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Rationale Paper

Dr. Warner

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Adventure: Making Life Choices

I realized after reading *The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande, I wanted my topic to be about adventure and making life choices. The story is a memoir of the author’s life and the decisions she makes that led her to becoming an author today. Grande lived a hard life growing up compared to what most children in the US have to endure. The two big choices she made was moving to California and going to college. These decisions might seem like they are easy to make, but circumstance can play a huge role in the outcome a decision. When Reyna was younger she had to make the decision to move to California with her father and siblings, for a young girl that can be difficult because she would end up leaving behind the people she loves most like her mother, her grandmother, and younger sister. When she got older she had to choose how she was going to attend college, her siblings did not attend college so her father was not willing to let her go because he believes Reyna would just end up like her siblings. Reyna had to hold her ground and go against her father’s choice. Reyna reminded me of myself many years ago, I was born and raised on a small island in the Pacific and I moved to the US to go to school to pursue a better life for myself. I moved to San Mateo and everything here surprised me, I believe the term would be “culture shock.” I liked that I could relate to her story in a personal way, because it made it easier to read. Similarly, young adults want to be able to read about things they can relate, even if the story is completely far-fetched the themes that surround the story is something a young adult is be able to relate to. I chose to do the topic on adventure and making decisions because at some point between adolescence and adulthood there are many decisions adolescents make before becoming an adult. Decisions like should they get part-time job, join extracurricular activities, or decide on what college they want to attend. Sometimes stories that are too straightforward about growing up and making decisions can be off putting, but if there is something like an adventure to mask the story as entertaining, while still being able to carry out the same message, then I know young adults will take more interest in it. Also, I find that because most young adults spend most of their time in school or participating in other activities, they are too busy to get the chance to travel any farther from their hometown. This gives young adult readers the opportunity to travel and see the world without ever having to leave their own home. Decisions can sometimes be hard because they are confusing at times and there is no one tell them what is right or wrong and they realize the small decisions they make are slowly becoming bigger ones that can change the course of their future. Reading is similar to watching a film, the readers see what happens from a different points of view that give them a perspective and understanding of other people. Understanding others or a situation can be useful to helping make decisions about their own lives.

“Paper Towns Summary & Study Guide.” BookRags, BookRags

[www.bookrags.com/studyguide-paper-towns/#gsc.tab=0](http://www.bookrags.com?studyguide-paper-towns/#gsc.tab=0)

Green, John. *Paper Town.* Penguin Books. 2015.

Paper Towns is a coming of age story about boy named Quentin who has secret crush on his old friend Margo. Despite having grown apart over the years, one night, Margo breaks into Quentin’s room and they do multiple pranks on Margo’s boyfriend for revenge. Afterwards, Margo disappears but leaves behind many clues that Quentin believes Margo left for him. Quentin and his friends embark on a journey to find Margo with the clues she left behind, wondering why she left at all.

Quentin has lived his life on the safe side and as boring as could be, but once Margo reenters his life he is able to take risks and make decisions that he has never had to do. Paper towns is a bildungsroman where Quentin learns that he does not need plan out his entire life. Teens will learn that life does not go one way because a person wants it to, but they will realizes that the choices a person makes in their life does not need to be so strict, and that there is room to be flexible.

Twain, Mark. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. New York: Random House, 1996. Print.

The story revolves around a boy named Huck and his adventures with a runaway slave named Jim. Throughout the book Huck and Jim try to survive a series of events, both wanting one thing in common, freedom. Huck and Jim become best friends along the way even though slaves were not even recognized as people.

Huck encountered many problems on his adventures, and one of them was having to hide Jim from adults because he would be taken away. Huck is torn between helping Jim or sending him back to his owners, but in the end he makes the decision to help Jim. Young Adults learn that sometimes what you believe is right can be wrong to others, and there is a time where doing the right thing can be difficult.

Pena, Matt de la. *We Were Here.* Ember. 2011.

Miguel is a mixed-race teen who steals money and runs away from his one year sentence with his accomplices Mong and Rondell to go to Mexico and start anew. Miguel does not end up crossing the border and instead wander around the coast of California with Rondell while trying to figure out what they will do. In this time, Miguel tries to come to terms with what he did wrong and forgive himself so he can move forward in his life.

The story is written in the form of a journal, with entries regarding how Miguel thinks and feels. Even after escaping he continues to write because this is a way for him to heal and document how he plans to move forward in his life. Teens are better suited for this book because during this time in their lives teens try to find themselves and make decisions about who they want to be or where they want to go. *We Were Here* gives teens a perspective on making decisions especially with problems that will not just disappear.

Smith, Benjamin. “The Lightning Thief.” Journal of the American Academy of Child &Amp; Adolescent Psychiatry, vol. 50, no. 3, 2011, pp. 307–309.

Percy Jackson is the son of Poseidon and joins a camp filled with Demi-gods in order to protect himself. Percy is accused of stealing Zeus’s thunderbolt, so he goes on a journey with friends Annabeth and Grover to find the master bolt in order to clear his name. The journey is dangerous and long, and he realizes the many obstacles he faces is the only way to save his mother and clear his name.

Percy learns the truth about himself and shows courage in setting out to find the truth and save his mother. I believe young adults will like this book because it highlights the serious issue of making life decisions while appearing entertaining. There comes a time in a young adult’s life where they have no choice but to step up to the plate and make a decision because life only moves forward.

