

author of drums girls and dangerous pie

Author of *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* is Jordan Sonnenblick, a talented American writer known for his ability to weave together humor and poignant themes in young adult literature. His debut novel, "*Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*," published in 2004, not only captivated readers with its engaging narrative but also set the stage for Sonnenblick's successful career as an author. In this article, we will explore Sonnenblick's background, his writing career, themes in his works, and the impact of "*Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*" on young adult literature.

Background of Jordan Sonnenblick

Jordan Sonnenblick was born on March 3, 1974, in New Jersey. Growing up in a family that valued education and creativity, he was encouraged to explore his interests from a young age. Sonnenblick attended the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a degree in English. After college, he pursued a career in teaching, working as a middle school English teacher, which would later influence his writing style and subject matter.

Sonnenblick's experiences in the classroom allowed him to connect with young readers and understand their perspectives, which played a crucial role in shaping his narratives. His ability to relate to teenagers and their struggles has made his books resonate with audiences.

Writing Career

Jordan Sonnenblick's writing career began with "*Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*." The novel tells the story of a young boy named Steven, who navigates the challenges of adolescence while dealing with his younger brother's battle with leukemia. The book's blend of humor and heartache quickly earned it a place in the hearts of young readers and educators alike.

Major Works

Following the success of his debut novel, Sonnenblick continued to write and publish several other notable works, including:

1. "After Ever After" (2007): A companion to "Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie," this novel follows the story of Jeffrey, a cancer survivor, and his journey to find his place in the world after treatment.
2. "Zen and the Art of Faking It" (2007): This novel centers around a boy who pretends to be a Zen master in order to impress his peers and navigate the complexities of high school.
3. "Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip" (2010): This story explores the life of a talented young athlete who faces a life-altering injury and learns to redefine his identity.
4. "The Secret of the Sphinx" (2013): A historical fiction piece that intertwines adventure with mythology, captivating readers with its blend of fact and fiction.

Writing Style

Sonnenblick's writing style is characterized by:

- **Relatable Characters:** His protagonists often reflect the struggles and insecurities of adolescence, making it easy for young readers to connect with them.
- **Humor and Heart:** Sonnenblick skillfully balances humor with serious themes, offering readers a nuanced perspective on life's challenges.
- **Accessible Language:** His straightforward writing style ensures that his books are accessible to a wide range of readers, including those who may struggle with reading.

Themes in "Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie"

"Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie" tackles several important themes that resonate with young adults:

Family Dynamics

The relationship between Steven and his younger brother, Jeffrey, is central to the story. As Steven grapples with the challenges of adolescence, he must also confront the harsh reality of his brother's illness. This theme of familial love and support highlights the importance of family during difficult times.

Friendship and Peer Relationships

Sonnenblick explores the complexities of friendship through Steven's interactions with his friends and classmates. The story illustrates how friendships can evolve in the face of adversity and how support from peers can be vital during challenging times.

Coming of Age

The novel is a coming-of-age story that addresses the journey of self-discovery and personal growth. Steven learns valuable lessons about responsibility, empathy, and the importance of pursuing passions, such as his love for drumming.

Dealing with Illness

One of the most significant themes in the book is the impact of illness on both the individual and their

loved ones. Through Jeffrey's battle with cancer, readers gain insight into the emotional turmoil faced by families dealing with serious health issues. Sonnenblick handles this subject with sensitivity, allowing readers to empathize with the characters' struggles.

Impact on Young Adult Literature

"Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie" has left a lasting impact on the young adult literature landscape. Its relatable characters and authentic portrayal of teenage life have made it a staple in school curriculums and reading lists. The book's ability to address serious topics, such as illness and family dynamics, while maintaining a sense of humor has opened the door for other authors to tackle similar themes.

Recognition and Awards

The novel has received several accolades, including:

- The New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award: This recognition highlights the book's popularity among young readers in New Jersey.
- The California Young Reader Medal: This award further emphasizes the book's positive reception among youth.

Sonnenblick's work has been praised by educators and librarians, who appreciate his ability to engage young readers in meaningful discussions about complex topics.

Conclusion

Jordan Sonnenblick, the author of "Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie," has significantly contributed to

the realm of young adult literature. Through his engaging storytelling and relatable characters, he has captured the hearts of readers and provided them with a deeper understanding of the challenges faced during adolescence. His ability to blend humor with poignant themes has not only made his books enjoyable but has also sparked important conversations among young readers and adults alike.

As Sonnenblick continues to write and inspire, his legacy in the literary world is firmly established. "Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie" remains a quintessential read for anyone seeking a story that balances the lightness of youth with the weight of serious life experiences. The impact of his work will undoubtedly continue to influence aspiring writers and readers for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the author of 'Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie'?

The author of 'Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie' is Jordan Sonnenblick.

What is the main theme of 'Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie'?

The main theme of the book revolves around adolescence, family dynamics, and dealing with illness.

In what year was 'Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie' published?

The book was published in 2004.

What genre does 'Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie' belong to?

The book is classified as a young adult novel.

What challenges does the protagonist face in 'Drums, Girls, and

Dangerous Pie'?

The protagonist, Steven, faces the challenges of dealing with his brother's leukemia, adolescence, and social pressures.

Is 'Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie' part of a series?

No, it is a standalone novel, although it has a companion book titled 'After Ever After.'

What inspired Jordan Sonnenblick to write 'Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie'?

Sonnenblick was inspired by his experiences as a teacher and the stories of his students dealing with serious life issues.

What is the significance of music in 'Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie'?

Music plays a significant role in the book as it is a form of expression for the protagonist and a way to connect with others.

Has 'Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie' received any awards?

Yes, it has received several accolades, including being nominated for the ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

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