

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Klein	School:	OLMS
Book Title:	The True Meaning of Smekday	Genre:	Science Fiction
Author:	Adam Rex	Pages:	432
Publisher:	Hyperion Book CH	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.)

It all starts with a school essay.

When twelve-year-old Gratuity (“Tip”) Tucci is assigned to write five pages on “The True Meaning of Smekday” for the National Time Capsule contest, she’s not sure where to begin. When her mom started telling everyone about the messages aliens were sending through a mole on the back of her neck? Maybe on Christmas Eve, when huge, bizarre spaceships descended on the Earth and the aliens – called Boov – abducted her mother? Or when the Boov declared Earth a colony, renamed it “Smekland” (in honor of glorious Captain Smek), and forced all Americans to relocate to Florida via rocketpod?

In any case, Gratuity’s story is much, much bigger than the assignment. It involves her unlikely friendship with a renegade Boov mechanic named J.Lo.; a futile journey south to find Gratuity’s mother at the Happy Mouse Kingdom; a cross-country road trip in a hovercar called Slushious; and an outrageous plan to save the Earth from yet another alien invasion.

Fully illustrated with “photos,” drawings, newspaper clippings, and comics sequences, this is a hilarious, perceptive, genre-bending novel by a remarkable new talent.

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)

Indicators: 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.

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

Library Media Connection; Jan2008, Vol. 26 Issue 4, p69-69, 1/6p

K-5 6-8 19t-1's2 not often you'll find the words “witty” and “charming” describing a book chronicling the attempted annihilation of mankind, but this actionpacked adventure is loads of fun. The story begins when an alien race, the Boov, kidnaps 12-year-old Tip's mom, and invades and conquers Earth. Tip sets off in the family car to find her mother. The car breaks down; Tip is rescued by a renegade Boov named J.Lo, who has been forced into hiding due to accidentally sending an intergalactic message advertising Earth's desirability. This leads to the arrival of a truly sinister species, the Gorg, who vanquish the Boov and plan to consume Earth. Tip and J.Lo must learn to trust each other as they hide from both the Boov and the Gorg. The pair eventually find Tip's mom, defeat the Gorg, and save mankind. J.Lo finds a home with Tip and her mom, and life returns to normal. The author's original artwork complements the text and extends the general hilarity. Full of puns and wordplay, this funny romp would be a delightful read-aloud. J.Lo's mangled English, Tip's wry observations, and the continuing confusion as worlds collide—sometimes literally—will keep audiences enthralled. Recommended. Kathleen McBroom, Media Specialist, Dearborn (Michigan) Public Schools

Review #2

Gr 4-8 In the chaotic turmoil that follows the Boov invasion of Earth, 11-year-old Gratuity Tucci finds herself driving her mother's car to Florida, where all of the humans are being relocated, with her cat and a renegade extraterrestrial named J.Lo as her copilots. Rex balances the wildly imaginative and hilarious goings-on with more serious and thoughtful concerns about American society to create a high-energy futuristic romp.

School Library Journal; Apr2008 Curriculum Connection, Vol. 54, p54-54, 1/8p,

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

Title: **Among the Hidden**

Author: **Margaret Petersen Haddix**

Title: **Eyes of Kid Midas**

Author: **Neal Shusterman**

Title:
Title:
Title:
Title:

Author:
Author:
Author:
Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Parents need to know that there is some cartoonish violence, with science-fictiony weapons that vaporize things, and lots of explosions. Once character is knocked out, and otherwise only non-character aliens are hurt. There is also some mild swearing.

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+

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