

Teen reveals truth on English book selections

By Madi Brown and Mia Boutelle

The truth has been found, the questions have been answered. The reason behind English literature is now exposed for all to see.

Every year students read novels in their English class and each year they don't know what to expect. Will it be good? Will it be boring? To teens this has become the guessing game of high school.

Teachers have to teach multiple techniques at once and they want us to know more about the world around us. "Sometimes they want a specific theme like diversity, world issues or outside problems," said principal Janie Whaley.

The teacher's job is to prepare students for the rest of our lives and teach us to read, write and understand new pieces of literature. Shakespeare's classic play *Midsummer Night's Dream* is a perfect example. Sophomore Anna Rogers said, "It helped me to understand how to read Shakespeare and expand my vocabulary."

Not all books are about fairies and magical creatures. Many books students read are about the past such as World War II or segregation. They're about past events that their grandparents or even great grandparents had to go through.

Elie Wiesel's book *Night* taught kids about World War II in Germany and what life was like during that time period.

Sophomore Ben Simmons said, "It related to my family, because it's about the Holocaust and that had a great effect on where my family is today."

Even though students reading about hard times in life teachers still have to make sure that the students and parents aren't hurt by

any means. "It's a delicate balancing act on the one hand you don't want to ban books, but on another hand you don't want to offend people," said English teacher Wallace Austin.

To keep everything in check there is a certain process English teachers must go through with English Department champion Karen Mayer Sebastian if they want to have kids read a particular book.

"First, we have to read it than normally an administrator has to read it or even parents then we have to take it to English teacher Mrs. Mayer and present it to her and the English department as a committee makes the decision," said teacher Kristi Charbon-

neau.

They do everything they can to get us to enjoy reading and are even making some new changes to the summer reading assignment. "Instead of assigning a book per grade level we're thinking about opening it up and getting more variety by having a list of books to choose from, so that students can pick which book they want," said Austin.

Schools main purpose is to teach students, but for some reason teens have loathed the books in English class the most and blame the teacher for it when the answer is right there in front of them "English teachers are not your enemy; we're here to try to help you learn," said Charbonneau.

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