

Abstract

The aim of a master thesis called *Police Brutality in Young Adult Literature* is to analyze the portrayal of police brutality in three young adult books, whether it reflects the reality and thus conveys a credible picture of the situation to teenage readers. The three books used for the analysis are *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas, *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone and *Ghost Boys* by Jewel Parker Rhodes. The analysis is based on three key areas and their analysis: the environment, language, and the act of police brutality in connection to racial stereotypes. To do so, the theoretical knowledge from the first three chapters of this thesis is applied. This part covers the concepts of police brutality and applies it to the case of the United States. It shows how the American police force has evolved and its current state, including the factors that influence police brutality in the United States. The analysis of individual books shows, that police brutality is portrayed in a credible way and it shows no distortion of reality for the purposes of fiction. This thesis also highlights the possibility of different interpretation of certain scenes, where the authors attempt to portray racial stereotypes and the interpretation depends on the readers' historical and cultural knowledge, which might result in a slight distortion of understanding the situation. Overall, it can be said, that these books also have the ability to educate, leaving its readers with the chance to learn new information while reading and it also might inspire them to further educate themselves (and then possibly teach others as well), which in the long run could lead to an improvement of the situation.