Workshop: Handout

Sarah’s Diary

How a very good Christian girl could be seduced by her principal

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**Discussion questions**

1. How does Mr. M groom Sarah to accept his advances?
2. What makes her vulnerable?
3. What is the power differential between them?
4. Why doesn’t she tell on him?
5. Sex offenders can seem humble but really can be very arrogant. What specific examples can you give of Mr. M’s arrogance?
6. You can tell that Sarah feels responsible for the relationship because she mentions several times that “she” needs to be more careful. She even plans what she would do to defend Mr. M if he was caught. What makes Sarah feel responsible for the relationship?
7. What impact does her relationship with Mr. M have on her relationship with God?
8. How does the experience change her view of herself and of her future?
9. Any other observations?
10. Do you believe Mr. M really did love Sarah? If so, how would you describe that love?
11. Once Sarah is in college and an “adult,” is it now an affair or a continuation of the abuse?
12. Even in college, Sarah does not think of the relationship in terms of abuse. She thinks of it as an affair.
    1. What would you say to her to help her understand it is abuse?
    2. In what ways would it be hard for her to make that shift in her thinking?
13. Let’s say Sarah does marry. Can you imagine a scenario where she and her husband can be friends with Mr. & Mrs. M? Could Sarah ever teach at the same school as Mr. M?
14. Let’s say Sarah does come to terms with the true nature of this relationship and confronts Mr. M about all the losses and difficulties it caused her. What are some practical things he could do to make things right?