

7th Grade Novels IMC Presentation





Recommendation

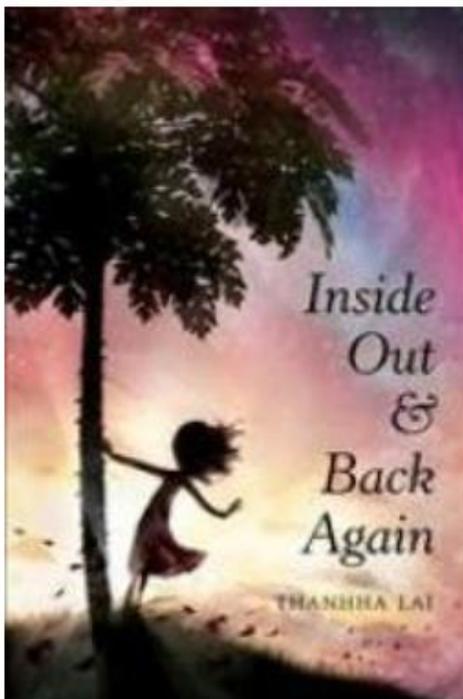
- Adopt Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai
- Adopt One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams Garcia



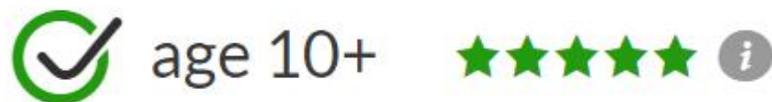
Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

Inside Out and Back Again

Book review by [Kristen Breck](#), Common Sense Media



Common Sense says



Inspiring, educational immigrant story told in free verse.

