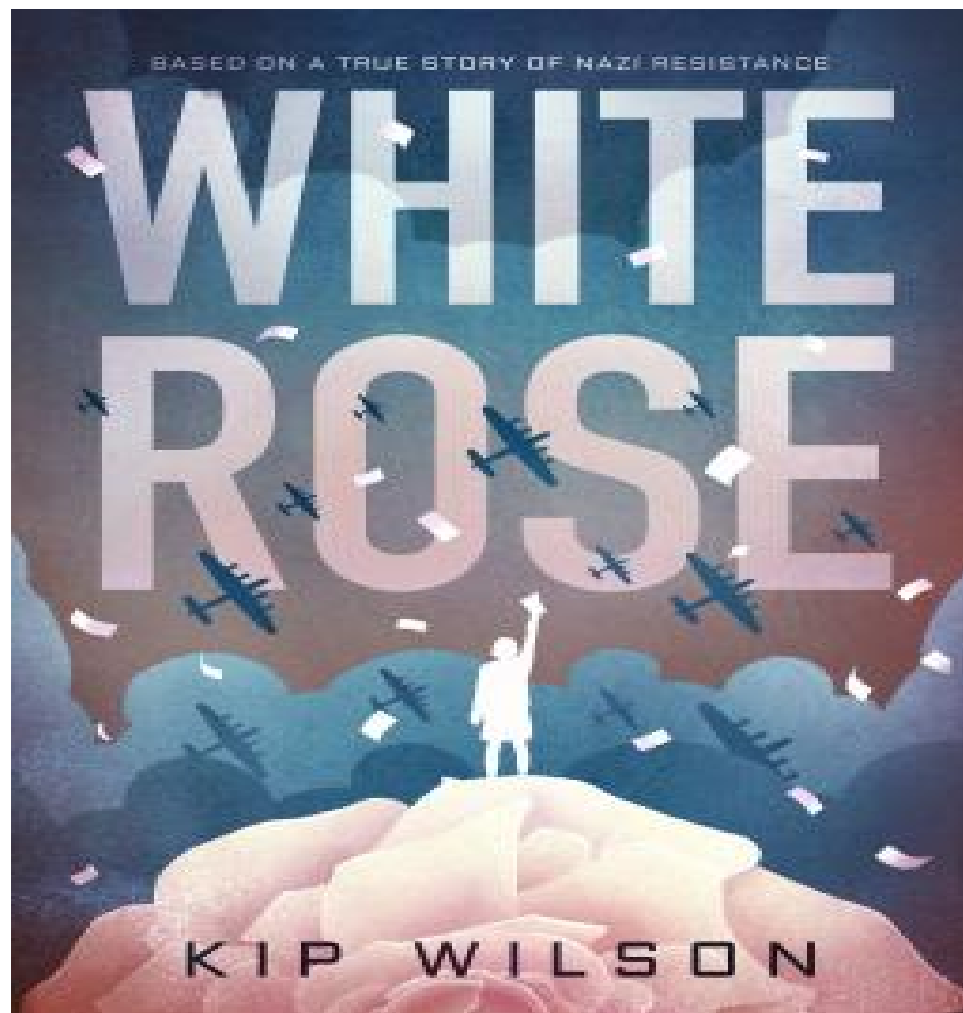
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English 112B

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*The White Rose*  
By Kip Wilson



(Wilson, Kip. Kip Wilson, Young Adult Author. Kip Wilson writes,

<https://www.kipwilsonwrites.com/>)

*About the Author*



(Wilson, Kip. Kip Wilson, Young Adult Author. Kip Wilson writes, <https://www.kipwilsonwrites.com/>)

Kip Wilson is a talented author known for her compelling storytelling and poignant writing style. She has garnered recognition for her ability to craft emotionally charged narratives that resonate with readers. Wilson's works often delve into historical events, offering a unique perspective on the past while exploring universal themes of love, resilience, and human strength. Wilson has a PH.D. in German literature and has always been passionate about books, different languages, and history. Her novels, including *The White Rose*, have won numerous awards. Wilson is also an editorial assistant at Laboratory Phonology. (Wilson, Kip. Kip Wilson, Young Adult Author. Kip Wilson writes, <https://www.kipwilsonwrites.com/>)

***Summary:***

*The White Rose* by Kip Wilson is a powerful and haunting historical novel inspired by the true story of Sophie Scholl, a young woman who became a symbol of resistance against the Nazi regime in Germany during World War II. The story follows Sophie as she navigates the challenges of living in a society consumed by fear and conformity. With her brother Hans and a group of like-minded friends, Sophie joins the White Rose, a non-violent resistance movement. Together, they distribute leaflets urging their fellow Germans to resist the tyranny of Hitler's regime. As the stakes rise and the Gestapo closes in, Sophie and her friends must summon incredible courage to stand up for what they believe in, even in the face of almost certain death. *The White Rose* is a moving tribute to the bravery of these young activists and a reminder of the importance of fighting against injustice, even in the most dangerous circumstances.

***Text Complexity:***

**Quantitative:**

As far as quantitative aspects of text complexity, *The White Rose* is average to slightly below average for young adult literature associated with the sources that were provided with the Text Complexity Handout. The novel is around 340-360 pages, which is an average amount of pages for a young adult to read. The subject matter is more associated with adults than young adults, but Wilson uses language that feeds into the minds of younger adults to grasp the subject matter.

**Qualitative:**

Structure:

- The plot is played out through sections of time and a before and end section.  
Mainly small or large passages.
- First-person perspective.

