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The structure of this book acknowledges the historical treatment of Native people across North America. Responding to historical wrongs such as governments attempting to erase Native American identities and outsiders profiting from cultural appropriation, Annick Press has designed the publication so that each contributor highlights his or her heritage, nation or reserve in their byline and guaranteed that the artists who contributed retain full copyright privileges for their work.

Integrating pieces from this book into a variety of instructional topics and units will show students that Native Americans aren't a unit to be studied, but people in the midst of our community with relevant perspectives, roles and talents.

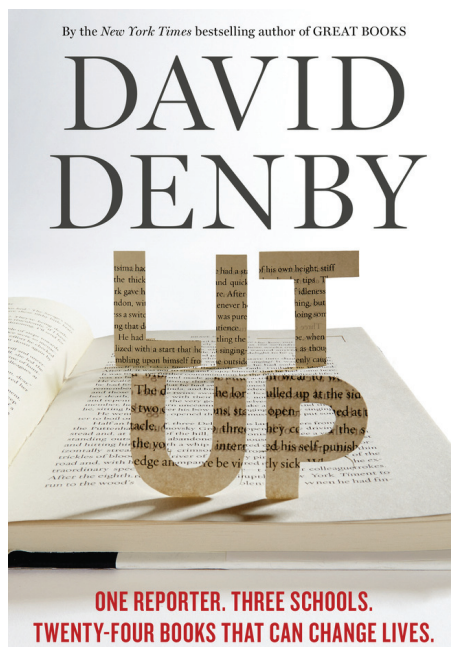
Lit Up

by David Denby

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Interested in how teachers draw students into a challenging text? Join reporter, David Denby, as he documents how different teaching philosophies, different schools, and three individual teachers engage tenth-graders with twenty-four tough reads.

David Denby wondered about the effects of our cultural obsession with technology on students' brains. Like us, he has heard the claims that the ability to access infinite information through electronics produces students with richer reading lives. He also thought, as Maryann Wolf, professor of child development at Tufts University thinks, reading on devices could also prevent those same students from "being able to settle down into 'deep reading'—the



kind of sustained immersion in a text that yields the greatest pleasure and learning.” Would and could students see the worth and willingly put the time into reading challenging books like *Brave New World*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *The Scarlet Letter* and more?

To assess this, he went looking for English teachers and schools that would allow him to sit in on their Grade 10 classes, read the books and observe teachers, styles, and students. He chose 10th grade because 15-year-olds are on the cusp of adulthood, able to comprehend larger ideas, yet still maintain a degree of neuroplasticity. Teachers could potentially reach them and embed a love of books in their lives.

Lit Up declares it is about three schools and touches on the power of Literature Circles with the work of Susan Zelenski

in the low-performing Hillhouse School in Connecticut. We also glimpse teachers working to implement the ideas of Penny Kittle and Teri Lesesne by attempting to engage readers through choice, book talks and independent reading at Marmorek Independent, just outside of New York City. Although this school has much more wealth than Hillhouse, it also had students disengaged with reading. Most of the book, however, focuses on one brilliant teacher, Sean Leon, during a year at Beacon, an alternative high school in New York. David Denby is obsessed with how one person can take 23 15-year-olds through a rigorous, and even depressing, curriculum, keeping them engaged and learning.

Following Sean Leon's class is a confusing maze for David Denby. He often wonders why Leon would take such a path, ask a certain driving question, focus on a certain response, but he is rarely disappointed with the results. He describes intimate details of student lives and how deep exploration of these books adjusts their judgment of others, their families and themselves. He also reflects on the art of building community, respect and self-worth in a classroom. *Lit Up* provides insights and understanding of 24 challenging novels and how they work with today's students.

Reading *Lit Up* conjures the stamina, drive, knowledge and ultimately the art, needed to engage teenagers in the act of reading and responding to texts that few adults would willingly attempt. It brings a respect to teaching that is rarely seen and is an inspirational read for teachers and readers alike. ■