

Study and Scrutiny: Research on Young Adult Literature

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Volume 3, Number 2 of *Study and Scrutiny: Research on Young Adult Literature*. This issue opens with an empirical study by Jenna Spiering and Kate Kedley, “*You can’t go back to holding hands.*” *Reading Judy Blume’s Forever in the #MeToo Era*. Blume’s *Forever* is a cultural artifact giving readers an historical look at society’s attitudes about sex and sexuality at the time of publication in 1975. In the #MeToo era, however, Blume’s text is primed for new analysis in light of today’s highly-charged conversations about sex, sexuality, and consent. This article employs Critical Youth Studies and Queer Theory to explore the ways in which young readers can critically engage with *Forever* and questions about virginity, sex, sexuality, and consent associated with the #MeToo movement.

Our second study, written in large part as a testimonio, argues that the use of culturally relevant texts with struggling, minoritized readers will increase their opportunity at literacy and academic success. In this critical article, René Saldaña, Jr. recounts the story of when he discovered Cisneros’ *The House On Mango Street* (1991) that then unexpectedly led to Anaya’s *Bless Me, Ultima* (1972), two novels that caused him to fall in love with the reading act once again. The article argues that educators must intentionally act on behalf of their struggling, minoritized readers by providing them numerous opportunities to discover themselves in class-sanctioned literature by restructuring their required reading lists.

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As usual, we invite teachers, librarians, graduate students, and educators who would like to review for us in the future. We invite reviewers who are passionate about YA literature and are able to share their knowledge and expertise to improve *Study & Scrutiny* as well as to spread the word about the journal. Please email Leilya Pitre (Leilya.Pitre@selu.edu), and we will gladly include your name and contact information in our database of reviewers.

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