

Davis's novel has allowed me to hone critical reading skills and to create a variety of reading and writing strategies for students to study fictional and autobiographical literature because I believe that content determines process. Reading skills and subject content are thus taught simultaneously. In addition, a majority of students indicate that the ease in comprehending what they read in the novel has made them want to read more or has changed their attitude about previous experience in literature courses. They have definitely found enjoyment reading, relating and exploring great possibilities for their writings. Most students recommend this book to young adults and mature readers. The vivid artistic quality of this work shows impressive skill and I personally would recommend using this text as a tool in other literature courses.

Prof. Mildred C. Melendez, Ph.D.

#### STUDENT COMMENTS:

I enjoyed reading Davis' novel on Danny. Davis uses imagery and symbolism very well and brought the story to real life. The characters and setting are life-like and the touch of humor helped, also. I appreciate Davis' theme of striving to be something in life and having faith/hope in the novel. I highly recommend this easy to read novel for anyone interested in a good life lesson. -Maureen Agha

Ed Davis uses a brilliant mixture of figurative language and interesting character development to paint a complex world for the reader. It is easy to get lost in the world he creates with such vivid characterization. Ultimately, the story has a universal message. No matter what you go through in life there is always a lesson to learn, and what doesn't kill you will always make you stronger. —Danielle Adams

The word choices and the honesty the author, Ed Davis, uses to describe his protagonist's discovery of sexuality are amazing. -Margarete Lakovich

This novel reminded me of how good my life is and has been. It also allowed me to appreciate more things in my life. It was definitely a spiritual awakening. —Rebecca Malott

This book takes Danny through childhood to his college years and shows us that, regardless of our circumstances, we all have a chance to change them for the better. I would recommend this book to everyone for its ease of reading and lessons it can teach in growing up and dealing with circumstances beyond our control. -Victoria Lentz

I would recommend this book to anyone over fifteen years of age. In fact, I have recommended it to a friend who is seventeen and he loved every minute of it saying, "It matched my life exactly." I think this book is a good read for people of all backgrounds, as it has no ethnic premise. It is simply black and white. —Nicole Carets

Danny finds out how to live life to the fullest and to never give up. Davis's novel is a must read for all high school and college students. —Amber Mingus

I found the novel interesting; I grew up in El Salvador, and when we think of America we usually don't realize its social problems, we think that everything is beautiful, but the novel shows many social problems of American society. —Tomas Araya

I enjoyed the novel I Was So Much OLDER Then by Ed Davis very much. I believe it was a very well written novel. I feel there was never a dull moment. At the end of each chapter, I wanted to just keep reading to find out what would happen next. I loved the main character, Danny; he is full of experience and determination. I felt proud for Danny at the end of the book, that's how involved in the book I became. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a good story, I promise you won't want to put it down. —Sherry Lewis