

DEER VALLEY

Dear Students,

Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Sarah Vecera and I will be your child's teacher for ELA 1

Summer

interfere. But what happens when interfering would save the person's life? Or will prevent someone else from getting hurt? And what happens if A falls in love when tomorrow will be a new life?

Long Answer Questions:

1. Do you find A's rules ethical and justifiable? Explain why or why not. What exceptions should there be? Are any of the rules okay to break, and if so, why?
2. How does A change and develop over the course of the novel? What is the catalyst for this change and growth? What do you predict that A will do next?
3. Do the teenagers that A encounters seem real or believable to you? Why or why not? How did this affect you as you read the novel?

Book Two: The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky 720L Sensitive Content

#1 in Teen and Young Adult Literature on Amazon, New York Times Best Seller, American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults and Best Book for Reluctant Readers

Summary: The critically acclaimed debut novel from Stephen Chbosky, Perks follows observant "wallflower" Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up. *Contains sensitive material.*

Long Answer Questions

1. Why do so many teens love this book? Why do they find it so relatable? Does it capture the feelings of an adolescent well? Explain why or why not.
2. Some of the main character's friends are homosexual or bisexual. How have American views on this topic changed over time? What has motivated this change in public opinion? What do you predict will happen over time when it comes to these types of issues?
3. Write an epilogue for the story—Where is our protagonist after he leaves high school? Does he attend college? Does he stay in touch with his friends? How does he take the lessons he learned here and apply them to adult life?

Book Three: Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson 690L Sensitive Content

Long Answer Questions

1. This is a novel that is actually on the Sophomore (non-Honors class) curriculum, though 20 years ago it would never have been allowed. How does this novel reflect the state of youth in America today, and how things have changed over recent generations? What do young men or women face today that is different than our parents? What is the same?
2. How does Melinda change and develop as a character throughout the novel? What helps her to change or grow? What obstacles hold her back from growing?
3. How could Melinda have changed her circumstances earlier than she did? What would have been needed to change her fate? Does she seem like a realistic character to you, in terms of her choices and reactions? Why or why not?

Book Four: Breathing Underwater by Alex Finn

510L (AVAILABLE AS PDF ONLINE)

Winner of the Black-Eyed Susan Award, An ALA Top 10 Best Book for Young Adults, An International Reading Association Young Adult Choices List Pick, A New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age Pick

Summary: Intelligent, popular, handsome, and wealthy, sixteen-year-old Nick Andreas is pretty much perfect—on the outside, at least. What no one knows—not even his best friend—is the terror and anger that Nick faces every time he is alone with his father.

Then he and Caitlin fall in love, and Nick thinks his problems are over. Caitlin is the one person he can confide in, the only person who understands him. But when Nick's anger and jealousy overtake him, things begin to spiral out of control and Nick realizes that he's more his father's son than he wants to be.

Now Nick must confront his inner demons to stop the history of violence from repeating itself.

Long Answer Questions

1. What is the "Cycle of Abuse" and how does it appear in this story? Explain using examples from Nick's home life. How does this cycle present itself in America today? Why is it difficult to escape?
2. Is Nick a believable character to you? Does he seem realistic? Why or why not? What does he do or say that makes he seem real or fake to you?
3. How does Nick change throughout the novel, especially when it comes to his views on how he treated his girlfriend? How does he justify his actions at first? What helps motivate his change in perspective?