

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Weaver/ Holibaugh	School:	Hyatts
Book Title:	Elsewhere	Genre:	Science Fiction
Author:	Gabrielle Zevin	Pages:	288
Publisher:	Square Fish	Copyright:	2005

*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.)

Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to earth. But Liz wants to turn sixteen, get her driver's license, fall in love, go to college . . . How can she let go of the only life she has ever known and embrace a new one? Is it possible to grow up while getting younger?

**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 7

6. Make meaning through asking and responding to a variety of questions related to text applying self-monitoring strategies.

Reading Applications 8

Analyze plot, character, theme, point of view and setting in varied genres.

**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

Horn Book starred (Spring 2006)

In Zevin's afterlife, "everyone...ages backward from the day they died." When they're seven-day-old babies, they return to Earth from Elsewhere to begin a new life. Lizzie Hall, almost sixteen, struggles to adjust to her death and to the idea that--as Lizzie Hall--she'll never reach adulthood. With an intriguing premise, thoughtful characterization, and refreshing style, Zevin's poignant novel celebrates the rich complexities of being alive.

Review #2

School Library Journal (October 1, 2005)

Gr 7-10-What happens when you die? Where do you go? What do you do? Zevin provides answers to these questions in this intriguing novel, centering on the death of Liz Hall, almost 16 years old and looking forward to all that lies ahead: learning to drive, helping her best friend prepare for the prom, going to college, falling in love. Killed in a hit-and-run accident, Liz struggles to understand

what has happened to her, grief-stricken at all she has lost, and incapable of seeing the benefits of the Elsewhere in which she finds herself. Refusing to participate in this new life, Liz spends her time looking longingly down at the family and friends back on Earth who go on without her. But the new environment pulls her into its own rhythms. Liz meets the grandmother she never knew, makes friends, takes a job, and falls in love as she and the other inhabitants of Elsewhere age backward one year for each year that they are there. Zevin's third-person narrative calmly, but surely guides readers through the bumpy landscape of strongly delineated characters dealing with the most difficult issue that faces all of us. A quiet book that provides much to think about and discuss.- Sharon Grover, Arlington County Department of Libraries, VA Copyright 2005 Reed Business Information.

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

Title: **Lovely Bones**

Author: **Alice Sebold**

Title: **The Giver**

Author: **Lois Lowry**

Title: **The Uglies**

Author: **Scott Westerfeld**

Title: **The Pretties**

Author: **Scott Westerfeld**

Title: **The Specials**

Author: **Scott Westerfeld**

Title:

Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

Main character dies and tells her story from the afterlife.

**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):** age 12+

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** 11/8/07

**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