



OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM DRAFT- 2022

LOCATION

Building(s): OBMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): 6th/ELA

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: City Spies by James Ponti

Genre: fiction/mystery

Lexile Reading Level: 750

Total number of pages: 367

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

Sara Martinez is a hacker. She recently broke into the New York City foster care system to expose her foster parents as cheats and lawbreakers. However, instead of being hailed as a hero, Sara finds herself facing years in a juvenile detention facility and banned from using computers for the same stretch of time. Enter Mother, a British spy who not only gets Sara released from jail but also offers her a chance to make a home for herself within a secret MI5 agency.

Operating out of a base in Scotland, the City Spies are five kids from various parts of the world. When they're not attending the local boarding school, they're honing their unique skills, such as sleight of hand, breaking and entering, observation, and explosives. All of these allow them to go places in the world of espionage where adults can't.

Before she knows what she's doing, Sara is heading to Paris for an international youth summit, hacking into a rival school's computer to prevent them from winning a million euros, dangling 30 feet off the side of a building, and trying to stop a villain...all while navigating the complex dynamics of her new team.

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

Violence: A dead man's severed thumb is being used to leave thumbprints at crime scenes, including recent murder of two secret agents. (non of which is described in detail)

An adult character (a spy) was left to die in a dangerous situation by his wife (also a spy), who took their kids and disappeared. (not described in detail)



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

Review from [Kirkus Review](#)

Review from [Common Sense Media](#)

ABOUT THE CLASS

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

This book will be used for a genre study of mystery in which students will practice skills such as analyzing how the plot unfolds and how characters respond as the plot moves toward a resolution. (RL 6.3). Additionally, students will compare the text to several mystery short stories in terms of how the texts address the mystery topic. (RL 6.9)

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](#)



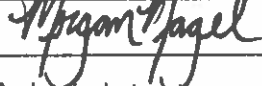

1. RL 6.3 Students will analyze how plot elements are connected and how the characters change or develop based on the episodes.
2. 2. RL 6.9 Students will examine how texts in the mystery genre are similar in structure. Students will examine the similarities and differences in how the author chooses to develop the mystery.

ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

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

1. The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi
2. The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

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

Teacher:  Date: 3/14/22
Department Chair:  Date: 3/14/22
Building Principal:  Date: 3/14/22
District Curriculum Administrator:  Date: 3/14/22