

battle of jericho by sharon draper

battle of jericho by sharon draper is a compelling historical novel that explores themes of courage, resilience, and social justice through the eyes of young characters. This article provides a comprehensive overview of this notable work by Sharon Draper, highlighting its plot, characters, themes, and its significance in young adult literature. Readers will gain insight into how Draper weaves historical facts with engaging storytelling to educate and inspire. Additionally, the article examines the educational value of the novel and its reception among critics and readers alike. Whether you are a student, educator, or literary enthusiast, understanding the depth and impact of battle of jericho by sharon draper enhances appreciation for this influential book. The following sections will guide you through the essential aspects of the novel and its broader cultural relevance.

- Overview of Battle of Jericho
- Main Characters and Their Development
- Themes and Symbolism in the Novel
- Historical Context and Accuracy
- Educational Importance and Usage
- Reception and Critical Analysis

Overview of Battle of Jericho

Battle of Jericho by Sharon Draper is a historical fiction novel set in the 1960s during the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. The story centers around Jericho Jackson, a young boy who faces adversity and challenges related to racial segregation and social injustice in his community. Draper's narrative captures the struggles and triumphs of African American families striving for equality and dignity in a segregated society. The novel combines elements of personal growth, family loyalty, and social activism, making it a powerful read for young adults and educators alike. The plot is driven by Jericho's determination to overcome obstacles and his participation in pivotal moments that reflect the broader fight for civil rights.

Plot Summary

The storyline follows Jericho Jackson as he navigates the complexities of growing up in a racially divided town. When a new family moves into a predominantly white neighborhood, tensions rise, and Jericho finds himself at the center of conflict and change. Throughout the novel, he learns valuable lessons about courage, friendship, and standing up for what is right. The narrative is both inspiring and educational, providing readers with a vivid depiction of the Civil Rights era through the eyes of a relatable protagonist.

Author's Style and Approach

Sharon Draper employs a straightforward yet evocative writing style that appeals to young readers while addressing serious social issues. Her use of authentic dialogue and descriptive scenes helps create an immersive experience. Draper's approach balances historical facts with emotional storytelling, making the novel both informative and engaging. The battle of Jericho by Sharon Draper is noted for its accessibility and ability to provoke critical thinking about history and social justice.

Main Characters and Their Development

The characters in battle of Jericho by Sharon Draper are intricately developed, each contributing to the novel's central themes. The protagonist, Jericho Jackson, undergoes significant growth as he confronts challenges related to race, family, and identity. Supporting characters enrich the narrative by representing various perspectives within the community.

Jericho Jackson

Jericho is depicted as a courageous and thoughtful young boy who learns to navigate the complexities of racial prejudice. His journey highlights themes of self-discovery and the importance of standing up against injustice. Jericho's character development is central to the novel's message of hope and empowerment.

Supporting Characters

Other key figures include Jericho's family members, friends, and neighbors who illustrate the diverse reactions to social change. These characters add depth by showing the range of emotions and responses within a community facing segregation and discrimination.

- Jericho's parents, who provide guidance and strength
- Friends who support or challenge Jericho's views
- Community members representing both resistance and acceptance

Themes and Symbolism in the Novel

Battle of Jericho by Sharon Draper explores several profound themes that resonate with readers of all ages. The novel's use of symbolism and thematic elements enhances its educational and emotional impact.

Courage and Resilience

The theme of courage is prevalent throughout the novel as Jericho and other characters stand up against social injustice. Resilience is portrayed through their ability to endure hardships and maintain hope for a better future.

Social Justice and Equality

The novel addresses the fight for civil rights and the quest for equality, highlighting the systemic challenges faced by African Americans in the 1960s. Through Jericho's experiences, readers gain insight into the importance of activism and solidarity.

Family and Community

Strong family bonds and community support are depicted as vital sources of strength. The novel emphasizes the role of collective effort in overcoming adversity.

Symbolism

The title itself, "battle of jericho," symbolizes the struggle to break down barriers and overcome oppression. Various events and objects in the story serve as metaphors for the broader social battles occurring during the era.

Historical Context and Accuracy

Sharon Draper's *Battle of Jericho* is grounded in the historical realities of the Civil Rights Movement, providing an authentic backdrop for the fictional narrative. The novel reflects key historical events and social dynamics of the 1960s, offering a valuable educational tool.

Setting and Time Period

The story is set in a small town marked by racial segregation and tension typical of the American South during the Civil Rights era. This setting allows readers to understand the everyday challenges faced by African American communities.

Integration and Civil Rights Movement

The novel incorporates themes related to school integration, protests, and the broader struggle for civil rights. These historical elements are woven seamlessly into the storyline, enhancing its realism and relevance.

Accuracy and Representation

Draper's careful research ensures that the novel accurately portrays the social and political climate of the time. The inclusion of genuine experiences and historical details adds credibility and depth to the narrative.

