

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Swisher	School:	Orange
Book Title:	The Jacket	Genre:	Realistic Fiction
Author:	Andrew Clements	Pages:	89
Publisher:	Aladdin	Copyright:	2003

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.)

After wrongly accusing a boy--an African American boy—of stealing his brother's jacket, Phil--a white boy--has some hard thinking to do. And a tough question for his mom: "How come you never told me I was prejudiced?" This seemingly small school incident turns into a painful, but ultimately satisfying, learning opportunity for the sixth grader, as he explores the myriad influences in his life and the way his thought patterns have formed... and finds a new friend in the process. The intellectual evolution Phil goes through may be somewhat facile for a child his age, but Andrew Clements's message will undoubtedly hit home for many readers. This is exactly the kind of situation that arises every day in schools (and offices and buses) all over the world. Clements is the author of many highly acclaimed children's books, including *The Janitor's Boy* and *Frindle*. (Ages 8 to 12) from Amazon.com

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)

Gain and demonstrate a deeper understanding of human story by reading varieties of genres.

How does reading a variety of literature representing different authors, cultures and eras enhance the reader's understanding of the human story?

How does the reader apply the reading process to a variety of genres to achieve deeper understanding?

13. Describe and analyze the elements of character development. 7RALA

14. Identify the main and minor events of the plot and explain how each gives rise to the next. 7RALC

16. Demonstrate comprehension by inferring themes, patterns and symbols.

This book is good for teaching story elements, such as character development, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution etc., It also is an excellent book for teaching theme: racism/prejudice.

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

Originally serialized in the Boston Globe, Clements's (Frindle; The School Story) brief, instructive tale centers on a sixth-grader who one day realizes that he is prejudiced. When Phil spies Daniel, an African-American schoolmate, wearing a jacket identical to one that his mother bought him in Italy (and that Phil had passed down to his younger brother), he assumes that Daniel has stolen the coat. After tussling in the hall, the two sort things out in the principal's office, where Daniel reveals that his jacket was a gift from his grandmother, Lucy; as it turns out, the woman who for years has cleaned Phil's house is Daniel's grandmother. Learning that the jacket now legitimately belongs to Daniel, Phil questions his actions ("What if Daniel had been a white kid? Would I have grabbed him like that?"). The lad's quandary deepens when he suddenly recognizes that his father is, quite blatantly, a bigot. Though lacking subtlety, the story pointedly delivers a timely message and can serve as a springboard for dialogue about tolerance and self-honesty. Clements makes his point without didacticism and with just the right amount of emotion. Ages 8-12.

Review #2

From Booklist

Gr. 3-6. In a short, disturbing story, white sixth-grader Phil suddenly faces complex issues of race and class in his comfortable home and school. It begins with an ugly confrontation: Phil is furious when he sees a black kid, Daniel, in the school hallway wearing Phil's brother's jacket. Phil immediately assumes the jacket is stolen. Daniel is angered by the accusation and tears off the garment. It turns out that Daniel's grandmother, Lucy, who works as cleaning lady in Phil's home, was given the jacket by Phil's mother. As Phil wakes up to his own prejudice (Would he have thought the jacket was stolen if Daniel were white?), he questions the unspoken segregation all around him. Why is his neighborhood totally white? Is his father racist? Why doesn't he know Lucy's last name? Is it wrong to have a cleaning lady? Because he is truly sorry, Phil seeks out Daniel in the boy's black middle-class neighborhood and makes some surprising discoveries about what he and Daniel have in common. The plot is purposive, and readers will want more from Daniel's viewpoint, but Clements strips away the platitudes and eschews neat solutions, making this an excellent story to open honest group discussion. Hazel Rochman
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What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?

<u>Title:</u> Maniac Magee	<u>Author:</u> Jerry Spinelli
<u>Title:</u> Crossing Jordan	<u>Author:</u> Adrian Fogelin
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>

Document any potentially controversial content:

The theme of the book is prejudice/racism. There are no inappropriate racial slurs used.

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): 8-12

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 5/8/07

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