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Period 3
Literature Assessment #2
Fiction
September 23

 I read the book Out of Order by A.M. Jenkins. In this book the main character’s name is Colt Trammel. Colt loves baseball and girls, but he doesn’t like school. Colt is a sophomore, he is good looking and a great baseball player. There is this new girl who walks in with green hair and looks like a man. Colt hates people who dye their hair weird colors and are scurvy. Her name is Corinne, but he calls her Greenland. She was supposed to help him with his school work, but he denies her.

 Colt has a girlfriend named Grace. She is a pretty blonde who is prude and smart. Colt tried to go the distance with her, but he tells Grace that he loves her. She gets mad and he takes her home. This isn’t the first time Grace has gotten mad at Colt so he tries not to give in to her. It wasn’t long and the next day he was already on the phone with her. She didn’t answer so he went to her house and apologized. Colt was barely passing his classes, so his mom said that he had to get his grades up or he would be grounded and no baseball. Colt didn’t care about school, but if he wanted to play baseball he had to get help. He asked Greenland if she could help him with his poetry and the rest of his classes.

While Colt and Greenland studied and worked on poetry, they talked about each other’s lives and their relationships. During lunch, Colt and his friends are sat on the baseball bleachers alone. Usually they hit balls for a while, but one day, Gutterson, had a cat that had been pooping in the batter’s box. Gutterson asks Colt for his bat, but Colt tells him to put the cat in the freezer in the concession stand. Gutterson puts the cat in the freezer, and Colt lets it out later.

    Things were starting to go good between Grace and Colt, but then Grace finds out that it was Colt’s idea to put the cat in the freezer. He sees Grace talking to Palmer and getting real close to him. When Colt sees Grace in the hall, he tries to apologize, but she dumps him. It turns out that Grace let Palmer, this senior jock, go the distance with her and he is heartbroken. Towards the end Greenland can tell that he was having a bad day and they go to a movie.

 I can relate to the main character, Colt, because he enjoyed baseball and was really good at it. He threw three or four no-hitter games his freshman year. I can also relate to the way Colt got really into the games, and the way he described the contact he had with the ball and bat. He didn’t like being cramped up inside not doing anything, he’d rather be outside enjoying the day. Colt was whipped by his girlfriend he had and the way that goes, she ended up breaking his heart. I can compare that to the past heartbreakers in my life. Colt’s mother was a tough lady and was very strict about his grades. My mother is also a little psycho about my grades too.

Something I didn’t like was how Colt’s girlfriend was pushing him around and trying to control the relationship. I dislike that because it’s show his weakness in the relationship. At one point in the book she told Colt she wanted to be in control and to take things slow. One of the things I liked in the book was how Colt described his love for baseball. Another thing that bothered me was the way he thought he could just slack off in school and get so distracted by other stuff. I disliked it because it shows how lazy and careless he was. However, he got past it with help from a “different” girl in his class and ended up getting the grades he needed to participate in baseball. One thing that I liked is when Colt saved a cat from a freezer I liked this because it shows courage. However, I didn’t like it when it was his idea to put the cat in the freezer, I disliked this because it isn’t the right thing to do.

 I’ve mentioned similar things in the previous paragraphs, but three ways Colt has changed is his grades, him getting over his girlfriend, and his relationship with the girl that helped him with his grades. Colt had to overcome his failing grades to be in baseball. With the help of his persistent mom and Corinne, the girl in the class, Colt got his F’s up to C’s. After his break-up with his girlfriend, he was forced to move on. Colt must have realized there was nothing he could, which is probably a good thing. Finally his relationship with Corrine was they were better friends, and he looked past her skanky clothes and hair and they eventually went on a friend date.