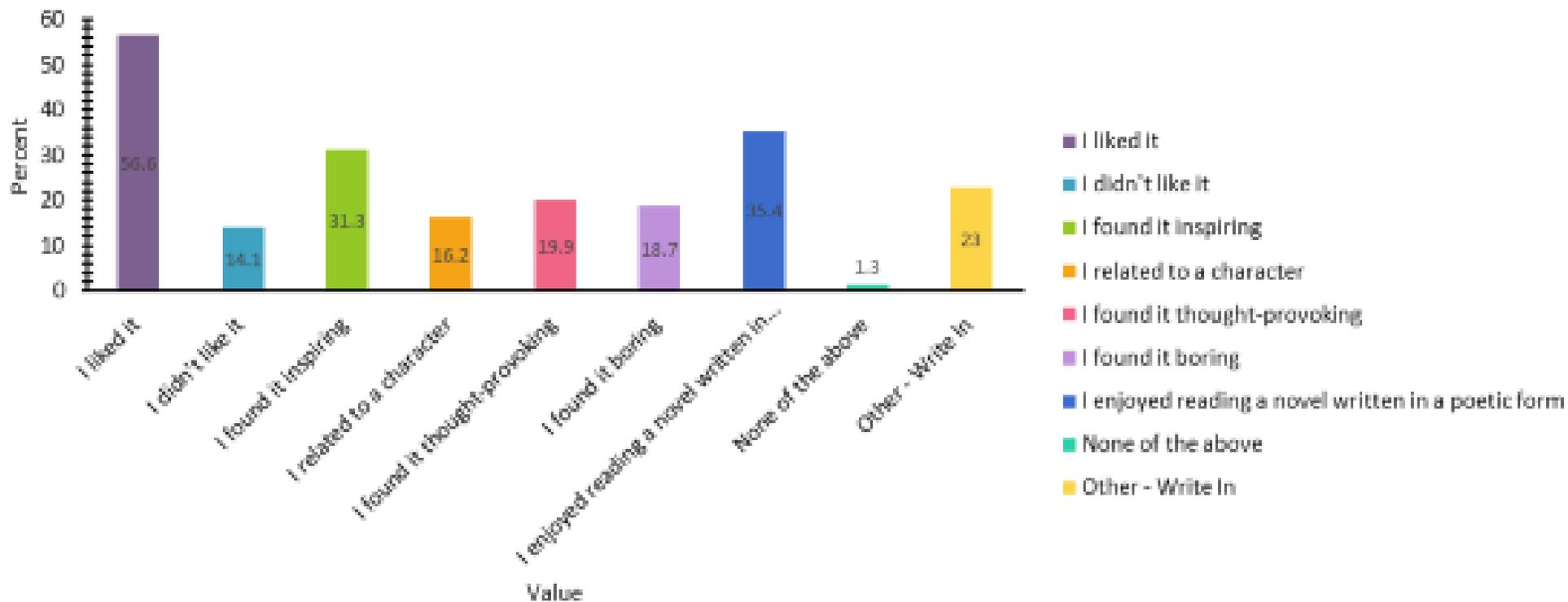
Thanhha Lai | Historical Fiction | 2011

Save | Rate book



Inside Out and Back Again- Student Response

4. What were your reactions to Inside Out and Back Again? (Please check all that apply)





Inside Out and Back Again- Student Response

Value	Percent	Count
I liked it	56.6%	224
I didn't like it	14.1%	56
I found it inspiring	31.3%	124
I related to a character	16.2%	64
I found it thought-provoking	19.9%	79
I found it boring	18.7%	74
I enjoyed reading a novel written in a poetic form	35.4%	140
None of the above	1.3%	5
Other - Write In	23.0%	91



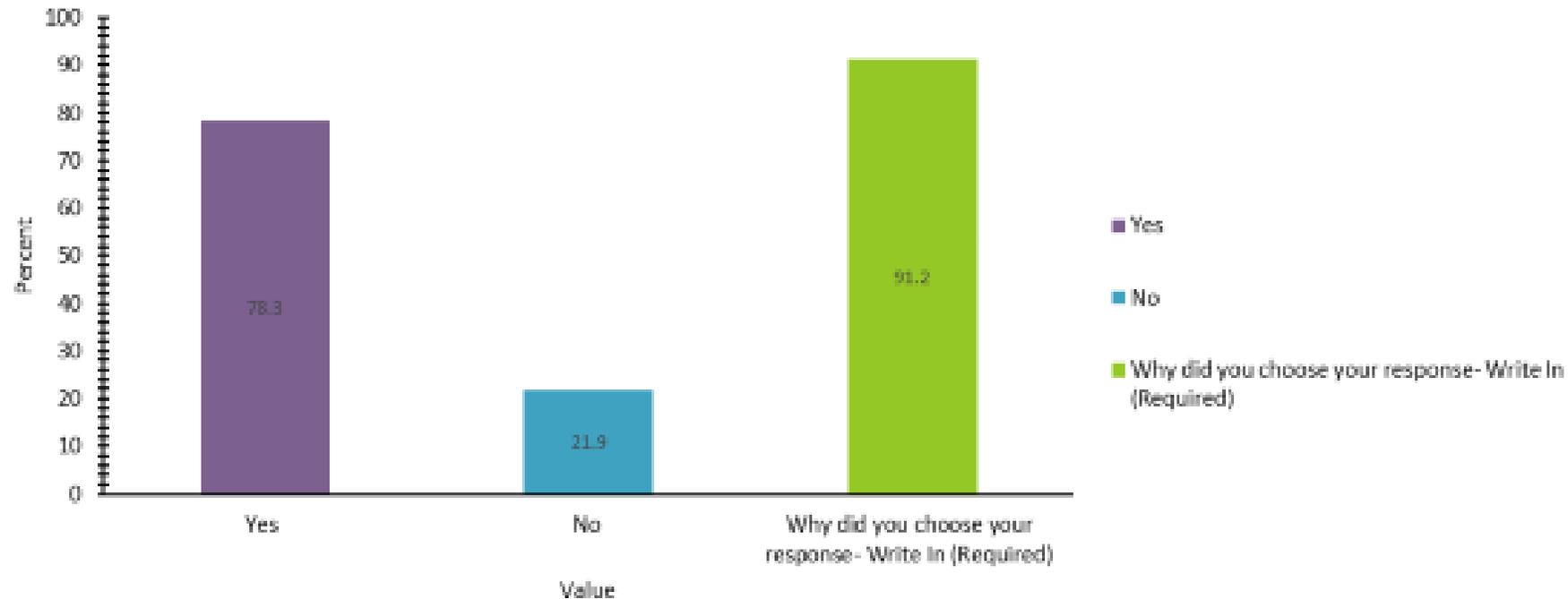
Inside Out and Back Again- Student Response

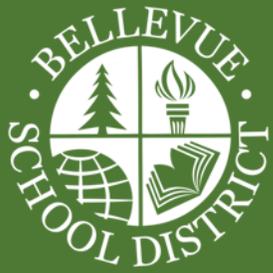
- I went through a time where i also had to move to a new country and not knowing the language and the kids made fun of me because i couldn't speak the language and they would call me dumb because i couldn't understand a lot of things like test. I felt connected to Ha's life and realized I wasn't the only one who had struggled in a new country.
- It was kind of interesting but not really my type of book i like but overall I would read it again to understand more of what its trying to tell me.
- It's nice reading books out of the sort of traditional novel format. From Crossover, Trickster and now to Inside Out and Back Again, I found the style intriguing.
- it was not as enjoyable as other books i have read but it is very memorable and very good for seventh grade eyes.
- I liked reading how an author can express such things in a different way, using similes and personifications, making sensation details as well.



