

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Sheely/Addy    Grade: 6    School: OBMS

Book Title: A Tale Dark and Grimm    Genre: Fiction/Fairy tale

Author: Gidwitz    Pages: 256

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers Group    Copyright: 8/18/2011

*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.)

Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight other classic Grimm (and Grimm-inspired) fairy tales. An irreverent, witty narrator leads us through encounters with witches, warlocks, dragons, and the devil himself. As the siblings roam a forest brimming with menacing foes, they learn the true story behind the famous tales, as well as how to take charge of their destinies and create their own happily ever after. Because once upon a time, fairy tales were awesome.

**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)

I can identify the major and minor events of the plot and explain how each incident gives rise to the next.

I can identify recurring themes, patterns and symbols found in literature from different eras and cultures

I can make critical comparisons across texts

**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

From The Critics

Hansel and Gretel actually had their heads chopped off. Who knew? If that statement sends you scrambling for your favorite search engine, Gidwitz is savoring that reaction. And for readers who shriek with bloodthirsty delight, not skepticism, he has much more in store. Fracturing the folk tales of the Brothers Grimm, Gidwitz brings together old and new traditions of matter-of-fact horror. Hansel and Gretel become recurring characters in reworked versions of the Grimms' lesser-known tales, such as "Faithful Johannes" and "The Seven Ravens" (here, "The Seven Swallows"). The children are seeking a "nice" family after their father, no woodcutter but a king, pulls the aforementioned beheading stunt ("hey believed firmly in their little hearts that parents should not kill their children"). The perfect family proves elusive, and the children must extricate themselves from one outrageous situation after another--including, yes, a hungry old woman in an edible house. The rhythms and rhetoric of the prose are heavily influenced by verbal storytelling, which can on occasion strike a false note, but mostly add the intended wry wink to an audacious debut that's wicked smart and wicked funny. Ages 10–up. (Nov.)

Review #2

Marjorie Ingall

...unlike any children's book I've ever read...Heavy. And yet...really, really funny...The tone ricochets between lyrical and goofy...And it all works. As the story progresses, it gets less and less faithful to the source material and becomes its own increasingly rich and strange thing...My 8-year-old daughter, a tough critic who doesn't like scary books, read A Tale Dark & Grimm three times, back to back. She was enchanted, not terrified. And no wonder. A Tale Dark & Grimm holds up to multiple rereadings, like the classic I think it will turn out to be.

—The New York Times

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

Title: American Tale Tales    Author: Mary Pope Osborne

Title: Favorite Folk Tales from Aroudn the World    Author: Jane Yolen

Title: Short Stories from Ch 6    Author: Holt McDougal Literature series

Title:                    Author:

Title:                    Author:

Title:                    Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

references to magic, Some gory events, such as shoving "witch" in the oven, but does not go into graphic detail, references hell and the devil in one story

**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):** Ages 9-12 years

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** 2-6-12

**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