

No Place

By Todd Strasser

Hardback (2014) ISBN 9781442457218 \$17.99, 262 p.

Paperback (2015) ISBN 9781442457225 \$11.99 272 p.

eBook (2014) ISBN 9781442457232 \$8.99

N.Y.: Simon and Schuster

Two Awards: CBC/NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book and
MSTA Reading Circle List (Missouri State Teachers Association)

Summary: Dan Halprin is a high school senior with plans to go to college on a baseball scholarship. He just has to sign his letter of intent to Rice University and enjoy the senior year. But Dan’s parents are out of work and they lose their home as the school year begins. First the family lives with a relative but then they move to a tent in a makeshift community named Dignityville in a local park. Author Todd Strasser provides the young adult reader with a perspective on homelessness that questions stereotypes, invites student discussion and research, supports student understanding of economics and social issues, and allows opportunities for use of technology to interpret data and build new knowledge, while encouraging empathy and social action. As readers examine middle class financial struggles, they will see that related issues of chronic poverty, racial inequity, and healthcare are also a part of the story. Appropriate for grades 7 and up.



Standards

21st-Century learners:

- AASL 2.1.1 Continue an inquiry-based research process by applying critical-thinking skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation, organization) to information and knowledge in order to construct new understandings, draw conclusions, and create new knowledge.
- AASL 2.2.4 Demonstrate personal productivity by completing products to express learning.
- AASL 2.4.1 Determine how to act on information (accept, reject, modify).

Common core standards for literature:

- RL3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character or provoke a decision.

ISTE standards for students

- [Knowledge constructor] 3d: Build knowledge by actively exploring real-world issues and problems, developing ideas and theories and pursuing answers and solutions.

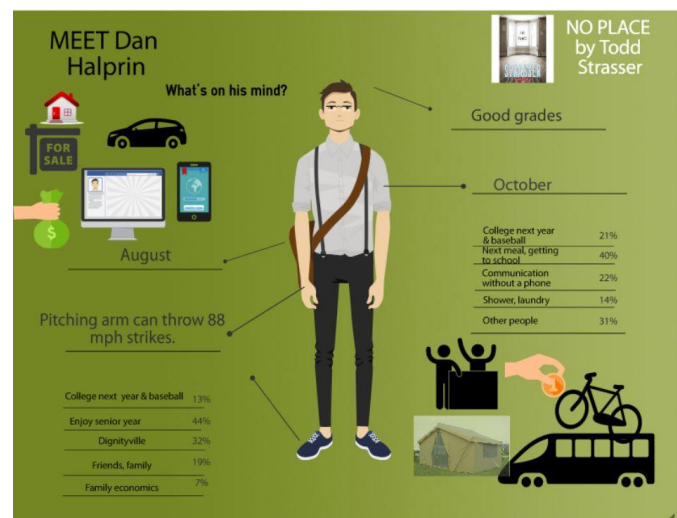
Reviews

“This compelling social commentary challenges stereotypes about homeless people.” *School Library Journal*, December 2013.

“Convincing parallels to *The Grapes of Wrath*.” *Booklist*, November 2013.

“Teen readers who recognize that their own families may be just a paycheck or two away from a similar fate may rightly regard this as a gripping horror story.” *Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*, January 2014.

“The engaging, well-developed plot handles the timely topic of homelessness.” *Library Media Connection*, August/September 2014.



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Kate Hartig c2016

Presentation uses Prezi.com:(

http://prezi.com/8if7kcb35xwy/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share)

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- Weissman, R.C. (2015?). No place. *Todd Strasser*. Retrieved from <http://www.toddstrasser.com/connect-no-place-to-common-core>

Homelessness Survey by Weissman (2015?) (distribute before and after reading the book)

- What is homelessness?
- If an adult becomes homeless, is it his or her fault?
- How can an adult who becomes homeless remedy this situation?
- What does a homeless person look like physically?
- How does a homeless person feel as he or she tackles this challenge?
- Have you ever had a friend whose family has gone through, or is going through, this challenge? If yes, describe, without giving his or her name, what this experience has done to him or her?
- How would you react to a homeless person on the street? Would you give him or her money? Explain why or why not.
- Would you try to help a homeless person in other ways? Why and how? Or why not?
- Do you feel that government should provide for the homeless? Or should they be left to fend for themselves? Explain your position with some supportive details and include a counterargument the other side would offer and how you would react to that argument.
- ONLY ANSWER after reading *No Place*. Look over your initial responses to questions 1-9 before reading this book. In what ways have your opinions changed or remained the same? Detail how the characters, plot, terms, ideas, allusions to *The Grapes of Wrath*, or other story elements in *No Place* have reshaped your view on homelessness or confirmed your initial perspectives. Would you have agreed with Dan's uncle Rob, the mayor, or Aubrey about Dignityville? Explain your response.