

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Jana Thompson	School:	Hyatts Middle School
Book Title:	After the War	Genre:	Historical Fiction
Author:	Carol Matas	Pages:	133
Publisher:	Simon Pulse	Copyright:	1996

*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.)

"Didn't the gas ovens finish you all off?" is the response that meets Ruth Mendenberg when she returns to her village in Poland after the liberation of Buchenwald at the end of World War II. Her entire family wiped out in the Holocaust, the fifteen-year-old girl has nowhere to go. Members of the underground organization Brichah find her, and she joins them in their dangerous quest to smuggle illegal immigrants to Palestine. Ruth risks her life to help lead a group of children on a daring journey over half a continent and across the sea to Eretz Israel, using secret routes and forged documents -- and sheer force of will.

This adventure will touch readers, who will marvel at the resources and inner strength of mere children helping other children to find a place in this world in which they can belong. Carol Matas, one of the foremost authors of historical fiction, brings the desperation and passion of this remarkable journey to life.

**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 - Comprehension Strategies

5. Summarize the information in texts, recognizing important ideas and supporting details as well as noting gaps or contradictions. 7RPB

7. Predict or hypothesize as appropriate from information in the text, supporting with specific references to a literary work. 7RPB

Self-monitor

8. Apply self-monitoring strategies to clarify confusion about text and to monitor comprehension. 7RPD

History

7) Deduce how recent events have influenced modern day cultures, government & economies. S3 10HF

8) Identify significant individuals and assess their contributions to the social, political, and economic development of the modern world. S1a, S4

9) Compare different worldly perspectives on major events in recent world history. S2b, 10PA

Citizenship

1) Compare citizen perspectives of multiple countries/cultures on international issues.

- 2) Explain how opportunities for citizens to influence and participate in the political process vary under various forms of government, including: democracy, monarchy, dictatorship. S18, 8CA  
 3) Compare and contrast rights & responsibilities of citizens under various systems of government, including: democracy, monarchy, dictatorship.S18,S22, 8CA

**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

School Library Journal

Gr 7-10-Matas's historical novel shows that the persecution of Europe's Jewish population did not end with their liberation from the Nazi death camps. She tells the story of Ruth, 15, who makes her way back from Buchenwald to her Polish homeland to discover that Jews are still viewed by others with suspicion and hatred. Desperate and alone, she meets Saul, who persuades her to join a group of refugees planning to immigrate to Palestine. Historically, the book is accurate and references to actual events are interwoven neatly into the narrative. The author does oversimplify the position of the British and their decision to stop Jewish immigration to Palestine, and this is a definite weakness. Nonetheless, the story is strong and compelling and the use of descriptive language creates a mood of desperation and hope combined with a commitment to survival. The use of flashbacks is effective and serves to sustain the mood as well as add depth to Ruth's character. After the War is a thought-provoking novel that offers great insight into the current problems in the Middle East and the passion with which the Jewish people will fight to protect what they perceive to be rightfully theirs.-Robyn Nicoline Ryan, Otterville Public School, Ontario

Review #2

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

<u>Title:</u> <b>Parallel Journeys</b>	<u>Author:</u> <b>Eleanor Ayer</b>
<u>Title:</u> <b>Letters From Rifka</b>	<u>Author:</u> <b>Karen Hesse</b>
<u>Title:</u> <b>Number the Stars</b>	<u>Author:</u> <b>Lois Lowry</b>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

The story is about a teenager’s life after the Holocaust. Many references to Hitler, the Nazis and Jews are made.

**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):** Grade 6

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** November 27, 2007

**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