The Adolescent Rebellion against Panoptical Society: A Foucauldian Analysis of Adolescent Development in Contemporary Young Adult Novels.

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Abstract: Young adult literature has developed from a didactic means of behavioral control over adolescent development in contemporary young adult novels. This rebellion is against the panoptical society, as discussed by Michel Foucault. The novel under analysis focuses on the development of a protagonist through the rebellion against the societal norms and expectations set forth by the panoptical society. The protagonist's journey is marked by the exploration of self-discovery, individuality, and the empowerment to resist the societal pressures imposed by the panoptical society. Through the protagonist's rebellion, the novel provides a critique of the societal norms and challenges the traditional roles and expectations imposed on adolescents in contemporary young adult literature. The protagonist's journey is a representation of the struggle for identity, autonomy, and the pursuit of freedom in the face of oppressive societal structures.
adolescents to a means of promoting the reader’s psychologic independent individual. In contemporary works (1970s onward), the use of Foucault’s theory of the Panoptical society has given way to the development of the adolescent rebel. In these novels, a pattern can be seen in which the control of the Panoptical society and accepts the role of adolescent rebel. In particular, this pattern can be seen in the works of Francine Prose (Wringer and Stargirl), Bette Greene (The Drowning of Stephan Jones) (Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Daughter). Each of these adolescent rebel character defying the social ideals centered on age, sexuality, and race. This pattern is important to the genre of young adult literature because it not only brings new literary merit to the idea of the adolescent reader’s psychological growth and development, as noted by Lawrence Kohlberg and Erik Erikson.

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