

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Ross Grade: 8 School: OBMS

Book Title: Crystal Genre: realistic fiction

Author: Walter Dean Myers Pages: 208

Publisher: HarperCollins Copyright: 05/28/2002

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.)

Sixteen-year-old Crystal knows she's blessed. She is drop-dead gorgeous and in the beginning stages of a glamorous career as a model in New York City. At first, modeling is exciting. But soon, her life becomes less and less about her, and more and more about her body. Crystal wonders if her new life is worth giving up everything — her friends, her beliefs, and her self-respect.

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)

This book is being used as an optional text for students to further explore the author, Walter Dean Myers. The focus of the unit is for students to get a glimpse of how the historical and cultural influences on an author's life can have an effect on his writing. It is also a time for students to analyze the author's writing style. The following statements are directly pulled from the OLSD 8th grade Integrated English Curriculum Map and are the guidance for the reading focus of this unit:
I can...

Reading Applications: Literary Text

- *analyze the influence that the setting has on the story and other literary elements.
- * identify and explain different types of characters and how their interactions and conflicts affect the plot.
- *explain how the type of point of view a story contains, affects the plot.
- * explain how an author paces the action of the story (plot).
- * discuss and explain the major themes in a piece of writing, discuss how the same theme may cross over multiple works by the same author.
- * identify the multiple ways an author makes his/her writing unique (style).

Reading Applications: Informational Text

- *analyze an author's argument, perspective or viewpoint & explain the development of key points.

Reading Process

- *apply reading comprehension strategies, including making predictions, comparing and contrasting, recalling and summarizing and making inferences and drawing conclusions.

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 8-12 At 16, Crystal Brown is en route to stardom as a black fashion model. The world of money, glamour, fame, and celebrities excites and disturbs her. Her career demands increasing time away from family, friends, school, and normal adolescent concerns. As a model, Crystal confronts a temperamental photographer, sexual pressures, and a demanding agent. While Crystal's mother vicariously craves her daughter's success, her father's pride is tempered with protectiveness. In the end, Crystal is shocked into a career decision by the suicide of a once marketable model friend. In Crystal, Myers has created a beautiful but believable teenage heroine who makes a stand for personal integrity in a competitive world. Although certain characters and situations fulfill modeling world stereotypes, Myers' knack for vivid description and dialogue shatters many illusions of stardom. Adolescents who dream of modeling and who may envy Crystal's natural gifts will find in her forthright story certain realities that are often ignored. Gerry Larson, Chewing Junior High School, Durham, N.C.

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Review #2

From Publishers Weekly

Myers penetrates the modeling world in this tale of a 16-year-old professional model living in New York City, first published in 1987, who learns some tough truths about what it takes. Ages 12-up.

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

Title: Any text written by... Author: Walter Dean Myers

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

mild profanity

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): LX 610

Date Submitted to Department Chair: January 23, 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