

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Ross    Grade: 8    School: OBMS

Book Title: Game    Genre: realistic fiction

Author: Walter Dean Myers    Pages: 240

Publisher: Harper Collins    Copyright: 2009

*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.)

Drew Lawson knows basketball is taking him places. It has to, because his grades certainly aren't. But lately his plan has run squarely into a pick. Coach's new offense has made another player a star, and Drew won't let anyone disrespect his game. Just as his team makes the playoffs, Drew must come up with something big to save his fading college prospects. It's all up to Drew to find out just how deep his game really is.

**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

From Booklist

Harlem teen Drew Lawson thinks that he has “the big-money skills” for the NBA. Now a senior, he plans to play his best game, attract scouts, and earn a scholarship that will, he hopes, lead to the pros. Then his coach begins to favor a new, white player, and Drew struggles to overcome his anger and to maintain his drive. Basketball fans will love the long passages of detailed court action, and Myers extends the sports metaphors into Drew’s own questions about the future possibilities for himself and his peers, particularly the struggling young men in his neighborhood, whom he sees as “a bunch of guys in a game. They were falling behind every minute that passed, but they had lost interest in the score.” Myers explores his themes with a veteran writer’s skill. Passages that could have read as heavy-handed messages come across, instead, as the authentic thoughts of a strong, likable, African American teen whose anxieties, sharp insights, and belief in his own abilities will captivate readers of all backgrounds. Grades 8-12. --Gillian Engberg --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Review #2

Leonard S. Marcus

At the center of this lean first-person narrative is Drew, an athletically gifted African-American teenager with plummy visions of a college scholarship and N.B.A. superstardom...The tautly choreographed game sequences that punctuate Drew's story bristle with the electricity of the sport while serving to track the hero's transformation from dicey wild card to on-point team player. Off court, the action is equally telling.

—The New York Times

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

Title: Travel Team    Author: Mike Lupica

Title: Forged By Fire    Author: Sharon Draper

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

Title:                    Author:

Title:                    Author:

Title:                    Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

References to drugs and alcohol.

**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 800

**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