

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Wheeler	School:	Shanahan Middle
Book Title:	Downriver	Genre:	Realistic Fiction
Author:	Will Hobbs	Pages:	204
Publisher:	Laurel Leaf	Copyright:	1995

*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.)

No adults, no permit, no river map. Just some "borrowed" gear from Discovery Unlimited, the outdoor education program Jessie and her new companions have just ditched. Jessie and the others are having the time of their lives floating beneath sheer red walls, exploring unknown caves and dangerous waterfalls, and plunging through the Grand Canyon's roaring rapids. No one, including Troy, who emerges as the group's magnetic and ultimately frightening leader, can foresee the challenges and conflicts.

**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)

Reading Process: 5. Summarize the information in texts, recognizing important ideas and supporting details as well as noting gaps or contradictions.

6. Critically compare across texts noting author's style as well as literal and implied contents of texts.

7. Predict or hypothesize as appropriate from information in the text, supporting with specific references to a literary work.

Self-monitor 8. Apply self-monitoring strategies to clarify confusion about text and to monitor comprehension.

Reading Applications Literary: 13. Describe and analyze the elements of character development.

14. Identify the main and minor events of the plot and explain how each gives rise to the next.

15. Identify the use of figurative language.

16. Demonstrate comprehension by inferring themes, patterns and symbols

**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

Abandoning a wilderness education program, a group of teenagers set off on a challenging trek in this suspenseful adventure yarn. Ages 12-up.

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Review #2

From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up-- Eight problem kids (four boys, four girls, high school age) have been sent to a camp called Discovery Unlimited where they are to meet problems, make responsible decisions, and develop as adults. "Hoods in the Woods" the kids call themselves. Action occurs in the outback of southwestern Colorado and northern Arizona as Al, their adult leader, programs the group first to climb Storm King Peak (which nearly results in fatalities) and then to raft the white water of the San Juan River. The Hoods decide rafting the Colorado River will be wilder; so they steal Al's van and equipment, drive to the put-in at Lee's Ferry, sneak past the park rangers, inflate their rafts, and seven embark--one deserts. Rafting the wild Colorado is heady but difficult and dangerous. Misadventures develop the kids, but also breed disasters. So when the rangers capture the group near Havasu Creek, not all resent the rescue. The book is exquisitely plotted, with nail-biting suspense and excitement. Jean Craighead George's River Rats (Dutton, 1979; o.p.) is similar but lacks such intricate development of characters and interpersonal relationships. --George Gleason, Department of English, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield  
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**What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?**

Title: **Beardance**

Author: **Will Hobbs**

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

juvenile delinquency, language...multiple uses of "hell"

**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):** 7

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** 1-30-08

**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