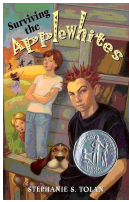


# Passages

## Reading Level 7



**Title:** Surviving the Applewhites

**Author:** Stephanie S. Tolan

### Sample From The Book

The boy slouching against the porch railing had scarlet spiked hair, a silver ring through one dark brown eyebrow, and too many earrings to count. He was dressed entirely in black – black T-shirt, black jeans, black high-top running shoes – and the look in his eyes was pure mean.

“My kind,” E.D. Applewhite said. She had no intention of telling the creep the story of her name. She could tell by looking at him that he’d never heard of Edith Wharton, her mother’s favorite writer. Being probably the only almost-thirteen-year-old girl in the whole country named Edith, she had no intention of giving him even that little bit of ammunition to use against her. E.D., she thought, was at least dignified – like a corporate executive, which one day she just might be. “What kind of a name is Jake Semple?”

Two can play at that game, the boy’s face said. “Mine.”

Not an original bone in his body, E,D. thought. Just a plain ordinary delinquent.

According to her friend Melissa, though, Jake Semple was famous. He had been kicked out of the public schools in the whole state of Rhode Island. Melissa wasn’t sure what all he’d done to achieve that particular distinction, but the word around Traybridge was that one thing he did was burn down his old school.



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US Toll Free: (877) GRLEAPS (475-3277)  
Canada: 1 (352) 271-9720  
Fax: 1 (352) 384-3883

Postal Mail  
Diarmuid, Inc.  
P.O. Box 357580  
Gainesville, FL 32635