

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Mrs. Baker
School: Olentangy Berkshire Middle School
Book Title: *The Testing*
Genre: dystopian
Author: Joelle Charbonneau
Publisher: Clarion Books

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

In Cia's dystopian society it's an honor to be chosen for The Testing. But it's not enough to pass the Test. Cia will have to survive it.

It's graduation day for sixteen-year-old Malencia Vale, and the entire Five Lakes Colony (the former Great Lakes) is celebrating. All Cia can think about—hope for—is whether she'll be chosen for The Testing, a United Commonwealth program that selects the best and brightest new graduates to become possible leaders of the slowly revitalizing post-war civilization. When Cia is chosen, her father finally tells her about his own nightmarish half-memories of The Testing. Armed with his dire warnings ("Cia, trust no one"), she bravely heads off to Tosu City, far away from friends and family, perhaps forever. Danger, romance—and sheer terror—await.

Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum blueprints and/or State standards. Specific District and Common Core Standards include (please include a link to the ELA Standards document and list the specific standards):

As we continue to study author's craft, the dystopian books are a high-interest genre that appeals to many students. When students are interested in the books, they tend to understand the reason why author's make choices and the lessons author's are trying to teach their readers.

We will use this book as an option to help students analyze the author's craft moves, develop themes, and discuss how characters (and humans) respond to and are challenged by power.

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

This book covers literature standards RL 1-6

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

Common Sense Media review - <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews/the-testing-book-1>

Kirkus Review

There are no grades in this dystopian future—only survival. It's graduation day for 16-year-old Malencia "Cia" Vale, and she's hoping to be selected for The Testing in Tosu City, a necessary

prerequisite to attend the University. She is, along with three other Five Lakes colony teens. Embarking on the four-part series of challenges, Cia will learn whom to trust, even as she falls in love with Tomas, one of her fellow Five Lakes colonists. Cia must pass multiple-choice exams, hands-on survival tests and team challenges before facing the final test—a wilderness trek back to the University to prove her abilities as a leader. With a gun, compass and water in her bag, Cia will trek from the ruins of Chicago back to Tosu City, depending on her wits and her trust in Tomas. Charbonneau jumps into the packed dystopia field with a mashup of Veronica Roth's *Divergent* (2011) and Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games trilogy, but she successfully makes her story her own. Cia's mechanical abilities are an unexpected boon to the overall character development, and it's refreshing not to have a female protagonist caught up in a love triangle. There's a nicely developed relationship between Cia and Tomas and genuine suspense surrounding another candidate's motivations and intentions. Between the ruined world and the mutants, there's plenty of threats to keep the pages turning. Though genre elements are in place, this page-turner earns an A for freshness. (*Dystopian adventure. 12 & up*)

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)

Among the Hidden

Divergent

Dry

Life As We Knew It

Read Player One

Scythe

The BarCode Tattoo

The Giver

The House of Scorpion

Hunger Games

The Marrow Thieves

Document any potentially controversial content (clear, descriptive, accurate, and examples of a page number or two): There is violence but it is not descriptive. In addition two of the characters fall in love with each other but their romance does not go further than hugging, hand holding and kissing. Mild swearing is contained in the book. For examples of the words, see the Common Sense Media review.

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): (indicate the grade band or the grade level): grades 7-9

Reading Level of this Title (lexile level) 830

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: Katelyn Baker Date: 1/2/22
Department Head: Katelyn Baker Date: 1/2/22
Building Administrator: Morgan Pagel Date: 1/3/22
Curriculum Supervisor: [Signature] Date: 3/3/22

