



Mind Walking: Using Young Adult Literature to Teach Social Studies

Lisa H. Matherson, Ed.D.
Elizabeth K. Wilson, Ph.D.
Vivian H. Wright, Ph.D.
The University of Alabama

Russell Hammack
Jacksonville State University

What is Historical YAL?

oFictional works that take place during a specific, often prominent, time period in history, which are written from the perspective of those who lived during that time.

(Nilsen & Donelson, 2009).



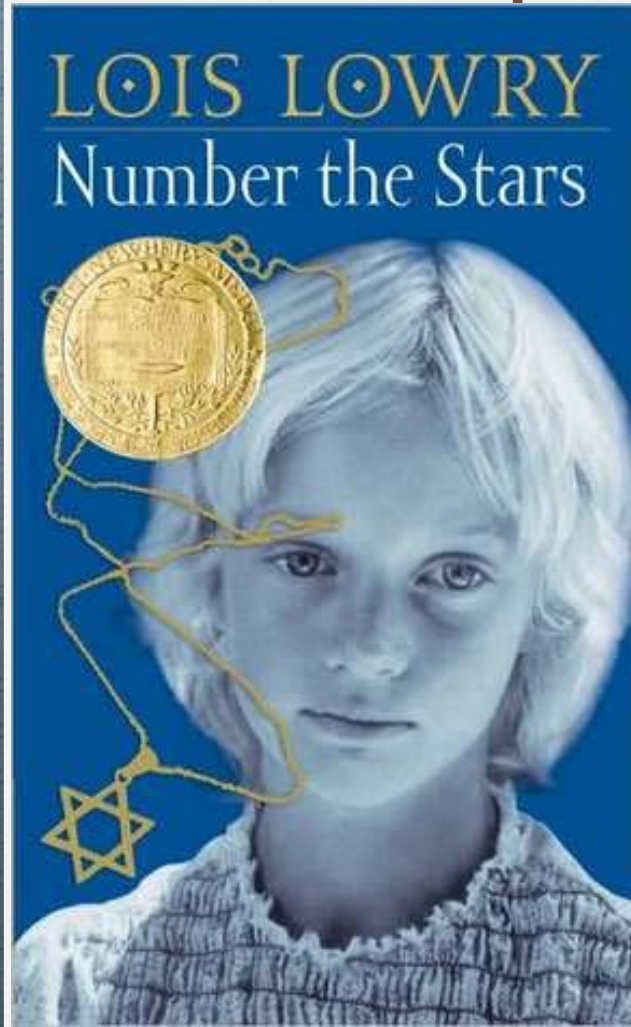
Why Teach With Historical YAL?

- o Fosters connections between the past and the present
- o Helps students see and appreciate different points of view (POVs)
- o Emphasizes everyday life in the past
- o Restores dimension to history
- o Gives human faces to history
- o Promotes academic equity

