

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Jill Martin	School:	Liberty HS
Book Title:	The Orphan Train	Genre:	Historical fiction
Author:	Christina Baker Kline	Pages:	320
Publisher:	William Morrow Paperbacks	Copyright:	2013

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.)

Between 1854 and 1929, so-called orphan trains ran regularly from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned children whose fates would be determined by pure luck. Would they be adopted by a kind and loving family, or would they face a childhood and adolescence of hard labor and servitude?

As a young Irish immigrant, Vivian Daly was one such child, sent by rail from New York City to an uncertain future a world away. Returning east later in life, Vivian leads a quiet, peaceful existence on the coast of Maine, the memories of her upbringing rendered a hazy blur. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are vestiges of a turbulent past.

Seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer knows that a community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping her out of juvenile hall. But as Molly helps Vivian sort through her keepsakes and possessions, she discovers that she and Vivian aren't as different as they appear. A Penobscot Indian who has spent her youth in and out of foster homes, Molly is also an outsider being raised by strangers, and she, too, has unanswered questions about the past.

Moving between contemporary Maine and Depression-era Minnesota, *Orphan Train* is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of second chances, and unexpected friendship.

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)

The following key indicators from the 10th grade map will be explored:

Reading 4. Influences on Texts a. Relate a literary work to the important ideas of the time and place in which it is set or in which it was written (e.g., the Great Migration as represented in Richard Wright's work *Black Boy* and Jacob Lawrence's paintings)

Reading 5. Author's Voice and Method f. Analyze an author's implicit and explicit argument, perspective, or viewpoint in a text (e.g., Toni Cade Bambara's argument about social class in the U.S. in her short story "The Lesson")

Writing Process 2. Modes of Writing for Different Purposes and Audiences c. Craft first and final drafts of persuasive papers that support arguments with detailed evidence, exclude irrelevant information, and correctly cite sources

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](#)

“A compelling story about loss, adaptability, and courage . . . With compassion and delicacy Kline presents a little-known chapter of American history and draws comparisons with the modern-day foster care system.” — Library Journal

Review #2

“Absorbing...a heartfelt page-turner about two women finding a sense of home...Kline lets us live the characters’ experiences vividly through their skin...The growth from instinct to conscious understanding to partnership between the two is the foundation for a moving tale.” — Publishers Weekly

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

Title: **The Jungle**

Author: **Upton Sinclair**

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

On pages 150 - 151 Vivian is attacked by the 'father' in the family that she is living with. He attempts to sexually assault her as she fights him off. The scene ends as the wife comes into the room and forces Vivian to leave the house.

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): Young Adult

Date Submitted to Department Chair: April 2017

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)

