

Exploring Homelessness Through Young Adult Literature

This resource for teaching young adult literature that deals with issues of homelessness were created by students in the M.A. Ed. Program (2008-2009) in secondary English education in the School of Education at The College of William and Mary. Students collaborated with each other and with Professor John Noell Moore, the secondary English educator.

Within the pdf file titled as “Annotated Bibliography”, you will find a brief introduction for each of the literature works and their appropriate grade reading level. The book titles that are marked by an asterisk have related learning activities, and you can find them in the other pdf file on this page titled with “Learning Activities.”

These activities have been designed for in-service and pre-service teachers and others interested in young adult literature and issues related to homelessness. The texts, selected because they are appropriate for middle school and high school students, are arranged alphabetically by author. The entry for each text provides bibliographic information and a description of the book, including its genre, the number of pages, suggested grade level(s), and other themes and issues related to adolescence. Among these themes are coming-of-age, identity formation, moral dilemmas, and relationships with family, friends, and others who populate the world of teenagers.

For each text, a plot synopsis and list of major characters, each briefly described, provide a context for suggested teaching ideas. While some entries offer a list of ideas, others suggest a learning cycle of three phases: entering the text, exploring the text, and extending the text. Some entries provide additional information, such as objectives for teaching, multidisciplinary connections, and suggested related readings.

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