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Young Adults of History

This collection of young adult's novels, some telling tales of seafaring, science fiction, magic and even homesteading, are all stories that have made history. Or, they tell the aspect of a historically important point of view. When it comes to story telling, it is easily vouched that these entries are all well worth it, but proof will be provided just in case you the reader is in disbelief. You will find classics as old as "Romeo & Juliet" and "David Copperfield", to more recent shows as well received as "Beavis and Butthead" and of course the Harry Potter book series. Of course, being a part of history and about young adults are not the only reasons these works are of such significance.

What do these single novels, series, comics, and cartoons have in common? They are all about the choices these young and growing adults make as they grow older. One could say there is a theme of dealing with adverse consequences because of their choices. The centerpiece of such a theme would be the ever popular Harry Potter series, especially "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix". In this text, because the young group of witches and wizards had the rather foolish endeavor to sneak into the Ministry of Magic to find a prophecy, the Order came to their rescue, leading to the death of Sirius Black at the hands of his cousin.

All of these works deal with adverse consequences, though not some as dire, and others much, much worse. This varying collection shows both a scope of form and art,

and of dangerous and difficult plights of people that we could all connect with and hopefully learn from. A short description of each work will likely create a better picture.

1. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix - Harry is taken by members of the Wizarding world to his godfather's home, where he learns of the Order of the Phoenix, a group dedicated to opposing Lord Voldemort. At Hogwarts he contends with Dolores Umbridge and her punishments of the student body, authorized by the Ministry of Magic. After she is kidnapped by centaurs, who she had rudely insulted, Harry and his own version of the Order of the Phoenix rush off to find a prophecy. The prophecy concerns Harry and Voldemort, kept at the Ministry. This leads to the death of Sirius Black, who along with the real Order came to save the children from the Death Eaters that were converged upon the children.

This summary is taken from Wikipedia, and from memory.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter

2. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas is the story of the Auschwitz concentration camp, where young Bruno's father has been appointed Commandant. Bruno befriends a young Jewish boy named Shmuel. He is a naïve boy, but as their friendship grows, Bruno comes to care too much for Shmuel. It is not said outright, but the two may have died together in the gas chamber along with so many other innocents, innocents just like Shmuel and Bruno.

3. David Copperfield is the story of a young boy who grows up to be a great author, and the text is considered auto biographical. David's life at home is ruined when his mother dies and he is left with his strict stepfather and step-aunt. He escapes through the help of

his aunt and makes many friends as he grows. It is only through his friendships that he is hurt more, more so than his stepfather ever hurt him. That and the loss of his wife and child are what complete this tale of growing pains.

This summary was made through the aid of Wikipedia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Copperfield

4. The Book Thief has been mentioned in this classroom a few times, and some of you might have seen the film as well. Liesel Meminger is the main character, with a focus on the relationships she makes and the books she steals from the Mayor's library. Death narrates the story, set in Nazi Germany, so we know that it isn't going to be an upbeat read, where any act of kindness can lead to punishment and death.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Book_Thief

5. Cider House Rules tells the tale of Homer Wells the orphan, raised by Dr. Wilbur Larch, who taught Homer to be an obstetrician. Larch secretly performs abortions for anyone who requires his services. The story shows Homer's growth from a child into fatherhood, and the secrets he hides, one being his son born from a married woman, and the abortions that he also performs, even though he finds them morally wrong.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cider_House_Rules

6. You may have heard of Little House on the Prairie and perhaps even seen the show. Homesteading is one of the most difficult endeavors you can undertake, and the series shows the life of the Ingalls family, through nine books. The adventures they face and the choices they make are the focus of the series. For example, when one of the girls grows up to be a teacher at the young age of 15, she is tasked with children that take her to the

limit, and all the while she has to provide for herself and her sister.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_House_on_the_Prairie

7. The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle is a seafaring tale, where Charlotte Doyle, a young girl from the upper class accidentally exposes a possible mutiny onboard the ship she travels alone. The crewmate she exposes dies from the Captain's lash, and upon seeing the consequences of her act, she takes up the crewmates place on the ship. She vows to reveal the cruelty of the Captain when she reaches her new family home in Providence, Rhode Island. The tale is set in the 1830s.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_True_Confessions_of_Charlotte_Doyle

8. Beavis and Butthead, created by Mike Judge in the early 90s and aired on MTV, is the story of two young adults with some fantastic personality traits. They have discussed music videos, girls, terrible jokes, and whatever else their rotten little minds could find while on their television run.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beavis_and_Butt-head

9. The next text does not need a summary, for nearly all know the tale, but a refresher is never unwelcome. The story of star-crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet lasted three days, ending with their deaths. The whirlwind romance was spurred on by their foolish passions and family feud. Only through their death did this hatred end, though not many seem to grasp the lesson of their acts. William Shakespeare wrote it after the time he spent in Italy.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romeo_and_Juliet

10. The Teen Titans comic book series by DC Comics has a lengthy and valued history in the comic book canon. The story of Terra, a meta-human capable of moving earth with her powers, and her betrayal of the Teen Titans to their most dangerous enemy, Slade Wilson a.k.a. Deathstroke the Terminator, is perhaps the most read and cherished among the fans. Her actions lead to their downfall, but only through a true rebirth does she redeem herself to her friends by turning against Slade.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teen_Titans

These works may seem almost sporadic in combination, but with so much variety in the works involving young adults, it just cannot be helped. It is the varied diet which keeps a being happy, to pick and choose to their hearts delight. And these works may not seem delightful, but one must wet their toes to check the water.