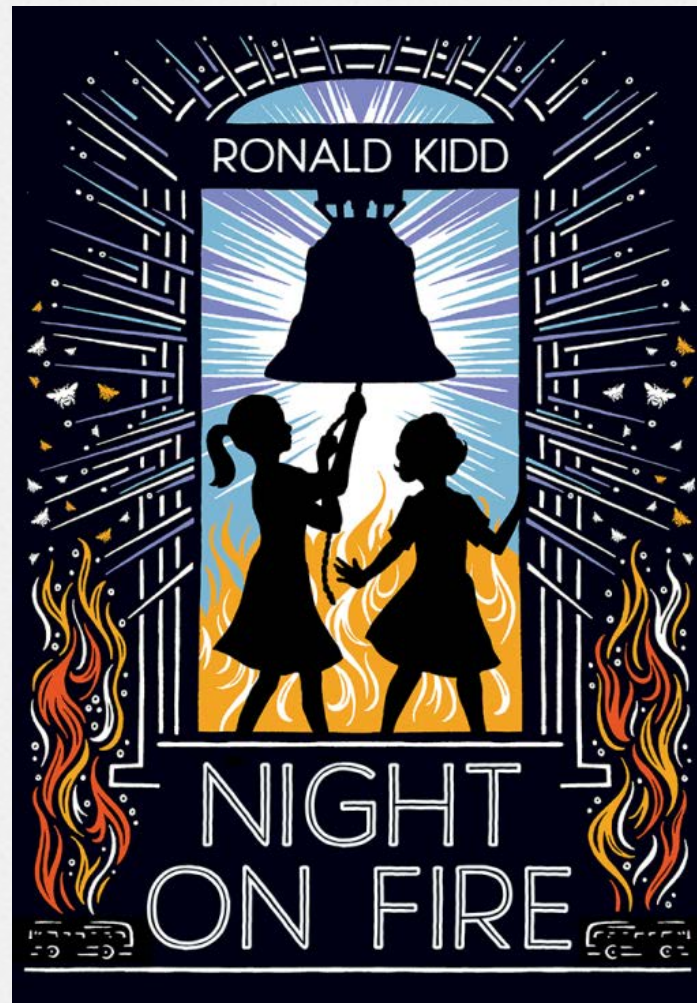
Benefits of YAL

- o Increases vocabulary, including content-specific terms.
- o More up-to-date and appealing than textbooks.
- o Goes beyond the facts.
- o Allows readers to experience other times, other places, other people, and other cultures with empathy.
- o Can be a powerful catalyst for thoughtful analysis and critical thinking
(Alverman & Phelps, 1998).

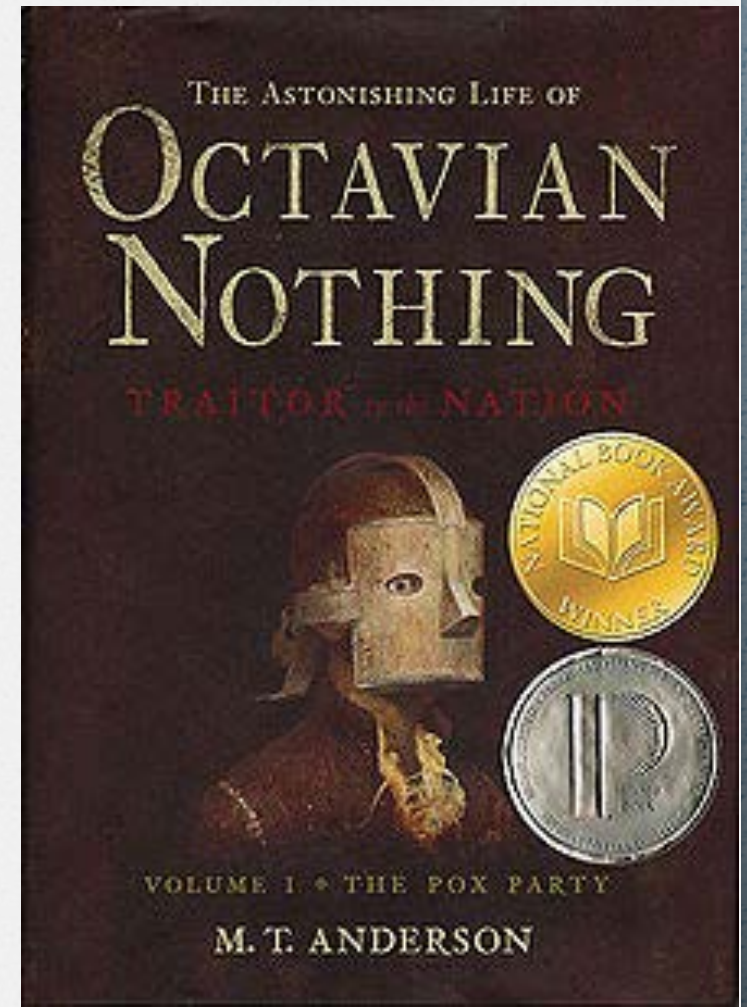
A Helpful Way Into Difficult Subjects



Holocaust



Civil-Rights Movement



Slavery and Racism

Concerns for Teaching with Historical YAL

- o Students may connect strongly with the perspective they read, and may reject alternative points of view.
- o How accurate are the narratives being told?
- o Does the story historicize fiction or fictionalize history?
- o How to select YAL that can supplement the curricula?
- o Students may fail to understand the abstract.
- o The motives of authors should be considered.

