

Friday Night Lights: Book Reviews

Reviewer #1: Aiden W.

How would you describe the difficulty level of your book?

The storytelling is very straightforward, and I don't think that any of the underlying themes are too difficult to comprehend. At times some of the anecdotes could be a little confusing, but the main story isn't hard to follow.

What did you enjoy most about your book?

I thought it was cool to know that this is an account of a true story about a real town and its football team at a specific point in time. There are a lot of dramatic sports tales written for only their entertainment value, but this book tells it exactly as it was and also analyzes more aspects of the life of the players and citizens of the town than just their behavior on the field.

What did you enjoy least about your book?

It felt like some of the messages could be a little bit repetitive, criticizing the players' lack of devotion to their education and some of the racial conflicts. The same things were brought up over and over just in slightly different ways.

To what extent will your book help you with your final speech in American Lit?

Our speech is going to delve into why people like the characters of Friday Night Lights act the way that they do, so the book was a good introduction and guideline for how we might expect people behave.

Did your book help you understand anything better or differently?

It gave me a different perspective on my own life and how I choose to manage sports and school, to see my priorities through a different lens and assess what is really important to me and what things I need to keep in mind for my future.

Did this book deserve to be one of the five full-length books you read this year for American Lit? Why or why not?

I don't think so. It was an interesting and fun read, but I don't feel that it really works on multiple different levels at the depth that most of our other texts did throughout the year. The book sort of seems to be intended to be taken at face value, and that doesn't make for great discussions where you're analyzing and synthesizing at a high level.

What kind of reader would be the ideal audience for this book?

Definitely students who have an interest in sports, especially those who have a passion for high school sports. For anyone who puts their athletics first and couldn't care less about schoolwork, it may be somewhat of an eye-opening read.

Out of five stars, how many stars would give this book?
I give Friday Night Lights 3 out of 5 stars.

Reviewer #2: Ethan O.

How would you describe the difficulty level of your book?

- The book was not that difficult! Really liked Bissinger's style. Made it a lot easier to read

What did you enjoy most about your book?

- Enjoyed the book expanding on issues outside of football! Makes it much more interesting!

What did you enjoy least about your book?

- The only downfall, was that it seemed slightly slow at times. There were times where not much was happening, so reading was a little boring.

To what extent will your book help you with your final speech in American Lit?

- It will help a bit! There are examples we can take that we will incorporate into the speech

Did your book help you understand anything better or differently?

- Not necessarily, but it brought attention to my eyes regarding how long racism has affected places like Odessa. It also brought attention to how little some places care about education

Did this book deserve to be one of the five full-length books you read this year for American Lit?

Why or why not?

- I enjoyed it as a book club book, so I would say so. Really interested in football, so seeing this real life story of these people was really interesting.

What kind of reader would be the ideal audience for this book?

- I would say a person that enjoys football or sports but is also willing to read about more than just the game. This book tackles a lot of issues outside of just the football field.

Out of five stars, how many stars would give this book?

- 4.5! I overall enjoyed, but there were a few boring parts.

Reviewer #3: Kenny G.

How would you describe the difficulty level of your book?

It's an easy read and it's easy to comprehend. The themes are very clear

What did you enjoy most about your book?

How it connected a lot to "waiting for superman"

What did you enjoy least about your book?

It focused too much on the negative and it talked about how girls (cheerleaders) threw themselves to football players because they might be a golden ticket to leave Odessa.

To what extent will your book help you with your final speech in American Lit?

It gave us a question on how people valued football more than education and how they hardly thought about their future

Did your book help you understand anything better or differently?

It did it showed our group how much this small town valued football.

Did this book deserve to be one of the five full-length books you read this year for American Lit?

Why or why not?

Yes because it was simply and straightforward, but there wasn't really any questions which reduced our discussion time.

What kind of reader would be the ideal audience for this book?

The profanity and sexual situations and racial terms this book should be for juniors or perhaps sophomores

Out of five stars, how many stars would give this book?

I would give it a 4 and how easy of a read it was and the themes were easily found in the book

Reviewer #4: Brad G.

How would you describe the difficulty level of your book?

- It was not very difficult at all.

What did you enjoy most about your book?

- The reason I enjoyed the book so well is because it was about football, and I enjoy basically any sports book.

What did you enjoy least about your book?

- To me there was a lot of slow parts with pity drama.

To what extent will your book help you with your final speech in American Lit?

- Our final speech is on effort in school compared to effort on the field, so this book relates very well because it seemed like the kids in the book only cared about football compared to school.

Did your book help you understand anything better or differently?

- Yes it helped me understand how important high school football is to Texas.

Did this book deserve to be one of the five full-length books you read this year for American Lit?

Why or why not?

- I really enjoyed this book so I would say it deserves to stay as one of the books you offer for book clubs.

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What kind of reader would be the ideal audience for this book?

- I think they should be high schoolers so they can relate to being a student athlete in the high school level.

Out of five stars, how many stars would give this book?

Reviewer #5: Jared S.

How would you describe the difficulty level of your book?

What did you enjoy most about your book?

What did you enjoy least about your book?

To what extent will your book help you with your final speech in American Lit?

Did your book help you understand anything better or differently?

Did this book deserve to be one of the five full-length books you read this year for American Lit?
Why or why not?

What kind of reader would be the ideal audience for this book?

Out of five stars, how many stars would give this book?

Reviewer #6: Ashleigh N.

How would you describe the difficulty level of your book?

I found the book quite difficult to read, actually. I just struggled to get through it since I'm not really all that interested in it. I thought it would be a lot more similar to the TV show, which I find more interesting.

What did you enjoy most about your book?

I think I enjoyed the realness factor. Like, it wasn't just some other fantasy sports book that I would normally come across, this was a real life scenario and it was cool to read about despite my lack of interest.

What did you enjoy least about your book?

It's about sports. I didn't understand 90% of the football terms & I just don't find sports to be interesting.

To what extent will your book help you with your final speech in American Lit?

If anything I think the book will not help me personally to form the final speech. I wasn't planning on addressing any of the topics in that book to my speech, so I'm a little worried. I had forgotten we were doing it as a group, too.

Did your book help you understand anything better or differently?

Not really.

Did this book deserve to be one of the five full-length books you read this year for American Lit? Why or why not?

I personally don't think so. The other books we read were much more interesting and eye catching than this one, but that's also coming from somebody who doesn't prefer non-fiction unless it's some kind of murder mystery. Also, I think some people just wouldn't have the appeal to a sports book.

What kind of reader would be the ideal audience for this book?

Any kid who's into sports or addressing racial issues.

Out of five stars, how many stars would give this book?

Probably a 3