“The Golden Compass Overview.” *Bookrags.* Bookrags, [www.bookrags.com/studyguide](http://www.bookrags.com/studyguide-golden-compass-/#gsc.tab=0)-golden-compass-/#gsc.tab=0.

Pullman, Philip. The Golden Compass. 1st ed., New York, Alfred A. Knopf : Distributed by Random House, 1996.

The Golden Compass is about a little girl named Lyra who is adopted by A woman who she later finds out is the reason many children are disappearing. She escapes her and protects the alethiometer that her uncle gives her so, she goes on a long journey to try and find her way back to him. Once they meet again she follows him to another world in order to stop his plans.

Lyra is a young girl with plenty of courage; she tries to save the ones she cares about even if it means going on a dangerous journey. The story is suitable for young adults because it shows that there are times when you have no choice but to do what is necessary. Readers learn that if they want something to change for them they must do it themselves, and sometimes in that process they gain more faith in their capabilities while slowly growing into their adult selves.

Riggs, Ransom. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. First paperback edition. Quirk Books, 2013.

Jacob is haunted by nightmares of monsters after his grandfather passed away, so he goes to Cairnholm to learn more about his grandfather’s past. There he finds exactly what his grandfather told him about Miss Peregrine and the peculiar children who live in a time loop to protect themselves from Wights and Hollow Ghasts. However, a Wight makes it onto the island and cause trouble injuring Miss Peregrine, so Jacob tries to save the children and Miss Peregrine by leaving the time loop in search for help from others.

The story emphasizes on Jacob’s choice to leave his home to help and protect the people who are dear to him and his grandfather. He has a difficult time choosing because he would be leaving behind his parents who would worry for him and regret ever bringing him to that island. The story show how important Jacob’s choice to help is, once he goes with them, there is no turning back; In that he gain courage and decided to fight and protect who was important to him.

“The Monster In The Cave.” *Scholastic Action: Wave Of Terror.* pp. 20-24.

The Odyssey. Alexandria, VA, Alexander Street Press, 2002.

Odysseus played a trick on the Cyclops Polyphemus because he wanted his livestock, and in the process some of his men were eaten. Odysseus wanted him to suffer so he blinded him with his one eye and humiliated himself saying noone is hurting him. Odysseus reveals himself to the Cyclops before he leaves and Polyphemus asks Poseidon to make his journey home long.

Odysseus is a good example of what can go wrong when you make the wrong choice. Odysseus was a terrible person for putting his men at risk, stealing, breaking into someone’s home, and assaulting a stranger. As a result of his actions, Poseidon made it difficult for Odysseus to return home which can teach young adults about how to not be reckless with the choices they make in their lives or the consequences can come back tenfold.

“Alice in Wonderland Notes.” *BookRags.* Book Rags,

www./bookrags.com/notes/aiw/#gsc.tab=0.

Carroll, Lewis, and Donald J. Gray. Alice in Wonderland. 2nd ed., New York, W.W. Norton &Amp; Co., 1992.

Alice chases the white rabbit into wonderland and comes across many different characters she find confusing. She eventually understands that the rules are different in Wonderland even if they do not make sense to her. In the end, she wakes up and realizes that everything that happened was a dream.

*Alice in Wonderland* is a metaphor about children who struggle to understand adulthood and what it means to be an adult. Alice is tired of how wonderland is and “grows up” by choosing to do things her way. Alice decides when she is ready to grow up, which is when she wakes up from her dream in wonderland.

DeLint, C. (2003, 02). Coraline. *Fantasy & Science Fiction, 104*, 30-31. Retrieved from

http://search.proquest.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/docview/219675128?accountid=10361

Russell, P. Craig., et al. Coraline. 1st ed., New York, HarperCollins, 2008.

*Coraline* is about girl who moves to a new place and finds that in her house is a door to another world with her “other” father and “other” mother that give her attention and let her have as much fun as she wants. They want to keep her there and sew buttons on her eyes to which she refuses and that angers her “other” mother, so she kidnaps Coraline’s real parents. Coraline has no other choice but save her on her own and bring them back to the real world.

Coraline has to decide whether she wants to stay with her real parents or her “other” parents. However, she does not want buttons for eyes and there is no one who can replace her parents. I feel as if this is where a part of herself learns to see things from her parents perspective because they care for her, but they cannot act like “fun” parents like her “other” parents.

“Book Review: Scythe by Neal Shusterman |.” The Book Smugglers, 26 Nov. 2016, thebooksmugglers.com/2016/11/book-review-scythe-neal-shusterman.html.

Shusterman, Neal. *Scythe.* Simon and Schuster, 2017.

Scythe is a story about Citra and Rowan who are selected to compete with each other for the opportunity to become a full-fledged Scythe. Citra and Rowan find their own way to glean (kill) people due to their own moral code, but the more they learn about becoming a scythe the more indecisive they become about their position.

Citra and Rowan want to become a scythe until they realize how things are done and meet people who enjoy gleaning others. Citra and Rowan are left to make a decision that not only affects them and the ones they love but also their futures. Through the course of their experiences they learn to decide whether or not they want to join everyone or partake in changes to the scythe’s order.