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Literary Engagement in Numerous Senses (LENS)

Dr. Sherry

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*King of Shadows*

Whether miniscule or significant, I think all young adults have experienced a moment, or in the case of this text, a dream that has undoubtedly left a lasting impression within themselves. While everyone struggles with their own personal battles and demons, everyone also has a different way of coping or escaping from them. Susan Coppers book *King of Shadows,* could act as a useful gateway into a discussion of problems faced, or the problems young adults are currently facing in their lives. It also offers a chance for those problems to be related to amongst a group of peers, as well as leading to a discussion about the way in which those problems were handled or resolved.

Personally, this text hit home for me when I found myself continuously relating it to a specific experience in my life dealing with the relationship between my twin brother and me. Most of our adolescent life, our relationship was rocky to say the least. Months would pass without us speaking and whether or not I ever wanted to admit it, I was always very upset with the family dynamic and struggle it caused. It took a distressing, yet imperative incident for my eyes to finally see the multitude of the unfortunate hole I had a part in digging of me and my brother’s relationship. In the end however, I came out stronger, as did he.

This story has within it a plot and message that is widely relatable to a young adult audience. The problems Nat faces are those in which any young adult could identify with in some way. As a reader, I think this text allows you to be a neutral observer of a problem that you may be able relate to your personal experiences as a person and vice versa. As a person, having experienced something relatable to a topic or problem in a story, you can better understand it as a reader.