

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

|             |                    |            |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Teacher:    | Weaver / Holibaugh | School:    | Hyatts             |
| Book Title: | Battle Scars       | Genre:     | historical fiction |
| Author:     | John Wilson        | Pages:     | 164                |
| Publisher:  | Kids Can Press     | Copyright: | 2005               |

*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.)

Sequel to: The flags of war. Presents a sequel to "The Flags of War" in which fifteen-year-old cousins, Nate from South Carolina, and Walt from Canada, go their separate ways after the Battle of Shiloh, only to be reunited, along with Sunday, a runaway slave from Nate's plantation, at the Confederacy's notorious Libby Prison.

**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 Application – 8

10 – Examine author's purpose and style

12 – Analyze character, plot, theme, style, setting, POV, in a variety of genres

**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

In the sequel to *The Flags of War* (2004), the alternating voices of Nate and Walt McGregor and the slave Sunday tell their entwined stories from the Battle of Shiloh until their escape from Richmond's Libby Prison a year and a half later. The three manage to be at key points of the Civil War, from Gettysburg to the New York Draft Riots to Colonel Shaw's 54th Massachusetts Regiment and Fort Wagner. Frederick Douglass and Harriett Beecher Stowe make appearances, and there's even a nod to *The Red Badge of Courage* in the name of Walt's captain, Henry Fleming. Though the characters are never fully realized and seem more like pieces being moved on a game board, Civil War buffs will find much of interest in the descriptions of battles, prison rats, treachery and the ebb and flow of the war. Overall, a satisfying read. (author's note) (Fiction. 10-14)

### Review #2

Gr 5-8-A sequel to *The Flags of War* (Kids Can, 2004). Nate, from South Carolina; Walt, his cousin from Canada; and Sunday, a black man who communicates in sign language because he has no tongue, come together during the Civil War. The book opens with Nate's return to his plantation home after Lee's surrender. When his father dies, he is free to join Walt and Sunday in Canada. The

story then flashes back to the Battle of Gettysburg where Nate watches a friend die. Meanwhile, Walt has left Canada to join the fight in New York, where he observes a lynching, and Sunday joins a black regiment while it is in Charleston and meets Frederick Douglass. The climax has all of them battle weary in Richmond, where Walt is imprisoned while Nate is a guard. Using Sunday as a go-between, a plan is hatched to help the Northern prisoners escape, using sign language between Walt and Sunday to communicate. Readable and exciting, this book looks at the Civil War from the eyes of soldiers who come to realize that their enemies are just men like themselves.-Jane G. Connor, South Carolina State Library, Columbia Copyright 2005 Reed Business Information.

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <u>Title:</u> <b>The Flags of War</b>         | <u>Author:</u> <b>John Wilson</b>         |
| <u>Title:</u> <b>With Every Drop of Blood</b> | <u>Author:</u> <b>Christopher Collins</b> |
| <u>Title:</u> <b>A House Divided</b>          | <u>Author:</u> <b>Elizabeth Massie</b>    |
| <u>Title:</u> <b>Drumbeat</b>                 | <u>Author:</u> <b>Robert J. Trout</b>     |
| <u>Title:</u>                                 | <u>Author:</u>                            |
| <u>Title:</u>                                 | <u>Author:</u>                            |

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

Civil War  
Death

**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):** 12+

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** 12/10/07

**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