

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	John Giusto	School:	OLMS
Book Title:	Coraline	Genre:	Fiction/Fantasy
Author:	Neil Gaiman	Pages:	192
Publisher:	Harper Perennial	Copyright:	August 29, 2006

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.)

In Coraline's family's new flat there's a locked door. On the other side is a brick wall—until Coraline unlocks the door . . . and finds a passage to another flat in another house just like her own. Only different. The food is better there. Books have pictures that writhe and crawl and shimmer. And there's another mother and father there who want Coraline to be their little girl. They want to change her and keep her with them. . . . Forever. (From www.amazon.com)

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)

8th Grade:

Acquisition of Vocabulary:

To acquire and effectively use new words in print and conversation through a language rich environment to increase comprehension.

1. Utilize context clues and the author's use of comparison, contrast and cause and effect to determine the meaning of unknown words. 10AVA

Conceptual Understanding

2. Examine the ways that different events change the English language. 10AVD

3. Infer the figurative and literal meanings of words and phrases. 10AVC
Develop and apply strategies to comprehend and interpret text.

Reading Process:

5. Read purposefully and automatically, using comprehension and self-monitoring

strategies. 10RPA,C

Reading Applications Literary:

Gain and demonstrate a deeper understanding of human story by reading varieties of genres.

10. Examine author's purpose and style.

10RALG

11. Determine purpose for reading and strategies needed for comprehension.

12. Compare and contrast literary elements in similar literary works.

13. Analyze plot, character, theme, point of view and setting in varied genres. 10RALA,B, 12RALA

14. Explain how sound devices enhance a literary text. 10RALF

*Rationale: this book connects to two of our units of study- "Friendship/Loyalty/Heroism" & "Social Concerns/Personal Growth/Overcoming Hardship". The study of Elements of Literature and Themes of Literature can be enhanced by using this book. This book can be used as a good book for struggling readers.

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

Grade 6-8-When Coraline and her parents move into a new house, she notices a mysterious, closed-off door. It originally went to another part of the house, which her family does not own. Some rather eccentric neighbors call her Caroline and seem not to understand her very well, yet they have information for her that will later prove vital. Bored, she investigates the door, which takes her into an alternate reality. There she meets her "other" mother and father. They are very nice to her, which pleases Coraline but also makes her a little suspicious. Her neighbors are in this other world, and they are the same, yet somehow different. When Coraline gets nervous and returns home, her parents are gone. With the help of a talking cat, she figures out that they are being held prisoner by her other parents, as are the souls of some long-lost children. Coraline's plan to rescue them involves, among other things, making a risky bargain with her other mother whose true nature is beginning to show. The rest of the story is a suspense-filled roller coaster, and the horror is all the more frightening for being slightly understated. A droll humor is present in some of the scenes, and the writing is simple yet laden with foreboding. The story is odd, strange, even slightly bizarre, but kids will hang on every word. Coraline is a character with whom they will surely identify, and they will love being frightened out of their shoes. This is just right for all those requests for a scary book. Bruce Anne Shook, Mendenhall Middle School, Greensboro, NC Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. (From www.amazon.com)

Review #2

Gr. 5-8. Coraline has recently moved with her preoccupied parents into a flat in an old house. The neighbors above and below are odd but friendly: Mr. Bobo trains mice; elderly Misses Spink and Forcible serve her tea and tell her fortune. No one lives in the flat next door. But Coraline knows better, and one evening she discovers what's there: a tantalizing alternate world, filled with toys and

food (unlike any of the boring stuff she has at home) and weird-- though wonderfully attentive-- parents, who happen to have black button eyes sewn on with dark thread. Although her "other parents" beg her to stay, she decides to leave, but by doing so Coraline sets in motion a host of nightmarish events that she must remedy alone. Gaiman, well known for his compelling adult horror novels (see "The Booklist Interview," opposite), seems less sure of himself with a younger age group. His "nowhere wonderland" setting (think Alice on acid) is magical, deliciously eerie, and well captured in the text and in McKean's loose, angular sketches. But the goings-on are murky enough to puzzle some kids and certainly creepy enough to cause a few nightmares (ignore the publisher's suggestion that this is suitable for eight-year-olds). What's more, Coraline is no naive Alice. She's a bundle of odd contradictions that never seem to gel--confident, outspoken, self-sufficient one moment; a whiny child the next. Gaiman's construct offers a chilling and empowering view of children, to be sure, but young readers are likely to miss such subtleties as the clever allusions to classic horror movies and the references to the original dark tales by the Brothers Grimm. Gaiman has written an often-compelling horror novel, but, as with so many adult authors who attempt to reach young readers, his grasp of his audience is less sure than his command of his material. Stephanie Zvirin Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved) From www.amazon.com)

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

Title: **Stargirl**

Author: **Spinelli**

Title: **Homecoming**

Author: **Voigt**

Title: **Hero**

Author: **Rottman**

Title: **Heroes**

Author: **Cormier**

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

None.

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: May 8, 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