

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Julie Brown	School:	Olentangy High School
Book Title:	Bird by Bird	Genre:	Non-Fiction
Author:	Anne Lamott	Pages:	237
Publisher:	Doubleday	Copyright:	1994

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.)

Publisher Comments:

"Thirty years ago my older brother, who was ten years old at the time, was trying to get a report on birds written that he'd had three months to write [it] was due the next day. We were out at our family cabin in Bolinas, and he was at the kitchen table close to tears, surrounded by binder paper and pencils and unopened books on birds, immobilized by the hugeness of the task ahead. Then my father sat down beside him, put his arm around my brother's shoulder, and said, 'Bird by bird, buddy. Just take it bird by bird.'"

With this basic instruction always in mind, Anne Lamott returns to offer us a new gift: a step-by-step guide on how to write and on how to manage the writer's life. From "Getting Started," with "Short Assignments," through "Shitty First Drafts," "Character," "Plot," "Dialogue," all the way from "False Starts" to "How Do You Know When You're Done?" Lamott encourages, instructs, and inspires. She discusses "Writer's Block," "Writing Groups," and "Publication." Bracingly honest, she is also one of the funniest people alive.

If you have ever wondered what it takes to be a writer, what it means to be a writer, what the contents of your school lunches said about what your parents were really like, this book's for you. From faith, love, and grace to pain, jealousy, and fear, Lamott insists that you keep your eyes open, and then shows you how to survive. And always, from the life of the artist she turns to the art of 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)

In AP Comp, we focus on the process of writing. Lamott's book is an honest look at what the writer goes through both during the process of becoming a writer as well as during the process of writing.

Reading Applications Literary

8. Analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques in their own writing.

9. Analyze the characteristics and

writing styles of various authors.

Acquisition of Vocabulary

1. Verify meaning of words by the author's use of definition, restatement, example, comparison, contrast and cause and effect.

Reading Process

3. Demonstrate comprehension of printed text by responding to questions (ex: literal, inferential, evaluative, and synthesizing).

4. Develop reading comprehension and critical analysis of a variety of texts.

Reading Applications Informational

5. Analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques in their own writing.

6. Critique the effectiveness and validity of arguments in text and whether they achieve the author's purpose.

7. Analyze the features and structures of informational text and critique them for effectiveness.

Communication Standard

28. Use class discussion to reinforce understanding of various texts and effective writing skills.

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

Review:

"Lamott's miscellany of guidance and reflection should appeal to writers struggling with demons large and slight....Lamott's suggestion on the craft of fiction is down-to-earth: worry about the characters, not the plot." Publishers Weekly

Review #2

"Paragraph by paragraph, this humorous, insightful, no-nonsense approach will remind novices why they are writing: to tell the truth, to live from the heart, and to share their gift with others. A writer's guide that is bound to teach and inspire by example." Kirkus Reviews

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

Title: **Writing Down the Bones**

Author: **Natalie Goldberg**

Title:
Title:
Title:
Title:
Title:

Author:
Author:
Author:
Author:
Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Contains profanity due to honesty of the writer's voice
Several references to drugs due to writer's discussions of abuse and overcoming drug abuse
Sexual references contribute writer's humor and voice

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):

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 6/06/07

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