

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Weaver/ Holibaugh	School:	Hyatts
Book Title:	A Corner of the Universe	Genre:	Realistic Fiction
Author:	Ann M. Martin	Pages:	189
Publisher:	Scholastic	Copyright:	2002

In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.

Book Summary and summary citation: (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike uncle she never knew and becomes friends with a girl who works at the carnival that comes to Hattie's small town.

Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s): (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

Reading Process - 5. Read purposefully and automatically, using comprehension and self-monitoring strategies.

Reading Applications Literary 13. Analyze plot, character, theme, point of view and setting in varied genres.

Include two professional reviews of this title: (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be "cut and pasted" (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

Review #1

Horn Book starred (Spring, 2003)

Twelve-year-old Hattie's ordinary summer is upset when two strangers come to town: her hitherto unrevealed uncle Adam, who suffers from an unspecified mental illness, and Leila, a girl traveling with an itinerant carnival. Evoking the intricacies of friendship, Martin also understands its perils--the gravity of which becomes apparent in the book's terrifying climax. Taking on serious concerns, this book is also what kids want when they ask for "a book about friends."

Review #2

School Library Journal (September 1, 2002)

Gr 5-8-Watching home movies, Hattie looks back over the summer of 1960 and the events that changed her perception of life. The 12-year-old has difficulty making friends her own age, but enjoys the company of an elderly boarder, the friendly cook, and her artist father. Her relationship with her mother is sometimes difficult because they must always negotiate clothing and behavior to suit her wealthy, overbearing maternal grandmother. Suddenly, an uncle whom Hattie has never heard of comes to live with her grandparents because his school has closed. Although she is totally shocked at the existence of this rapidly babbling, Lucille Ball-quoting, calendar-savant child in a man's body, Hattie comes to appreciate his affection for her, his exuberance for life, and his courage

in facing society's rejection. When she suggests that he sneak out to join her for a night of fun at a carnival, tragedy ensues. Hattie's narration is clear and appealing. Her recollection of the smallest of behaviors shows that each family member has felt both love and pain for her uncle, but could not express it. As she comes to understand what Uncle Adam meant when he spoke of being able to lift the corners of our universe, she is hopeful that her family can learn to heal and communicate. Martin delivers wonderfully real characters and an engrossing plot through the viewpoint of a girl who tries so earnestly to connect with those around her. This is an important story, as evocative on the subject of mental illness as Ruth White's *Memories of Summer* (Farrar, 2000).-Cindy Darling Codell, Clark Middle School, Winchester, KY

What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?

<u>Title:</u> The Weirdo	<u>Author:</u> Theodore Taylor
<u>Title:</u> Stuck in Neutral	<u>Author:</u> Terry Trueman
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>

Document any potentially controversial content:
mental illness

Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)

Gifted/Accelerated Regular At Risk

GRADE LEVEL(S): 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Reading level of this title (if applicable): age 11+

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 11/8/07

Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults

