



## OLETANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

### LOCATION

**Building(s):** Shanahan

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

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**Selection Title/Author:** Projekt 1065 by Alan Gratz

**Genre:** Historical Fiction

**Lexile Reading Level:** 780L

**Total number of pages:** 320

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

The son of the Irish ambassador in Germany joins an elite branch of the Hitler youth in order to spy on the Nazis.

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

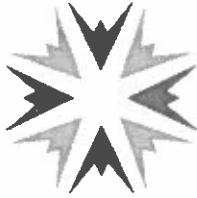
The novel is set in Nazi Germany, so there is racist dialogue and acts against Jewish people throughout. For example, in the "Dinner with Nazis" chapter, characters praise the capture and execution of a Jewish person. Other examples include burning Jewish religious texts, beatings, vandalizing Jewish property, and a plan to assassinate a Jewish scientist.

There are other instances of prejudice against people from other countries. The "Kristallnacht" chapter states that all Irish are born to hate the English, for example.

Adult characters drink alcohol and smoke. In the "Mission" chapter a chloroformed character is covered with alcohol to smell drunk.

There is constant bullying and fighting between members of the Hitler Youth. In the "Monster" chapter, the main character boxes a friend until he is unconscious in his own vomit. Other acts of bullying include fighting and using insults such as freak, idiot, maggot, and mick.

A book burning occurs in the chapter "Degenerate



	<p>Filth”.</p> <p>War violence is throughout the book. A bombing occurs in the chapter “German Blitz”. Other examples include a character being cut in half by falling debris and Nazis attacking non-Nazi Germans.</p> <p>Racist Nazi propoganda is taught in school in the “Culture Destroyers” chapter.</p> <p>In the chapter “Unfit to Live”, the main character worries that a friend will kill himself and another character commits “suicide by Nazi” trying to escape in the chapter “Anything and Everything”.</p>
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**Book Reviews (2-3 links) Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links**

From School Library Journal: Michael O'Shaunessey may be the son of the Irish ambassador to Germany, but in 1943, with his flawless German and easy intelligence, he represents the perfect Hitler Youth, ambitiously climbing the organization's ranks. Michael is living a lie; he despises the Nazis and all they represent. He enlisted in the Hitler Youth in order to infiltrate Nazi hierarchy and access information that will assist his parents in spying for the Allies. When a friend shows him plans for the new jet airplane the Nazis are developing, his covert activities turn deadly serious. Gratz returns to the World War II era of his Prisoner B-3087 to illuminate a little-known aspect of the war. Although Ireland declared itself neutral, documents declassified decades after the war revealed its diplomats were actually collecting intelligence for the Allies. Gratz takes readers inside daily life in Germany as well as the Hitler Youth organization, deftly conveying the suspicion and fear that were the constant companions of German citizens. Michael grapples with deep moral dilemmas, including the painful choice to sacrifice one life for the greater good. An author's note offers supplemental information and background on the Hitler Youth. While the book is replete with fascinating historical insight, Gratz has also crafted a suspenseful mystery that will keep readers on the edge of their seats. With short, action-packed chapters, it is a great choice for reluctant readers as well. VERDICT A winning combination of action, suspense, and historical setting. Recommended for all collections.

From Kirkus: The son of the Irish ambassador to Germany poses as a member of the Hitler Youth in order to support the Allies during World War II. Just like his parents, 13-year-old Michael O'Shaunessey, from the politically neutral country of Ireland, becomes a spy in Nazi Germany. When a downed British pilot alerts him to the existence of Projekt 1065--an effort by Nazi Germany to build a faster warplane that works without propellers--Michael discovers that his classmate Fritz's father is designing the plane, which gives him remarkable access to the blueprints. Michael's photographic memory comes in handy for remembering enemy codes and formulas. When, as a junior Gestapo, he joins the group assigned to assassinate a Jewish physicist who is working on developing an American atom bomb, he becomes embroiled in a complex drama of espionage and betrayal. Through Michael's narration and an accessible story and characters, Gratz sheds light on the connection between Fascism and bullying, the moral dilemmas of war, and the lesser-known, common use of children for serious tasks by the Nazi regime. He doesn't shy from challenging his readers, offering them a coming-of-age story that concludes that sometimes good people must be sacrificed or wrong things



## ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

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

1. Projekt 1065 by Alan Gratz
2. Ground Zero by Alan Gratz

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

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