Davis Watkins

Mrs. Dale

English 9

May 16, 2013

 *Tears of a Tiger*, Written by Sharon M. Draper, is a book that will make you second guess your decisions and the people you hang out with. After reading this book I always make sure that I am doing the right things around the right people. This book also shows the significance of why teenagers shouldn’t drink alcohol. *Tears of a Tiger* will make you understand, the decision you make not only effect you.

 On Nov. 8 Robert Washington, age 17, captain of the Hazelwood High School basketball team, was killed in a car wreck. Andrew Jackson, age 17, who had been drinking alcohol, was the driver. Andrew Jackson wrecked the car and killed his best friend, Robert Washington. The car exploded and Robert burned to death, while he friend watched hopelessly.

 Driving under the influence of liquor is very dangerous. Most ca4r accidents which are alcohol related mostly involve teenager, intoxicated teenagers. Today the average age of an American girl to have her first drink of alcohol is at the age of 13. The average age for an American boy to have his first drink of alcohol is at the age of 11. Young people who drink are more likely to be victims of violent crime, to be involved in alcohol-related traffic accidents, and to have depression and anxiety. Teenagers that drink before the age of 21 are most likely to: Be involved in violent behaviors, attempt suicide, engage in unprotected sex or have multiple sex partners, and develop alcohol problems later in life.

 Some student at Andrew Jackson’s school wrote killer on his locker. Andrew started failing classes. Andrew and his girlfriend started fighting often; he felt that it was better to die than to live. Andrew Jackson had no escape, he had to face his life that was very hard to handle.

Andrew and Keisha broke up. Andrew called his counselor, but his counselor wasn’t available. Andrew called Keisha’s house but her mom answered and said it was too late for him to talk to her and that Keisha was sleep.

 Andrew wasn’t at school today. Rhonda and Keisha were talking at school and Keisha said she never wanted to see Andrew again. Rhonda decided she would take Andrew his work that he missed for the day.

Andrew didn’t go to school one day and he said, “So I came back here, to sit on my lumpy, linty bedspread, wishin’ I had never been born, strokin’ the smooth, cool barrel of my father’s shot gun. It is very quiet. I’m so sorry for all I’ve done-so sorry,…so very, very sor-“

 Rhonda, Mrs. Jackson, and Monty all arrived at the house at the same time. Mrs. Jackson did not know that Andrew didn’t go to school. A neighbor said that Andrew left and came back to his house. Monty spotted blood on the ceiling. Mrs. Jackson found Andrew’s body with a fatal gunshot wound to the head.

 Gerald, Andy’s friend was very upset with Andrew when he found out Andrew killed himself. Gerald wrote a notes saying he hater Andrew and that Andrew didn’t have enough courage to keep living. Monty thinks that Andrew forgot all about him. Keisha says she finally cries. All Mrs. Jackson does is cry; Mr. and Mrs. Jackson are no longer married, living in separate houses.

 As you can see, *Tears of a Tiger* is a very interesting book. This book teaches a lot to teens, it teaches about drinking alcohol, suicide, peer pressure; the list could go on and on. I loved this book. If you start reading *Tears of a Tiger*, you will not be able to put the book down.