Scar Island
Dan Gemeinhart

GENRE: Realistic Fiction, Thriller/Suspense, Adventure, Mystery

BOOK SUMMARY
Why was Jonathan Grisby sent to the Slabhenge Reformatory School for Troubled Boys? What was his terrible crime? Do the rulers at Slabhenge make it feel more like a prison than a school? What freak accident left all boys at Slabhenge without any adult supervision? Read this spine-tingling story and see how Jonathan and the other boys came to terms with their crimes and escaped to safety before most of the island was in ruins!

BOOK TALK
A twelve-year-old boy is sent to an island prison in handcuffs, forced to kneel on a dark wood contraption called “Sinner’s Sorrow”, and assigned to a dark, moldy cell with only a lumpy mattress bed and rusty bucket. At morning muster the next day, 16 boys were listening to sentencing for their crimes by eight ruling adults when a drastic weather-changing event altered the lives of the boys with some unforeseeable circumstances!

LINKS TO HELPFUL WEBSITES
● Official Book Trailer: https://youtu.be/GKbm7ymanII
● Official Website: http://dangemeinhart.com/scar-island/
● Author Dan Gemeinhart: http://dangemeinhart.com/
● Other: http://www.bookunitsteacher.com/reading_scarisland/scarislandsample.pdf
● TeachingBooks.net through INSPIRE: https://www.teachingbooks.net/qliw995

MAKERSPACE ACTIVITY
http://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/lighthouse/ -- Plastic cup lighthouse craft activity

https://youtu.be/X2x4X68oqM8 -- Boat staff exchange in lighthouse storm

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
1. Discuss the hidden library and librarian that none of the residents are aware of. (p. 93)
2. Discuss the setting and mood of the novel. How do they contribute to the story?
3. Why do the boys choose to stay on the island? How do their personalities change?

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS BOOK, YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE
● Lord of the Flies by William Golding
● Holes by Louis Sachar

Resource page created by 2019-20 YOUNG HOOSIER BOOK AWARD committee member: Dennis LeLoup, 2018 Retired School Librarian, Avon Intermediate School East, Avon, IN