Educational Importance and Usage

Battle of Jericho by Sharon Draper is widely used in educational settings to teach students about history, social justice, and character development. Its relevance to curriculum standards makes it a popular choice for middle and high school classrooms.

Learning Objectives

The novel helps students:

- Understand the Civil Rights Movement and its impact
- Develop empathy for individuals facing discrimination
- Explore themes of courage, identity, and community
- Enhance critical thinking through analysis of historical and literary elements

Classroom Activities

Educators often incorporate the novel into lessons that include discussions, writing assignments, and projects focused on history and social issues. The book's accessible language and engaging story facilitate meaningful conversations among students.

Reception and Critical Analysis

Battle of Jericho by Sharon Draper has received positive reviews from critics and readers for its poignant storytelling and historical significance. It is praised for its ability to engage young readers while addressing complex themes.

Critical Acclaim

Reviewers commend Draper's balanced approach to sensitive topics and her skillful character development. The novel is recognized for contributing to diverse representation in young adult literature.

Reader Response

Many readers appreciate the book's inspirational message and its portrayal of resilience in the face of adversity. It has become a recommended reading for those interested in history and social justice.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Battle of Jericho' by Sharon Draper?

The main theme of 'The Battle of Jericho' is bullying, exploring the impact of peer pressure, violence, and the struggle to stand up for oneself in a high school setting.

Who is the protagonist in 'The Battle of Jericho' and what challenges does he face?

The protagonist is Jericho Prescott, a high school student who faces bullying and physical violence from a group of popular boys, challenging his sense of courage and identity.

How does Sharon Draper address the issue of bullying in the novel?

Sharon Draper addresses bullying by portraying its emotional and physical effects on victims, the complexity of peer dynamics, and the importance of resilience and seeking help.

What role does friendship play in 'The Battle of Jericho'?

Friendship plays a crucial role as Jericho's relationships provide support and contrast to the negative influences, highlighting the importance of loyal and caring friends in overcoming adversity.

Why is the book titled 'The Battle of Jericho'?

The title 'The Battle of Jericho' symbolizes Jericho Prescott's personal fight against bullying and intimidation, drawing a parallel to the biblical Battle of Jericho where walls came down, representing overcoming obstacles.

What lessons can readers learn from 'The Battle of Jericho'?

Readers learn about the damaging effects of bullying, the value of standing up for oneself and others, the importance of empathy, and the power of courage and perseverance.

How does the setting influence the story in 'The Battle of Jericho'?

The high school setting creates a realistic backdrop for the story's exploration of social hierarchies,

peer pressure, and the challenges teens face, making the bullying experiences relatable and impactful.

Additional Resources

1. *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper

This powerful novel follows Melody, an 11-year-old girl with cerebral palsy who cannot speak but has a brilliant mind. Through determination and the help of a communication device, she challenges the perceptions of those around her. The story highlights themes of resilience, inclusion, and the strength found within oneself.

2. *Copper Sun* by Sharon Draper

Set during the era of slavery, this historical fiction novel tells the story of Amari, a young African girl torn from her home and sold into slavery in America. The narrative explores her struggle for freedom, identity, and hope amidst brutal oppression. It's a poignant tale of courage and survival.

3. *Blended* by Sharon M. Draper

This novel centers on Isabella, a biracial girl navigating the challenges of fitting into two different worlds—her mother's African American community and her father's white family. Through her experiences, the book tackles issues of race, identity, and acceptance. It's an insightful look at family dynamics and self-discovery.

4. *Fire from the Rock* by Sharon Draper

Set during the Civil Rights Movement, this book follows Rachel, a young African American girl who faces violence and prejudice as she fights for equality. The story is inspired by real historical events and illustrates the courage required to stand up for justice. It's a compelling exploration of bravery and social change.

5. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis

This historical novel chronicles the journey of the Watson family from Flint, Michigan, to Birmingham, Alabama, during a turbulent time in American history. They encounter the harsh realities of racism and violence in the South. The blend of humor and heartache provides a memorable perspective on the Civil Rights era.

6. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor

This classic novel follows the Logan family in Mississippi as they confront racial injustice and fight to maintain their dignity during the 1930s. The story is told through the eyes of young Cassie Logan, whose family's strength and resilience shine amid adversity. It's a profound narrative on racism, family, and courage.

7. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

This memoir in verse recounts the author's childhood experiences growing up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s. Through beautiful poetry, Woodson explores themes of identity, family, and the power of storytelling. The book offers a lyrical reflection on history and personal growth.

8. *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

Set during the American Revolutionary War, this novel tells the story of Isabel, an enslaved girl who seeks freedom and fights against the bonds of slavery. The narrative captures the struggles and hopes of those caught in the fight for liberty. It's a gripping tale of defiance and hope.

9. *March: Book One* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell

This graphic novel memoir recounts the early life of civil rights leader John Lewis and his involvement in the struggle for racial equality. The vivid illustrations and compelling storytelling bring history to life with immediacy and emotion. It's an inspiring account of activism and perseverance.

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