

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Klein	School:	OLMS
Book Title:	The Thief	Genre:	Fantasy and Adventure
Author:	Megan Whalen Turner	Pages:	304
Publisher:	Greenwillow Books	Copyright:	2005

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.)

Age Level: 10 and up | Grade Level: 5 and up

"I can steal anything."

After Gen's bragging lands him in the king's prison, the chances of escape look slim. Then the king's scholar, the magus, needs the thief's skill for a seemingly impossible task -- to steal a hidden treasure from another land.

To the magus, Gen is just a tool. But Gen is a trickster and a survivor with a plan of his own.

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)

1. Explain interactions and conflicts (e.g., character vs. self, nature or society) between main and minor characters in literary text and how the interactions affect the plot. 2. Analyze the features of the setting and their importance in a text.

3. Identify the main and Benchmarks: A. Determine a purpose for reading and use a range of reading comprehension strategies to better understand text. B. Apply effective reading comprehension strategies, including summarizing and making predictions, and comparisons using information in text, between text and across subject areas. C. Make meaning through asking and responding to a variety of questions related to text. D. Apply self-monitoring strategies to clarify confusion about text and to monitor comprehension.

Indicators: 1. Establish and adjust purposes for reading including to find out, to understand, to interpret, to enjoy and to solve problems. 2. Predict or hypothesize as appropriate from information in the text, substantiating with specific references to textual examples that may be in widely separated sections of text. 3. Make critical comparisons across texts, noting author's style as well as literal and implied content of text. 4. Summarize the information in texts, using key ideas, supporting details and referencing gaps or contradictions. 5. Select, create and use graphic organizers to interpret textual information.

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

A king orders a young thief to carry out a near-impossible heist under threat of death. "In addition to its charismatic hero, this story possesses one of the most valuable treasures of all—a twinkling jewel of a surprise ending," said PW of this 1997 Newbery Honor book. Ages 10-14.
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Review #2

From School Library Journal

Grade 6 Up? Things are not what they seem in this story of wit, adventure, and philosophy. Gen, an accomplished thief incarcerated for stealing the king's seal, is dragged from his cell by the king's magus, who is on a quest. The prize is Hamiathes's Gift, said to be a creation of the gods that confers the right of rule on the wearer. During the quest, the magus and Gen take turns telling the youngest member of their party myths about the Eddisian god of thieves. Turner does a phenomenal job of creating real people to range through her well-plotted, evenly paced story. No one is entirely evil or completely perfect. Gen is totally human in his lack of discipline, seeming lack of heroism, and need for sleep and food. The magus makes the transition from smug, superior scholar to decent guy in a believable fashion. Turner also does a neat job of puncturing lots of little prejudices. There are many deft lessons in this story. As absorbing as it is, the best part lies in the surprise ending. Though it is foreshadowed throughout, it is not obvious—its impact is more like morning sunlight than a lightning bolt. This book is sure to be a hot item with adventure and fantasy lovers, and YAs who like snide, quick-tempered, softhearted heroes will love Gen. ?Patricia A. Dollisch, DeKalb County Public Library, Decatur, GA
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What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?

Title: **Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief** Author: **Rick Riordan**

Title: **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** Author: **JK Rowling**

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Mild prophanity and some violence

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): 10+

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 1/17/12

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