**“The Pigman” Argumentative Essay** Julia Zawitkowska

Did you know that some influential teen books were banned at some point for their “harsh” content? Many have been, like for example, Harry Potter. This has been such a popular book to read, and so many schools have banned this book. Wouldn’t it be unfair if your school banned your favorite series? This may all because a couple of parents thought that is was too inappropriate for us teens. But the book that is probably the worst to ban is probably “The Pigman.” Many schools were known to ban this wonderful book at some point of another. After reading the book The Pigman, I agree that it should be taught to eighth graders and definitely should not be banned from schools.

First of all, the book puts kids in different situations. For example, John and Lorraine get put in a weird situation when they meet the lonely old Mr.Pignati. Plus, it shows John and Lorraine’s difficult life with their home. This may help students because some of them might be blind to the fact that they may end up in the exact same situations as John and Lorraine. It also shows how some kids in their age group may be involved with drugs and alcohol. Lorraine is the one in the book that shows how kids should react if their friends do end up doing drugs or drinking alcohol.

One other reason that this book would be good to teach in eighth grade is that even though John and Lorraine make regretful choices, it shows how they learn from their mistakes. It also shows the consequences they suffer after they make these choices. The biggest part of the book is when they get arrested from the party that they had created. They learned that what they did was an immature choice when they got arrested. Also, their parents were very disappointed in them. I think that that may help the students think of their own parents in that situation. Unfortunately, Lorraine’s mother slaps her. This also shows how some people’s lives may be like. This is a good thing because it shows that you would pay for the careless decisions that you made, rather than not showing the aftermath of what they did.

The last reason to why this book is good to teach to eighth graders is it shows the reality of some people’s lives. Lorrain’s mother is overprotective, and John’s father drinks, and now he is very sick. Students may connect to this, or learn about how life is not always perfect. Some students that may be going through the same things may feel like they are not alone. Also, John’s father wants him to become a lawyer. This helps students to know that some people don’t have perfect lives, and that they should be thankful for what they have.

One could easily believe that the drinking and smoking in the book, could actually encourage the teens who are reading it to do the same. Even though some may claim this, the book shows the consequences of the action of the teens. For example, John’s father has sclerosis of the liver because of his habit of always drinking. Also, when John and Lorraine throw the huge party at Mr.Pignati’s house, they get in trouble with the police and their parents. The teens probably would go around drinking and smoking after they find out what would happen if they actually did. These are all exceptional reasons to why “The Pigman” should be taught in eighth grade classrooms.

The point of all of this is to help you understand the benefits to reading this book. It is a great and influential book that has a lot of great morals to it. Reading this book could be great for teens, because they may be going through the same things as the people in this book. It may help some understand their lives about what choices they make in their lives. Just like it says at the end of the book, in the end, you are ultimately the one who makes the choices in your life. So go out and read this book, or recommend your LA teacher to teach the book to your class. It may be a real eye opener to some.