Language conventions & Clarity:

- There is a ton of figurative language associated with some religious terms or a sense of dread and understanding of the subject matter to piece together what the story is about.

Knowledge Demands:

- The demands are that young adults know some historical background of the part of history, specifically World War II.
- Also, there was a demand for knowledge of women and their actions during World War II.

***Quote 1:***

"I carefully blend a cupful of lies into the bucket of truth spread out in front of me as Herr Mohr shoots question after question, trying to catch me off-guard. Fräulein Scholl, why were you carrying an empty suitcase with you to the university?" (February 18, 1943, *The End*, Interrogation).

Wilson, Kip. *White Rose* (p. 5). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

In this quote, Sophie Scholl demonstrates immense resilience and courage in the face of interrogation by the Gestapo, the secret police of Nazi Germany. The significance of this passage lies in Sophie's ability to maintain her composure and cleverly deceive her interrogator, Herr Mohr, by blending lies with morsels of truth. Her quick thinking and calm demeanor amid intense scrutiny highlight her determination to protect herself and her fellow resistance members. This passage showcases Sophie's bravery, intelligence, and resourcefulness, illustrating her defiance against the oppressive Nazi regime. It emphasizes the importance of mental strength and strategic thinking in the fight against tyranny. It offers a glimpse into the extraordinary

courage exhibited by real-life historical figures like Sophie Scholl during one of the darkest periods in human history.

***Quote 2:***

"I've already made my confession, don't understand why we're here for this farce of a trial, except to learn our punishment. Still, the judge calls me forward after putting Hans under fire, demanding I explain my actions, share my shame with the court. I stand tall and meet his gaze. We did nothing to be ashamed of, and there's nothing." (February 22, 1943, *The End, Next, Me.*)

Wilson, Kip. *White Rose* (p. 294). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

Sophie Scholl expresses her unwavering resolve and defiance in the face of an unjust trial. This passage encapsulates the core themes of the novel, highlighting the moral courage and integrity of Sophie and her brother Hans Scholl. Despite the looming threat of punishment, Sophie refuses to back down or show remorse for her actions as a member of the White Rose resistance movement. Her statement underscores the importance of standing up for one's beliefs, even in the face of overwhelming adversity. By renouncing her former love for her country and openly declaring her shame as a German, Sophie challenges the essence of national identity and patriotism, raising profound questions about loyalty, conscience, and individual responsibility. This quote is a powerful reminder of the strength of the human spirit and the enduring impact of individuals who refuse silence in the fight against tyranny and injustice.

***Quote 3:***

"Mutti wants to see me confirmed, and I go to the church wearing my brown uniform of the Bund Deutscher Mädel instead of a scratchy black dress. Filled with pride in my uniform

before God, I raise my eyes to the church's ceiling, the heavens, the greatness beyond." (1934, *Before, Confirmation*).

Wilson, Kip. *White Rose* (p. 326). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

The significance lies in the juxtaposition of innocence and indoctrination. The passage illustrates the impact of Nazi propaganda on young minds, as the protagonist Sophie Scholl wears her uniform from the Bund Deutscher Mädel (League of German Girls) to her confirmation ceremony, a solemn and sacred occasion. This moment captures the insidious nature of indoctrination, highlighting how the Nazi regime manipulated the innocence of youth, replacing traditional values with a twisted sense of national pride and loyalty to the state. Sophie's pride in her uniform symbolizes the perversion of youthful enthusiasm and faith, showing how the regime exploited the young generation's idealism for its sinister purposes. The quote serves as a chilling reminder of the manipulation of innocence and the moral complexities faced by individuals growing up under oppressive regimes.

***How would this book be taught in a classroom?***

*The White Rose* by Kip Wilson can be effectively taught and presented in a classroom setting, particularly in high school literature and history classes. The novel provides a powerful lens through which students can explore the complexities of moral courage, resistance, and the human spirit in the face of oppression. Classroom discussions can delve into the historical context of Nazi Germany, focusing on the propaganda machine, the challenges faced by individuals who resisted the regime, and the ethical dilemmas they encountered. Teachers can use the book to foster critical thinking and empathy by encouraging students to analyze the characters' motivations, the impact of their choices, and the ethical questions their actions pose. Additionally, classroom activities such as group discussions, role-playing exercises, and research

projects can help students engage with the material more deeply. It can serve as a springboard for broader conversations about social justice, individual responsibility, and the importance of standing up against injustice, making it a valuable addition to the high school curriculum.

*The White Rose* is best suited for older high school students, typically those in grades 10 to 12, due to its mature themes and historical context. The novel contains content related to the Holocaust, Nazi atrocities, and the moral dilemmas faced by the characters, which may be too intense for younger readers. High school students, particularly in their junior and senior years, are better equipped to handle the challenging subject matter and engage in thoughtful discussions about the ethical and historical aspects of the story. Teachers can provide appropriate context and guidance to help students navigate the sensitive themes in the book, ensuring a meaningful and educational reading experience. In *Adolescents And The Search For Meaning: Tapping The Powerful Resource Of Story* by Mary Warner, specifically in chapter 7, Warner describes an excerpt from Adam Bagdasarian's *Forgotten Fire*. This excerpt focuses on literature that exemplifies Armenians as a threat to security in the eyes of the Turks, which balances well with Wilson's novel *The White Rose*. However, the scenarios and points of history are entirely different. The idea that a group of people is deemed dangerous for reasons that aren't justified is a perfect example of history and literature that teaches to teens. Hence, they understand not only the historical significance but also the idea that with exemplary courage, a group can stand against the oppressor.

