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### ***The House of Tomorrow Rationale***

I enjoyed reading *The House of Tomorrow* by Peter Bognanni and after doing this novel study project, I have realized that I would like to teach it in my own classroom. The main reasons that I would want to teach it in my classroom is because of its life-applicable themes, that it takes place in Iowa and Illinois, and that the main character (Sebastian) is interesting and witty. I want to teach this novel if I teach high school because I think it is one that will get students interested and excited about reading in my class.

The biggest theme in the novel is the idea of isolation versus community. This is an idea that we do not often think about in our society because it does not apply to the majority. Because our culture is all about technology, music, junk food, and social situations, we fail to think about the fact that not everyone lives this way. *The House of Tomorrow* really opens up your eyes to the deviant life of Sebastian Prendergast and that there are probably many more teenagers that live isolated lives just like him, but we do not realize it because we are so wrapped up in our world that we do not notice it. Some other groups that tend to be isolated from our society are the Amish, certain religious groups, and people living in poverty. By reading this novel, students will explore the theme of isolation versus community and contemplate what it might be like if they were isolated like Sebastian.

Another important theme in the novel is friendship. In high school students usually have many friends and those friendships are usually somewhat superficial. By reading the novel, they

may get a sense of what a good friend is and how important their role as a friend can be, such as Sebastian's role as a friend in Jared's life. Overall, I think the themes in this novel are appropriate and important for high school students and are ones that they can relate to.

Another reason that I want to teach this novel is that it takes place near to home. I think that students would be able to relate to this novel because the setting takes place in small town in Iowa, and because Buckminster Fuller is from Carbondale, Illinois. Also, since the information about Fuller is nonfiction, they can actually look him up or even visit his museum in Carbondale. Because the novel has a lot of nonfiction embedded in it, it would probably be a novel that we could choose to teach in the classroom since the curriculum is changing to 40% fiction and 60% nonfiction because of the standards. Also, our novel aligns with the standards that we chose for the unit.

Lastly, I want to teach the novel because it is interesting and I think it would get students engaged in reading and discussion. Sebastian, the protagonist, is also an interesting and witty character, which makes reading enjoyable. Honestly, I do not see why any of my students wouldn't like this novel if they read it.