

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Biggam	School:	Shanahan
Book Title:	Pay It Forward: Young Reader's Edition	Genre:	Realistic Fiction
Author:	Catherine Ryan Hyde	Pages:	261
Publisher:	Simon & Schuster	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.)

From the publisher: The internationally bestselling book that inspired the Pay It Forward movement is now available in a middle grade edition. Pay It Forward is a moving, uplifting novel about Trevor McKinney, a twelve-year-old boy in a small California town who accepts his teacher's challenge to earn extra credit by coming up with a plan to change the world. Trevor's idea is simple: do a good deed for three people, and instead of asking them to return the favor, ask them to "pay it forward" to three others who need help. He envisions a vast movement of kindness and goodwill spreading across the world, and in this "quiet, steady masterpiece with an incandescent ending" (Kirkus Reviews), Trevor's actions change his community forever. This middle grade edition of Pay It Forward is extensively revised, making it an appropriate and invaluable complement to lesson plans and an ideal pick for book clubs, classroom use, and summer reading. Includes an author's note and curriculum guide.

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.7.10: 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 continue to work on fluency and expression.

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: Grades 5 and up—Twelve-year-old Trevor is a caring young man who, through a school assignment, begins a movement of kindness through the act of paying it forward. Encouraged by his mother and physically scarred school teacher, Trevor endeavors to make the world a better place in the midst of perceived failure and exciting social notoriety. As with the original adult version, Hyde brings readers into the Clinton administrative years and the home

and life of the protagonist. The characters are believable and likable and children are taken along on their journey as willing participants. An ambiguous ending allows kids to make their own decisions about Trevor and his future. A thoroughly convincing narrative that will have children questioning the label of fiction. —Elizabeth Speer.

Review #2

From Publishers Weekly: An ordinary boy engineers a secular miracle in Hyde's (Funerals for Horses) winning second novel, set in small-town 1990s California. Twelve-year-old Trevor McKinney, the son of Arlene, a single mom working two jobs, and Ricky, a deadbeat absentee dad, does not seem well-positioned to revolutionize the world. But when Trevor's social studies teacher, Reuben St. Clair, gives the class an extra-credit assignment, challenging his students to design a plan to change society, Trevor decides to start a goodwill chain. To begin, he helps out three people, telling each of them that instead of paying him back, they must "pay it forward" by helping three others. At first, nothing seems to work out as planned, not even Trevor's attempt to bring Arlene and Reuben together. Granted, Trevor's mother and his teacher are an unlikely couple: she is a small, white, attractive, determined; he is an educated black man who lost half his face in Vietnam. But eventually romance does blossom, and unbeknownst to Trevor, his other attempts to help do "pay forward," yielding a chain reaction of newsworthy proportions. Reporter Chris Chandler is the first to chase down the story, and Hyde's narrative is punctuated with excerpts from histories Chandler publishes in later years ("Those Who Knew Trevor Speak" and "The Other Faces Behind the Movement"), as well as entries from Trevor's journal.

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

<u>Title:</u> The Wednesday Wars	<u>Author:</u> Gary Schmidt
<u>Title:</u> Penny from Heaven	<u>Author:</u> Jennifer Holm
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>

Document any potentially controversial content:

The main character's favorite teacher often thinks about how his face was disfigured in Vietnam and he becomes upset when remembering things about the war. The novel also mentions controversial topics surrounding homelessness, drinking alcohol, death, and gang violence. The ending of the novel centers around the stabbing of a young boy when he tries to stop an act of violence against a gay couple, which could be upsetting for some students.

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): 610L

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 5.29.2015

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