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English 112B

Professor Warner

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### **Unit of Study The Affects of age and Trauma:**

#### **Rationale:**

When we are young and born we live in a world where our parents and older adults protect us from anything bad that can happen to us. Instead of doing good to the children, they are doing something bad of protecting them, from the real world and the reality, but sooner or later the children will eventually come out of that fake world they live in, protected by their adults. In this world it's filled with a lot of cruelty and violence and a negative atmosphere of people that makes the parents create a plan to keep their children protected from the bad in this world. The parents can only do up to some point, but the children and the kids have to realize on their own even if it means that they have to face the real problems and face them on their own through the hard way of life.

Growing up with a trauma, will allow you to mature as a person and it will show you different life lessons to become a better human being when you grow up and mature in different aspects of the world. Every aspect of age has its own part of trauma, but with some experience and maturing and some help from people who are professionals on this subject you can become a better person than you were before.

The books of growing up, I have always liked them because you can learn from the characters how to become a better person from the mistakes that they make.

Almost all of the time in these books the characters have challenges and have to face challenges and have a hard time to get where they want to be in life. The characters of the books find their paths and a lot about themselves as humans and through hard challenges that they are able to find out eventually what they are capable of. Every book is different because of the different trauma situations that they have, but reading these books you can learn a lot of aspects of the characters going through similar aspects of trauma too. Throughout high school reading these books were some of my favorites, because I felt I was not alone on some stuff of my personal life, and reading these books made me feel comfort and like I wasn't alone all of the time.

Throughout high school being a first generation student in my family to first go to college and having all of the trauma if I failed college or succeeded. It was really traumatizing for me what I wanted to do with my future, but then I started to read books about trauma and age and it didn't feel so bad it all felt like things were starting to stick and made me feel better. And even though I still live through fear most times of my life, I know that people that love me don't always have to protect me for the things that don't go so well in my life all of the time.

### **Introduction of the Unit:**

To begin the unit, I would have my students get familiar with the topic first and ask them what they know of age and how much they are traumatized with trauma. I would first give them a blank sheet of paper and tell them to do a free write on trauma and experiences that they have ever had to see the knowledge of my students and to see how much they know about it. After I would have to get

a Guardians permission slip to watch the film "Stand by Me" because it is a pg 13 movie. I chose this film because it is about a boy who meets a stranger that lives in the streets in Oregon and they learn about each other and the different kinds of lives that they both live. In this movie you learn the true love of different boys and how friendship is well appreciated in these movies. I would hope that this film will show my students the different traumas of living in the streets, and for someone who lives in a nice house, and that it doesn't matter the different traumas that both people face because at the end of the day we are all the same. Starting the unit can show my students what they should expect in the class for the next few days and hopefully give them a better understanding on what the unit will be. Watching the film will take one or two class periods, but after I would put the class on two different groups: what they liked about the movie and what they didn't like.

They will also get the chance to read the book and after reading the book I would show the movie. The book is really traumatized and four different boys decide to go as a group of friends to go see the body close to where they lived in Oregon close to their homes. The book shows a lot of traumatized events and I don't want to spoil it but the younger brother discovers the body of this older brother dead and this brings a lot of fighting and confrontations of argument with his father.

**Finishing the Unit:**

To finish up the unit, I would like my students to do a final project to close up the Unit. The project will be based on the film we watched in class or the book. I will give them two options: they will have to write an essay of their trauma and realize how they have been traumatized in their lives before and how that has helped them as humans to grow, and grow from their mistakes or how they can grow as people to become better. The second option will be on the book how it ended and if they liked it or not and how they would have liked the ending to end. I chose these events because Gordie, a twelve year old child, wrote all his memories and the events that he did when he was twelve years old. I will leave these options to my students to decide what they want to write about but it would be really interesting for me to read what they thought about the ending of this book.

**Outside readings:**

*We Were Here* novel

The book is about being a criminal and how one of the characters Miguel was in the juvenile center for committing a crime. We as the readers get to explore the journey of Miguel and all of the crimes that he commits and we learn from all of the mistakes that he does in the novel. Miguel after sometime learns from all of the mistakes that he does, and he is more aware of the actions that he does and the future decisions that he makes. This book is perfect about coming of age and all of the trauma that he goes through and everything that he lives because Miguel starts to change and the actions of his life start to change, and he also pays more attention to the things that he does, and

starts to do things right in life. Reading this book and showing it also to my class, I think they would love it because many students who have made many mistakes can look up to this book and it can teach them that students by making one mistake doesn't always have the right to define who we actually are as people.

### *Poet X*

I would have my students read this novel to compare it to the film I chose. We will be working on this novel through class time and some outside independent reading at home. It's pretty easy to read. It's just simple and short poems that anyone from middle school can understand easily. The book is about a young girl who likes to read poetry and she discovers herself through writing and that's the way that she finds herself. She has a hard time and struggles with complex feelings that she feels for her family and also the situation of religion.

### ***Growing up By Scott Todnem***

The book is about a boy who is in the Puberty stage of his life. He faces the struggle of caring for his body and change and struggle with having a relationship with family and their friends. And these books will help the readers with aspects of age and trauma and how to respect the readers with their body.

