

## Summer Reading 1

Book: Someone Like You

Author: Sarah Dessen

Someone Like You is one of the best selling young adult novels of the century. It is not your average romance cliché of girl falling for boy and boy realizes he loves girl too. The book starts right off with heartbreak when Halley's best friend's boyfriend, Michael, is killed in motorcycle accident. Throughout the book the reader sees Halley be there for her friend Scarlett as she deals with the grief of losing her boyfriend in their final year of high school. High school is stressful as it is, never mind having to lose someone you love on top of that. Along the way of helping Scarlett reestablish her life, Halley finds love with a young man in her grade named Macon. The romance seems sweet and innocent at first, filled with late night adventures and passionate kisses. But things take a turn when Macon constantly pushes Halley to go farther and farther into their sexual relationship. Halley knows she isn't ready to be sexual yet, but Macon doesn't seem to care. Although he never rapes Halley, he becomes very angry when she says no to him. Macon's anger becomes too much one drunken night causing him to get into a car accident with Halley being the more severely injured victim of the incident. The accident ends up putting Halley in the hospital with a broken arm and several bumps and bruises. Macon tries and tries to apologize for his behavior, even telling her he loves her while they wait for an ambulance, but Halley finally comes to realize how unhealthy he made their relationship.

While her affair with Macon unravels, Scarlett and Halley find out that Scarlett is pregnant with Michael's child. Soon the entire school finds out and Scarlett struggles with the idea of having an abortion. She decides to keep the baby even though it will never know its biological father. She knows that her decision is going to lead to a difficult lifestyle of being a single mother but she feels it's the right thing to do. Scarlett gives birth to a healthy baby boy on the night of prom. The book ends with Halley pushing away thoughts of Macon and the difficulties of life as she holds her best friend's baby in her arms. Holding him seems to show that every day, even though life takes things away from us, it also gives back.

### Questions for the author:

1. At the end of the book it says that Scarlett never told her boyfriend's parents about their grandchild until after the baby was born because they moved away after their son's accident. I can't help but wonder what their reaction would have been. Would they have been furious? Would they try to get custody of the child? Would they even want to be a part of that child's life?
2. Why didn't Halley push back whenever Macon became persistent of having sex? She knew of his reckless behavior and his constant pushy attitude, so why didn't she ever tell Scarlett or someone about the unhealthy relationship? Or at least ask for advice? Especially when she struggled to know what to do in the situation. She stood her ground with everything and anyone else, why not him?

3. If Halley's parents tried to get to know Macon better, instead of just judging him right up front, would he have treated Haley better instead of always sneaking around to avoid her parents?

Morals of the book:

This book had a lot of great themes and messages to it. Some stuck out less than others, such as learning to trust your parents judgement on others. One of the major ones was knowing what you want and not letting anyone push you to do something you don't want to do. Macon was always trying to get Halley to have sex with him and she stood her ground. Although she still missed him after their love affair was over, she knew in the end that she was better off. Sometimes with relationships you have to make a list of pros and cons of being with that person. If there is more bad than good, then leaving that person is beneficial to you, even if it doesn't seem like it right away.

This book is great to read, especially for young high school girls. It has great lessons on coping with losing a loved one, consoling someone who has, and how to stand your ground if you're not comfortable with someone or something. Definitely would recommend it to underclassmen girls and boys.