SIX OF ONE?
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ADULT AND YOUNG ADULT FICTION
HANDOUT

Saturday, February 15, 3 pm, Barclay Room, 2nd Level

Overlap: New literary category for YA fiction since mid-twentieth century.


YA fiction similar to general (adult) fiction except:

- Protagonist usually a teen
- Subject matter and storyline reflect the age/experience/interest of the teen protagonist
- Typical themes are coming-of-age plots, centering on identity, friendships, sexuality, family, morality (justice!)

Adult fiction with comparable themes often uses perspective of an adult.

Younger adult readers, ages 18-30 (a recent category of “New adult fiction”) also read coming-of-age stories, but the protagonist is a twenty-something, encountering pressures of leaving home, college, work, love.

Different reactions by age to same adult novel: Mama’s Child, with mother and daughter protagonists, generates completely opposite responses to the two characters (pro and con).

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