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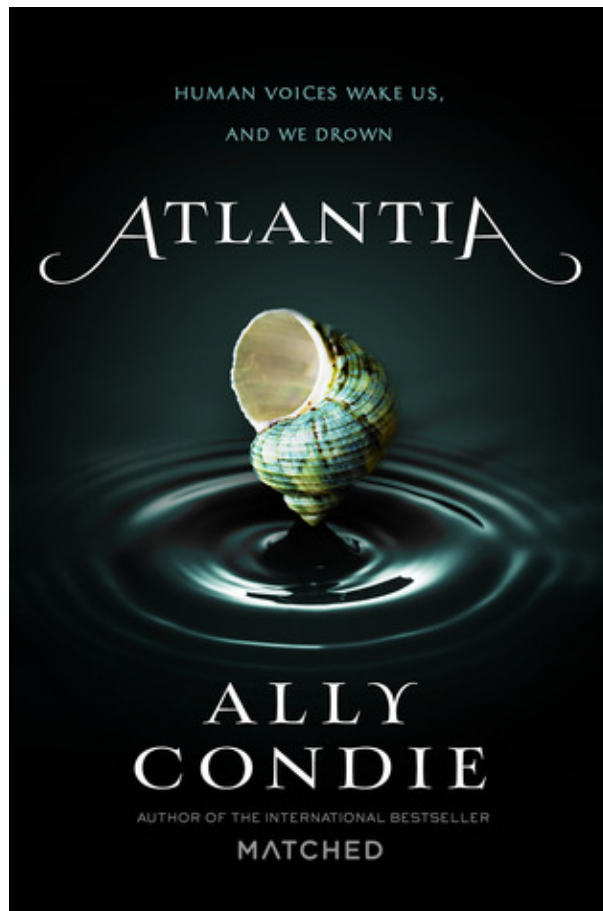
Dr. Mary Warner

English 112B

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Book Talk: *Atlantia* by Ally Condie

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www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/152166/ally-condie/



About the author: Ally Condie is also the author of the critically acclaimed Matched trilogy, a number one *New York Times* and international bestseller. The series has been published in more than 30 languages. Condie is a former English teacher who lives with her husband and four children outside Salt Lake City, Utah. She loves reading, writing, running, and listening to her husband play the guitar.

Summary: The book takes place in an underwater world named Atlantia. There's also a world above named "the above". The main character in this book is named Rio. She has a twin sister named Bay and the difference between the two is that Rio is a siren. Sirens are known to have powerful voices that can influence others to do things for them. There's only supposed to be one siren in the family but Rio's aunt Maire is also a siren. Rio being a siren was kept a secret by her

mom Oceana because sirens were taken away by the city council. The twin sisters were babies when their dad passed away from lung disease and their mom was killed when they were both 16 years old. One of the biggest issues in the book is that only one family member is allowed to go above due to pollution and Rio always wanted to go above but decided to stay to be with her sister. One day, Bay went above without giving any explanation to her sister and Rio felt extremely sad, lonely, and betrayed.

Important Quotes:

1. “Why would anyone choose to go above if you die so young and have to work so hard?

The children of the below used to ask each other when we were smaller. And I never answered, but I kept a long long list at home of all the reasons I could think of to go above. You could see the stars. You could feel the sun on your face. You could touch a tree that had roots in the ground. You could walk for miles and never come across the edge of your world” (5).

- This quote brings up the importance of being able to enjoy nature that many people on earth take for granted. Global warming is real and some people are not taking care of our planet which at the end of the day will harm us, animals, and future generations. This quote makes us question the things that we see or maybe do, such as littering, traveling more, and leaving our electronics on when we're not using them. This quote also relates to another phrase stated by Rio when she says she's proud of Atlantia's steel trunk and metallic leaves.
2. “When I through the gold coin into the pool, I made the same selfish, wonderful wish I've made ever since I was a child. I wish that I could see the above... How could you leave me?”(59-60).

- This quote shows Rio's strong desire to go above to find her sister. She also experiences emotions of feeling betrayed but her sadness doesn't stop her from accomplishing her goals.
3. - Towards the end of the book, Maire the aunt, tells Rio that council members killed her mom by poisoning her drink. Rio wanted to use her magical voice to convince the council from below to let her go above but Maire convinced her not to. When Maire helps Rio get above, Rio discovers that the only way the people from above would accept her if she's a siren that has never used her voice to influence council members to do what she says and if she loves Atlantia. Rio was able to stay above and finally meet with her sister but her aunt Maire got killed trying to save her. This quote explains why her sister Bay went above.
- “ We've learned since that there are doctors here who might be able to help Fen... I think Bay might be angry, too” (258).

How I would teach this book to teens:

I would like to pair up with a science teacher and ask them if they would like to read the book with their class as well because the book talks about pollution. A lesson I would do in class is social-emotional learning. Five core goals include self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, social awareness, and relationship skills.

Social-emotional learning is presented in the book because Rio loses her most important family members as a teenager and she tries to make create positive relationships with the people around her by giving them the benefit of the doubt.

In a classroom I would read five chapters a day with my students and have them write on the board, problems that they see within the story and how they would resolve them. At the end of the chapter, I would want students to make a project that can be presented on a poster or on slides. The project would give students a way to talk about how the book relates to them or how the book helped them see the positive side of certain situations.

Teens should read this book because it mentions grief, death, betrayal, pollution, and life as a teenager trying to deal with a lot of emotions. This book fits in with chapter 5 and 7 of *Adolescents in the Search for Meaning: Tapping the Powerful Resource of Story* because the book talks about experiencing the loss of a family member and building courage to survive in both worlds.

Text Complexity: This science fiction novel can be read by students in 6-12th grade. Any grade lower, would not grasp the readers attention as much because the level a reader is at varies. Teens are usually at a level where they can relate and gain satisfaction from a book.

Quantitative:

Dale-Chall Formula worksheet

Raw score 0.6661 [?]

Adjusted Score: $(0 + 0.6661)$ [?]

Final Score: 0.7 [?]

New Dale-Chall Readability Index:

Grade level: Below 1st Grade

Qualitative: The qualitative aspect of the book includes a lot of imagery of nature and symbols of the gods. The story takes place in an underwater world and the writing in the book is easy to understand.

Works Cited

“Ally Condie.” *PenguinRandomhouse.com*,

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