

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

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| Teacher: | Mary Klein | School: | OLMS |
| Book Title: | Mountains Beyond Mountains YA | Genre: | nonfiction |
| Author: | Tracy Kidder | Pages: | 288 |
| Publisher: | Ember | Copyright: | 2014 |

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.)

Farmer focuses his attention on some of the world's most impoverished people and uses unconventional ways in which to provide healthcare, to achieve real results and save lives. From his humble beginnings and atypical childhood to his education at Harvard Medical School and on to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia, Farmer dedicated himself to the philosophy that "the only real nation is humanity." He sets an example of a life based on hope and understanding of the Haitian proverb "Beyond mountains there are mountains"—as you solve one problem, another problem presents itself, and so you go on and try to solve that one too.

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)

RI.7.10 Read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6-8 text complexity band; read independently and proficiently; gain a cultural knowledge, and the capacity to surmount the challenges posted by complex texts.

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 School Library Journal

Gr 7-10-An adaptation of the 2003 adult book with the same title. It is an admiring biography constructed from long stretches of personal experience with Farmer, international health specialist and infectious disease expert, whose focus was always the Haitian poor. Farmer has spent his life taking modern medicine (as well as schools, houses, sanitation, and water systems) to a poverty-stricken area of Haiti and to underdogs around the world. Lending "a voice to the voiceless," and working as a clinician as well as an organizer, he developed Partners in Health, funded first by a Boston philanthropist and later by the Gates Foundation and now internationally active. While French's adaptation follows the same sequencing, his compression removes much of the detail that made the original so readable and interesting. Omissions make episodes difficult to understand and, at least in one case, a description of one character is applied to another. Still, books showing how one person can make a difference are always welcome in young adult literature and this one will be appreciated where the young readers' edition of Greg Mortensen and David Oliver Relin's *Three Cups of Tea* (Dial, 2009) has been popular. But for the full flavor of the man's life and his impact on the author, older readers should seek out the original.-Kathleen Isaacs, *Children's Literature*

Specialist, Pasadena, MD(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From Booklist

Review #2

Booklist

Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Kidder’s inspiring story of American doctor Paul Farmer has now been adapted—to good effect—for young readers, with the help of coauthor French. As Kidder demonstrates, Farmer is a remarkable man. A noted epidemiologist who has worked with such infectious diseases as tuberculosis and AIDS, he is also a medical anthropologist, a clinician, and an expert in public health. His ambitious goal is to improve health policy for the poor on a global scale. By making himself a presence in the book, Kidder becomes a surrogate for the reader as he travels with Farmer to the slums of Lima, Peru; the prisons of Russia and Siberia; and to Farmer’s base, in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and a place Farmer has loved since he was a college student. Kidder expertly provides context for Farmer’s life and work, including a look at his eccentric upbringing and his relationships with friends and colleagues. Though sometimes complex, the story is always accessible and often fascinating. Best of all, its focus on Farmer the humanitarian provides a much-needed education in empathy. Grades 7-12. --Michael Cart

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

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| <u>Title:</u> Mountains Beyond Mountains YA | <u>Author:</u> Kidder |
| <u>Title:</u> Three Cups of Tea YA | <u>Author:</u> Mortensen |
| <u>Title:</u> Long Walk to Water | <u>Author:</u> Park |
| <u>Title:</u> | <u>Author:</u> |
| <u>Title:</u> | <u>Author:</u> |
| <u>Title:</u> | <u>Author:</u> |

Document any potentially controversial content:

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): 7-12

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 12/14/16

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