

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OHMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): 7th grade

ABOUT THE BOOK

Book Title: A Long Way Home

2nd OLSL Literature Selection Review

Author: Saroo Brierly

Genre: Memoir, Autobiography

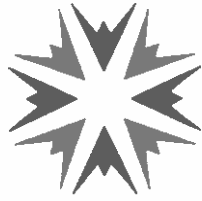
Lexile Reading Level: 1090L

Total number of pages: 271

<p>Book Summary (abbreviated, bulleted list)</p> <p>Five year old Saroo Brierley got lost on a train in India. He survived alone for weeks on the rough streets of Calcutta before ultimately being transferred to an agency and adopted by a couple in Australia. With Google Earth and a lot of searching, he finds his way home. Inspirational true story of survival and triumph against incredible odds.</p>	<p>Potentially Objectionable Content</p> <p><u>Violence</u></p> <p>-a several references of violence: a dead person with a slit throat and ears cut off (page 63), mention of the "Stoneman" murders in Calcutta and Bombay (murdering homeless people by dropping rocks on their head while they slept) page 87, slapping p.70</p> <p><u>Trauma</u></p> <p>Several examples of trauma, including examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-adult asks child to lie beside him with making child uncomfortable (page 76)- implicit sex trade (p.86)-a reference of circumcision- p.26-27 <p><u>Alcohol/ smoking-</u></p> <p>-a few mentions of drinking (examples on p. 70, 124, 138)</p>
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Book Reviews (2-3 links):

- 1) [Book Browse](#)
- 2) [Library Journal](#) (see next page)



Section:

Reviews

Brierley, Saroo. *A Long Way Home*. 6 CDs. library ed. unabridged. 7½ hrs. Blackstone Audio. 2014. ISBN 9781482996173. \$76; 1 MP3-CD. retail ed.; Playaway digital; digital download. MEMOIR.

Separated from his older brother on an outing, five-year-old Brierley boarded a train that instead of taking him back to his home in rural India traveled over 1,000 miles to Calcutta. Unable to read and write or remember his hometown or his last name, Brierley survived alone for months on the harsh streets of the city, until he was eventually taken to an orphanage. The orphanage attempted to track down Brierley's family, but the task was impossible because of the distance he had traveled and his inability to describe his home. Though he was adopted by a loving couple in Hobart, Tasmania, Brierley never gave up hope that he would be reunited with his Indian family. With the advent of Google Earth, the author studied satellite images of India and after years of searching spotted the central business district near his hometown. Vikas Adam's rich voice and smooth delivery results in a polished performance of this miraculous memoir. VERDICT Recommend to all biography/memoir listeners, especially those who enjoy stories of families reunited against long odds. --Beth Farrell, Cleveland State Univ. Law Lib

By Beth Farrell

ABOUT THE CLASS

Course Rationale: Memoirs are written to share specific moments and life experiences. Because memoirs typically surround a central theme, they give the author the opportunity to also share what they have learned from these experiences. Through book groups, students have the opportunity to discuss different perspectives to gain a more general understanding of the world, cultures, and humans around them. *A Long Way Home* is high quality because it addresses the determination and perseverance the main character shows as they are faced with challenges in finding their way home.

The Ohio Department of Education ELA Standards (list priority standards *only and abbreviations*) [Link to Ohio's ELA Standards](#)

1. R.L. 7.2 Summarize and determine theme development
2. R.L. 7.3 determine how elements of a story interact
3. R.L. 7.6 analyze how authors use point of view and contrast different perspectives





ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

What alternative texts would allow students to meet the same objectives?

1. *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowsk
2. *Trevor Noah: Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah



SIGNATURES (embedded jpegs of authentic signatures are fine OR
download/print form and obtain traditional signatures)

Teacher:  Date: 3-1-22
Department Chair:  Date: 3-1-22
Building Principal:  Date: 3-1-22
District Curriculum Administrator:  Date: 3/8/22

Farrell, Beth. "A Long Way Home." *Library Journal*, vol. 139, no. 16, Oct. 2014, p. 51. EBSCOhost,
<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lfh&AN=98491960&site=eds-live&scope=site>.