

OLETANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OHMS

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

ABOUT THE BOOK

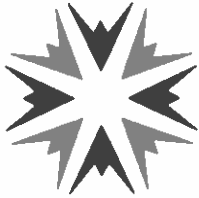
Selection Title/Author: *Maniac Magee*/Jerry Spinelli

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Lexile Reading Level: 820L

Total number of pages: 180

<p>Book Summary (abbreviated, bulleted list or link to a book summary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An orphan boy, Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee, looks for a home in the fictional town of Two Mills, which is harshly segregated between the East and West, blacks and whites.• The main character becomes a local legend for feats of athleticism and helpfulness, and his ignorance of sharp racial boundaries in the town.• The novel <i>Maniac Magee</i> explores themes of racism and inequality.	<p>Potentially Objectionable Content (list all categories and at least one example, referenced with a page or chapter number)</p> <p>Language - (p. 36, 63) Uses of words such as "fishbelly" and "honky" to describe Maniac.</p> <p>Stereotyping (pp. 163-164) The McNab family feel they need to defend their home from black people and the children play a pretend game where black people and white people are at war.</p> <p>Violence/trauma - a few references to arguments that turn physical, although not graphic. Examples including: (p. 55) A mom slaps Maniac when he trash-talks in the house, but they both feel sorry about the incident and hug in the end. (p. 5) References are made to Maniac's parents dying in a trolley accident.</p> <p>Drinking, Drugs & Smoking - a few incidents related to drinking and smoking.. (p. 133) At the McNab house, adults and underage children smoke cigarettes and drink beer.</p>
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Book Reviews

Common Sense Media - Maniac Magee

Kirkus Review - Maniac Magee

ABOUT THE CLASS

Rationale for the Literature Selection

Getting a middle school student to read can often be a difficult task. Maniac Magee is a high quality choice as it keeps the reader interested, engaged, and helps to instill a willingness to read. The book also introduces students to a variety of characters under an umbrella of racial tolerance. Students will see how although we may look different on the outside, inside we are inherently the same. We seek the same things in life - love, acceptance, a sense of belonging, family, success, etc. As a character, Maniac, understands this and is an admirable example of what we should and can be in a world filled with diversity that begs to be understood.

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
2. RL.6.2 Summarize. Determine a theme or central idea and how it is conveyed
3. RL.6.3 Describe how story's plot unfolds and how the characters respond or change
4. RL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases and their impact
5. RL.6.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

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

1. *Crash* by Jerry Spinelli
2. *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick

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

Teacher: Michelle Voe Date: 4/25/22
Department Chair: [Signature] Date: 4-25-22
Building Principal: [Signature] Date: 4-25-22
District Curriculum Administrator: [Signature] Date: 4/28/22