

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Good/Yochum	School:	OOMS
Book Title:	Ashes of Roses	Genre:	Historical Fiction
Author:	Mary Jane Auch	Pages:	250
Publisher:	Laurel Leaf Books	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.)

When she arrives on Ellis Island as a seventeen-year-old Irish immigrant, Rose Nolan is looking for a land of opportunities; what she finds is far from all she'd dreamed. Stubborn and tenacious, she refuses to give up. Left alone to fend for herself and her younger sister, Rose is thrust into a hard-knock life of tenements and factory work.

When the devastating Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire of 1911 rushes into Rose's life, her confusions are brought to an all-too-painful head. To whom and to what can she turn when everything around her is in ashes?

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)

Contextual Understanding

1. Construct the meaning of unknown words through context clues and the author's use of definition, restatement, and example. 7AVA

Conceptual Understanding

2. Interpret similes and metaphors to understand new words and phrases in text.

Comprehension Strategies

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

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

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

- Children's Literature - Christopher Moning

In early 1911, 16-year-old Margaret Rose and her family emigrate from Ireland to the U.S.A.

Before they ever get off of Ellis Island, however, Rose's father has to return to their native land with Joseph, the youngest son, whose eye condition prevents him from entering the country. Rose's

American relatives quickly make it clear that her family is not welcome in their home, prompting Rose's mother to set sail for home as well. At the last minute, Rose and her younger sister convince their mom to let them remain in America—there is little prospect of a bright future for young women in Limerick. Eventually Rose lands a job as a seamstress at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Her friend Gussie is a strong union supporter, pushing for women's working rights and better conditions in the factories. Discovering friends who introduce her to the latest fashion and Nickelodeon moving picture shows, Rose begins to feel the truth behind the promise of American life and liberty. Then, on March 26, 1911, Rose's world comes crashing down. Students of history may be familiar with the tragic Triangle fire that claimed 146 lives that day. But never, never has the horror been so vividly depicted as through the eyes of young Rose. The final nail-gnawing, painstakingly researched, chapters are so riveting it's impossible to imagine someone putting the book down, except to catch a breath. An amazing read. 2002, Henry Holt,

Review #2

- VOYA - Kendall Diane Brothers

Roses appear ubiquitously throughout this story of an Irish immigrant in New York. Seventeen-year-old Rose Nolan's dreams of an American life with her family are thwarted when her brother fails the health test on Ellis Island. After her father takes him back to Ireland, Rose decides to stay on with her younger sister when her mother also returns home. Rose initially works making paper roses, but with the help of new friend, Gussie, she gets a job at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. As Rose is finishing her shift one day, the factory is hit by fire. With doors locked or chained shut, some workers jump out through windows, but many others, including Gussie, die in the fire. Plucky Rose manages to escape, locate her sister, and keep her life going in the right direction. Based on the true story of the Triangle fire in 1911, this novel captures the difficult life of an immigrant in the early twentieth century. The scenes from Ellis Island are particularly vivid. Rose is a thoughtful character, with a seventeen-year-old's stubbornness. Her sister, Maureen, is more of a plot device, serving as Rose's foil and a source of conflict. Gussie is interesting, but sadly underdeveloped. The language—with missin' Gs on every word—takes a bit of getting used to. With a spunky heroine and the historical backdrop of the fire, this book should find an audience with girls moving beyond the Dear America series and is recommended for school and public libraries where historical fiction is popular. 2002, Henry Holt, 249p,•

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

<u>Title:</u>		<u>Author:</u>	
<u>Title:</u>	Seedfolks	<u>Author:</u>	Paul Fleischman
<u>Title:</u>	The Bar Code Tattoo	<u>Author:</u>	Suzanne Weyn
<u>Title:</u>	Interstellar Pig	<u>Author:</u>	William Sleator
<u>Title:</u>	Northern Light	<u>Author:</u>	Jennifer Donnelly
<u>Title:</u>	Esperanza Rising	<u>Author:</u>	Pam Munoz Ryan

Document any potentially controversial content:

Due to the fact that there is a fire, there are several references to death. The way in which people die in the book is potentially upsetting to some children. This book is used in order to emphasize the difficulties encountered by immigrants entering the US in the early 1900s.

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): 6

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 9/18/2007

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