

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Jessica Hendershot Grade: 7 School: OBMS

Book Title: Boost Genre: Realistic Fiction

Author: Kathy Mackel Pages: 248

Publisher: Dial Books (Penguin Group) Copyright: 2008

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.)

Thirteen-year-old Savvy's three-point shot is deadly. But she gets pushed around on the basketball court. Her older sister, Callie, is on varsity cheerleading, but she's not light enough to be a flier - her coveted position. Both girls need to boost their level of competition to get into the action. How far are they willing to go to be the best?

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 Applications: Literary Text Indicator: Explain the defining characteristics of literary forms and genres, including poetry, drama, myths, biographies, autobiographies, science fiction, fiction and non-fiction.

This is a great text that supports a modern problem research topic - eating disorders, peer pressure in sports, sibling and peer relationships, steroid use, drug testing, competitive sports

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 School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 6–9—Savvy Christopher and her older sister, Callie, each have their own "one thing," and when they move from Arizona to Rhode Island, that's what they rely on to help them adjust. Savvy quickly shows her stuff when, not yet in high school, she is accepted on the elite 18-and-under basketball team. Callie's passion is cheerleading, but stress has caused her to gain weight, and she is devastated to find that she no longer qualifies to be one of the fliers on the squad at her new school. She goes on a strict exercise and diet regime, and Savvy, realizing how quickly her sister is losing weight, brings it to the attention of their parents. They put a stop to Callie's use of over-the-counter diet aids, which does nothing to improve the already strained relationship between the sisters. In October, one of Savvy's basketball games is interrupted by a detective who has been alerted to a bag of steroids in her locker. She insists that they are not her pills, but the fact that she

has been on prednisone for a bad case of poison ivy does not help her case. Savvy and her coach are temporarily suspended, and Savvy finds that even close friends regard her innocence with some doubt. As with *Mad Cat* (HarperCollins, 2005), Mackel has turned a tough subject in the world of teen competitive sports into a highly readable blend of intense action, interfamily relationships, and intrigue. Readers will come away with a better understanding of the controversy surrounding steroid use, and with an appreciation for a talented voice in young adult literature.—Kim Dare, Fairfax County Public Schools, VA

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Review #2

From Booklist

Savvy Christopher and her family have just moved to a sheep ranch in Rhode Island in the wake of her father's crippling accident. Thirteen years old, and already six foot two inches tall, Savvy plays basketball well enough to earn a place on an 18-and-under squad, The Fire. Her older sister Callie is a cheerleader and lands a spot on the varsity squad. The pressures to perform at the highest level, combined with Savvy's precarious family situation, the rigors of life on the ranch, the politics of elite competition, and all the regular trappings of hormonal adolescence push the sisters to the breaking point. After a rival player finds steroids in Savvy's gym bag, her family's tenuous integrity crumbles, leaving her alone on all fronts. Mackel packs plenty of dramatic turbulence into Savvy's eighth-grade year. With careful characterizations and honest relationships, she keeps the trouble contained and directed, though, much as Savvy herself organizes her gangly limbs and driven energy into focused athletic success. Grades 6-9. --Thom Barthelme --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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

Title: Gym Candy Author: Carl Deuker

Title: Hooked Author: Jamie Smolen MD

Title: Pop Author: Gordon Korman

Title: The Running Dream Author: Wendelin Van Draanen

Title: Stupid Fast Author: Geoff Herbach

Title: Knights of the Hill Country Author: Tim Tharp

Document any potentially controversial content:

Nothing offensive

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 12 and up

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 5/29/2012

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