



2015 Sequoyah Book Awards Lessons + Activities

It's Sequoyah Book Award Week! Find out how to get your students reading and involved in the third-oldest youth-choice literary award program in the nation. Oklahoma's young readers will determine the three winners of the 2015 Sequoyah Book Award during voting next spring.



Visit bit.ly/1kC6na7 to find out more about this 55-year-old Oklahoma reading tradition.

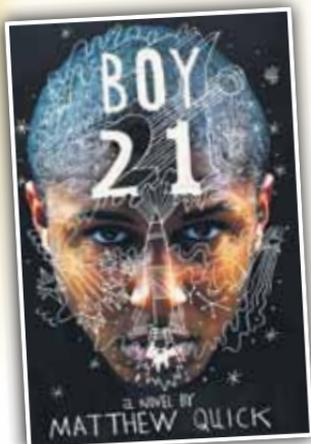
Day One: Focusing on the High School Masterlist of books for grades 9-12

Relationships, Trust, and Adversity

As young people grow toward adulthood, established relationships change, and new relationships are created. Oftentimes, romance blooms, bringing with it the possibilities of joy and sorrow. No one wants to read a story where everything is "just fine" and nothing can be learned from our armchair travels. Most books and stories are built around conflict and adversity, with the protagonists learning something important about the human experience—be it good or bad.

After your students complete reading a Sequoyah title, have them consider the book—via writing or discussion—from the standpoint of relationships and conflicts. Questions to consider:

- **What kinds of friendships are depicted in the book? Are they trusting relationships or are there undercurrents of mistrust and tension? Why are the characters friends? Can you see any of the friendships lasting for a lifetime?**
- **How are the familial relationships in the book? Are they nurturing, or abusive, or something else? Have relationships between family members changed over time?**
- **Are romantic attachments in the book depicted realistically? Is the romance good or bad for the characters? Why were the characters attracted to each other?**
- **Who are the protagonists and antagonists of the story? Why are there conflicts between these characters?**
- **What advice would you give to a particular character concerning a relationship he or she has with another character?**
- **By the end of the book, what have the characters learned about themselves, their relationships, and the world?**



Visit bit.ly/1IYzFv9 to download the annotated high school masterlist, reading certificates, and a smorgasbord of promotional materials and ideas for Sequoyah titles, including *Boy 21* by Matthew Quick.

Sequoyah week continues tomorrow with a look at the intermediate masterlist. Visit nie.newsok.com for even more information and resources to launch a Sequoyah reading program in your school, class or library!

Newspapers for this education program provided by