Inside Out and Back Again- Student Response

8. Would you recommend that we keep Inside Out and Back Again as a book for seventh graders in the future?





Inside Out and Back Again- Student Response

- I chose this response because I think this book was very inspiring and shows how someone from a whole other different country is treated and how they feel. This is important because, it will give the 7th graders in the future inspiration.
- I chose this response because in my opinion there are a lot of things that can be learned from this book.
- I chose this response because, i found the story very entertaining and i feel people may be able to relate to it. Everyone who read Inside out and back again told me they loved the book and it was fun for them to read.
- I chose yes because i think it is important for students to see a different culture that usually isn't thought of, and this story is inspiring in that it shows many things are possible and to have an open mind.
- I don't really see or understand the point of the book. Why do we need to know about "living in between two worlds?"
- I have mixed feelings about the book, it was interesting and i liked it but for kids my age i think they might prefer more action i guess. I know this is more focused on history and racial understanding but when we want to learn more about the war we don't get as much info as i would've liked.
- I recommend it because it promotes equality and I know a lot of people in my class can relate to the main character, Ha.
- I think that you should keep Inside Out and Back Again as a book for seventh graders in the future because in me and some of my friends, we were actually sending each other emails with poetry. It might have been an excuse to keep using our emails, but it was also practice for English class, in addition to being very interesting. Finding hidden meanings is like a difficult word search. This book also taught me that poetry isn't always boring.
- I thought it was helpful for me as a white girl to understand the perspective of an Asian girl and what it was like then.



What is one significant learning you had from Inside Out and Back Again?

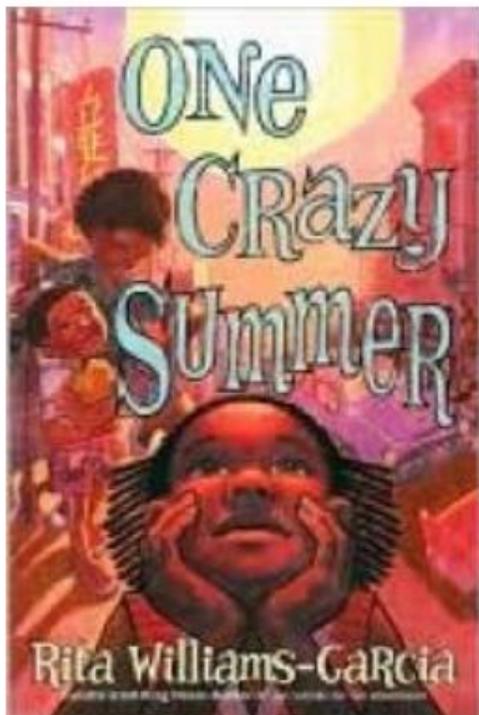
- As an immigrant, I always thought refugees has the same experience as me, maybe just a little bit of hardships going out of their own countries, but it's more complex than that. They need to make the right decision every single step, if one step is wrong, there's no going back to their own country--they escaped illegally, if they go back, there's no bright future.
- One main lesson that stood out was that we should be appreciated of what we have like unlimited food,water,etc.
- A significant learning I had from Inside Out and Back Again is that you should never bully a person just because of their race and ethnicity. Also, you never know what it is like to be them, so you should put yourself in their shoes and treat them with respect.
- I learned how to better analyze poems from the book, and how to better understand that style of writing.
- I've reflected on my own cultural heritage and was reminded of a few things I hadn't thought about in years. I used to get into a lot of fights with my parents about race and such, so this was good for me.
- Sometimes you have to give up what you love to save MORE of what you love (if that makes sense), and that is exactly as Ha is doing. She gave up her home and her papaya tree, her best friend, a lot of her belongings, but in the end, good came to her and her family.



