

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Ross Grade: 8 School: OBMS

Book Title: Sunrise Over Fallujah Genre: realistic fiction

Author: Walter Dean Myers Pages: 320

Publisher: Scholastic Copyright: 04/15/2009

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 Walter Dean Myers comes a powerful and timely novel about the heroics and horror of war--- a gripping companion to *FALLEN ANGELS*.

Robin "Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it:

WAR

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

In 2003, in the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, young Robin Perry already wonders about "an enemy we can't identify and friends we're not sure about." Myers dedicates this novel to the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Services and to their families, and he offers a powerful study of the strange war they have been sent to fight, where confusion and randomness rule. Why are they fighting? Whom are they fighting? When will they be hit next? Narrated by Robin, nephew of Richie Perry, the main character of the landmark *Fallen Angels* (1988), this companion expertly evokes the beauty of Iraq and the ugliness of war. Given the paucity of works on this war, this is an important volume, covering much ground and offering much insight. Robin's eventual understanding that his experience was not about winning or losing the war but about "reaching for the highest idea of life" makes this a worthy successor to Myers's Coretta Scott King Award-winning classic. (map, glossary) (Fiction. 12+) --Kirkus --

Review #2

Robin's parents aspire for him to go to college, but following September 11, he feels compelled to join the Army instead. By early 2003, Robin has completed Basic Training and is deployed to Iraq where he becomes part of a Civil Affairs Unit charged with building the trust of the Iraqi people to minimize fighting. Civil Affairs soldiers are often put into deadly situations to test the waters, and Robin finds that the people in his unit, who nickname him "Birdy," are the only ones he can trust. Robin quickly learns that the situation in Iraq will not be resolved easily and that much of what is happening there will never make the news. Facing the horrors of war, Robin tries to remain hopeful and comforting in his letters to his family, never showing his fear or the danger he actually faces. The story of teenagers going to war today is an important one, and it is not told often enough. Myers writes an important book to have in any collection to recognize that many teens will choose to join the military instead of, or before, going on to college. Robin is only eighteen, and it is difficult to watch his innocence erased as war leaves its mark on him, but it is the reality for many young men and women. This fine book could be included with a unit on current events and is a good choice for boys. Reviewer: Stephanie Petruso
April 2008 (Vol. 31, No. 1) --Voya

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:

violence of war

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 780

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