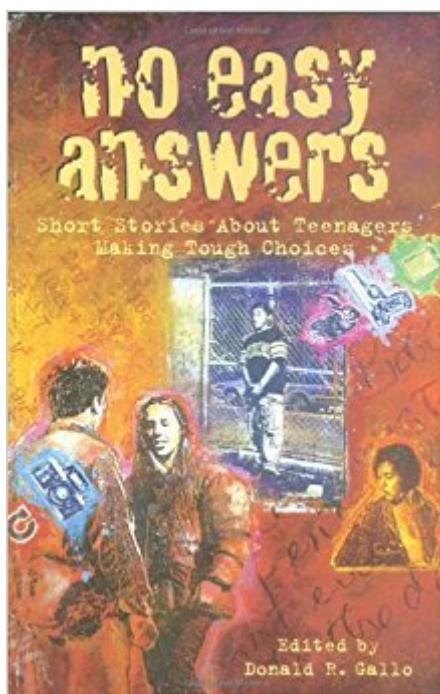


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# No Easy Answers: Short Stories About Teenagers Making Tough Choices (Laurel-Leaf Books)



## **Synopsis**

This anthology features stories about individuals who find themselves in situations that test their strength of character. They are called upon to make moral choices, face the consequences of their actions, and consider what it means to "do the right thing. " From computer blackmail, peer pressure, and gang violence to drug use, unwanted pregnancy, guilt and atonement, these characters face decisions that may affect the rest of their lives. There are many tough choices; there are no easy answers. From the Hardcover edition.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 0790 (What's this?)

Series: Laurel-Leaf Books

Mass Market Paperback: 336 pages

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ISBN-10: 0440413052

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Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.9 x 6.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #412,143 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #86 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Peer Pressure #210 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories #215 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Values & Virtues

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

This collection of 16 original stories by distinguished YA writers "seems designed for the classroom," said PW. "With its clear presentations of ambiguous issues, it should particularly interest teachers trying to stimulate discussions." Ages 12-up. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 10 Up. This collection of stories is intended to illustrate some of the moral choices facing teenagers today. Issues include computer blackmail, peer pressure, and self-censorship. The

characters must decide for themselves the right thing to do. M.E. Kerr, Ron Koertge, Walter Dean Myers, Jack Gantos, and Rita Williams-Garcia are among the contributors. While these authors write well in the novel format, their talent is not always evident in this short story format. In Louise Plummer's "Bliss at the Burger Bar," the 18-year-old manager of a fast-food restaurant tries to comfort a teenage employee who is pregnant and has just been beaten by her boyfriend, but readers never find out what happens to her. In T. Ernesto Bethancourt's "Moon over Missouri," a teen who developed a best-selling CD-ROM adventure game is being sued because of its content, but the story ends before the case goes to trial. Other selections are equally open-ended, and most YAs will be left with a feeling of discontent, wanting to know what happens next. While the lack of conclusions might lead to some interesting discussions within a moderated group, it will be less satisfying for independent readers. ?Tracy Taylor, Los Angeles Public LibraryCopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

There are such moving and real stories in this book. I read it in college as a part of my YA Lit class. I have not forgotten the characters on these stories. Just heart wrenching my beautiful

Great stories for high school students who are in trouble or who have friends who make poor decisions. My students love this.

The book is pretty good, but it is NOT appropriate for a school setting. I purchased it in hopes that it would have real world short stories that my high school students could better relate to, but it only had a few that I could share with my kids. It is a very good read, but just deals with the real world, which we aren't necessarily encouraged to teach.

I bought additional copies for our classroom library. Many of these short stories are taught in my junior literature class as we study teen issues. Some of these are quite enlightening.

A great conversation started of much needed conversations between adolescents and adults. A definite must read and use for educators in the urban middle school.

Is not what I understood it to be. Was not happy with the book . Glad I did not pay a lot . Will sell it at a garage sale . Won't even bother to finish it .

The very first short story in this collection concerned a female teacher who is caught skinny-dipping. It mentions breast enlargement, penile implants, "woodies", jockstraps, etc. One passage reads, "Or when the guys are all in the shower, naked and white, standing under the spray and steam, vague, like ghosts, that really is beautiful." Further along, it reads, "The pair rose up in waist-deep water, arms wrapped about each other, and kissed deeply. "Good God!" Bobby breathed. "Her boyfriend is... is... is a friggin' woman," Lance murmured." Granted, the story eventually mentions decision-making, finding the right kind of friends, and understanding people's right to privacy; however, this is definitely not the quality of material that I would ask my students to read aloud and discuss in class. The subject matter could have been very useful for character education without the sensationalistic appeal to teenage hormones.

This collection of short stories does indeed bring to light various moral dilemmas. However, the content is highly inappropriate for middle school students because of the graphic references to voyeurism, "penile enlargement", and other sexual content. There is no doubt that kids at this age may be exposed to some of this- but not to the extent of the descriptions in these stories. The stories will make students very uncomfortable and not because of the dilemmas so much as these references; parents will definitely oppose this as well. My suggestion is read the book first before selecting it for this age group.

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