One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams Garcia

One Crazy Summer

Book review by [Kristen Breck](#), Common Sense Media



Common Sense says

 age 11+  

A gem, with strong girl characters, '60s black history.

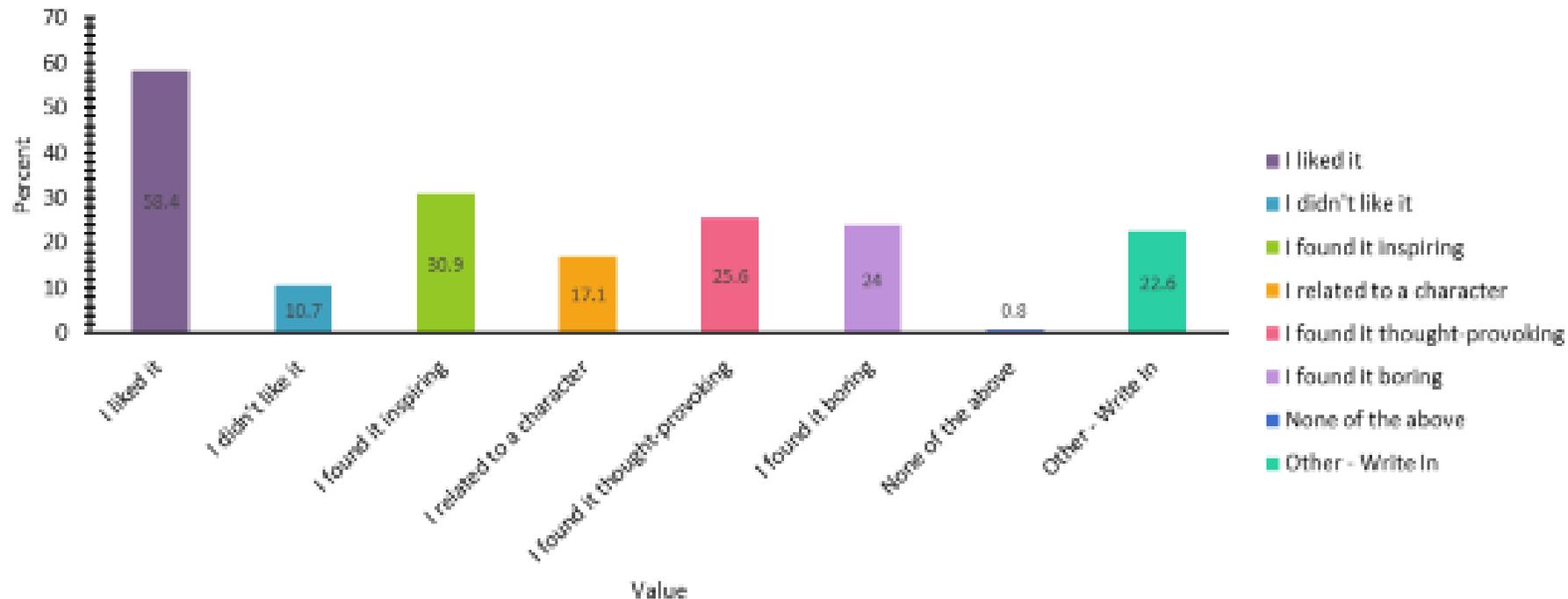
Rita Williams-Garcia | Family Life | 2010

 Save |  Rate book



One Crazy Summer- Student Response

5. What were your reactions to One Crazy Summer? (Please check all that apply)





One Crazy Summer- Student Response

Value	Percent	Count
I liked it	58.4%	212
I didn't like it	10.7%	39
I found it inspiring	30.9%	112
I related to a character	17.1%	62
I found it thought-provoking	25.6%	93
I found it boring	24.0%	87
None of the above	0.8%	3
Other - Write In	22.6%	82



