

## The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

A controversial book or not.

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* is a first-person narrative the perspective of Native American teenager Arnold Spirit Jr., who is 14 years old. This novel is very controversial in its discussions of a realistic way of growing up. Becoming a man in an old world and trying to create its own, is what is hard to comprehend, since the main character is only 14 years old, and is still considered still just a little boy. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* is a book that is full of alcohol, poverty, bullying, violence and sexuality, as well as for a tragic deaths, and is very realistic in usage of utterance and verbalization that leads to homosexuality and having a mental disability.

This book can be said to have controversy that leans towards the characterization of sexuality and violence. Even though, the novel shows a really positive perspective on future life, and actually is a novel for a ban of alcohol by telling a story of Juniors parents and his growing up in an alcoholic family. The novel hold a strong statement, that anyone can make it in the world, and have a bright future, not just white people. It holds a strong message on demolishing racism, also. When Junior is accepted as a normal kid, going to the "white people school", to study there. He is making a future for himself, and refuses to accept of being in prison, just because other people of his race have accepted it freely.

There is a lot of misery and bad feelings throughout the book, but it is all dealt with humor. Junior describes his struggles through sarcastic and very humor way. Drawing comics is what helps Junior display his struggles in a most humorous way, making his Dad and his Mom as a successful people is what can be also taken as a source of misery but taking it with humor. This tone that is mostly light-minded helps Junior with his hard growing up. This novel is really teaching kids of what racism and discrimination really is, through humor. Junior always jokes ironically about his situations, like the time he dressed as a homeless person. We all know his situation, but he makes a realistic view on what really being a "kid of different color", feels like. But also when Penelope dressed up also as a homeless person, even though she comes from a rich family, she teaches that there is no race actually, there is just "being human".

The question of sexuality is really a big issue in this novel. But that is what makes this novel so special and so easy to understand and read. Of course, masturbation is mentioned in the novel, and that is what needs to make this novel controversial. But actually, just that little detail of the book, makes it so real. Masturbation for any 14 year old boy is not strange, but that makes the book a realistic way of becoming an adult. It is just another detail of stepping on to the step towards the doors of adulthood.