Isabella Arndt

Book Talk

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The Infinite Moment of Us



**About the Author:**

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Lauren Myracle graduated with a BA in English and Psychology from the University North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Later she earned a MA in English from Colorado State University and taught there for two years. Also got an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College. She has a best-selling series called *Internet Girls*. Myracle’s most recent work has been the series *Upside Down Magic,* and she is participating in the making of DC graphic novels like *Under the moon: A Catwoman Tale*.

**Book Summary:**

Wren is a hard-working student who has done everything her parents have asked. Charlie has a rough past but that doesn’t stop him from caring for his family and working hard in school. That summer the two fell madly in love but that didn’t come without its challenges. Wren’s family didn’t appreciate that she deferred from Emory college to go to Guatemala to help children, and Charlie couldn’t do anything to get her to stay. They opened up to each other and developed a healthy relationship, that can go through anything.

**Quotes**

“I think souls are real,’ Wren said in a burst…” (110-111).

This quote is important because this is the first time Wren and Charlie hung out with each other. After their class had their graduation ceremony, they all decided to go to P.G.’s house to have a final party. This was Charlie's last chance to: one gets Wren to notice him and two ask her out. Before Charlie finds Wren, he runs into P.G. Tessa’s boyfriend, who confesses that Wren has a crush on Charlie. When he finally finds Wren, she takes him aside to get some air. They decide to leave the party and Charlie takes Wren to his favorite place. This is Wren and Charlie's first time hanging out with each other. They’re having a deep conversation about the universe and what is real and not real.

“Last week, Wren had hooked her computer up to the TV and used the TV as a monitor so that she could show her parents and Charlie a slide show she’d put together…” (143- 146).

This quote is important because its Charlies point of view of Wrens relationship with her family and how he fits into that. Wren decided to sign up for a volunteer camp in Guatemala, instead of going to Emory a local college in Atlanta. Wren’s parents are displeased that she is going to Guatemala, so to ease the blow she makes a presentation for them. Charlie is there watching to support Wren.

“Wren scrunched her shoulders, and Tessa sighed…” (299-302).

This quote is important because this is Wren’s last day in Atlanta, and this is her realizing what Charlie really means to her. One night Wren and Tessa wanted to have a grown-up dinner party to say goodbye to Wren. In a drunken scene Starla, Charlie's ex-girlfriend, broke into Tessa’s house and exposed Charlie's darkest secret to everyone. A secret that he wouldn’t even tell Wren. In the chaos that ensued after, Wren felt betrayed. This was the day before Wren had to leave. After the heart-breaking event, Wren stopped replying to Charlie's texts, and phone calls and ignored him coming to her house.  All she wanted to focus on was going to Guatemala and getting away from everything that was happening, but before she leaves, she needs to say bye to her best friend Tessa.

**Teaching**

**Why students should read it:**

Students should read this book because it is a great example of what a healthy relationship between young adults should look like. There is clear communication between Wren and Charlie, consent is very important in the story, and seeing both characters support one another in hard times was a great example of a healthy relationship. They also have great boundaries with one another and took the relationship slowly. If a student was struggling with relationships or thinks no one understood how they felt this would be the book for them. It would also be a great book to have in a classroom library.

**How to teach in class:**

I wouldn’t teach this book in a class. Though I do think it’s important to witness a healthy relationship and be in a setting to discuss them, this book wouldn’t be appropriate for me to teach in a secondary school setting. It has too many explicit scenes that I think would be complicated to navigate around in a lesson plan. I wouldn’t know how to make an assignment about this without having to maybe hear about personal experiences; I don’t want to know that much about my students. If anything, I would recommend this book as an independent read to a student.

**How it applies to Chapters 4-8 in *Adolescents and the Search for Meaning:***

**Chapter 4: Books about Real-life experiences**

*The Infinite Moment of Us* fits in chapter four because it’s as close to a real-life experience as you can. It is a very real story about young love. It can be unsettling, anxious, messy, and complicated but also be sweet, wholesome, and a positive experience in general. The characters are real people; they’re not mythical creatures or have powers. The setting is in a real place, Atlanta is real. Nothing is too far-fetched and seems very real experience.

**Chapter 5: Books about Identity, Discrimination, and Struggles with Decisions**

*The Infinite Moment of Us* fits in chapter five because Wren and Charlie are having trouble with their identities and making decisions. Wren was the perfect straight-A daughter who was going to go to college near her parents. When she decided to go to Guatemala it completely changes her relationship with them and her identity of not being the perfect daughter. Charlie had a complicated past which made it hard for him to open up to the people around him, he also felt like he was the family protector. Finally, when he opened up to Wren he changed and thought that he could finally live his own life and knew his family would be okay if he went with her.

**Chapter 7 Books about Courage and Survival**

*The Infinite Moment of Us* fits in chapter seven because it took courage for both characters to fall in love with each other and be able to leave their families. Wren had to leave her family and risk her future to do something she felt was right; Charlie left his family and his dream college to follow Wren so they could keep their relationship. They both risked things that were important to them so they could be together and live the lives they want.

**Age Level**

*The Infinite Moment of Us* is best for Ages 14-17

**Text Complexity**

**Quantitative**

**Lexile:** 14-17, 316

**AR**: ATOS book level 4.3, Interest level 9-12, AR points 9.0

**Readability:** 5th – 8th Grade, ages 10-13

**New Dale-Chall:** Grades 5-7

**Flesch-Kincaid:** 5th Grade

**Coleman-Liau:** 5th Grade

**SMOG:** 6th Grade

**Linsear Write Formula:** 5th – 8th Grade

**Flesch Reading Ease:** 77.20 (Fairly easy to read)

**Qualitative**

1. Structure

a. First person point of view: either from Wren or Charlie

2. Language Convention and Clarity

a. The vocabulary isn’t all that complex

i. It does have quite a few curse words and explicit language.

3. Knowledge Demands

a. Pop culture knowledge

i. They do make quite a bit of reference to pop culture in 2013. Just some lingo and stuff about phones.

b. Family relationships

i. Wren is sheltered, and Charlie is an orphan.

4. Levels of meaning

a. One level of meaning

 i. It’s just a run of the mill love story between two teenagers