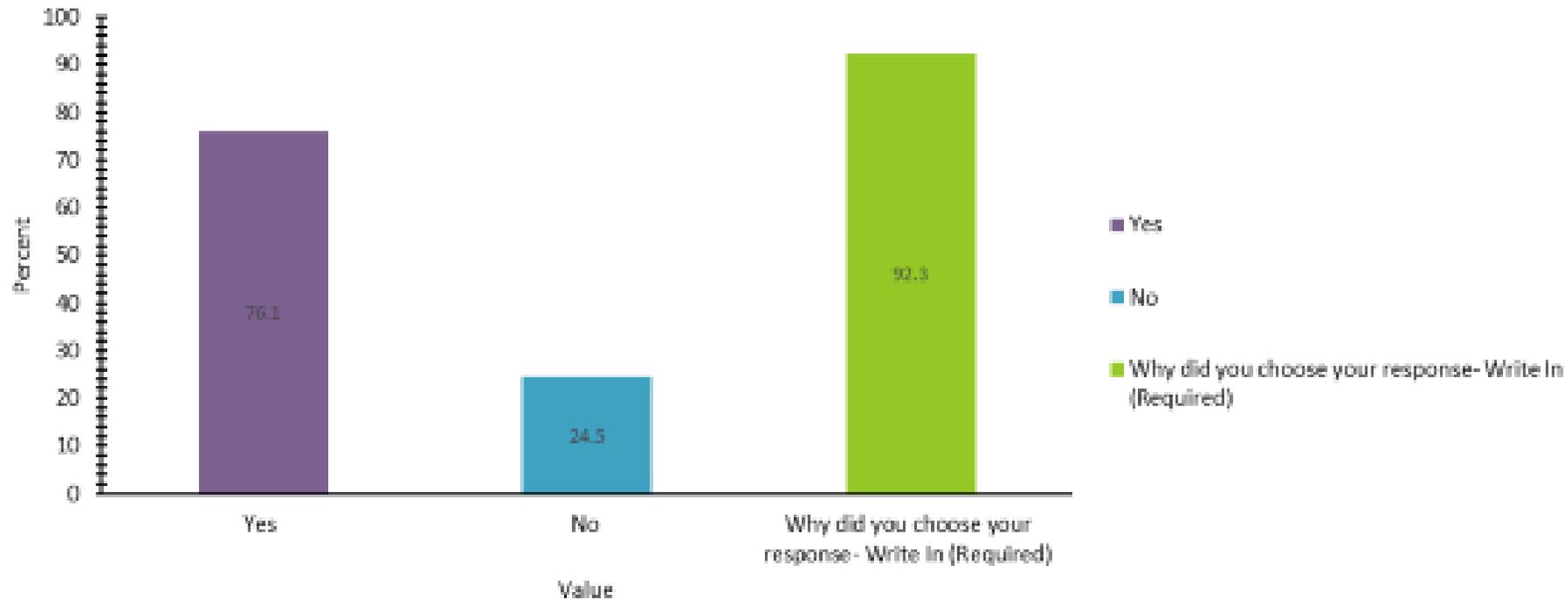
One Crazy Summer- Student Response

- At the ending of the book I think is the most interesting like when Cecile hugged the children goodbye. Other parts were okay.
- I appreciated the author's attention to detail and she truly put images into my mind with her descriptions. It was a very entertaining book, that i didn't have to complain about reading.
- I found that it helped me see another perspective
- I thought some parts were kind of boring but i thought it was a good book otherwise
- I found a lot of really good details of how life was back then during segregation.
- I found it intellectually challenging.
- I think this because the book really connects to the themes we were learning in class, such as inclusiveness, racial discrimination and about conflicts based on race.



One Crazy Summer- Student Response

9. Would you recommend that we keep One Crazy Summer as a book for seventh graders in the future?





One Crazy Summer- Student Response

- Because I feel like this book was a great way to learn about ethnicity and race and a great way to connect to characters of race and understand their emotions and feelings.
- Because I think kids could learn a lot from the message in the book and really gain perspective.
- Because it was a very interesting read that really opened my eyes to some of the more realistic things that the African American race had to go through, and I think that it would do the same with others.
- Because some people may feel sensitive about the plot, or uncomfortable reading about the book
- I choose my response because even though it was a little too simple for me, it has a very complex story line, and I really enjoyed all the things that took place in the story. I also connected with the characters and felt that they were greatly described. That is why I choose my response.
- I chose 'yes', because it was a good book; but not only that, it was incredibly unique, and I don't think there would be another book like that out there that would give a similar message.



What is one significant learning you had from One Crazy Summer?

