

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	OLHS English	School:	Liberty High School
Book Title:	Zap	Genre:	Play
Author:	Paul Fleischman	Pages:	83
Publisher:	Candlewick	Copyright:	2006

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.)

Cue the lights for this nonstop farce that juxtaposes seven different plays--performed simultaneously--with a comic genius reminiscent of masters from Monty Python to the Marx Brothers. Combining spot-on parodies of Anton Chekhov, Agatha Christie, Tennessee Williams, Samuel Beckett, Neil Simon, and performance art, and throwing in scenes from Richard III for good measure, Zap flicks back and forth from play to play with the zap of a TV remote.

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 Indicators:

7. Interpret an author's style. 10RALB
8. Analyze the use of figurative language, sound devices and literary techniques in literary works. 10RALF
9. Compare and contrast literary elements focusing on plot and conflict, literary styles in diverse literary works. 10RALC
10. Analyze literary elements focusing on sub genres. 12RALC
11. Evaluate plot, character, theme, point of view and setting

Writing Indicators:

5. Write well organized responses that reflect insightful interpretations that support judgments beyond specific references to the original texts, to other texts, authors and prior knowledge.
9. Produce informal writing for various purposes. 12WAC

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 9 Up--For practiced young thespians bored with chestnuts like Grease or Romeo and Juliet, Fleischman dishes up a hilarious pastiche that mixes speeches from Shakespeare with original scenes done in the styles of Chekhov, Tennessee Williams, Agatha Christie, Samuel Beckett, and Neil Simon--plus the occasional babble from Marsha, a neurotic performance artist. Working from the conceit that everyone in the audience gets a remote control to switch channels when interest lags, the author creates an increasingly rapid-fire sequence that has the various casts scuttling on

and off stage, sometimes cut off in mid-line. Soon, they're losing their respective threads, falling out of character, and ultimately blending together in a general melee: Whoa. Chekhov meets WrestleMania, as Marsha sardonically puts it. Requiring a large cast and players (not to mention audiences) sufficiently versed in stage history to get the array of theatrical conventions Fleischman's spoofing, this script will challenge and reward in equal measure any company courageous enough to take it on.—John Peters, New York Public Library

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Review #2

From Booklist

Gr. 9-12. In a natural extension of his works for readers' theater (Joyful Noise, 1988; Seek, 2001), Newbery Medalist Fleischman offers his first "bona fide play." Framed as a performance for an imaginary audience armed with remote-control "zappers," this is actually seven plays mashed into one: a turgid rendition of Shakespeare's Richard III alternating at audience's whim among six spoofs of other dramaturgical biggies, among them, "The Russian Play," "The English Mystery," and "The Southern Play." Playgoers and actors alike, particularly those with some experience of the less-mainstream genres lampooned (for example, absurdist theater, in which a crossword player's request for "a three-letter word for despair" might reasonably be answered with artichoke), will relish the irreverent chaos as the boundaries between the plays gradually erode. Not every adult will agree that the way to invigorate students' interest in the stage is to reinforce the perception of tedium surrounding theater's greatest works. Still, it's easy to imagine student actors tackling this with verve. Mature references and on-stage consumption of "whiskey" limit this to high-school casts.

Jennifer Mattson

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

<u>Title:</u> A Raisin in the Sun	<u>Author:</u> Lorraine Hansberry
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>

Document any potentially controversial content:

None

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): 9th grade and up

Date Submitted to Department Chair: December 20, 2007

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