

## Approved for use in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English

### Summary of the Work:

A ninth grader's antipathy to his English teacher leads him into a school protest involving the National Anthem. The situation escalates when school personnel, his parents, and the national media become involved. Through documentations of letters, memos, phone calls, newspaper stories, and diaries, the opinions and agendas of different individuals become known. In the end, many lives are destroyed and the truth obliterated because of the failure of individuals to communicate and reason with one another.

### Rationale:

*Nothing But the Truth* is written in a documentary-style, thereby offering a peek into the psyches of numerous characters. Each event, beginning with the seemingly simple act of rebellion of the protagonist, Phillip, leads to a complication and into a string of cause-effect relationships that catapult all characters into crisis and alter many lives. The reader will learn the internal and external conflicts of the protagonist, Phillip, but they are also privy to conflicts afflicting a series of other characters. This novel is an excellent way to teach students how to identify conflict and analyze its causes and results. Characters in this novel jump to conclusions without exploring the truth. The media is the most grievous in pursuing innuendo and half-truths, opening the door to in-depth discussions about the role media play in our very real world.

### Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

Top One Hundred Countdown: Best of the Best Books for Young Adults (October 15, 1994)

Young Adult librarians have selected the top 100 books for young adults for Booklist. The list includes a wide variety of subjects, fiction, nonfiction, and a range of reading levels. The list was published in the October 15, 1994 issue of Booklist.

\* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

\* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

### Noted Distinction:

- Newberry Medal (Nominated for an award) 1992
- Best Books for Youth, 1992, American Library Association – YALSA
- Best First Novels for Youth, 1991
- American Library; John Newbery Medal Honor Book, 1992

### Readability:

- Lexile Score: NP
- Readability Level:

### Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

### Standard Alignment: [\(link\)](#)

### Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

### Notes on the Text:

*(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)*

*Nothing But the Truth* tackles the ideas of honesty and misrepresentation of the truth. It contains mild expletives. The text promotes excellent discussion of the importance of honesty.

### Connection to the Curriculum:

*Nothing But the Truth* is written in a documentary-style, thereby offering a peek into the psyches of numerous characters. It also allows for a great discussion about 1<sup>st</sup> amendment.

### Additional Connections:

*(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)*