Research exercise: Review of Relevant Literature: Developing Social Consciousness through Young Adult Literature

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Developing Social Consciousness through Young Adult Literature

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Questions for Consideration

• What are the benefits to young adults of focusing on young adult literature?
• Why do young adults connect with young adult literature?
• How can teachers support their students’ interest in young adult literature?
• How can young adult literature help adolescents develop their identities?
• How do multi-dimensional identities fit into this increasingly globalizing world?

Areas of Background Research

• Young adult literature in learning and development
• Controversial topics in young adult literature
• Critical readings of young adult literature
• Identity and social consciousness in young adult literature
• Globalism and universalism in young adult literature

Young adult literature can play an important part in adolescents’ identity formation, teaching them to be discerning readers and human beings.

Adolescents relate better with young adult literature than they do with the classics – yet it is overlooked in many schools’ curriculum.

Controversial topics in young adult literature can be used to spark discussion and develop adolescents’ social consciousness.

Controversial topics in young adult literature discourage teachers from utilizing such texts and cause adults to discourage adolescents from reading the material.

How can young adult literature with controversial themes be analyzed and interpreted to foster social consciousness in order to allow young adults to establish an identity within a global context?