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Prof. Warner

ENGL- 112B

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*Stormrise*: written by Jillian Boehme

**Give author information/biography**

* Website: <https://www.jillianboehme.com/about>
* The author's name is Jillian Boehme.
* Boehme got her love of poetry from her father and her love of stories from her mother. She spent just as much time writing and illustrating books as she did playing the piano and writing music. She was a part of many literary and musical clubs in school. Boehme won several piano scholarships and held the position of head accompanist for the University Choir for 3 years. It took Boehme 5 years to land a literary agent, another 5 with no sales, a new agent and another 2 years before she made her first sale. It took Boehme 12 years to get to where she is. Boehme wrote 10 novels before writing the one that was her debut.
* One point of the author that is relevant to the book I read is their love for their family. Rain is constantly thinking about her family throughout the story. Her entire quest is based on saving her family from being sent to war.
* A second point that is relevant is her love for poetry. Boehme had written her first poem when she was 6. This is relevant to the book because Rain had a deep love for poetry. The book begins with Rain being a bit tired at the start of her training day because she had stayed up late writing poetry.
1. **Write a summary of the book that is no more than 150 words**
* When Rain and her twin brother Storm were born, they both came down with an illness. Rain was the only one who was treated and Storm had permanent damage from the sickness. It was more mental than physical. One day the call is made that each house will provide one able bodied son to fight in the war. Storm was in no condition to fight so he and his father were going to leave to fight. Rain decides to go in their place and takes her brother's identity. She uses dragon magic to blend in with the others but is now able to communicate with a dragon named Nuaga because of it. She excels and becomes part of an elite unit. One night after an attack she is discovered and kept as a prisoner. Those who supported her helped her escape in order to free the dragons. She freed them and the kingdom was saved.
1. **Select three quotes that are representative of the book; comment on or explain the significance of the three quotes**
* “He hadn't given his life for the high king, but he might as well have, because, for several years, he couldn't work at all...and now the high king was taking him again-all because his only son wasn't able to do it alone. I'm sorry, Storm. Things would be different if I hadn't been born”(28).
* The significance of this quote is that Rain is heartbroken and devastated that her younger brother is being sent to war with his mental deficiency, and because of that her father would also leave to fight in order to make up for his son's lack of ability to fight. Rain blames herself for this situation because she is a woman. If she had been born a man she could have taken her brother's position to fight and had her brother and father stay home and be safe. Another option she wished for was to have never been born at all. She blames herself for her brother Storm's condition. As they both battled a sickness when they were infants, Rain was the only one to receive treatment for it while there was not any left for Storm.
* “I was the only one left...when my breathing was normal again, I got up, wiped my hands on my britches, and made my way to commander Danes' tent” (81-82).
* This passage is significant because it shows just how much work Rain put into not just passing as a boy in the army to save her family, but her desire to excel and prove herself. She lost her chance to pass the test but instead of going back to the field with the others, she stayed at the rope climb and didn't stop until she reached the top. She pushed herself past her limits in order to prove to everyone and to herself that she belonged there.
* “He sighed. ‘Did you know that most of the towns in S’dona allow men to choose their own wives?’...Whether I'm a boy or a girl, nothing will change that”(102-103).
* The significance of this quote is her connection with her womanhood. Rain spent most of her life growing up and living like a boy. She disliked all the feminine traits that were custom and loathed the idea of being handed off to marry someone who she has never met before. Women were ecstatic to hear they found a suitor but Rain was repulsed by the idea. As she trains with forest under the illusion of being a man, she slowly starts to fall in love with him. It's a bit ironic that shed be her most feminine while disguised as a boy. The realization of her feelings and discovering that Forest was already betrothed to her older sister created an internal conflict within Rain. she tells herself she must put these feelings aside for her mission and her sister. Eventually she is found out by Forest and the two form a secret relationship.
1. **For those planning on teaching**:
* The way I would use this book in a classroom is to teach my students that it is ok to subvert expectations. To go out and do whatever it was they wanted to without having to fear others discouraging them. The age level I believe to be appropriate is 11-12 years of age. I believe this is a great book to introduce to middle school students. They should read this book because there are so many messages that tell the reader it is ok to be different and surpass expectations others have for you. To be the person they want to be. This is also a great book for young women as it could inspire them to have the confidence to stand up for themselves and not let people disrespect or take advantage of them.
* The book category that this book falls under is *Allegory, Fantasy, Myth, and Parable* with a bit of *Identity, Discrimination, and Struggles with Decisions*.
1. **Everyone Includes: an analysis of the Text Complexity of your book**
* The text complexity is a bit of “reader task”. The students will love that the main character is someone who is close to their age and will be very hooked on what that character will accomplish. The young women will instantly connect with Rain and become invested, while some of the boys who don't like that the main character is a girl can still enjoy the story because of the dragons involved.
* Compared to other works in this genre it is qualitative complexity but if a reader has not read a story of this genre, time period, or culture, they will have some trouble with a few words.