

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: C. Williams/L. Gore Grade: 8 School: OMS

Book Title: Don't Scream Genre: mystery

Author: Joan Lowery Nixon Pages: 165

Publisher: Random House Copyright: 1996

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.)

When two new guys start at Jess's high school, she thinks the year is really looking up. What she can't know is that there is a connection between them. One has been given a new identity by the government. The other is seeking revenge. Jess doesn't know whom she can trust. Or who will be the next victim.

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)

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

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

Jess is thrilled when two cute, new boys move to her small town -- but then the neighborhood cats start disappearing and she spies a silent watcher lurking outside her yard. With the help of a computer-loving friend, Jess starts to investigate the newcomers, little dreaming that the Federal Witness Protection Program has unleashed a sociopath on her town. Fans of light thrillers will enjoy this creepy story by four-time Edgar winner Nixon. --Amazon.com

Review #2

Grade 8-10-An exciting thriller that will keep teens on the edge of their seats. Preliminary information explains that, after testifying in an organized-crime trial, a 17-year-old sociopath is being relocated under the Federal Witness Protection Program. The story then switches to the tiny community of Oakberry, TX, where not one but two new boys turn up at the high school. Jessica Donnally, the narrator, is attracted to handsome Mark, but puzzled by his sudden behavioral changes and desire to be in the limelight. On the other hand, she suspects Scott of spying on her and soon discovers that he's lying about crucial information. Readers will be kept in suspense thanks to Nixon's skillful plotting. Characterization is excellent, and Jess is a particularly likable and realistic heroine. Don't Scream is a well written, shivery alternative to Stine, Pike, and company.

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

Title: The View From the Cherry Tree Author: Willo Davis Roberts

Title: Hit and Run Author: R. L. Stine

Title: Wolf Rider Author: Avi

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

No objectionable language. Two pet cats and the man who owned one of them are poisoned by the sociopathic antagonist.

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): 5.3

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 10/3/07

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