

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Veronica Asbury	School:	Liberty Middle
Book Title:	Where the Red Fern Grows	Genre:	Realistic Fiction
Author:	Wilson Rawls	Pages:	212
Publisher:	Random House	Copyright:	1961

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.)

Billy, Old Dan and Little Ann — a Boy and His Two Dogs...

A loving threesome, they ranged the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country. Old Dan had the brawn, Little Ann had the brains — and Billy had the will to train them to be the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory were coming to them, but sadness waited too. And close by was the strange and wonderful power that's only found...

An exciting tale of love and adventure you'll never forget.

A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

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)

Reading Application

- 1.) Analyze the techniques author's use to describe characters, including the narrator and other characters' point of view, character's own thoughts, words, or actions.
- 3.) Identify the main and minor events of the plot, and explain how each incident gives rise to the next.
- 4.) Compare original text to a summary to determine the extent to which the summary adequately reflects the main ideas and critical details of the original text.
- 7.) Distinguish how an author establishes mood and meaning through word choice, figurative, language and syntax.

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

An Animal Classic

Where the Red Fern Grow* by Wilson Rawls (Random, 1961): Jim Trelease, author of The Read-Aloud Handbook (Penguin, 1982), has remarked that he read this classic adventure about a boy and his two coonbonds to his son and cried during an emotional scene. I read this story to my children and cried during the same powerful passage. We all hugged and snuggled closer as I kept on reading. What a family memory we created that day! This beautifully written tale tugs at the heartstrings and will enchant all who bear it. (Gr. 4-8)

Animal Companions. By: Reid, Rob. Book Links, Jan2008, Vol. 17 Issue 3, p6-7, 2p
www.ala.org/booklinks January 2008 Book links

Review #2

The power of the human-animal bond has been described in sources as diverse as ancient literature, modern fiction, and research reports in the professional literature (Chandler, 2001; Mallon, 1992; Parshall, 2003; Siegel, 1993). Educators have used classic examples, such as those found in the children's books Old Yeller and Where the Red Fern Grows, to teach young students important lessons about loving and living. Families, likewise, have historically endorsed the importance of animals in the process of child-rearing: rural children have assumed responsibility for animal care from an early age, while their city cousins have raised and enjoyed companion animals (Parshall; Siegel).

Title:

Counseling with Pocket Pets: Using Small Animals in Elementary Counseling Programs By: Flom, Barbara L., Professional School Counseling, 10962409, 20050601, Vol. 8, Issue 5

Database:

ERIC

Full Text Database:

Academic Search Premier

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

Title: **Old Yeller**

Author: **Fred Gibson**

Title: **My Side of the Mountain**

Author: **Jean Craighead George**

Title: **Hatchet**

Author: **Gary Paulson**

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

mild abuse (mother uses a switch to punish main character) and 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): 6.4

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 11/30/11

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