

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

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

Book Title: Twisted Summer Genre: mystery

Author: Willo Davis Roberts Pages: 189

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Copyright: 1996

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.)

"Cici expected the summer to be special. She had no idea that it would change her forever. Two kids, two lives, ruined before they even began. One, a girl, dead-- strangled in an empty cabin. The other, a boy, spending the rest of his life in jail for her murder. To Cici, it all seems so unreal. These were kids she had grown up with, whom she had known. She can't believe Brody Shurik could have murdered Zoe Cyrek. Something's going on here, and Cici's going to find out exactly what it is. But Cici has an even harder time believing what she uncovers. Could the murderer really be someone close to her? Maybe even a member of her family? Cici must be on the right track, though, because now she's become the murderer's target!"- book back cover

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)

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

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9? The brisk pace of this suspenseful murder mystery lures readers right to the gripping ending. Fourteen-year-old Cici Linden's anticipated summer among family and old friends on Crystal Lake in Michigan takes an abrupt turn when she realizes that the brother of the boy she likes has been convicted of murdering a flirtatious girl from the summer community. Convinced of Brody's innocence, Cici searches for the real killer in the midst of the illness and death of her beloved grandmother and her growing conviction that her step-grandfather is somehow involved in the crime. Before discovering the murderer's identity, Cici survives being shot at and uncovers double blackmail. Roberts writes insightfully about death and the different ways in which people grieve. This is a well-crafted, sophisticated story that conveys Cici's conflicting feelings as her hopes for a romantic summer turn sour? Connie Tyrrell Burns, Mahoney Middle School, South Portland, ME

Review #2

From Booklist

Gr. 6-8. Last summer Cici and her family couldn't make it to their Michigan cabin. This summer promises to be better. Fourteen-year-old Cici fits into her new bikini beautifully; surely, 17-year-old Jake will notice. But last summer, Jake's older brother was convicted of murder, and this summer, Jake wants to talk about it. As Jake and Cici review the facts of the case, clues surface. In the middle of their investigation, Cici's grandmother dies. Although Cici feels guilty for suspecting the mourners, she prepares a list of suspects with motive and opportunity. When the list disappears, it's apparent that someone knows what the teens are doing. Cici's first-person narrative enhances the realistic characterizations, and although the ending is a bit formulaic, it's still a surprise. A charming mystery for readers who like Nancy Drew. Karen Simonetti

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

Title: The Face on the Milk Carton Author: Caroline B. Cooney

Title: Don't Scream Author: Joan Lowery Nixon

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

The novel revolves around the murder of a teenage girl and another girl's attempt to find the real murderer. There is no objectionable language.

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): 6.2

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 10/05/07

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