- I learned that the Black Panther Party wasn't just about watching over police officers, but it was also to help give kids food and medical care.
- I learned what a difficult life it is living without an actual mother and not knowing why she left them. I learned how important it is to look out after family when you don't have one to protect you. responsibility is important.
- A significant learning I had from One Crazy Summer was you should be yourself and not try to be someone you aren't.
- A significant learning was that when you learn something it is okay to experience discomfort
- Something i learned was that people tend to assume things about a person based on how they look or race. There is much more to a person than that and some people just follow along on what others say and think even though they might be wrong or not accurate.
- i learned a lot about the black panther party that i would not have learned other wise. i think the way the party was incorporated into the novel but not the entire main thing was a great learning part of the book.
- This book taught me that you need to follow what you love and be passionate about it. No matter what anyone else thinks. They are just holding you back. You need to live your own life and make your own choices. No one is ever allowed to make those choices for you.
- One significant theme I learned was that, Delphine had a huge responsibility, watching over her three little sisters.



Parent Responses

- Do you feel that reading *Inside Out and Back Again* was a positive learning experience for your student?
 - Yes, plus he has decided to write poetry. Enjoying listening to him write verse based on his inspiration and experiences.
 - I do. I think this is a fantastic book! I also read "One Crazy Summer" and felt it was also a great book and a positive learning experience for students.
 - Being more aware of the situations around refugees coming to a new country
- Do you feel that reading *One Crazy Summer* was a positive learning experience for your student? - comments
 - Hard to tell given his not talking about a lot. He is an avid reader. But not typically genres in line with schools. Which is more than acceptable!
 - My son really liked it
 - The basic premise of the mother leaving her children was disturbing much more than the historical/cultural/ethnic setting of the story. Telling a story about a Black Panther activist is one thing; telling a story about such an activist who abandons her children is another. This was a stark contrast to the strong family attachment demonstrated in *Inside Out and Back Again*, for example.
 - My student didn't feel it had a defined climax. We talked about the book. My student disagreed with me about the mother's involvement in the Black Panthers movement (I don't know how much context was given about the time in history). I read both books. I don't usually appreciate books like *Inside Out and Back Again*. I usually don't like more poetic books. So few students excel in writing that they need more examples of good writing than poetry at the middle school level.
 - Positive to learn about race issues and social commentary / history. However, feel a more detailed exploration of book's message and theme would be helpful
 - My kid seemed to like the book when I asked them about it.



