

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Klein	School:	OLMS
Book Title:	London Eye Mystery	Genre:	Realistic Fiction, Mystery
Author:	Siobhan Dowd	Pages:	336
Publisher:	Yearling	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.)
A five-star mystery now in paperback!

Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim board the London Eye, but after half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off—except Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Ted and his older sister, Kat, become sleuthing partners, since the police are having no luck. Despite their prickly relationship, they overcome their differences to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. And ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own very unique way, to find the key to the mystery.

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)

Indicators: 1. Explain interactions and conflicts (e.g., character vs. self, nature or society) between main and minor characters in literary text and how the interactions affect the plot. 2. Analyze the features of the setting and their importance in a text.

3. Identify the main and _____ Benchmarks: A. Determine a purpose for reading and use a range of reading comprehension strategies to better understand text. B. Apply effective reading comprehension strategies, including summarizing and making predictions, and comparisons using information in text, between text and across subject areas. C. Make meaning through asking and responding to a variety of questions related to text. D. Apply self-monitoring strategies to clarify confusion about text and to monitor comprehension.

Indicators: 1. Establish and adjust purposes for reading including to find out, to understand, to interpret, to enjoy and to solve problems. 2. Predict or hypothesize as appropriate from information in the text, substantiating with specific references to textual examples that may be in widely separated sections of text. 3. Make critical comparisons across texts, noting author's style as well as literal and implied content of text. 4. Summarize the information in texts, using key ideas, supporting details and referencing gaps or contradictions. 5. Select, create and use graphic organizers to interpret textual information.

6. Answer literal, inferential, evaluative questions.

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; 11/15/2008, Vol. 76 Issue 22, Special Section p12-12, 1/8p

Called "an intricate mystery" in a Kirkus starred review, The London Eye Mystery was previously spotlighted in the Mysteries & Thrillers issue. It takes the classic "closed room" plot and gives it a modern twist. When Salim gets into a pod on the London Eye but doesn't come out, it's up to Kat and brother and narrator Ted, who has Asperger's, to figure out what happened. Never compromising, it sets a standard of excellence in mysteries for children. (Ages 9-14)

Review #2

Horn Book Magazine; May/Jun2008, Vol. 84 Issue 3, p311-311, 2/3p, 1 Black and White Photograph

The best mysteries have at their centers gifted but very human sleuths—their abilities balanced by equally significant flaws or idiosyncrasies.

This one is no exception. Twelve-year-old Ted, who has Asperger's syndrome, is obsessed with weather patterns, the number of Shreddies in his cereal bowl, and the puzzle that is other people's emotions and actions. When his visiting cousin Salim disappears, seemingly into thin air—Salim goes up inside a sealed capsule of the London Eye, a giant Ferris wheel-like ride, and doesn't come down—Ted and his older sister (and nemesis) Kat join forces to solve the conundrum. Ted's uniqueness serves multiple purposes. As a detective, his literal, logical brain lets him step back from the fraught situation to see the solution. As a narrator, his need to observe people closely at all times lets us get to know the characters, especially Ted's family, unusually intimately. Not to mention himself: his hard-wired honesty, his neverending struggle to make sense of the world around him, and his occasional unknowing naïveté (as when he lays awake thinking about "convection currents, isobars and isotherms [and] imagining the shipping forecast" and speculates, "Perhaps Salim had been doing the same") make him an especially sympathetic character. And the mystery itself? Worthy of its protagonist, with well-embedded clues and signposts young readers can easily follow—at least in hindsight. m.v.p.

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

Title: A Corner of the Universe

Author: Ann Martin

Title: Red Rider's Hood

Author: Neal Shusterman

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Parents need to know that the concerns are minor here: a mention of tongue kissing, some products, adults smoke and drink. Of more concern is that for the main character learning to lie to his parents is portrayed as a positive development.

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): 9+

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 1/17/12

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