

13 Reasons Why Book Discussion

Book author: Jay Archer

1. Overall impression-- what did you think of the book? What did you like, what bothered you?
2. Consider the title of the novel. Are each of Hannah's thirteen reasons of equal importance? Which do you find to be the most unexpected?
3. Discuss the adults in this book. Clay's mother gave him space, was that right? How did you see Hannah's parents role? Did any adult respond in a way that was helpful? Why does she open the truth of her story to only one adult, Mr. Porter in particular? How did the book present adults?
4. Is the atmosphere of the school and teens in the book authentic, or like our school?
5. What about mental health was accurate, what was missing?
6. Jay Asher's intent in writing the book was to create an awareness of teen suicide and the dangers of bullying. Was he successful?
7. Discuss these themes in the the book and how realistic they are in actual teen life:
 - Repercussion- cause and effect of behaviors
 - Betrayal
 - Gossip and reputation
 - Lack of parent awareness/interaction
 - Subjugation of female body
 - Revenge
8. What impact, if any, do you see the novel or the series having on teens? What message will they take from the book?
9. What impact has the book or series had on parents and adults?
10. An alternate ending, where Hannah lives, was published in the 10th Anniversary Edition. What does it say about media/society that a more dramatic ending was chosen for the book and the series?
11. What will you remember from reading this novel?