

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

|             |                                     |            |                      |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Teacher:    | Gannon                              | School:    | Hyatts Middle School |
| Book Title: | The Eyes of Kid Midas               | Genre:     | fantasy              |
| Author:     | Neal Shusterman                     | Pages:     | 176                  |
| Publisher:  | Simon and Shuster for Young Readers | Copyright: | 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.)

Kevin Midas is sick of being picked on, teased and tormented. So when he finds a pair of magical sunglasses that give him the power to do--well, anything--he couldn't be happier. At first, Kevin spends his time pulling ice cream cones out of the air and getting every video game he ever wanted. But then he turns to darker wishes. What if he used the glasses to get revenge?

In Neal Shusterman's dark fantasy, one boy finds out that sometimes, getting everything you want can be deadly.

**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)

Reading Targets:

use reading strategy of marking text

use context clues to determine meaning

identify types of conflict within a story

identify the protagonist and antagonist in the story and determine the motive of each

identify literary elements

determine the theme

evaluate how a character's perspective is important to the story

**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 Publishers Weekly

It's no coincidence that this novel's title and protagonist hark back to Greek mythology; this modern fantasy has the resonance and power of an ancient myth. Shusterman ( *The Shadow Club* ; *What Daddy Did* ) starts with a question--What if a typical seventh-grader could have anything he wanted?--and proceeds to a conclusion that makes time stop and the very universe dissolve. Along the way there is plenty of comedy and even sly foreshadowing in the shape of a good-natured jab at the sci-fi genre: "That's what you get for messing with time and space," says Kevin, Midas's best

friend, when a comic-book hero gets sucked into a black hole. Kevin gets sucked into a black hole of his own when he dons magic sunglasses that make his every wish come true, resulting in the near-annihilation of reality itself. Imaginative and witty, this fable for the '90s convincingly proves the dangers of the narcissistic ethos of having it all. With its original premise, unpredictable plot and whiz-bang finish, this book will handily captivate its audience. Ages 10-up.

Review #2

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9-- Short and bespectacled, 13-year-old Kevin is the constant victim of the class bully, Bertram, but things change during a camping trip to a mountain that is supposedly sacred to the Native Americans of the region. After a grueling nighttime climb, Kevin reaches the top at dawn and finds a cool pair of sunglasses, which turn out to be saturated with the mountain's magic. They have the power of turning his desires into reality and making him master of his universe. From making ice-cream cones materialize to filling his house with video games, they grant his every wish, and things predictably get out of hand. Unfortunately, he cannot use the glasses to undo or reverse any of these actions, and when in anger he shouts at Bertram, "Go to Hell!" the ground opens up and swallows him. Eventually the fabric of reality starts to unwind and the world as he knows it becomes a thing of the past. Kevin later has a vision of Bertram struggling in chains in his own personally customized hell, in a wonderfully disturbing scene worthy of Stephen King. In general the imagery here is vivid and effective. The ending, in which the boy undoes everything he has done merely by returning the glasses to the mountaintop, may strike some readers as a simplistic cop-out, and the moral conclusion of his dilemma is the obvious one, but the novel features steady action with occasional touches of bizarre, inspired humor and is hypnotically readable. --Lyle Blake Smythers, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

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

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <u>Title:</u> <b>The Shadow Club</b>                | <u>Author:</u> <b>Neal Shusterman</b> |
| <u>Title:</u> <b>The Duplicator</b>                 | <u>Author:</u> <b>William Sleator</b> |
| <u>Title:</u> <b>The Boy Who Remembered Himself</b> | <u>Author:</u> <b>William Sleator</b> |
| <u>Title:</u>                                       | <u>Author:</u>                        |
| <u>Title:</u>                                       | <u>Author:</u>                        |
| <u>Title:</u>                                       | <u>Author:</u>                        |

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

There are references to Hell and a character is sent to Hell in the novel.

**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):** grades 6-9

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** 11-30-11

**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