Parent Response

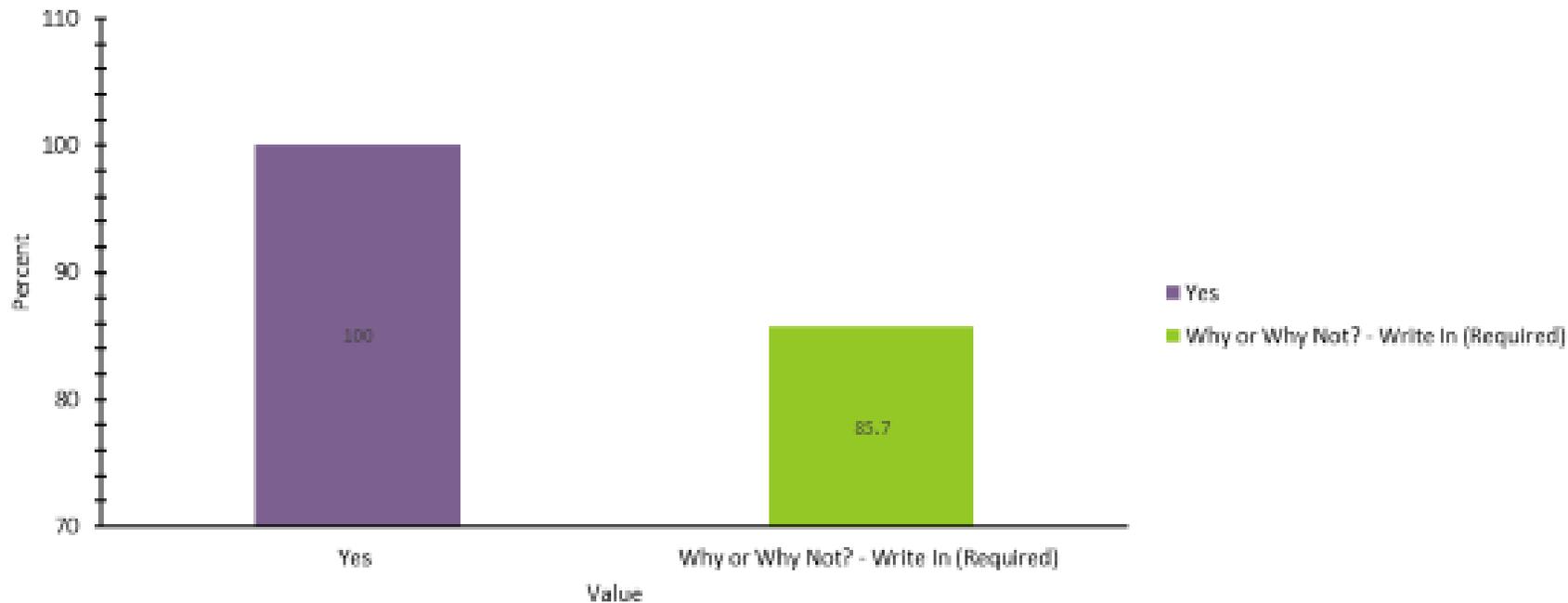
One Crazy Summer

- I appreciate the school district is trying to have more diverse options for it's students. However, one of the characters in the book refers to police officers as pigs. Many police officers are selfless. They do a hard job. I have to think there are books that show the contributions of minority groups without making other groups at fault or putting the majority in a negative light. You don't need to knock down the majority to raise up the minority. Code Talkers was better. We also read Inside Out and Back Again. It was a story about a minority group, but I don't recall it being negative about the majority.
- I thought it was good and the writing was age appropriate for 7th graders. I do have some concerns and hope that my concerns would be addressed in class discussions about the book, or that kids could be given some questions to discuss with their parents about some of the more difficult topics in the book. My concerns are regarding the Mom leaving the children and that it would stir up abandonment feelings in kids who are in foster care, adopted, or whose Moms or Dads have died. I also hope it would be discussed that racism and hatred against ANYONE is wrong, and that police are here to help us not hurt us. I know this story depicts a different time in our country and I believe it's very important to talk about it. Our country is still having difficulty in our current time, so we need to teach our children to respect all people.



Teacher Response- *Inside Out and Back Again*

4. Do you feel reading *Inside Out and Back Again* was a positive learning experience for your students?





Inside Out and Back Again

It provides a different narrator and type of writing that changes the students' learning experiences. The book is rich in symbolism and figurative language.

Engaging text, courageous conversations about race, poetry (hasn't been in the curriculum in years!), students connect with the story, appropriate reading level, audiobooks available... I could go on for hours.

Students love poetry books because they like to read in short passages. Excellent symbolism, rich vocabulary and strong mood changes.

Students would be exposed to a complex text that tells a story that we don't currently have in our curriculum, but that many students can identify with in one sense or another. Reading narrative poetry allows for students to access the text at many different levels, so it is possible to differentiate the text in a more natural and meaningful way.

Gives students access to more poetry and a different culture.

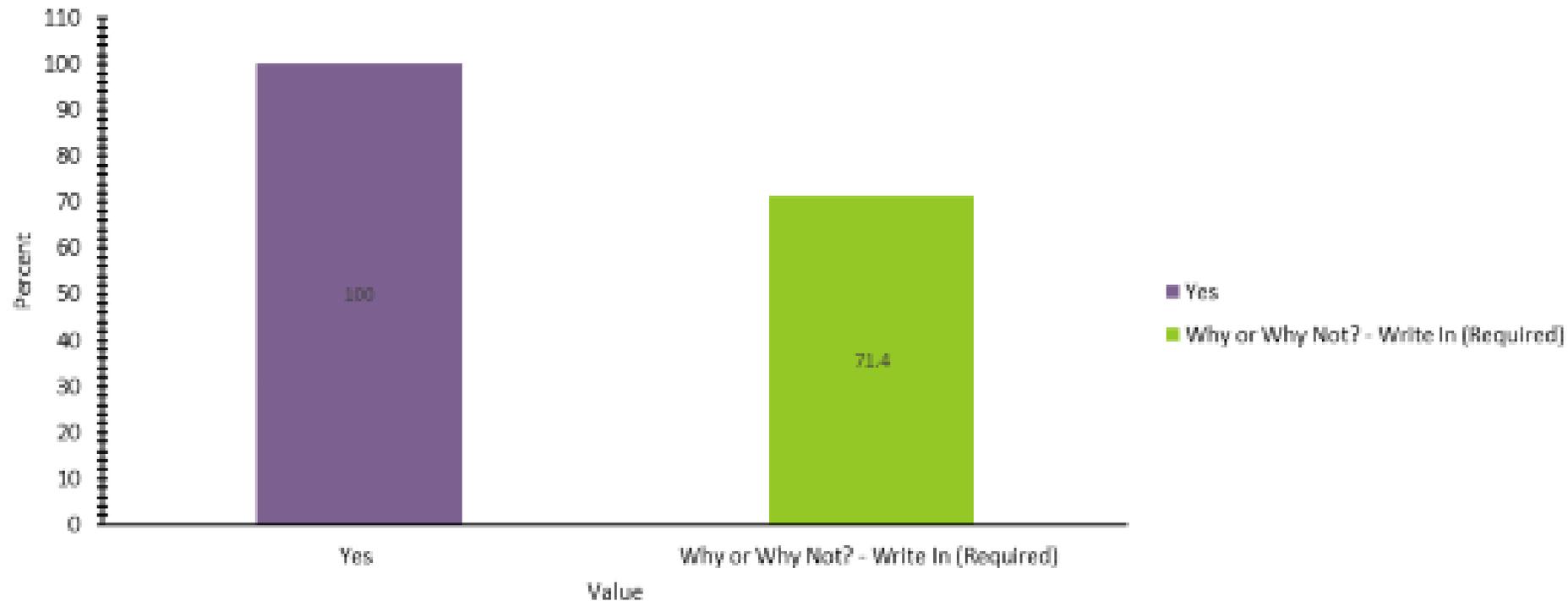
Culturally relevant teaching opportunities, room for conversations about race, the incorporation of poetry.

