

Text Set/Author Study Project Guidelines

TEXT SET

The text set is your final project. Your job is, just as the name implies, to collect a set of texts appropriate to young adults. The text set should be organized around a particular theme or author. For example, you could do an author study where you read the texts of an author and find out information about his/her life. You could explore a theme like kids experiencing divorce, homosexuality and gender identity, cliques and social structures in schools, etc.

The three components of the project are the following:

1. Locate 8-10 books that relate to the theme you have chosen. Create an annotated bibliography of these books. An annotated bibliography is simply a list of the books with full references and a brief summary. See the following example of an entry:

Myers, W.D. (2004). <i>Shooter</i> . New York: Harper Collins This book examines a school shooting from a variety of perspectives. It explores the themes of loneliness and isolation and employs a variety of textual formats. Some parts are written like a script, others are reproductions of various documents. The formats might be engaging to some readers. I think the theme of loneliness captured me the most because I think lots of teenagers go through that.
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Summarize in **your own words**. What you find important about the book (especially as it relates to your theme or project) will not be the same as what the American Library Association or some other summary will point out.

2. Your project should include a page of discussion about your theme, why you chose it, how the books fit into it, etc. You should include at least a few paragraphs that summarize factual knowledge about the theme. For example, if your theme is eating disorders, briefly summarize the causes and treatment of eating disorders.
3. Finally, even though not all of you will be teachers, include at least three ideas or objectives for using your text set with students. What types of projects or activities would you do? What would be your objectives in using this book with students? What would you want them to learn? Use plenty of words and fully describe how you envision these books being used with young people.

AUTHOR STUDY

Your collection of texts is driven by in-depth study of a particular author rather than study of a theme. You should choose an author to study and compile the following components into your final project/report:

1. Choose an author. Possibilities include Walter Dean Myers, Jane Yolen, Laurence Yep, Gary Soto, Robert Cormier, Sharon Creech, Sandra Cisneros, Laurie Halse Anderson, Francesca Lia Block, David Lubar, Chris Crutcher, Lois Lowry, Gary Paulsen, and Avi. You may choose another author but get instructor permission if the author is not on this list.
2. Create an annotated bibliography of the author's works. An annotated bibliography is simply a list of the books with full references and a brief summary. See the following example of an entry:

Myers, W.D. (2004). *Shooter*. New York: Harper Collins
This book examines a school shooting from a variety of perspectives. It explores the themes of loneliness and isolation and employs a variety of textual formats. Some parts are written like a script, others are reproductions of various documents. The formats might be engaging to some readers. I think the theme of loneliness captured me the most because I think lots of teenagers go through that.

Summarize in **your own words**. What you find important about the book (especially as it relates to your theme or project) will not be the same as what the American Library Association or some other summary will point out.

3. Discuss biographical information about your author. Remember to cite your sources. What do you know about his/her life? What motivates him/her to be a young adult author?
4. Read several of the author's works (3-5, depending on length). For shorter books geared toward middle schoolers, read approximately 5. For longer books geared toward high school, read approximately 3. Comment on the themes of the books, the author's style, and your personal responses to the literature.
5. Finally, even though not all of you will be teachers or librarians, discuss at least three ideas or objectives for using your text set with students. What types of projects or activities would you do? What would be your goals in using this book with students? What would you want them to learn? Use plenty of words and fully describe how you envision these books being used with young people.