Young Adult Book Discussion Kits

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits are available to library patrons for use by home and community discussion groups, as well as teachers in the classroom setting. Each kit contains a set of thirty identical soft-cover books accompanied by a book discussion guide. The guides feature information about the author, reviews of the book, discussion questions, suggested further readings, and other pertinent information. Each kit is packaged in a canvas tote bag and may be borrowed for six weeks.

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits may be reserved and sent to the library branch of your choice for pick up. If you would like to reserve a kit, please stop by your local library branch or call 574-1611. The kits may also be reserved through our website www.lfpl.org. A list of all the kits may be found in the LFPL catalog by typing Book Discussion Kit Young Adult at the title prompt.

http://www2.scholastic.com/teachers/authorsandbooks/authorstudies/authorhome.jhtml?authorID=67&collateralID=5250&displayName=Biography

http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/~kvander/myers.html

The word echoes in his head: “MONSTER.” Steve Harmon finds it harder and harder not to think of himself as a monster. Sitting in jail, awaiting his trial for taking part in a robbery that ended in murder. He feels like it is all a movie. Where he is the lead character, fighting for his life. He does not and cannot comprehend the reality of what is happening to him and how he came to be in this position. Read for yourself and decide if you think he’s guilty or not.

What the Critics Say…

“It's an emotionally charged story that readers will find compelling and disturbing.”
~ Edward Sullivan, New York Public Library

“The tense drama of the courtroom scenes will enthral readers, but it is the thorny moral questions raised in Steve's journal that will endure in readers' memories.”
~ Debbie Carton, Booklist

About the Author

Walter Dean Myers is one of the most prolific African-American authors of children’s and young adult literature. His writings include picture books, teen fiction, poetry, and non-fiction.

He has won many awards and honors including the Coretta Scott King Award, the Newbery and Caldecott Honor Award, the Michael L. Printz Award, and the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award.

He has recently started collaborating with his son Christopher Myers who is an illustrator.

Of reading and writing Myers explains, “Books took me, not so much to foreign lands and fanciful adventures, but to a place within myself that I have been exploring ever since. The public library was my most treasured place. I couldn't believe my luck in discovering that what I enjoyed most — reading — was free.”

Awards and Recognition

2000 Coretta Scott King Honor Book
2000 Michael L. Printz Award
2000 National Book Award Finalist

Discussion Questions:

1) Do you like the format of the book? Do you think that reading it like a movie script makes the story more real? Do you think that Steve’s journal entries were honest?

Suggested Titles for Further Reading

Like Sisters on the Homefront
By Rita Williams-Garcia (YP)

In the Middle of the Night
By Robert Cormier (YP)

Speak
By Laurie Halse Anderson (YP)

Shooter
By Walter Dean Myers (Adult fiction)