

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Mallory Greenwell

School: OLMS

Book Title: *The Maze Runner*

Genre: Science Fiction

Author: James Dashner

Publisher: Delacorte Press

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

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone.

Outside the towering stone walls that surround them is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive.

Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying: Remember. Survive. Run.

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

This book was chosen as an option to read in science fiction literature circles. This book specifically helps teach students about setting and its effect on character development and plot.

Specific District and Common Core Standards include (please include a link to the ELA Standards document and list the specific standards): The following standards are met through the book: CCR Anchor Standards 1, 2, 3 and 10.

[ELA Reading Literature Standards](#)

Include two professional reviews of this title: (links to the reviews are fine; Common Sense Media should be used, if available)

Gr 7 Up—Dazed and confused, Thomas wakes up to find himself sprawled in black box in front of a crowd of unfamiliar boys in James Dashner's novel (Delacorte, 2009). As they welcome him to the Glade, Thomas realizes that he remembers nothing about himself. He discovers that the Gladers don't know how they got there or why they are now living in an expanse surrounded by massive stone walls. Everyone there has an assigned task, such as runner. Outside the wall is a maze and the runners cover its enormous expanse each day hoping to find a way out of their artificial world. Thomas senses that he was sent to the Glade for a reason, and after a girl arrives there, he begins to believe that he holds the answers to every Glader's question. Thomas's bewilderment is deftly portrayed by Mark Deakins. Some of the boys have slight British and Scottish accents which add to the magic of this unique and highly realized fantasy. Deakins's pacing and intonation build suspense. Fans of dystopian tales, such as Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games series (Scholastic), will be drawn into the Glade with Thomas.—Wendy Woodfill, Hennepin County Library, Minnetonka, MN

School Library Journal

[Common Sense Media](#)

What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements? (alternates should be previously reviewed texts or a new text needs a new review form)

Dry Neal Shusterman

Ready Player One Ernest Cline

Document any potentially controversial content (clear, descriptive, accurate, and examples of a page number or two):

Parents need to know that the scenes of violence are stronger in this book and more graphic than those of, say, *The Hunger Games*, partly because at times it is adults murdering children, and not from a distance or out of sight. The teens stranded in the Maze have their memories wiped, but they are still aware on some level that they are being held captive and endangered by adults, not monsters or other children. Some of the teens in the Maze go insane from the fear, the attacks, or in one case, the memory of the world he had left behind. Main characters are conscientious and risk their lives to save others.

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): (indicate the grade band or the grade level):

7-9

Reading Level of this Title (lexile level)

770

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: Grade 7 ELA

Date: _____

Department Head: Blayne E Buschhoff

Date: 11/5/22

Building Administrator: Michael [Signature]

Date: 1/5/22

Curriculum Supervisor: [Signature]

Date: 11/11/22