Quality conversation, our students can connect, SEL learning, different text type (poem)



One Crazy Summer

5. Do you feel reading One Crazy Summer was a positive learning experience for your students?





One Crazy Summer

Simple plot that allows students to connect to the overall story. There's a lot of complexity with the community relations. Race is up front and in your face.

Forces us to have conversations about race and racism in society; gives students a chance to analyze text through word choice; real world relevance; opportunity to write poetry

Strong narrative that engages students in conversations. Students of color loved this book and were excited to read it and the sequel.

Quality conversation, our students of color can connect with the characters, SEL skills

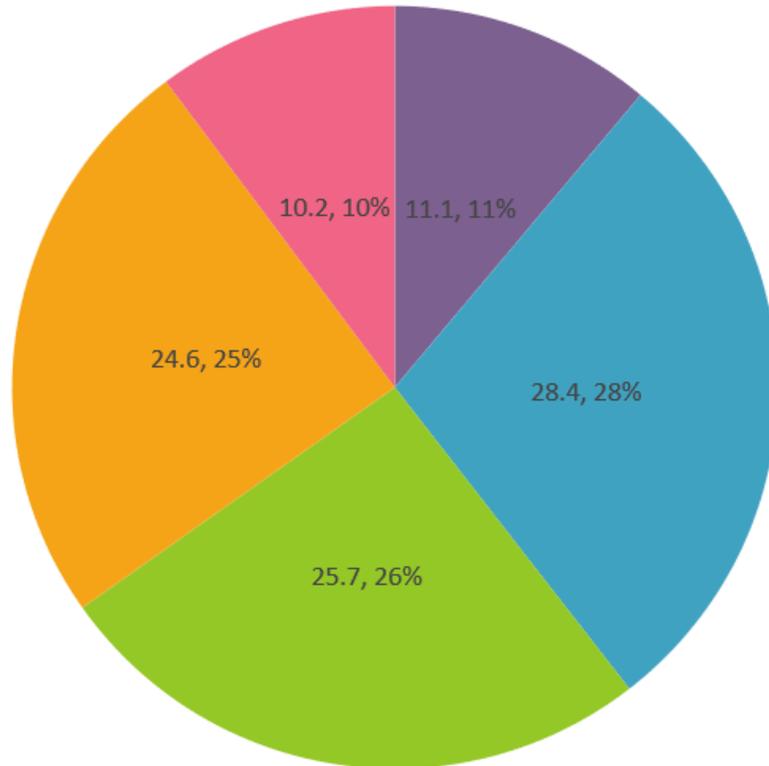
The opportunity to analyze a complex protagonist who faces sophisticated internal and external conflicts that challenge the reader and lead to her character development

A new perspective - different than other stories incorporated into the curriculum

Having a book by both a person of color and a female is very important. I also feel like there are situations that happen in this text and characters that our students can relate to or identify with.



Student Representation



- Odle Middle School
- Chinook Middle School
- Tillicum Middle School
- Tyee Middle School
- Highland Middle School