Tips for Choosing Good Historical YAL

o The chosen should:

- o Present a well-told story that doesn't conflict with historical records
- o Portray characters realistically
- o Present authentic settings
- o Artfully fold in historical facts
- o Provide accurate information through illustrations
- o Avoid stereotypes and myths

(Lindquist, 1995).

Genres of Historical YAL

o Traditional Historical

o Multi-Period Epics

o Series

o Sagas

o Historical Romantic

o Historical Western

o Mysteries

o Thrillers

o Adventure Novels

o Time-Travel

o Alternate Histories

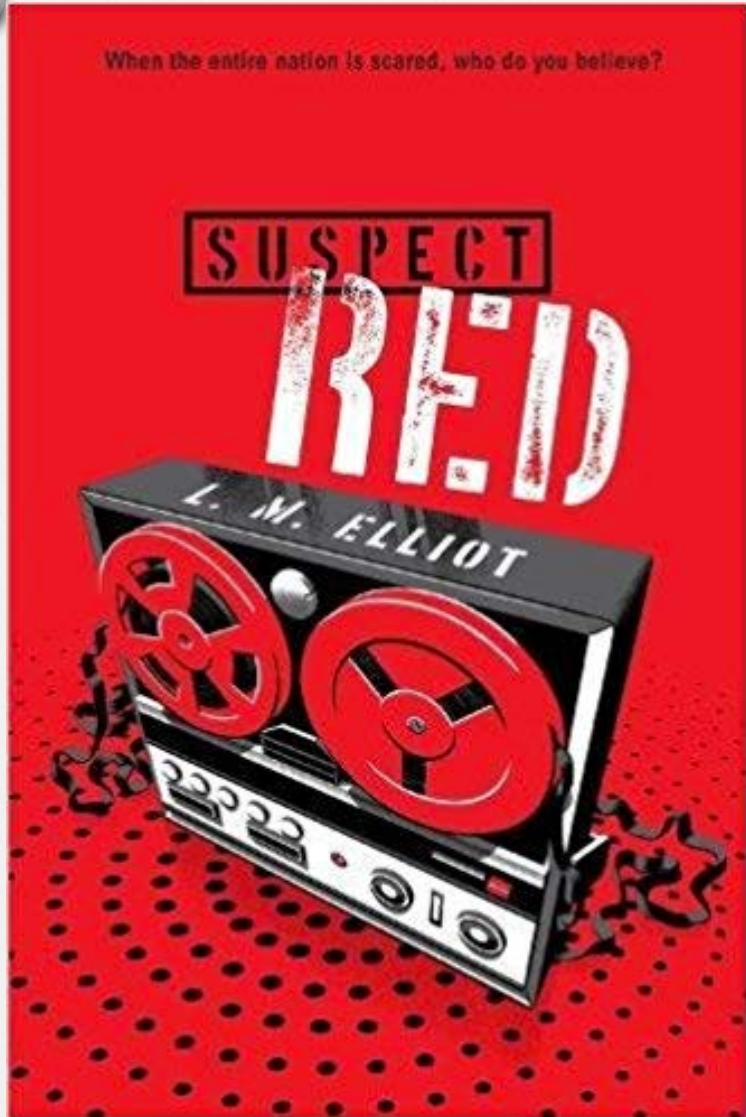
o Fantasy

o Literary

o Christian Novels

Young adult historical fiction
gets students FEELING the
past as they live through the
experiences of the characters.





An
Illustration



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o Lisa H. Matherson – lhmatherson@ua.edu

o Elizabeth K. Wilson – ewilson@ua.edu

o Vivian H. Wright – vwright@ua.edu

o Russell G. Hammack – rhammack@jsu.edu



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