

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Morgan Lewis	School:	Berkshire Middle School
Book Title:	Dragonwings	Genre:	Historical/cultural fiction
Author:	Lawrence Yep	Pages:	248
Publisher:	HarperCollins	Copyright:	January 23, 2011

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.)

Moon shadow is eight years old when he sails from China to join his father, Windrider, in America. Windrider lives in San Francisco and makes his living doing laundry. Father and son have never met.

But Moon Shadow grows to love and respect his father and to believe in his wonderful dream. And Windrider, with Moon Shadow's help is willing to endure the mockery of the other Chinese, the poverty, the separation from his wife and country'even the great earthquake'to make his dream come true.

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 this module, students are involved in a study of how an author develops point of view and how an author's perspective, based on his or her culture, is evident in his or her writing. Students will read Lawrence Yep's *Dragonwings* (870L), a high-interest novel about an eight-year-old boy from China who joins his father in San Francisco in the early 1900s. As they read the novel, students also will read excerpts of Lawrence Yep's biography *The Lost Garden* in order to determine how his culture and his experiences shaped his perspective and how his perspective is evident in his novel *Dragonwings*. Through the close reading of these texts, students will learn multiple strategies for acquiring and using academic vocabulary. At the end of Unit 1, having read half of the novel, students will write a short, on-demand response explaining how being brought up in a Chinese family in San Francisco affected Lawrence Yep's perspective of Chinese immigrants living in San Francisco, supported by details from *Dragonwings* that show evidence of his perspective.

In Unit 2, students analyze how point of view and perspective is conveyed in excerpts of "Comprehending the Calamity," a primary source account written by Emma Burke about her experiences of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fires. In a literary analysis at the end of Unit 2, students compare the point of view of Emma Burke of the immediate aftermath of the earthquake to the point of view of Moon Shadow in *Dragonwings*. Students finish the module by researching to gather factual information and eyewitness accounts about the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and

fire in order to write their own newspaper articles containing multiple perspectives about how the earthquake and fires affected the people of San Francisco.

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

School Library Journal

Grades 4-7--Laurence Yep's Newbery Honor book (HarperCollins, 1975) offers insights into the lives of Chinese-Americans in early 20th century California. The story begins as eight-year-old Moon Shadow Lee journeys across the Pacific to join his proud and clever father at the family-owned laundry in San Francisco. The boy recounts their problems with prejudice, as well as the kindness of uncles and cousins. Father and son must leave the protection of the family to move out of Chinatown, but they find refuge with a generous and friendly landlady. Once they have successfully established a repair business, they turn their attention to making a flying machine. Though it's a modern invention, part of their motivation is the elder's belief in his own previous dragon existence. Yep draws heavily on his own heritage, but also includes figures such as Teddy Roosevelt and the Wright Brothers, and historic events such as the San Francisco Earthquake. The result is a heartwarming story set in a familiar time and place, but told from a new perspective. The quiet intensity of B. D. Wong's narration enriches the text as he creates memorable voices for a large cast of characters. Wafting, ethereal music signals the end of each side of the cassette, and the cover art is attractive. The only problem is the lightweight cardboard package, which is not sturdy enough for heavy circulation. That shouldn't deter libraries from purchasing this fine recording which will provide upper elementary and middle school listeners with lessons in history, and a gentle reminder of the value of a loving family and loyal friends.

Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library. Rocky Hill, CT

Review #2

Dragonwings. By: Beavin, Kristi, Horn Book Magazine, 00185078, May/Jun2002, Vol. 78, Issue 3
In this 1975 Newbery Honor Book, the ancient Chinese tradition of kite-making meets the modern American invention of the airplane. Narrator B. D. Wong follows eight-year-old Moon Shadow's departure from China, the Middle Kingdom, into his new life in America, the Golden Mountain. He successfully differentiates individual voices in the large cast of characters: Moon Shadow's voice is young, light, and quick with eager interest; his father's voice, deep, slow, and confident; Uncle Bright Star's, overbearing and slightly pompous. Although the voices of the white "demons" seem exaggerated, they effectively convey the sense of how a Chinese ear might hear the odd syllables and intonations of English. Best of all is the way Moon Shadow pronounces English words: as if cautiously tasting an exotic bit of food.

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

Title: **Farewell to Manzanar**

Author: **James Houston**

Title: **Where the Mountain Meets the Moon**

Author: **HOUGHTON MIFFLIN
HARCOURT**

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Adult drinking, adult use of drugs with negative outcomes

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): 870 Lexile

Date Submitted to Department Chair: October 22, 2013

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