

Earwood

18 September 2019

discuss literature in the present

Why it Shouldn't be banned

by Sherman Alexie

Yes, *The Absolutely Part Time Diary of a Part Time Indian* has a bunch of bad language and inappropriate jokes, but it has some very good life lessons in it. The book is about the life of an Indian kid who lived on a reservation his whole life and then decided he wanted better. He went to an all-white school called Reardan. The book shouldn't be banned because it teaches kids that discrimination is a real thing and it can hurt people and it teaches them that sometimes you have to do what is best for you and not care what everybody else thinks.

Nice 2-part claim statement

The book teaches kids what it is like to be discriminated and made fun of. Junior is made fun of a lot when he first arrives and his new school. Kids called him racist names and he didn't get the same treatment that all the other kids got. The teachers even sometimes gave him a hard time. It was very difficult for him. Racial discrimination is still a problem in today's society. It is everywhere. If people read this book and realize what harm they are causing the people that are being made fun of and being bullied maybe they wouldn't do it anymore.

against

received

"it" is a word - avoid at all costs in formal writing

This book also teaches the lesson that doing what is best for you is the best thing you can do. In the book junior made the decision to leave the reservation and go get a better education at a better school. He knew that the entire tribe would hate him for it but he didn't care because if he stayed there he would become nothing and accomplish nothing. [Kids all over are always worried about what other people think of them and question their actions even if it benefits them.]

Elaborate - a specific (even fictional) example would be beneficial here

This book teaches them to not worry about what other people think and go out and do what is best for you.

Italicize

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian teaches kids to not bully and discriminate other people and to do what is best for themselves. If people read this book maybe people wouldn't be as mean and cruel to other people and people would stop worrying about what everybody else thinks about them and do what is best for them. This book teaches so many valuable lessons and I think it should keep being read in classrooms everywhere.

Great organization

Would be stronger w/ specific textual evidence

Ms. Earwood

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Part Time Indian: To Ban or Not to Ban

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian is a coming of age story about Junior, a young Indian boy growing up on a dead-end reservation, and his struggles with identity, poverty, death, and other obstacles following his transition to an all-white school. Throughout the novel, there are mature themes, topics, and language that some adults deem as too inappropriate for schools. While it may be controversial, the novel teaches several valuable lessons and has a main character that kids can relate to.

maybe say teens

like what?

Parents claim that the novel encourages pornography and touches on topics that should not be discussed, yet what they fail to see is the lessons that the students can learn from Junior's experiences. One of the main and most important lessons is that education can bring hope.

But how does pomography relate to your point?

Careful connotation - like 5-year-olds ??

Children can see how Junior rose above his circumstances and become inspired to strive for a better future. The novel also shows that people can change for the better, no matter how corrupt they may seem. Roger, who was initially a bully, later became one of Junior's close friends after realizing his wrongdoings. In addition, Rowdy at first despised Junior for his choice to attend Reardon, but eventually came to terms with it at the end of the novel.

Elaborate how this example benefits teens.

Another complaint is that the main character is not a good role model, but Junior experiences many hardships along his journey and children can relate to those struggles. Death is something Junior experiences constantly throughout the novel. There are some students that have had sudden deaths in their family, making them able to relate to Junior's pain in losing someone

This is a much better counter-argument

enabling them to relate

good place to
add an
anecdote

close to them. Similar to Junior, I have also experienced major stress in fitting in and finding my place within a new school. Being a minority myself, I know how it feels to stand out in the crowd. Elaborate on how this connection to the novel is benefiting

It is no surprise *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* is controversial, for it covers dark topics and has an abundance of crude language. However, if you look beyond its rough surface, it has a lot of heart and connects with students in ways that parents may not understand. Schools should continue to allow kids to enjoy this honest novel, and perhaps recommend adults to have a read also!

your conclusion