

by Camara

In Language Arts class we read the novel *Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman. In his novel, he tells the story of Brent, how, when he goes to a party he gets drunk, tries to drive home but ends up in a car accident and kills the other driver. The other driver was a teenage girl. Her mother was very distraught by this, so she asked for one thing from him, to put a whirligig in every corner of the country. In class, we made sketches of our own whirligigs with themes from the book. Also we did paragraphs about those themes.

At a party held by people who go to Brent's new school, there is mention of heavy alcohol intake and drug usage. Brent, after many alcoholic beverages, gets drunk and tries to drive home, but he gets into a car accident, and ends up killing the other driver. Many things like this happen in the world by dumb teenagers getting drunk at a party then trying to drive, but then almost killing themselves or other people. In our class designs for the drunk driving symbol, most people put a whisky or beer bottle.

Traveling the country comes up a lot in *Whirligig*. After Brent kills the girl, he goes to places like Miami and stays in cheap motels. Just like other people who like to travel might if they're on an adventure. Also homeless people might just get on a bus and go someplace.

What I learned from this book is that you should always value your life and other people's as well, and that most people aren't as fortunate as you.