



APA citation	<i>Go ask Alice.</i> (1971). New York, NY: Simon Pulse.
Number of pages	185
Genre	Biography
Age range	Grades 9 - 12
Brief summary	<p>The adjective used on the back of <i>Go Ask Alice</i> perfectly captures the experiences recounted in this troubled teenager's diary: "harrowing." Said to be reproduced from the writer's life, this book enlightens and frightens its readers. The first season of the diary tells of an average adolescent, heartbroken by her first puppy love, self-conscious about her weight, and concerned about fitting in. The reader can follow her demise from the evening she is tricked into her first encounter with drugs, to her denouncement of drug use, to her eventual starvation for drugs. The use of explicit descriptions of her episodes, her cycle of addiction and her repeated efforts to rid herself of drug use, combined with the vicious ways of adolescents who consistently try to bring her back to the lifestyle – to the point of allegedly slipping acid in a box of chocolates – paint a disturbing picture that, hopefully, will be a powerful tool to educate and inform young readers of the reality of drug use.</p>
9Brief evaluation	<p>13/15</p> <p>I think the journal format is a wonderful vehicle for telling this trouble adolescent's story, making the message even more powerful. The accounts written while the writer is under the influence of drugs makes a strong statement, the awful encounters she has while she is using troubles and disgusts the reader, and the thread of her persistence to get her life on track is, at once, touching and upsetting. While the epilogue is tragic, the publisher does not attempt to preach or impose a lesson on the readers. It simply tells how this one girl's story ended and allows the readers, who are already drained by her experiences, to consider what became of her and contemplate what that means to them.</p>

Criteria for Evaluation	0 Does not meet curriculum standards	1 Acceptable but not a first choice	2 Satisfactory	3 Right on target!
Plot	The plot is not interesting.	The plot holds the reader's attention and engages the reader.	The plot is intriguing and enjoyable.	The plot is engaging and provides a story line that invites the reader to turn to the next page!
Issue/Theme	The issue/theme is not pertinent to and/or inappropriate for the intended age group.	The issue/theme is engaging but is not handled in an impressive manner and/or does not thoroughly address the issue/theme.	The book carefully and effectively addresses a critical issue/theme for the intended age group.	The book appropriately covers relevant matters and enables the reader to critically think about his/her position on the issue/theme.
Characters	The characters are undeveloped.	The reader gets a sense of the characters and is somewhat able to get inside their thoughts and motivation but character development could be stronger.	The characters are well-developed. The reader is able to understand their motivation and behavior.	The character development is strong. The reader is able to empathize with their situations, understand their actions and reactions, and critically think about how s/he would behave in the characters' situation.
Dialogue	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Writing Style	The writing style is poor, the story line unclear. It is difficult to follow the progression of events.	The writing style and fluency is acceptable. The reader may be confused on occasion as to sequence of events.	The writing style is enjoyable and the story flows in a natural, coherent progression.	The book is well-written, clearly relays critical information, and exemplifies exceptional mechanics of writing.
Reaction & Response	The book does not provide insight or provoke independent thought, opinions, or ideas.	The book causes the reader to think about the story, characters, and theme but may send conflicting messages that are too confusing for the intended age group.	The book effectively evokes a personal reaction to the text.	The book elicits some sort of a strong emotional reaction while provoking further contemplation of the theme and guiding the reader to independent thought.