

Student Book Review
Mr. and Mrs. Bo Jo Jones, By Ann Head

What would do if you were sixteen and pregnant? Would you keep the baby? How would you tell your parents? Those are the questions July Greher and her boyfriend Bo Jo are faced with in the novel Mr. and Mrs. Bo Jo Jones by Ann Head. The glamorous life of proms, parties, and the pretty life are all forced down the drain because of one night. What would you do? Do you give it all up? Or do you face up to the consequences?

The story is cleverly written in the head of July, as you read you understand what is going on through her head. The thoughts often make you laugh to yourself because of July's sarcastic thoughts. There is a very serious side to the story, because it makes you wonder what you would do in that kind of situation. For example when the characters tell their families, the detail the story goes into makes you stop and think for a moment about how your own parents would react to something like getting pregnant at the age of sixteen?

When initially reading the title the assumption made is that the book is directed towards girls, but that is far from the truth. Bo Jo is the main male character in the book; he is a senior getting ready to graduate from high school. The book talks about the sacrifices he makes for July and his future baby. Bo Jo gives up graduating from high school, his chances for college and a full football scholarship. "My heads in knots I can't think anymore!"- Bo Jo (56) The story arises the question for males; would you give it all up?

While reading the book you realize how being young and scared really takes a toll on the decisions you make, for example impulsively getting married to create some sort of quick fix. Getting married at a young age wasn't to uncommon in the 1970's but in the tear filled eyes and confused minds of July and Bo Jo it seemed like the best way to fix their "problem". The two characters really grow through the entirety of the story, they grow mentally and physically, they grow closer, but most importantly they grow up.

Throughout the entire story you as the reader experience everything being read as if it were your own life. The book constantly raises questions to you, based off of what the young couple is going through. The book Mr. and Mrs. Bo Jo Jones is a real story of real people, with real situations. "And I actually reflected, I wouldn't be in anyone's shoes right now for all the flowers in Bermuda... having it all to learn again."- July (189) "just two crazy mixed-up kids... not ready for love much less getting married... but were a lot older than we were and we mean a lot more to each other then we did then."- Bo Jo (186)

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