

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Rebecca Ward  
School: Shanahan Middle School  
Book Title: *Never Caught, The Story of Ona Judge*  
Genre: Biography/History  
Author: Erica Armstrong Dunbar & Kathleen Van Cleve  
Publisher: Aladdin

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

Born into a life of slavery, Ona Judge grew up in the shadows, both at the Washingtons' residence and in the first few decades of our new country. But times were changing. Although George Washington held incredibly conflicted views on the institution of slavery, more and more citizens and political figures were becoming vocal opponents of slavery in the United States. After moving north with the Washingtons and interacting with Philadelphia's large free black community, Ona observed what freedom could be like. Martha Washington's decision to give Ona to her granddaughter as a wedding gift propelled Ona into action. She knew she had to leave everything behind to live as a free person. (book flap summary)

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

This book extends students' understanding of the role enslaved people played in the creation of the nation and of the struggles that they had to go through before achieving freedom after the Civil War. It also brings a new perspective to the person of George Washington as we learn about events and accomplishments of his presidency.

Specific District and Common Core Standards include (please include a link to the ELA Standards document and list the specific standards):

*Primary and secondary sources are used to examine events from multiple perspectives and to present and defend a position.*

*The practice of race-based slavery led to the forced migration of Africans to the American colonies and contributed to colonial economic development. Their knowledge, skills and traditions were essential to the development of the colonies*

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

Common Sense Media [link](#)

Social Justice Books [link](#)

School Library Journal [link](#)

**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)

I'm filling this in as a possible OPTIONAL book club, so if this is not approved, I will not likely put another in its place at this time.

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

N/A - Talking about the founding fathers' support of the institution of slavery feels controversial in our current climate.

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

- Optional book club for interested students (outside class time)

GRADE LEVEL(S): (indicate the grade band or the grade level):

8th

Reading Level of this Title (lexile level)

1090L

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: Rebecca Ward

Date: 1/12/22

Department Head: [Signature]

Date: 1/13/22

Building Administrator: [Signature]

Date: 1/13/22

Curriculum Supervisor: [Signature]

Date: 1/13/22