

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: OLHS English Grade: 9 School: OLHS

Book Title: *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* Genre: Fiction/ /Contemporary Young Adult

Author: David Lubar Pages: 279

Publisher: Penguin Group Copyright: 2005

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 Amazon.com: Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your lunch money. Girls you've known forever are suddenly beautiful and unattainable. And you can never get enough sleep. Could there be a worse time for Scott's mother to announce she's pregnant? Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling. Meanwhile, he's trying his best to capture the attention of Julia, the freshman goddess. In the process, Scott manages to become involved in nearly everything the school has to offer. So while he tries to find his place in the confusing world of high school, win Julia's heart, and keep his sanity, Scott will be recording all the details for his sibling's—and your—enjoyment.

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)

Rationale:

This book is one of six novels selected to explore and examine how marginalized groups and/or individuals are represented in society. The selection of books for this unit allows students to view the world from the viewpoint of marginalized characters. We will be examining stereotypes and questioning how stereotypes are established and perpetuated. Students will be asked to propose solutions to stop stereotyping and call others to action against stereotyping. Students will work in literature circles as they read this novel. The reading will be done individually and students will meet in their groups to discuss their novel. Literature circles offer powerful benefits to readers of all ages. The circles are structured to move readers through a range of cognitive roles as they discuss books that are self-selected. Literature circles allow students to connect with each other, with texts, and ultimately, with the world in which they live. They learn to take responsibility as members of a group who, together, must construct meaning through discussion, debate and reflection. Discussion, debate and reflection are anchored in the text which serves as a springboard to explore social issues.

Connection to the state standards/OLSD curriculum map(s):

- Acquisition of Vocabulary (1)
- Reading Application Informational (5, 6)
- Reading Application Literary (7, 9, 10, 11)
- Writing Process (all)
- Writing Application (5, 7, 9)
- Writing Conventions (10)

- Research Standard (11)
- Communication Standard (13)

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 Amazon.com) Kirkus Reviews

Scott's wacky life always plays out in totally unexpected ways. His excitement to be a freshman, finally, is overturned by the horrible reality where he's whacked on the head on the bus, his spare change is stolen, he's totally ignored by all females and he constantly suffers being the lowliest of the low. Even at home, things have turned upside down with older hunky brother's return to base and Mom's surprise announcement of a new sibling to come. Scott nicknames the new arrival Smelly—a combo of Sean and Emily appropriate for either gender, and writes a "NOT a diary" journal with advice and tips for the future. Lubar's gift is in his presentation of the horrors of daily life and the humor that sneaks in as real-life lessons are inadvertently learned. The mystery is who the true friends turn out to be, and the comedy is inherent in how hard it is to learn to go with the flow. Fresh, funny and perfectly plausible as a demonstration of various writing exercises for classroom use, but only if you like laughter. (Fiction. YA)

Review #2

From School Library Journal (from Amazon.com)

Grade 7 Up—Scott Hudson begins his freshman year of high school as a source of income to Wesley, the school shakedown artist. The girl he's known since kindergarten has blossomed into a goddess, but doesn't seem to know he's alive. He gets roped into writing the sports column for the school newspaper, even though he's not an athlete. On top of everything else, his mom is pregnant. As Scott maneuvers through a number of serious situations—bullying, a suicidal classmate, school dances—he still manages to be upbeat and true to himself. Overloaded with extracurricular activities and honors homework, he begins a journal filled with lists and tips for his expected sibling on how to survive freshman year. As the school year and his mom's pregnancy progress, Scott begins to find his niche at school in David Lubar's laugh-out-loud novel (Dutton, 2005). The main narration is more than capably done by Ryan MacConnell as Scott. The rest of the characters are voiced by a variety of actors, adding depth to Scott's experiences. Unobtrusive music throughout enhances the recording, including a lullaby whenever Scott writes in his journal for the baby. An excellent choice for public and school libraries.—Charli Osborne, Oxford Public Library, MI
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From Booklist (from Amazon.com)

Gr. 8-11. Scott Hudson chronicles the ups and downs of his eventful freshman year in high school, as he joins the newspaper, works as a stage manager for the spring play, learns a lot from his outstanding English teacher, tries to help a student who attempts suicide, is beaten up because of a girl, and goes to the spring dance. Along the way, he discovers that his mother is pregnant, and he writes a series of insightful letters to his soon-to-be sibling. By the end, Scott has outgrown his freshman insecurities, realizing that he has carved a place for himself in the high-school world. The story delivers too many messages as Scott learns one important lesson after another. Still, most readers will find plenty of amusing, accurate observations about freshman life, from the insecurities of first dates to the dangers of walking the hall between classes. Todd Morning

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

Title: Author:

Title: Chanda's Secrets Author: Allan Stratton

Title: Whale Talk Author: Chris Crutcher

Title: The Bean Trees Author: Barbara Kingsolver

Title: Monster Author: Walter Dean Meyers

Title: Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Profanity: There are a few references to damn, hell. It contains the word damn five times and the character uses it apathetically, not even in frustration. The word hell is also used as the character discusses that the words heck and darn are supposed to be used instead of damn and hell. The moniker "freaky bitch" is applied to a character who is seen as "alternative." Those in the school who marginalize her and her best friend write this on her locker, and she ends up wearing the moniker as a badge of pride by having a t-shirt made.

Bullying: Mild violence in a scene when Scott is beat up.

Suicide: A secondary character attempts suicide due to the alienation that he feels from his peers.

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):

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 4/10/07

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