

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Ross    Grade: 8    School: OBMS

Book Title: Dope Sick    Genre: realistic fiction

Author: Walter Dean Myers    Pages: 201

Publisher: Harper Collins    Copyright: 02/02/2010

*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.)

A drug deal goes south and a cop has been shot. Lil J's on the run. And he's starting to get dope sick. He'd do anything to change the last twenty-four hours, and when he stumbles into an abandoned building, it actually might be possible...

Elements of magical realism intensify this harrowing story about drug use, violence, perceptions of reality, and second chances.

**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

Publishers Weekly

Using both harsh realism and a dose of the fantastic, Myers (Game ) introduces an inner-city teen in the jaws of a crisis: 17-year-old Lil J is holed up in an abandoned building, believed to have shot an undercover cop in a drug bust, while police officers assemble in the street below. As he searches for a way out, Lil J is stopped by Kelly, an eerily calm vagrant who invites him to "cop a squat and check yourself out on the tube." Kelly's TV not only plays scenes from Lil J's life but projects what will happen if he sticks with his current plan: suicide. Shocked, Lil J considers Kelly's question, "If you could take back one thing you did... what would it be?" Aided by Kelly's TV, Lil J revisits pivotal moments and wrestles with his fate. As expected, Myers uses street-style lingo to cover Lil J's sorry history of drug use, jail time, irresponsible fatherhood and his own childhood grief. A didn't-see-that-coming ending wraps up the story on a note of well-earned hope and will leave readers with plenty to think about. Ages 14-up. (Feb.)

Review #2

From The Critics

Jeremy Dance (better known on the street as Lil Jay) has a life that has just gone from bad to worse. The drug deal that was going to make him some money has gone terribly wrong. A policeman is shot—maybe dying—and Rico (the guy who put the deal together) has been picked up. Rico told the cops that Lil Jay's the one who popped the cop. He has messed up big time and he knows it. In a seemingly abandoned building, Lil Jay finds Kelly, a spooky dude who can switch his television channels through Lil Jay's past, present, and, perhaps, his future. Is Kelly real, the product of a drug fueled hallucination, or a supernatural being? Could it be possible that Lil Jay is near death and his mind is skittering through all the good times and the bad? Is there any possibility of a second chance for Lil Jay to turn his life around? This excellent choice for teenage boys and at-risk teenagers is certain to lead to a lively discussion. Reviewer: Anita Barnes Lowen

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

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

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

Profanity, drug use,

**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 720

**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