

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: C. Williams/L. Gore Grade: 8 School: OMS

Book Title: The Westing Game Genre: mystery

Author: Ellen Raskin Pages: 216

Publisher: Puffin Books Copyright: 1978

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 over twenty-five years, Ellen Raskin's Newbery Medal-winning *The Westing Game* has been an enduring favorite. It has sold over one and a half million copies. This highly inventive mystery involves sixteen people who are invited to the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. They could become millionaires-it all depends on how they play the tricky and dangerous Westing game, a game involving blizzards, burglaries, and bombings! Ellen Raskin has created a remarkable cast of characters in a puzzle-knotted, word-twisting plot filled with humor, intrigue, and suspense."

Author Bio: Rosemary Graham lives in Berkeley, California.

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)

This enduring book is highly acclaimed-- a winner of the Newbery Medal and the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award.

10. Examine author's purpose and style.

10RALG

11. Determine purpose for reading and strategies needed for comprehension.

12. Compare and contrast literary elements in similar literary works.

13. Analyze plot, character, theme, point of view and setting in varied

genres. 10RALA,B, 12RALA

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

Booklist, starred review

"A supersharp mystery . . . Confoundingly clever, and very funny."

Review #2

Could not find second review.

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

Title: The Egypt Game Author: Zilpha Keatley Snyder

Title: From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler Author: E.L. Konigsburg

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:
Title: Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Two instances of "hell." The book deals with the murder of the title character, but is chiefly an engaging "solve-the-puzzle-type" mystery.

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): 5.3-6.1

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 10/8/07

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