

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	John Giusto	School:	OLMS
Book Title:	Heroes	Genre:	Fiction
Author:	Robert Cormier	Pages:	144
Publisher:	Laurel Leaf	Copyright:	February 8, 2000

*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.)

Eighteen-year-old Francis Cassavant has returned from World War II an unwilling hero. Although he can still see and hear, a grenade has blown away his nose, his ears, his teeth, and his cheeks, leaving him faceless. Hiding his ghastly wounds with bandages and a white silk scarf, Francis welcomes the anonymity his mutilation brings him, for he has returned to his hometown with a secret mission--a plot for revenge (against his enemy Larry LaSalle) that he values more than his own life. Francis's eerily matter-of-fact acceptance of his hideous mien, along with his sweetness and selflessness, contrast sharply with his obsessive need for vengeance. No one recognizes him as the quiet kid who once loved Nicole Renard and hung out with fellow teens at the Wreck Center. LaSalle, formerly a charismatic youth leader, has also come back from the war a hero, and only Francis knows the dark side of this older man's concern for young people. But does LaSalle's one evil act wipe out all the good he has done? And is Francis just as guilty because he could have prevented it and didn't? (From [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

**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)

Acquisition of Vocabulary:

To acquire and effectively use new words in print and conversation through a language rich environment to increase comprehension.

1. Utilize context clues and the author's use of comparison, contrast and cause and effect to determine the meaning of unknown words. 10AVA

Develop and apply strategies to comprehend and interpret text.

Reading Process:

5. Read purposefully and automatically, using comprehension and self-monitoring

strategies. 10RPA,C

Reading Applications Literary:

Gain and demonstrate a deeper understanding of human story by reading varieties of genres.

10. Examine author's purpose and style.

10RALG

11. Determine purpose for reading and strategies needed for comprehension.

12. Compare and contrast literary elements in similar literary works.

13. Analyze plot, character, theme, point of view and setting in varied genres. 10RALA,B, 12RALA

\* Rationale: This book connects to our theme of "Friendship/Loyalty/Heroism". This book is also a good novel to use to teach the Themes of Literature, as well as the Elements of Literature.

**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 Kirkus Reviews

Cormier (*Tenderness*, 1997, etc.) again poses a set of chewy moral dilemmas, but he develops them within a sketchy plot more suited to the short-story form. Francis Cassavant returns to Frenchtown after WWII with a Silver Star, with much of his face blown away by a grenade on which he threw himself, and a fixed intention to kill Larry LaSalle. While he waits for Larry, a war hero with a Silver Star of his own, to return from the service, Francis wanders the streets and relives the past: Strong and handsome, Larry had been a hero even before the war, brilliant at bringing out talents in young people, turning shy, unathletic Francis into a table-tennis champ, with enough self-confidence to date lovely classmate Nicole Renard; two years later, back on a triumphant furlough, Larry raped Nicole as Francis stood by in the next room. While Francis's shocking opening description of what's left of his face will churn many stomachs, his long wait for Larry is more tedious than tension-building, and the weary tone of his narrative puts a dreary cast over his observations of a post-war world. To readers familiar with Cormier's work, the climactic confrontation will hold few, if any, surprises. More a deliberately constructed intellectual exercise on the ambiguities of heroism than a story with flesh and blood characters and, surprising for this author, spelled out as such this will disappoint readers hoping for another *Tenderness*. (Fiction. 12-15) -- Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. (From [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

Review #2

From Publishers Weekly

According to PW's starred review, this dark story of a WWII veteran who seeks revenge on an old mentor "will hold fans from first page to last, and set them thinking about what really lurks behind the face of a hero." Ages 12-up. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. (From [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

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

Title: **Stargirl**

Author: **Spinelli**

Title: **Max the Mighty**  
Title: **Who Killed My Daughter**  
Title: **Homecoming**  
Title:  
Title:

Author: **Philbrick**  
Author: **Duncan**  
Author: **Voigt**  
Author:  
Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

Shit is used one time in this book to express a character's fear during a battle in the war. Hell is used twice to express the war that is going on. Implied instance of young girl in novel involved in sexual assault.

**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:** May 8, 2007

**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