

Restart

Korman, G.

Following a fall from a roof, Chase awakes from a coma with amnesia and when he returns to school he encounters students with many different reactions to him. Slowly he uncovers that he was the schools biggest bully and, embarrassed and ashamed of his past behaviour, he tries to create a new identity for himself as he is drawn to new friends -- the kids he used to bully-- and is repelled by his former, bullying friends. This insightful Canadian novel is suitable for a read-aloud, independent novel study, or a literature circle, and can launch discussion of the causes and effects of bullying, personal identity, and perspective.

Collections: ARC-BC

Subjects: English Language Arts
Grades 5-12

Evaluation Date: Nov 2018



[ARC-BC](#)



Social Considerations

Resource Evaluation

CURRICULUM FIT

Does the resource support BC curriculum?



Moderately

Restart is a young adult novel that extensively explores the concept of perspective. As the main character is forced to examine his past behaviour through a new lens, the reader is provided the opportunity to imagine what has motivated his previous behaviour. As such it supports the ELA Big Idea that "Texts are socially, culturally and historically created. " Restart's compelling plot also supports the ELA Big Idea that "language and story can be a source of joy and creativity" as the reader is engaged in determining the true identity of the main character.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE

Restart could be used as a read-aloud, an independent novel study, or as a literature circle novel. It is written from various points of view and engages the reader with suspense and interesting, relatable characters. It would be a good read to initiate a class to discussion on the causes and effects of bullying.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Belief System

The entire premise of the compound is based on spiritual enlightenment. There are more extremists who wish to create a utopian-like isolated and contained society. Spiritual evolution is seen as a "cleansing" of the mind and body. Mandatory reflection, meditation, and hazing rituals are a necessary part of each member's growth.

Violence

There are many scenes with bullying and violence. The main character physically assaults many of the other characters in the novel.

Humour

Often the bullies in the story are acting in a joking manner when their intentions are mean and humiliating to others.

Safety

One of the characters has had to move to another school because he has been so badly bullied. Three of the characters terrorize the other students and the community.

Do the social considerations support, rather than detract from, student learning?



Moderately

The novel is about the effects of bullying on a school population and a community. It provides the reader the opportunity to think about the causes and effects of bullying. It also offers some insight into what causes the bully's behaviour and provides different perspectives to consider. The violence in the book is not gratuitous or particularly graphic.

GENERAL CONTENT

Content

Is the resource engaging?



Extensively

Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade?



Extensively

Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade?



Extensively

Is the content relevant and important for student broad understandings?



Extensively

Audience

Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?



Extensively

Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?



Extensively

Is the level of detail appropriate?



Extensively

Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?




Extensively


Restart offers a unique, suspenseful perspective on the issue of bullying as the main character discovers the truth about his past behaviour. As many students today face the bullying that can happen in schools, it will engage them as they consider their response to the main character who has awoken from a coma as a kinder person. As it is set in a school, it will appeal to students as they are able to connect to the characters, setting, plot, and theme.

TECHNICAL DESIGN

Is the resource easy to use?

 Extensively

Is the use of font, text size and presentation suitable?

 Extensively

Restart is a standard novel.

Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?



Extensively

Does the text broaden students' experiences and understanding?



Extensively

To what degree is this text stylistically rich?



Moderately

Plot description

The main character of the novel has awoken from a coma a different person. He has developed amnesia from a bump on the head sustained while falling off a roof. He becomes unsure of himself as different characters have different responses to him when he returns to school. As the plot develops, it becomes clear that before his accident, he was a bully who terrorized other kids. He is unsure of how to move forward and how to navigate his new life as he finds himself drawn to the kids he formerly bullied and repelled by his former best friends.

Genre

- Contemporary

Literary Highlights

- Point of view

Type

- Other (specify)
- Psychological Fiction

Reading Level

- Above intended grade level(s)

Audie Award for Multi-voiced Performance, 4. 2 on Goodreads.

GRADES AND SUBJECTS

Subjects

- English Language Arts: 5-12

ADDITIONAL INFO

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