

## ***What Teachers Are Saying***

▼ My class has just finished reading ***Players*** and they loved it. The students all responded that they loved the book and rated it as the best book that they have had to read at school. One student said it kept them “intrigued.” They even asked to read it aloud in class! I have passed it on to another Study Skills class and plan to read it with my Basic Reading class. The students were wondering about Mr. Taylor’s next novel, ***Jammers***. Is it available yet?

*Krissy Huskey  
South Forsyth High School  
Cumming, GA*

▼ I was privileged to use ***Players*** as soon as it came off of Tim Taylor's desk at Sandy Creek High School. I have worn several hats at SCHS and have used his book, ***Players***, as a text in 11th grade Applied English, summer school English, 11th and 12th grade Resource Class, 9th grade College Prep, and in my Freshman Reading classes. The book has truly been a "God's send" to all my students. I have given a few surveys for my Georgia State class work and ***Players*** has been the most popular book we have read among all our Literature books and other popular trade books.

I think the good and interesting writing, the connection to the book having been written at Sandy Creek as an interactive activity with the students, and the topic of playing in high school has helped my students truly connect to this book.

I have spent most of my 25-year teaching career trying to reach and teach the reluctant reader, and I am always confident this book will make my job easier.

*Jane Stilwell  
Sandy Creek High School  
Tyrone, GA*

▼ I attended the Michigan Reading Association presentation by Mr. Taylor and purchased 3 books. I am really excited about this book and have already introduced it to a few of my reluctant readers. I can't wait to receive the teacher's guide.

*Tracey Coletta  
Title 1 Reading Instructor  
Oakridge Middle School  
Muskegon, Michigan*

▼ I teach 9th graders at Pope High School. You must have been a fly on the wall

at our last department meeting because we deeply discussed our non-reader's apathy. I would love to preview for a potential parallel reading selection.

*Beth M. Warren*  
*English Department*  
*Pope High School*  
*Marietta, GA*

▼ I have just finished *Players* with my 9th grade resource English class. I wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed the novel. My kids were excited and couldn't wait to find out what happened next. Whenever I wanted to stop and ask questions, they wanted me to hush so they could continue listening to the story (I read most of it aloud to them although they read some aloud as well). We enjoyed reading the AJC article about the author, as well.

There were so many techniques and concepts we explored – setting, conflict, part of plot, prediction, sequencing, compare/contrast, point of view, and allusion, to name a few. And we spent lots of time on various aspects of characterization. My kids (in addition to study guide questions, vocabulary, and quizzes) constructed a matrix comparing traits of the major characters such as physical appearance, “things” they were good at, their dislikes, their “wants,” and finally, what they each learned. For the final assessment, they wrote five paragraph essays comparing three different characters in one of three areas: a) how events changed their lives; b) how they changed personally throughout the novel; or, c) how they acted as “Players” in the novel. The essays won't make anybody's list of great literature, but I'm excited because they actually discuss a topic, draw conclusions, and generally make sense!

Thanks again for giving us permission to read the novel in advance of publication. Hopefully, ***Players*** will soon be on “required” reading lists everywhere!

*Beth King*  
*Fayette County High School*  
*Fayetteville, GA*

▼ I was one of the teachers in your workshop at Callaway Gardens. We read ***Players*** aloud in my senior British Literature class. The kids loved it! We had some good discussions. Now, I would like to order your new book, ***Jammers***. We are reading ***Players*** in my junior classes now. Some students have told me they heard from my other class it was a good book. That's pretty high praise when it comes from students. Thank you for writing it.

*Regina Myers*  
*Chattooga High School*  
*Summerville, GA*