

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	7 th Grade ELA: Bachman, Greenwell, Hamilton, Klein	School: OLMS
Book Title:	Dry	Genre: Science fiction
Author:	Neal & Jarrod Shusterman	Pages: 390
Publisher:	Simon & Schuster	Copyright: 2018

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.)

“The drought—or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it—has been going on for a while now. Everyone’s lives have become an endless list of don’ts: don’t water the lawn, don’t fill up your pool, don’t take long showers.

Until the taps run dry.

Suddenly, Alyssa’s quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbours and families turned against each other on the hunt for water. And when her parents don’t return and her life—and the life of her brother—is threatened. Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she’s going to survive” (Good Reads).

Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum blueprints and/or State standards.

Our 7th grade E/LA team would like to freshen up our science fiction literature circle options for students with the brand new publication *Dry*, by Neal and Jarrod Shusterman. We selected this text for a few reasons, including its educational value (an extrapolation of the consequences of the current drought in California) and the fact that our kids love many of Shusterman’s other books, like *Unwind*, *Scythe*, and *Thunderhead*. Our science fiction lit circle unit satisfies the following Common Core state standards for 7th grade E/LA:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.1

Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.2

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3

Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.10

By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

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). Reviews should suggest an appropriate grade-level or grade-band.

Review #1

“When a calamitous drought overtakes southern California, a group of teens must struggle to keep their lives and their humanity in this father-son collaboration.

When the Tap-Out hits and the state’s entire water supply runs dry, 16-year-old Alyssa Morrow and her little brother, Garrett, ration their Gatorade and try to be optimistic. That is, until their parents disappear, leaving them completely alone. Their neighbor Kelton McCracken was born into a survivalist family, but what use is that when it’s his family he has to survive? Kelton is determined to help Alyssa and Garrett, but with desperation comes danger, and he must lead them and two volatile new acquaintances on a perilous trek to safety and water. Occasionally interrupted by “snapshots” of perspectives outside the main plot, the narrative’s intensity steadily rises as self-interest turns deadly and friends turn on each other. No one does doom like Neal Shusterman (*Thunderhead*, 2018, etc.)—the breathtakingly jagged brink of apocalypse is only overshadowed by the sense that his dystopias lie just below the surface of readers’ fragile reality, a few thoughtless actions away. He and his debut novelist son have crafted a world of dark thirst and fiery desperation, which, despite the tendrils of hope that thread through the conclusion, feels alarmingly near to our future. There is an absence of racial markers, leaving characters’ identities open” (Kirkus).

Review #2

“Alyssa and her brother, Garrett, are normal kids in a suburb in Southern California—that is, until surrounding states shut the floodgates to the Colorado River due to prolonged drought. At first, people dismiss the news, but circumstances turn dire quickly when bottled water disappears off store shelves while the spigots remain dry. What ensues is a horrifyingly fast descent into barbarity as neighbor turns on neighbor, government intervention falls short, and society’s civil facade disintegrates. Alyssa and Garrett must travel to find new sources of water, all the while defending themselves against people crazed by thirst. While this book leans on siege-like tropes established in zombie movies, the Shustermans revivify the genre by adding an environmental twist. Using multiple points of view, the authors fully flesh out Alyssa, Garrett, and their travel companions to showcase the various ways people mentally approach calamities. The authors do not hold back—there is death, disease, manipulation, and chaos. None of it is presented simply, and none of it is sugarcoated. Lovers of horror action fiction will feel right at home

with this terrifyingly realistic story of our tenuous relationship with the environment and of the resilience of the human spirit in the face of desperate situations” (Booklist).

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

Title: <i>The Maze Runner</i>	Author: Dashner
Title: <i>Unwind</i>	Author: Shusterman
Title: <i>Ship Breaker</i>	Author: Bacigalupi

Document any potentially controversial content:

“Parents need to know that *Dry*, written by Neal Shusterman and his son, Jarrod Shusterman, is a realistic portrayal of what might happen if Southern California suddenly were to run out of water. As the “Tap-Out” continues, the characters must make difficult decisions about whom to help. Violence increases with thirst, and characters are subjected to beatings, shootings, and fire, frequently fatally. Swearing is infrequent (“hell,” “damn,” “a--hole”). A minor character trades unspecified sexual favors for water” (Common Sense Media).

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 (too lengthy)

GRADE LEVEL(S): 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

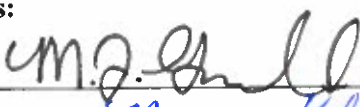
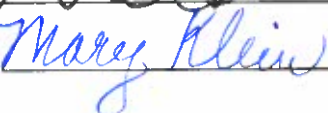
Reading Level of this Title (if applicable):

Unable to find lexile info on this brand new publication, but multiple sources suggest 7th grade and up.

Suggested Professional Literacy 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

Signatures:

Teacher: <u></u>	Date: <u>11/28/18</u>
Department Head: <u></u>	Date: <u>11/28/18</u>

Building Administrator: Michelle Goto

Date: 12/4/18

Curriculum Supervisor: _____

Date: _____