

## CINEMATIC ADAPTATION OF YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE: FROM MIRRORING REALITY TO SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION

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### **Abstract**

*Today, Young Adult Literature has become a prominent source of entertainment as the readers instantly connect with the content. Be it X, Y or Z generation, the appeal to these texts remains unanimously high. The readers link with YA texts in multifarious ways to the existing situation of the society, due to the depiction of different elements. This works as a mirroring reality. Thus, showcasing the faces formed and reformed in and by the society.*

*The characters sketched in Young Adult texts carry an exactness and relatability. This tends to attract cinematographers to bring these texts to screens. When these strong characters are cast on screen, a trail of thread between the characters and the audience is woven. The audience is then led to an analytic approach for judgments. Thus, inducing an ability to 'think critically'. It allows an individual to structure opinion, transparently permitting to like range of characters and their traits instead of viewing it in black and white. Young Adult Literature, encompasses the bulk of human traits which could be threatening and challenging but on the contrary it also provides the dealing strategies for family conflicts, struggle with morality, cultural craft, kindness & respect, response to death and tragedy, views on love and marriage, self-direction, brotherhood, resilience etc. It at large, discusses range of diversified judgments, working constructively on characters and attributes. Hence, fosters an alteration in behavior and mindset which calls for societal transformation.*

### **Keywords**

*Mirroring Reality, Character Construct, Societal Transformation, Cinematic adaptation*

Reference to this paper should be made as follows:

**Received: 22.02.2025**  
**Approved: 18.03.2025**

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**Article No.19**  
*RJPSS Oct.-Mar. 2025,  
Vol. L No. 1,  
pp. 139-143*

Similarity Check - 05 %

**Online available at:**  
<https://anubooks.com/journal-volume/rjps-2025-vol-l-no1-mar>

<https://doi.org/10.31995/rjps.2025.v50i01.019>

Young Adult Literature, is an appealing genre for the youth today. The profound likeliness and fondness are mainly, because they devour on the constant and constantly changing environment around us. The readers are fascinated by the writer's style of bringing truth and reality to light. Sometimes the traumatic and unexpected labyrinths mark the unsettling attraction for the text. These texts are hugely celebrated by the readers and their popularity grows worldwide. Such Young Adult texts are vastly enjoyed by all generations; due to the exact and immediate connection formed with the characters, storyline, theme, sentiments, relationships and emotions etc.

Since Young Adult literature is immensely relished, the cinematographers find it pleasingly apt for screens. There have been many examples that delineate the fact that Young Adult texts gain momentum when words become dialogue and characters become actors. This formulates the way of Young Adult literature to occupy cinematic adaptation. *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green, *The Outsiders* by SE Hinton, *Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard, *The White Tiger* by Arvind Adiga and *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher etc., are a few of the examples of cinematic adaptations which became blockbusters of the time. These cinematic adaptations are able to create a trail of thread between the characters, situations and the viewers. The happenings, and sequence of events conjugate strongly with the viewer, proportionately in a way that it becomes a *mirroring reality*. They contain all the major elements and human traits, forming the grounds for *societal transformation*. Thus, the paper seeks to explore and trace the trajectory from reflections of reality that catalyts societal transformation.

In the paper *Thematic Analysis of Social Issues in Ten Young Adult Novels*, Brittany Sale discusses sensitive issues like bullying, suicide & LGBTQ and mental health. The response to positive and negative situations in a family, love, support, companion, death and loss are taken into account forming a deductive statement of the social environment of readers. The paper *Some Issues in Young Adult Literature* by Sandra Bayona and Antonella Percara exclusively discuss on disturbing societal

Issues based on Edward Stratemeyer's Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew series about genetic manipulation and cloning. The need for a hero clinches the innocence, due to the possible need of tomorrow's dystopia. A similar effect is seen in Veronica Roth's *Divergent Series*.

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley has been cast on screen many times. It raises social issues like the disapproval of the female gender in the society, social class, patriarchal structure and hazardous calls taken by humans destroying the social structure, harmony and environment.

There has been an evolution in writing styles; the modern authors try to go beyond just text. They try to be as transparent as possible to project the constant and the changing constant. Young Adult text has also become a changing constant; writers have been able to contemplate the *sigmas* and *stigmas*. The on-screen adaptation of such works is able to direct societal rules; it is also capable of bending rules for the betterment of the society.

The present paper inculcates the discussion on *Thirteen Reasons Why* and *The White Tiger*.

*Thirteen Reasons Why*, a series by Jay Asher is an onscreen adaptation. It showcases the darker side of a teen's life. Jay Asher portrayed characters that speak for life. His series at large speaks about *vulnerability* and *victimization*. The readers/audience are bonded with these characters mainly due to *emotional vulnerability*, it allows them to undergo self-realization, where they understand that they were never alone or they were not the only ones encountering with certain situations. In the series, Hanna Baker, is molested and raped. She experiences deep *mental agony* and *alienation*, and later commits suicide, which seems to trigger *suicidal instincts* after being devastated. But on the contrary it reveals the aftermath and becomes suggestive in not attempting such an act. Few other female characters like Jessica Davis and Chloe tolerate harassment, unraveling *violence* against women and girls. These female victims were constantly suppressed by privileged-class males. Jay Asher tried to bring dominantly existing *class discrimination* and *injustice* to his readers. This again becomes a common frame of connection between the author and the readers. *Thirteen Reasons Why* sparked questions on *the mental health* and *well-being* of teens, as the series sheds light on drug consumption among youth. It resonates with the present and variety of community, and pushes elders to respond to unheard sobs of the young.

Alongside, the literary texts also empower their readers/viewers to *think critically*. The projection of the abovementioned sensitive issues idealizes the readers and leads to a refined understanding of *judgments*, awakened *conscience*, ability to act and react, and strength to fight *deception* and to be *resilient*. The series also urges to be open about odd circumstances towards parents or guardians in order to reduce complexities and reach a resolution.

*The White Tiger* by Arvind Adiga, is another cinematic adaptation. Arvind Adiga has straightforwardly targeted the Indian government system and working policies. The author wittingly paces up with a *satirical approach* and *humorously* delivers ideas on the present state of *corruption* in India.

*The country is full of people like him, I'll tell you that. And we entrust our glorious parliamentary democracy"—he pointed at me—"to characters like these. That's the whole tragedy of this country."* (page no. 8)

The above lines from the novel illustrate *class discrimination*, and how poor are considered feeble and *mocked* by the privileged class. Their life is given little to no importance and this develops *rage*.

*The White Tiger* also raises questions on the *political ethics* and misusing political power and considering the weaker class of the society as scapegoats.

The readers perceive *unlawful, unjust and mistreatment* of humans that prevails in the Indian system and society. Arvind Adiga reflected lesser talked victims who become the greater sufferers. It's a call to be sympathetic and open-minded for the sake of humans, not the class for they were born as everybody.

The novel allows its readers/viewers to delve into the pathetic state of humans. It was able to bring serious points of concern happening around us and *the stigma*- manipulating and shrewd people, pestering on innocent.

To conclude, Young Adult Literature is an echo of the ground reality that adheres to its readers. It tends to disclose significant elements of human aspects. Young Adult literature paints both *positive* and *negative impressions*, and allows a reader to experience the writer's perception in the traces of *existing reality*. The readers tend to read between the lines and are then induced with *character attributes* and views are shaped and reshaped for becoming a better individual. The ability to *think critically* in similar situations is attained and thus better judgment, leading to better social environment. Young Adult text fosters a thought - When the path seems annihilated another course awaits.

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