

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Lisa Patton	School:	Shanahan
Book Title:	The Shadow Club	Genre:	Realistic Fiction
Author:	Neal Shusterman	Pages:	199
Publisher:	Penguin Group	Copyright:	1988

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.)

For Jared and Cheryl, nothing is worse than coming in second. Their idea to form a club of second-best kids seems harmless at first. But when the Shadow Club members start playing anonymous practical jokes on each other's rivals, things quickly spiral out of control, and innocent people get hurt. This chilling page-turner about the effects of underlying resentment on a high school population is more timely now than when it was first published.

Barnes and Noble

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)

Acquisition of Vocabulary

To acquire and effectively use new words in print and conversation through a language rich environment to increase comprehension.

How are new words learned?

Why is it important to understand and use new words?

Contextual Understanding

1. Construct the meaning of unknown words through context clues and the author's use of definition, restatement, and example. 7AVA

Conceptual Understanding

2. Interpret similes and metaphors to understand new words and phrases in text.

7AVB

Reading Process

Develop and apply strategies to comprehend and interpret text.

What makes a strategic reader?

How do readers use strategies to understand various texts?

Comprehension Strategies

5. Summarize the information in texts, recognizing important ideas and supporting details as well as noting gaps or contradictions. 7RPB

6. Critically compare across texts noting author's style as well as literal and implied contents of texts. 7RPB

7. Predict or hypothesize as appropriate from information in the text, supporting with specific references to a literary work. 7RPB

Self-monitor

8. Apply self-monitoring strategies to clarify confusion about text and to monitor comprehension. 7RPD

Reading Applications Literary

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

15. Identify the use of figurative language. 7RALG

16. Demonstrate comprehension by inferring themes, patterns and symbols. 7RALE

This book can be used to compare and contrast characters. It can also be used to study character development. This book is used for plot development and closely follow how each event leads to the next.

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

Publishers Weekly

This engrossing book portrays how easily even “good” kids can lose control of themselves and do cruel and horrible things. Seven junior-high-school students (all “second-bests”) led by narrator Jared and best friend Cheryl form the Shadow Club to get back at the “unbeatables” who make their lives miserable. Revenge tastes very sweet when they play humiliating practical jokes on all the school's first-bests, including track star Austin, Jared's nemesis. Any qualms that Jared has about the club get tossed aside when he's acknowledged as president. And, though he calls a temporary halt to the pranks, someone starts playing really dangerous tricks. Events come to a head when Austin is seriously injured. Sure that school weirdo Tyson is the culprit, the Shadow Club captures him. Jared leads the others in beating him up, then almost causes the boy's death. In the thrilling denouement, Jared learns where the blame really lies. Shusterman vividly conveys the overwhelming qualities of violent emotions and chillingly shows how a group of “nice” people can become an ugly, vengeful mob. Ages 12-up. (May)

Barnes and Noble-Publisher's Weekly

Review #2

"An engrossing book... Shusterman vividly conveys the overwhelming qualities of violent emotions and chillingly shows how a group of 'nice' people can become a vengeful mob."

-- Publishers Weekly

"Powerful... Every reader who has felt resentment will identify with these young people, their anger, and their terror."

-- Kirkus Reviews

"This is a provocative novel... The plot is ingeniously simple and the course of events compelling. Brisk enough to snag a popular audience, but forceful in impact, it will leave readers thinking."

-- A.L.A. Booklist (* starred review *)

"A well-constructed mystery... with character complexity, and a logical, yet unexpected finale..."

-- Bulletin of the Center for Children's books

from www.storyman.com

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

Title: **The Beasties**

Author: **William Sleator**

Title: **Sign of the Beaver**

Author: **Elizabeth George Speare**

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

A few references of God used

A few references to Hell are used by a troubled youth

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): 5.5

Date Submitted to Department Chair: May 10, 2007

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