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English 112B

Annotated Bibliography

Dr. Warner

Sports in Young Adult Literature

The reason why I am doing an annotated bibliography is because I am not a prep for teaching student and I am a English literature student. The main topic and sub genre that I am focusing on in my annotated bibliography is bullying within sports related YA Literature and the sub genre of sports in YA Literature. The reason why I am focusing on this topic and sub-genre is due to the serious nature of the topic and the lack of recognition it is given compared to other topics and sub genres.. Bullying within sports is not only connected YA literature but also other types of literature as well. What influenced me to focus on this specific topic and this subgenre is that bullying overall is a serious topic that is addressed nationally but when it comes to sports it is ignore and talking about it is frowned upon. I love sports but when I hear of bullying within the sports then it gets me worried about everything that it stands for. Could the competitiveness of the sports be causing the bullying within it? That is a question that I have been curious about and would love to be able to answer. My love of sports helps me understand why a character within the sports related books do what they would do. It also helps me understand the plots of the story better as well. The connection that I have with sports is a huge reason why I will be focusing on this sub-genre.

Alexie, Sherman, et al. *The absolutely true diary of a part-Time Indian*. Little, Brown, 2017.

*The absolutely true diary of a part time Indian* by Sherman Alexie is about a young boy named Junior who is an Indian living on a reservation. He goes through many struggles that include bullying from many people eventually he joins his school’s basketball team where he gains respect from others yet still faces challenges in his life.

This book gives a chance to understand life of a race that is rarely discussed and gives the sports element a back seat as it does not solve his problems. Overall excelling in sports causes more problems for him. This book shows that sports can cause more problems in teens’ lives than solve. The overall aspect of sports is not to hurt the players but it does not take in consideration the mental aspect of the players and that is something that is shown in this book.

Rowling, J.K, and Jim Kay. *Harry Potter and the prisoner of Azkaban*. Bloomsbury, 2017.

*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* by J.K Rowling is the third book in the Harry Potter series. This book is the first in which Harry deals with problems that are associated with young adults which include fighting with friends and dealing with sports. The main sport in Harry Potter series is Quidditch which Harry excels at. Playing Quidditch causes Harry to lose sleep.

The sports in Harry’s life doesn't take up much but it does causes him harm when he can't sleep.

This shows the harm that some sports can have on young adults as it can take over their lives at some periods of time. The book even though it is not a sports genre book deals with the aspects that hamper the issues that teens go through when playing sports. This shows that sports can have serious effects on the players especially ones of such young age. This is something this book showed that teens need time to deal with problems.

Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk*. Greenwillow Books, 2018.

*Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher is a book about a teenager that goes by the nickname T.J. T.J is athletically gifted but refuses to join any sports teams due to his anger and the risk he faces if he joins a team. Eventually he creates a swim at the school with a team of outcasts while also dealing with outside distractions such as bullies. Eventually the swim is disbanded while they members of the team learn more about each other and learn to become friends.

This book shows the bullying that comes in many sports related books and it has a major effect on the story. The way the characters interact with the bullies show that it has a negative effect on teens that deal with these things as well. Bullying is there in sports yet it does not get talked about enough but in this book it does get discussed and does a great job in dealing with it overall.

Deuker, Carl. *Night hoops*. Graphia, 2009.

*Night Hoops* is a book by Carl Deuker that is a about two boys named Nick and Trent. The boys are complete opposites of each other except for their love of basketball. As things go on through the season of basketball their lives become combined and they deal with problems outside of basketball. They end up bonding more than ever and become friends out of loneliness.

This book is about friendship coming from an unlikely source yet it shows that at times sports can have a good effect on the players. Becoming friends through sports is a way that lasting friendships begin. The sports part of the friendship is just the beginning and it allows for others to gain a better understanding of others. Sports give teens a chance to go outside and make new friendships and this book shows that.

*Feinstein, John. Last shot: mystery at the Final Four. Yearling Book, 2006.*

*Last Shot: Mystery at the Final Four* by John Feinstein is a book about a young man named Stevie who ends up winning a writing contest for journalists which means that he is given a chance to cover the Final Four. He then ends up finding out about a plot to throw away the game in order for a blackmail to succeed. He ends on a mission to find out who is the one blackmailing the star players.

This book shows that there are many bad things in sports and that not everyone can be trusted. The blackmail in the story is all too real and is something that can hurt a sport players reputation. Throwing a game also hurts the reputation as well. Things like this need to be shown to teenagers in order for them to understand the risk in playing sports and to be honest and to behave as well.

Rooper, Leah, and Kate Rooper. *Just one of the boys*. Entangled Publishing, LLC, 2017.

*Just One of the Boys* by Leah and Kate Rooper is a book about a boy and girl named Hayden and Alice. Alice strives to join the hockey team named the Falcons but gets passed over due to being a girl and Hayden is constantly getting into trouble while he is on the team. Alice decides to go in disguised as her twin brother in order to join the team but then falls for Hayden and the same goes for him.

This shows that sports genders and not equal and that girls have a harder time in being able to join teams that are dominated by boys. The love aspect of the story has an effect of the main characters but only due to the their attraction. The tale of the girl needed to go into disguised is used through books of the past and is used once again. This shows that no matter what that girls should never give up.

Volponi, Paul. *The final four*. Penguin Group (USA), 2013.

From a summary from Amazon the book *The Final Four* by Paul Volponi is about March Madness a tournament in the College basketball world. This book tells the story about the underdogs of the tournament  and how the lives of the players get intertwined and how they ended up getting to that point in the basketball game.

This shows that everyone is connected when they are playing a team sport and that not one player is left out. The players each have their own story and they each can come from different back stories. Their lives none the less still get connected one way or another and this book shows that players need to be connected to succeed.

Ford, Jodan. *Curveball*. Amazon Digital Services LLC, 2017.

*Curveball* by Jordan Ford is a book about a girl named Maddie Barlow and her sisters who end up moving right before Maddie’s graduation. Maddie ends up joining the basketball team that is all boy but ends up making enemies from that. Through all of that ends up in a love triangle with the team captain and she ends up needing to make a decision on what to do.

This book shows the things many girls go through when joining a male dominated sport and that things like that need to change. The main character Maddie deals with things that many teenage girls who want to join the sports world deal with and is an inspiration that they should look towards.

Mills, Emma. *First & then*. Square Fish, 2016

*First and Then* by Emma Mills is a book about a girl named Devon Tennyson and the challenges she goes through when her cousin and the amazing jock end up in her class. Both the cousin and the jock are great at sports and they have an effect on Devon’s life in every way. She learns to deal with it along the way.

The book is a little about sports but also a love story. The main focus is that the main character is dealing with these things while in a P.E class with both of them and they get into her life without trying. She learns to deal with the things with some negativity but it all works out for the better.

Deuker, Carl. *Payback time*. Graphia, 2012

From a summary from Amazon *Payback Time* by Carl Deuker is a book about a chubby journalist named Mitch who finds out the truth about the a football player named Angel. Mitch sets out to find out the truth about Angel who no one knows about and finds a story that ends up surprising everyone.

The surprise that no one sees is a common theme used in books and in this case it works out well as it was something that surprised everyone in the book. Players in sports are not considered open books and at times are closed to everyone else and in this book it shows that some players hold big secrets.