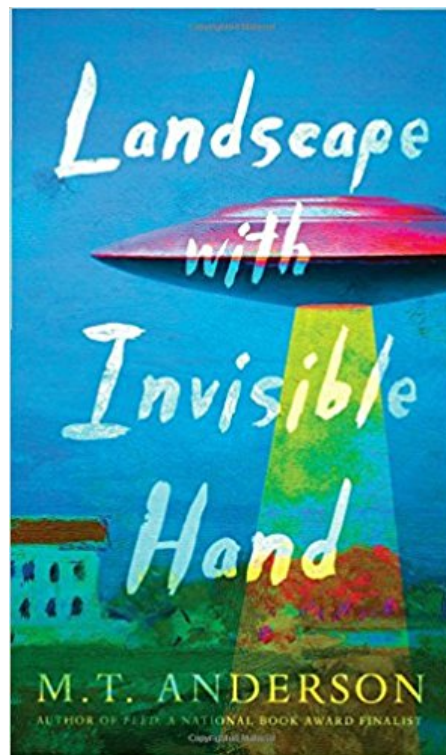


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**Review of *Landscape with Invisible Hand*
By M.T. Anderson**

Adult/ Educator Reviewer: Sidonie Chhetri
Round Rock ISD
Student Review: Promice Ninnie, 8th Grade



Anderson, M. T. (2017). *Landscape with Invisible Hand*. Sommerville, MA:
Candlewick Press

ISBN: 9780763687892

Adult Review: Sidonie Chhetri

Like in all of his writing, M.T. Anderson's *Landscape with Invisible Hand* is certainly original. In this satirical work, Earth has been taken over by aliens known as the vuvv. Their

"Like all good science fiction, this book challenges its readers to think deeply about many elements of our current world."

presence caused an economic collapse as their highly advanced technology replaced workers for nearly every task. In an attempt to provide for his family and obtain medical care he desperately needs, Adam, an aspiring artist, decides to broadcast his relationship with his girlfriend Chloe. The vuvv are obsessed with 1950s America, so Adam and Chloe sign up to go on classic 50s-style dates, which the vuvv pay to watch. Unfortunately, Adam and Chloe's relationship erodes with each episode; soon, they start to hate each other. The vuvv who funded them are unimpressed. Ultimately, Adam must decide whether he will stay true to himself, or give the vuvv what they want in exchange for the money he needs to survive.

Like all good science fiction, this book challenges its readers to think deeply about many elements of our current world. This particular text is especially critical of money. When human currency becomes obsolete, Adam and the rest of humanity must grapple with questions of value: what makes money valuable? Why is some more valuable than others? How does financial inequality impact a society, and does that impact make sense?

Concurrently, the text can also be read as an unflinching look at colonialism. If the vuvv, who are initially welcomed as saviors of humanity because of their advanced technology, are read as colonists, the book can easily be interpreted as an analysis of colonialism's ramifications from the view of the colonized.

This is not your typical YA novel, and it would certainly not appeal to everyone. It is not a particularly enjoyable read. Anderson treats Adam's suffering, both emotional and physical (he has a terrible gastrointestinal disease), as darkly comedic, but the result sometimes just feels dark. This book feels like "young adult" literature in the same vein as *1984* or *Of Mice and Men* are treated as such—many teens could read this book and learn a great deal from it, but it does not feel like the type of text most kids would pick up and enjoy just for fun. Is there an audience for it? Definitely. Can I think of a long list of students I know who would pick it up for independent reading? Nope. However, if you, a student, or someone you know loves science fiction, satire, or dark comedy, I'd definitely give it a chance.

Concerns educators might need to consider before using or recommending this book: The book does contain profanity. The concepts in the book could be challenging depending on student background knowledge and interests

This book would appeal to students interested in science fiction and/or satire. Students who are especially interested in art and economics would probably enjoy this text. Readers would benefit from background knowledge

about 1950s America and basic economics. Students lacking understanding about these concepts may struggle to fully comprehend the text.

Student Review: Promice Ninnie

Nothing can add to our intellect more than reading a book. In books, we can experience new things that we would not normally be able to experience. With an active imagination, you can go to other worlds or made up worlds. Books can change our lives and other people's lives. Reading can make us more intelligent. Without reading we wouldn't know anything that we know today.

If we are going to learn from reading we have to get what the story is about. I wouldn't recommend *Landscape with Invisible Hand* by MT Anderson to people because I feel like it's not correctly written. I really didn't understand what the book was about or how the author wrote it. Would I recommend this book to anyone? No, because it is worded in a very confusing way. I did not follow the story well and it did not make sense to me.

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