

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Mary Bischoff	School:	OLMS
Book Title:	Fire From Rock	Genre:	Historical Fiction
Author:	Sharon Draper	Pages:	240
Publisher:	Penguin Young Readers Group	Copyright:	2008

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.)

Sylvia is shocked and confused when she is asked to be one of the first black students to attend Central High School, which is scheduled to be integrated in the fall of 1957, whether people like it or not. Before Sylvia makes her final decision, smoldering racial tension in the town ignites into flame. When the smoke clears, she sees clearly that nothing is going to stop the change from coming. It is up to her generation to make it happen, in as many different ways as there are colors in the world.

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)
6R.L. 1,2,3,and 6

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

Kirkus Reviews

Sylvia is completing her last year of middle school, and she's excited about going to the local high school with all her friends. But this is not a typical coming-of-age tale because the setting is Little Rock, Ark. in 1957, and there are important decisions to be made that will affect not only Sylvia but all African-Americans. Central High School is to be integrated and Sylvia has been selected as a candidate to enroll. If she attends her segregated school, she's guaranteed a good education as well as an abundance of activities and an assured social life. If she goes to Central, she will be prohibited from participating in clubs, sports and all social events, and will definitely be subjected to threats and danger to herself and her family. In the end, she chooses the option that is right for her. Draper evokes the escalating tensions and violence of that seminal summer, giving them a sense of immediacy via a strong central character. Compelling. (Historical fiction. 11-15)

Review #2

Children's Literature

The year is 1957. The town is Little Rock, Arkansas. The teenager is Sylvia Patterson, and her first year of high school will prove to be anything other than ordinary. As much as her brother, Gary, wants to be chosen as one of the students to integrate Central High School, it is Sylvia who is offered the honor--and the challenge--of being one of the Little Rock Nine. She is a bright, disciplined, and even-tempered young lady who wants nothing more than to enjoy the normal things that high school should bring--basketball games, dances, and the attentions of a handsome young man. Should she leave her friends and her school to be threatened and taunted at Central? Should she take on the burden of being an agent of change? While Sylvia is contemplating this decision, her neighborhood explodes both literally and figuratively, helping Sylvia to make one of the most difficult decisions of her life. This powerful novel presents the struggle for racial integration from the inside out. The reader does not just read about the struggle, he or she has an opportunity to experience it for themselves through the eyes of a young hero struggling just to be an ordinary teen.

Reviewer: Louanne Jacobs

Kirkus Reviews

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

Title: **The Watsons Go to Birmingham**

Author: **Christopher Paul Curtis**

Title: **One Fat Summer**

Author: **Robert Lipsyte**

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

some violence of the time, a boyfriend/girlfriend relationship

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): 11-15 year old

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 1/30/15

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