

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Sheely/Addy	School:	OBMS
Book Title:	Just Ella	Genre:	Fantasy
Author:	Margaret Petterson Haddix	Pages:	240
Publisher:	Simon Pulse	Copyright:	3/27/2007

*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.)

Fifteen year old Ella Brown of Fridesia is forced into servitude to her stepmother, Lucille, and stepsisters, Corimunde and Griselda, after her father dies. She manages to attend the royal ball by wearing her mother's wedding dress and glass slippers she won in a wager. Although Prince Charming was enamored, Ella ran from the ball at midnight, dropping a slipper. The prince finally found her through the shoe fitting. Now she is living at the palace being prepared for the wedding and life as a princess, which is not what she thought that it would be at all.

**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)

I can identify major and minor parts of a plot.

I can explain how events in fiction affect each other.

I can read from a variety of 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

Publishers Weekly

PW wrote, "Haddix puts a feminist spin on the Cinderella story, beginning her tongue-in-cheek novel where the traditional story ends. Her straightforward, often gleefully glib narrative breathes fresh life into the tale." Ages 10-14. (Aug.) Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information.

### Review #2

From The Critics

To quote KLIATT's Sept. 1999 review of the hardcover edition: In this continuation of the story of Cinderella, the 15-year-old fiancée of Prince Charming is living in luxury in the royal palace, receiving lessons in royal protocol, and hating every minute of it...when she tries to get out of their engagement, she is cast into the dungeon. Always intrepid, Ella is amused to hear that people have invented a fairy godmother for her, as she had managed to get to the ball all on her own. Taking her

destiny into her own hands once again, Ella digs her way out of the dungeon and makes her way to the refugee camp run by a former palace tutor—the man she realizes she really is in love with. She ends up running the camp, and thinking about becoming a doctor. This feminist take on the traditional fairy tale features an enterprising and spirited heroine, who doesn't need a fairy godmother or a man to make her dreams come true. Haddix, author of *Don't You Dare Read This*, *Mrs. Dunphrey* and other YA novels, creates a swift and engaging read that will please anyone who wondered about the "happily ever after" part of the tale. An ALA Best Book for YAs and Quick Pick. KLIATT Codes: J—Recommended for junior high school students. 1999, Simon & Schuster, Aladdin, 220p., \$4.99. Ages 13 to 15. Reviewer: Paula Rohrlick; September 2001 (Vol. 35 No. 5)

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

Title: **Cinderella**

Author: **Brothers Grimm**

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

There is one mention of crimes against women during the part where Ella is locked in the dungeon.

**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):** Lexile 850

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** 2/1/12

**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