



OLETANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): Shanahan

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

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: The Strangers: Greystone Secrets Book 1 by Maragaret Petersen Haddix

Genre: Mystery/Science Fiction

Lexile Reading Level: 730L

Total number of pages: 400

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

Three siblings and their new friend must work together and travel to an alternate world to solve the disappearance of their mother as well as the kidnapping of another set of three siblings with the same first names and birthdates as themselves.

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

The kidnapping of three children is central to the entire plot and starts in chapter 2. The children's father is gone because he supposedly died in a car crash many years before.

One of the main characters is mildly disrespectful to her mom calling her "embarrassing" or "annoying" at various parts throughout the book.

In chapter 30, it is hinted that one reason the main character's mom might have disappeared is because of domestic abuse. This turns out not to be the case, but a character lists various reasons why a woman might not feel safe to return home.

It is revealed in chapter 36 that the main character's father was actually murdered (no description or graphic scenes of this event).

Chapter 46 hints at violent acts with an angry mob screaming and pounding on glass. The main characters throw smoke bombs.

Also in chapter 46, the youngest character speaks out against a fake trial and an older woman hides him telling him he would be killed for speaking out. In the same chapter, another character confesses to killing people (again, no details, just the word



killed). The main characters are worried about violence and themselves, or the kidnapped children, being killed by the guards in the violent alternate world they discover.

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

From Common Sense Media: Parents need to know that *The Strangers: Greystone Secrets, Book 1* is a science fiction adventure novel about siblings discovering another dimension and working together to find their missing mom. The first in a series by Margaret Peterson Haddix (*The Always War*), it presents a sensitive and supportive portrait of family life. There's a low level of violence, more implied than shown, that includes one of the kids throwing smoke bombs at some guards.

From Kirkus: When their mom goes missing, three siblings chase her to a parallel world to reunite their family in this first of a new series by Haddix. Sixth-grader Chess Greystone and his younger siblings, Emma and Finn, discover their widowed mom in shock when they arrive home from school one day. A startling news broadcast has reported the kidnapping of three children who, against all odds, share their exact same first names, middle names, and birthdays. If that weren't unsettling enough, the next day their mom insists she must leave on a sudden business trip. The Greystone siblings realize something is horribly wrong when they find their mom's phone and laptops left behind at their house. With the help of new friend Natalie Mayhew, in whose mother's care they find themselves, they follow a trail of clues and secret codes to an alternate world that connects their mom's sudden disappearance to their missing doppelgängers. Maintaining suspense from the beginning to the cliffhanger ending, Haddix builds momentum with short chapters that shift among the three third-person perspectives of the Greystone children. Along with an exciting science-fiction mystery, the story touches on real-world topics such as divorce, grief, abusive relationships, government corruption, and transitioning from elementary to middle school. Apart from background characters, the cast is predominantly white, with the possible exception of Natalie, whose mother is cued Latinx. A high-stakes adventure full of teamwork with a multifaceted mystery and complex themes. (*Science fiction. 8-12*)

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.



must be done in order to win a larger battle. A rare insider's glimpse into the Hitler Youth: animated, well-researched, and thought-provoking. (Historical fiction. 10-14)

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ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

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

1. Ground Zero by Alan Gratz
2. Restart by Gordon Korman

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

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