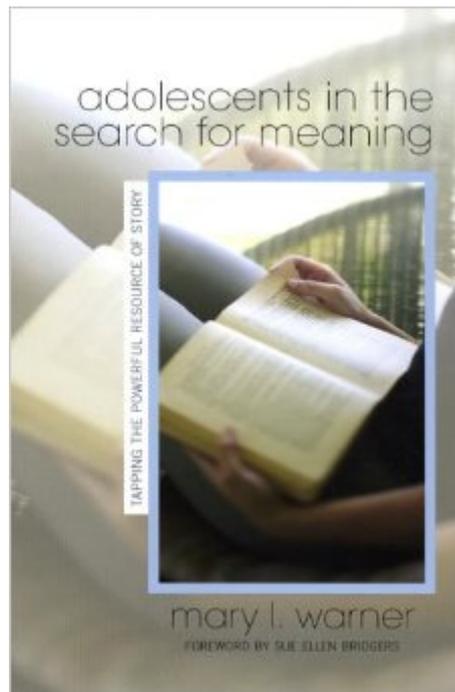


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Adolescents In The Search For Meaning: Tapping The Powerful Resource Of Story



Synopsis

As is painfully evident from the reports of school shootings, gang violence, dysfunctional family life, and from statistics on adolescent suicide, many teens live troubled lives. Even those who live a "normal" life still face the challenges adults face, but teens are also engaged in establishing independence and finding their identity. However, few adolescents have the same resources as adults for surviving life challenges. Building from the idea that story is a powerful source of meaning, particularly those stories that resonate with our own lives, this book suggests that the stories of other young adults offer a resource yet to be fully tapped. *Adolescents in the Search for Meaning* begins from the perspective of young adults by sharing the results of a survey of over 1400 teens and also includes the insights of authors of Young Adult Literature. The book presents over 120 novels that teens have identified as meaningful as well as books recommended by YA authors and experts in the field of YA literature. For any teacher, librarian, parent or counselor wanting to reach young adults, this book is ideal.

Book Information

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Stories are as essential to our existence as air. We see ourselves as our own stories; each of us has a personal narrative, a family narrative, a national narrative, a human narrative, and an evolutionary narrative. Story gives us a shape and a depth. Without this shape life is hollow and can only be lived on the empty surface. A study was done in 2013 at Emory University that looked at

fiction readersâ™ brains. It is now scientifically proven that reading literary fiction makes you a more empathic person (Bergardo). This would not be news to Dr. Mary Warner, whose book *Adolescents in the Search for Meaning* is an outstanding resource for any of us who either have an adolescent in our lives or teach adolescents. Warner has great respect in the power fiction has to instill meaning: âœ want young adults to understand that they need not float in a world of meaninglessness and cope by inflicting violence on themselves or othersâ • (Warner xiii). Why is this meaning so crucial, not only for adolescents themselves, but for the society they are part of? Violence, she points out, is one of the symptoms of loss of meaning but there are many others. Adolescents, even more than others, are at a pivotal juncture in their lives and their search for identity is key, âœ Teenagers want to know who they are and what life holds for them, and they are in the search for and development of identify with peers who are equally adriftâ • (Warner xix). With the relatively recent invention of the Internet, Adolescents are now facing different challenges than any other generation that has gone before. The market looks at them as a demographic. When our grandparents were teenagers, they might not have seen one single advertisement except in a shop or on the back of a newspaper.

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