

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Ross Grade: 8 School: OBMS

Book Title: Scorpions Genre: Newbery Honor Book-realistic fiction

Author: Walter Dean Myers Pages: 224

Publisher: Scholastic Copyright: 12/08/1995

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.)

Lately everybody's messing with Jamal. His teachers, the kids at school, even his dad. And now that Jamal's brother Randy's in the slam, Crazy Mack has a crazy idea. He wants Jamal to take control of the Scorpions and run crack.

All the gang jive--Jamal has no use for it. Unless, like some say, it's the only way to cop the bread for Randy's appeal...

The story of twelve-year-old Jamal, whose life changes drastically when he acquires a gun. Though he survives the experience, it's not without sacrificing his innocence and possibly his relationship with his best friend.

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)

This book is being used as an optional text for students to further explore the author, Walter Dean Myers. The focus of the unit is for students to get a glimpse of how the historical and cultural influences on an author's life can have an effect on his writing. It is also a time for students to analyze the author's writing style. The following statements are directly pulled from the OLSD 8th grade Integrated English Curriculum Map and are the guidance for the reading focus of this unit:
I can...

Reading Applications: Literary Text

*analyze the influence that the setting has on the story and other literary elements.

* identify and explain different types of characters and how their interactions and conflicts affect the plot.

*explain how the type of point of view a story contains, affects the plot.

* explain how an author paces the action of the story (plot).

* discuss and explain the major themes in a piece of writing, discuss how the same theme may cross over multiple works by the same author.

* identify the multiple ways an author makes his/her writing unique (style).

Reading Applications: Informational Text

*analyze an author's argument, perspective or viewpoint & explain the development of key points.

Reading Process

*apply reading comprehension strategies, including making predictions, comparing and contrasting, recalling and summarizing and making inferences and drawing conclusions.

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

Jamal, who is pressured to become leader of the Scorpions gang, worries about school, family, and the rough kids on the street. When a fellow gang member gives him a gun, Jamal suddenly gains a new level of respect from his enemies. A realistic look at a boy who wants to do the right thing but gets caught up in the culture of violence. A Newbery Honor selection.

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Review #2

"A book honored for its honesty, realism, and vitality." -- -- 1989 Newbery Award Committee.

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

Title: Any novel written by... Author: Walter Dean Myers

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

References to drug use and one reference to sexual abuse. Multiple references to gang behavior.

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): LX 610

Date Submitted to Department Chair: January 23, 2012

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