

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Biggam	School:	Shanahan
Book Title:	Out of My Mind	Genre:	Realistic Fiction
Author:	Sharon Draper	Pages:	295
Publisher:	Atheneum	Copyright:	2010

*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.)

From Barnes & Noble.com: From award-winning author Sharon Draper comes *Out of My Mind*, the story of a brilliant girl who cannot speak or write. "If there is one book teens and parents (and everyone else) should read this year, *Out of My Mind* should be it" (Denver Post). Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow. In this breakthrough story—reminiscent of *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*—from multiple Coretta Scott King Award-winner Sharon Draper, readers will come to know a brilliant mind and a brave spirit who will change forever how they look at anyone with a disability.

**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)

RL.6.10:By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

Students will also continue to work on fluency, accuracy, and expression when reading.

**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 the School Library Journal: Gr 4–7—Fifth grader Melody Brooks can't walk, can't hold on to things, can't feed herself, and can't talk like other kids her age. She has cerebral palsy, goes everywhere in a wheelchair, and attends school with other kids with special needs. Although she's never spoken a single word, Melody is brilliant but trapped by her physical limitations. When she gets a computer with a special keyboard, she finally has a voice. Her school begins integrating the special ed kids into select classes, and Melody seizes the chance to prove herself to everyone. Sharon M. Draper has populated her compelling novel (Atheneum, 2010) with vibrant characters,

giving Melody the sass she deserves, and perfectly voicing her mother's fierce love and her father's jovial humanity. Sure to inspire.—Sara Saxton, Tuzzy Consortium Library

Review #2

From Kirkus Reviews: Melody, diagnosed with cerebral palsy, cannot walk or talk. Despite her parents' best efforts, the outside world has defined her by her condition. Melody's life changes when inclusion classrooms are introduced in her school, and she interacts with children other than those in her special-needs unit. To these children, Melody is "other," and they are mostly uncomfortable with her sounds and jerky movements. Normal problems of school friendships are magnified. Preparation for a trivia competition and acquisition of a computer that lets her communicate her thoughts reveal Melody's intelligence to the world. Melody is an entirely complete character, who gives a compelling view from inside her mind. Draper never shies away from the difficulties Melody and her family face. Descriptions of both Melody's challenges-"Going to the bathroom at school just plain sucks"-and the insensitivities of some are unflinching and realistic. Realistically, Melody's resilient spirit cannot keep her from experiencing heartbreak and disappointment even after she has demonstrated her intellect. This book is rich in detail of both the essential normalcy and the difficulties of a young person with cerebral palsy. (Fiction. 10 & up)

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

<u>Title:</u> <b>Wonder</b>	<u>Author:</u> <b>R.J. Palacio</b>
<u>Title:</u> <b>The Acorn People</b>	<u>Author:</u> <b>Ron Jones</b>
<u>Title:</u> <b>Anything But Typical</b>	<u>Author:</u> <b>Nora Raleigh Baskin</b>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

The word "retarded" is used often, sometimes as a part of a medical discussion, and sometimes as an insult. The novel contains verbal and social exclusion & bullying throughout. There are also a few descriptions of the narrator's inability to use the restroom by herself and her classmates' need to wear diapers. Pages 274-276 contain an upsetting event in which a child is hit by a car.

**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):** 700L

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** 5.12.15

**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