



OLETANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): Shanahan

Classes/Grade Level(s): ELA 6-8

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: Restart by Gordon Korman

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Lexile Reading Level: 730L

Total number of pages: 256

Book Summary (abbreviated, bulleted list or link to a book summary)

Chase has amnesia after falling off his roof and has to relearn his entire life. Even worse, he realizes the "old Chase" was not a good person and has to try to fix the mistakes and repair the relationships he damaged before his accident.

Potentially Objectionable Content (list all categories and at least one example, referenced with a page or chapter number)

Starting in Chapter 2, there are numerous descriptions of bullying that is so severe one of the characters has to switch schools. Examples of bullying include tripping, putting in lockers, hitting someone with a fire extinguisher, and pushing someone off a bike.

Also starting in Chapter 2 are descriptions of criminal mischief such as destroying school property by setting off fireworks inside during a concert, pulling fire alarms, etc. In chapter 23, it is revealed that the main character stole the Medal of Honor from a Korean War veteran.

The book also has instances of physical gags and stunts in order to "go viral" on YouTube such as riding a tricycle through a car wash in chapter 6.

Characters have crushes on each other and dating is mentioned in Chapter 30.

Book Reviews (2-3 links) Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links

From Kirkus: Will a bully always be a bully? That's the question eighth-grade football captain Chase Ambrose has to answer for himself after a fall from his roof leaves him with no memory of who and what he was. When he returns to Hiawasse Middle School, everything and everyone is new. The



football players can hardly wait for him to come back to lead the team. Two, Bear Bratsky and Aaron Hakimian, seem to be special friends, but he's not sure what they share. Other classmates seem fearful; he doesn't know why. Temporarily barred from football because of his concussion, he finds a new home in the video club and, over time, develops a new reputation. He shoots videos with former bullying target Brendan Espinoza and even with Shoshanna Weber, who'd hated him passionately for persecuting her twin brother, Joel. Chase voluntarily continues visiting the nursing home where he'd been ordered to do community service before his fall, making a special friend of a decorated Korean War veteran. As his memories slowly return and he begins to piece together his former life, he's appalled. His crimes were worse than bullying. Will he become that kind of person again? Set in the present day and told in the alternating voices of Chase and several classmates, this finding-your-middle-school-identity story explores provocative territory. Aside from naming conventions, the book subscribes to the white default. Korman's trademark humor makes this an appealing read. (Fiction. 9-14)

From School Library Journal: Gr 3-6—What would it be like to forget your whole life, your family, your friends, and even who you are? After falling off his roof, 13-year old Chase Ambrose learns the hard way that reinventing himself can be pretty hard, especially when his past is not what he wants for his future. Before his fall, Chase was a jock, captain of the football team, following in his father's footsteps. He was also the biggest bully in his middle school, had made many students' lives miserable, and was serving a community service sentence for the damage that his bullying had caused. Even Chase's little stepsister was afraid of him. If it were up to his dad and his former best friends, Bear and Aaron, Chase would go right back to his bully-jock ways. However, the new Chase is a kinder, more sympathetic person who struggles with his past and becomes friends with his former victims. As he works with the video club geeks, he forms a relationship with elderly Mr. Solway. Korman juxtaposes Mr. Solway's sharing of his Korean War memories with Chase's search for his own past. Despite the strong antibullying theme, the story is never preachy or trite but thoughtfully presents questions about loyalty, identity, and the possibility of a new start in a way that appropriately fits the middle school setting. VERDICT A fresh approach to the familiar topic of bullying, kept credible by believable characters and events, with typical Korman humor and just the right touch of mystery. An excellent addition for all middle grade collections.

ABOUT THE CLASS

Rationale for the Literature Selection (in addition to standards): (To be completed by the teacher or team)

Students will read a book of their choosing from 5 options and will participate in book clubs with other students reading the same books. They will ask questions, summarize, and analyze elements of literature as they discuss their books together.

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

1. RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
2. RL.6.2 Analyze literary text development.



ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

What alternative texts would allow students to meet the same objectives? (Title/author)

1. The Strangers by Margaret Petersen Haddix
2. The Hidden Oracle by Rick Riordan

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

Teacher: Valerie Biaggom Date: 3/9/22
Department Chair: Valerie Biaggom Date: 3/9/22
Building Principal: C Zeller Date: 3.14.22
District Curriculum Administrator: [Signature] Date: 3/14/22