

Book Rationale

School: Arrowhead

Teacher: Freeburg, Johansen, Judd, Vacek

Title: *Falling Through the Earth* (ISBN-10 0312426569)

Author: Danielle Trussoni

Course: Modern Literature

Approximate date(s) book will be used:

Semester 2

- ❑ **The entire class will study this book, but students may choose an alternative.**
- ❑ **Some other appropriate books an individual student might read in place of this book:**
 - Alternate books may include *The Places in Between* by Rory Stewart and *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* by Michael Pollan
- ❑ **Ways in which the book is especially appropriate for students in Modern Literature:**

This book is appropriate for students in the course because it deals with the contemporary themes of non-traditional families, adolescent coming of age, interpersonal relationships, and the trauma of war.
- ❑ **Way in which the book is especially pertinent to the objectives of this course or unit:**

The regional connection to the author, various locations of the book, and the memoir genre make this book a good selection for the course objectives of post 1970 literature, an author of diverse background, and high student interest.
- ❑ **Special problems that might arise in relation to the book and some planned activities that handle these problems:** Students will encounter infrequent episodes of drug use, alcohol abuse, sexual references within the text. Classroom discussion will help students deal with these topics.
- ❑ **Summary of the book:**

Danielle Trussoni's memoir tells of growing up with a father haunted by the ghosts of the Vietnam war. When her parents divorce, she moves in with her father and begins a life filled with bar fights and war stories. As a young adult, Trussoni feels the need to understand her father more completely and travels to Vietnam to see the country first hand. Her memoir shows how war, whether just or unjust, affects the families of the survivors.
- ❑ **Awards/ Reviews for this book:**

Chosen as one of the best books of 2006 by *The New York Times*