

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Beth Ann Camp

School: Hyatts Middle School

Book Title: Echo Mountain

Genre: Historical Fiction

Author: Lauren Wolk

Publisher: Penguin Random House

Copyright: April 21, 2020

**Book Summary and Summary Citation:** (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

**After losing almost everything in the Great Depression,** Ellie's family is forced to leave their home in town and start over in the untamed wilderness of nearby Echo Mountain. Ellie has found a welcome freedom, and a love of the natural world, in her new life on the mountain. But there is little joy after a terrible accident leaves her father in a coma. An accident unfairly blamed on Ellie.

Ellie is a girl who takes matters into her own hands, and determined to help her father she will make her way to the top of the mountain in search of the healing secrets of a woman known only as "the hag." But the hag, and the mountain, still have many untold stories left to reveal.

Historical fiction at its finest, Echo Mountain is a celebration of finding your own path and becoming your truest self. Lauren Wolk, the Newbery Honor– and Scott O'Dell Award–winning author of Wolf Hollow and Beyond the Bright Sea, weaves a stunning tale of resilience, persistence, and friendship across three generations of families.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/597627/echo-mountain-by-lauren-wolk/>

**Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum blueprints and/or State standards.**

This award winning historical fiction text will be used to focus on the following standards:

RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RL.6.2 Analyze literary text development. a. Determine a theme of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details. b. Incorporate a theme and story details into an objective summary of the text.

RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

RL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices, including sensory language, on meaning and tone.

RL.6.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

RL.6.6 Explain how an author uses the point of view to develop the perspective of the narrator or speaker in a text.

W.6.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.

b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

c. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.

d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.

e. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

**Include two professional review 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). Reviews should suggest an appropriate grade-level or grade-band.

#### Review #1

An NPR Best Book of the Year • A Horn Book Fanfare Selection • A Kirkus Best Book of the Year • A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year • A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year • A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year

#### Review #2

★ *"Wolk's poetic prose and enticing foreshadowing warrant savoring as they carry the reader through the narrative, which gracefully unfolds over brief, steadily paced chapters. **Historical fiction at its finest.**"* –The Horn Book, starred review

★ *"**Complex and fiercely loving, Ellie is a girl any reader would be proud to have as a friend.... Woven with music, puppies, and healing, Wolk's beautiful storytelling turns this historical tale of family and survival into a captivating saga.**"* –Booklist, starred review

★ *"[A] magnificently related story of the wide arc of responsibility, acceptance, and, ultimately, connectedness.... **A luscious, shivery delight.**"* –Kirkus, starred review

★ “[An] **exquisitely layered historical**.... A powerful, well-paced portrait of interconnectedness, work and learning, and strength in a time of crisis.”—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ “*Wolk again spins a fascinating historical fiction novel with strong female characters*. Her short chapters are infused with adventure and mystery, frequently end on cliff-hangers, and include abundant dialogue that will propel readers through this novel they will find hard to put down.”—SLC, starred review

“Ellie is a deeply appealing character.... A reader who wants to make a difference will appreciate the way she rolls up her sleeves and gets things done. And surely **there has never been a better time to read about healing, of both the body and the heart.**”  
—*The New York Times Book Review*

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

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

In the opening scene, it is suspected that a newborn puppy has died but there is a positive resolution. There is also a scene where a child has a black eye, and it is suspected that the parent contributed to it. There is no intense violence or controversial language.

**Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)**

X Gifted/Accelerated

X Regular

X At Risk

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 6X 7  8  9  10  11  12

**Reading Level of this Title (if applicable):**

Ages 10-13 years old, Grades 5-6

**Suggested Professional Literacy Review Sources:**

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

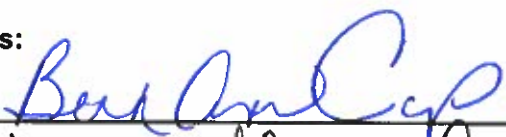
Book Links

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


**Signatures:**

Teacher:   
10/8/21

Date:

Department Head:  10/8/21

Date:

Building Administrator: 

Date: 10-8-21

Curriculum Supervisor: 

Date: 10/20/21