

Teacher's Rationale

School: Arrowhead High School

Teacher: Watry, Carnell, Gierach, Frohmader, Verkler

Title: Fallen Angels

Grade or Course: 9th Grade English

Approximate date(s) a book will be used:

_____ Semester 1

Semester 2

This book will be (check one or more):

studied by the whole class.

studied by small groups.

_____ placed on a reading list.

_____ placed in a classroom library.

recommended to individual students.

_____ part of a larger study of (explain):

_____ other (explain):

Ways in which the book is especially appropriate for students in this class:

This high interest book hooks students with realistic characters and action while it addresses themes like friendship and growing up.

Ways in which the book is especially pertinent to the objectives of this course or unit:

Fallen Angels provides excellent opportunities to examine literary elements such as themes, conflict, characterization, and symbolism. The novel also allows the possibility to examine poetry and music with the same themes. The high interest of the book lends itself to using research strategies.

Special problems that might arise in relation to the book and some planned activities that handle this problem:

Fallen Angels is a realistic portrayal of young men fighting in Vietnam; the language, while inappropriate in many settings, helps build the portrait of the war's horrors. The language adds to the book's credibility.

Some other appropriate books an individual student might read in place of this book:

All Quiet on the Western Front

Summary of the book:

Like most of his Harlem peers in the 60s, Richie Perry loves basketball. Unlike most of them, he graduated from high school with dreams of going to college and becoming a writer. His desire to help support his family outweighs his dreams, and he joins the army. He is predictably shipped to Vietnam where he is befriended by Peewee Gates, a tough, funny character from Louisiana. He is led by Lieutenant Carroll, who refers to the dead as "angel warriors that fall." In a novel filled with action and compassion, the author leads Richie and the reader into and through the internal and external chaos of the Vietnam War.

Reviews and/or awards of the book or author:

Fallen Angels has been awarded the Margaret A. Edwards Award, the Coretta Scott King Award for fiction, and a Parents' Choice Foundation Award.