Jamie Nemec

LENS #1

Dr. Sherry

February 7, 2012

LENS Assignment- Reader as Writer

I believe Susan Cooper takes a unique approach in helping modern day young adults relate to the literature they are expected to understand. Whereas other authors create stories that mimic Shakespearean literature through modern characters, Cooper actually creates a story that combines the world of modernity with history. It is often difficult to find a novel that will appeal to students with a variety of interests. King of Shadows tries to overcome this by creating a mixture of science fiction and classic literature. The main character Nat is one who is relatable to students since he is in a transitional period of his life and he is trying to cope with tragedy, which may be hard for people of that age. However when it comes to creating a good piece of literature, I believe the text is relatively elementary. Throughout the text, there are numerous flashbacks to what is going on in the modern world. If I were to write a similar text, I would eliminate these flashbacks it would keep the readers more intrigued as to whether Nat is experiencing a dream or if he actually traveled through time.

Overall I believe this text serves its purpose best educationally rather than recreationally. The simplicity of the text makes it easy for students and teachers to draw connections between their world and Shakespeare’s world. Cooper’s novel is also ideal for a classroom environment because of its learning opportunities throughout the text. One example of this is on page 48 when Shakespeare states “’A wise, gentle man. A gentleman too.’” This statement reflects Shakespeare’s habit of making puns and provides an opportunity for teachers to elaborate on literary devices and their presence in his work. I believe Coopers text may not be overly helpful to aspiring writers, but for teachers it can act as a helpful teaching tool.