

Domestic Violence Recommended Reading

Dating Violence

Title: Breathing Underwater

Author: Alex Flinn

Publishing Information: @ 2001 Harper Collins

Lexile: 510 Reading Level: 3.9

Description:

Sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal, sixteen-year-old Nick recounts his relationship with Caitlin, examines his controlling behavior and anger, and describes living with his abusive father.

Title: Dreamland

Author: Sarah Dessen

Publishing Information: @2000 Viking

Lexile: 920 Reading Level: 7.1

Description:

After her oldest sister is sent away, sixteen-year-old Caitlin decides she needs to make a major change in her own life and begins an abusive relationship with a boy who is mysterious, brilliant, and dangerous.

Title: Leslie's Journal

Author: Allan Stratton

Publishing Information: @2000 Firefly Books

Lexile: 600 Reading Level: 4.1

Description:

Leslie's life seems to settle from chaos to wonderful when Jason, the new guy in school, asks her out. Things quickly change, however, and spin out of control as she finds out that Jason is not as nice as she thought and she must find a way to break out of the relationship.

Title: Past Forgiving

Author: Gloria Miklowitz

Publishing Information: @1995 Simon & Schuster

Lexile: 540 Reading Level: 4.8

Description:

Fifteen-year-old Alexandra finds that her boyfriend, Cliff, demands all of her time, isolates her by his jealousy, and finally becomes physically abusive.

Title: Speak

Author: Laurie Halse Anderson

Publishing Information: @ 2001 Puffin

Lexile: 690 Reading Level: 4.5

Description:

Since the beginning of the school year, high school freshman Melinda has found that it's been getting harder and harder for her to speak out loud: "My throat is always sore, my lips raw.... Every time I try to talk to my parents or a teacher, I sputter or freeze.... It's like I have some kind of spastic laryngitis." What could have caused Melinda to suddenly fall mute? Could it be due to the fact that no one at school is speaking to her because she called the cops and got everyone busted at the seniors' big end-of-summer party? Or maybe it's because her parents' only form of communication is Post-It notes written on their way out the door to their nine-to-whenever jobs. While Melinda is bothered by these things, deep down she knows the real reason why she's been struck mute...

Title: Someone to Love Me

Author: Anne Schraff

Publishing Information: @ 2002 Townsend Press

Lexile: n/a Low Level/High Interest reader

Description:

Cindy Gibson knows better, but she can't help falling for Bobby. She knows his history, but he makes her feel special. As long as she hides the truth, everything will work out...right?

Family Violence

Title: Baby Help

Author: Marilyn Reynolds

Publishing Information: @1998 Morning Glory Press

Lexile:

Description:

Because her partner continues to abuse her, seventeen-year-old Melissa takes their young child and goes to a shelter for battered women where she begins her healing process.

Title: Forged by Fire

Author: Sharon M. Draper

Publishing Information: @1998

Lexile: 780 Reading Level: 6.8

Description:

Teenage Gerald, who has spent years protecting his fragile half-sister from their abusive father, faces the prospect of one final confrontation before the problem can be solved.

Title: Freaky Green Eyes
Author: Joyce Carol Oates
Publishing Information: @2005 Harper Tempest
Lexile: 810 Reading Level: 6.8
Description:

Fourteen-year-old Frankie relates the events of the year leading up to her mother's mysterious disappearance and her own struggle to discover and accept the truth about her parents' relationship.

Title: Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dumphrey
Author: Margaret Peterson
Publishing Information: @1996 Simon & Schuster
Lexile: 980 Reading Level: 6.2
Description:

In the journal she is keeping for English Class, sixteen-year-old Tish chronicles the changes in her life when her abusive father abandons her and her brother, and her mother follows him.

Title: Margaux with an X
Author: Ron Koertge
Publishing Information: @2004 Cambridge Press
Lexile:
Description:

Margaux, known as a "tough chick" at her Los Angeles high school, makes a connection with Danny, who, like her, struggles with the emotional impact of family violence and abuse.

Title: When She was Good
Author: Norma Fox Mazer
Publishing Information: @1997 Arthur Levine Books
Lexile: 650 Reading Level: 5.9
Description:

The death of her abusive, manipulative older sister prompts seventeen-year-old Em to remember their unpleasant life together, with their parents and then later on their own.

Related to Social Studies

Title: The Witch of Blackbird Pond
Author: Elizabeth Speare
Lexile: 850 Reading Level: 7.2

And

Title: Salem Possessed
Authors: Boyer and Nissenbaum
Subject matter:

Topics can include human and political stories of the Salem witch trials, examples of demonification of women in history, the use of gender for political gain, and gender roles tradition in the US.

Title: The Way to the Peaceful Warrior
Author: Dan Millman
Description by Dr. Harrison:

Coming of age story of a young man looking for his way in the world and the advice he finds in unlikely places. Biographical and inspirational

Title: Angst!: Teen Verses From the Edge
Editor: Karen Tom Author: Kiki
Publishing Information: ©2001, Workman Publishing Company

Title: The Air Down Here
Author: Gil C. Alicea
Reading Level: 6.0
Description by Dr. Harrison:

The story of an inner city boy in his own words and his struggles against the odds. Very inspiring story of how one boy's fight for social change in his life worked.

Title: Prep
Author: Curtis Sittenfeld
Reading Level: 8.7
Description by Dr. Harrison: The fictional story of a Jewish girl going to a prep school. Great for discussing stereotypes.