

This OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OHMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): ELA 8

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: Genre: *The Boy on the Wooden Box*/Leon Leyson/biography

Lexile Reading Level: 1000L

Total number of pages: 240

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

Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. With incredible luck, perseverance, and grit, Leyson was able to survive the sadism of the Nazis, including that of the demonic Amon Goeth, commandant of Plaszow, the concentration camp outside Krakow. Ultimately, it was the generosity and cunning of one man, a man named Oskar Schindler, who saved Leon Leyson's life, and the lives of his mother, his father, and two of his four siblings, by adding their names to his list of workers in his factory—a list that became world renowned: Schindler's List.

[Goodreads.com summary](#)

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

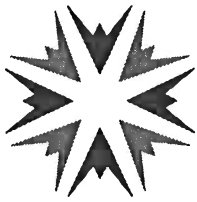
As a biographical account of the events seen by those living in Poland during The Holocaust, there is a constant fear of death, and recounting of horrific events seen by the main character.

Violence Several examples of war violence throughout the book due to the time period

- In Chapter 3, Nazi soldiers loot Jewish business, evict Jews from their homes, and beat Orthodox Jews on the street. Jews are banned from parks, and streetcars are divided into separate sections for Jews and gentiles. The Nazis take over the glass factory, beat Leon's father, and drag him away to prison.

Poverty/mistreatment of people and effects many examples throughout the text

- In Chapter 4, the Jews in Poland are being forced out of Krakow and into concentration camps.



- In Chapter 5, Life in the ghetto is cramped and unsanitary, and illness is rampant. Food is scarce, and Leon suffers from constant hunger. The Jews find various ways to resist the Nazi oppression and maintain a dignified existence. They conduct religious services and hold impromptu shows and musical performances, and young people pursue romantic relationships, some of them leading to marriage. Tsalig falls in love with Miriam, a girl next door.

Book Reviews (1-2 link(s)) *Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links*

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/book-reviews/the-boy-on-the-wooden-box>

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/leon-leyson/boy-on-wooden-box/>

ABOUT THE CLASS

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

Since most 8th grade students go on the Washington, D.C. trip, and visit The Holocaust Museum, reading books about The Holocaust gives us the opportunity to explore and share the different perspectives of those affected by this historical event. *The Boy on the Wooden Box* is a high quality book because it is a true story based on the real “Schindler’s List” and is told in a manner that is reflective, not hateful.

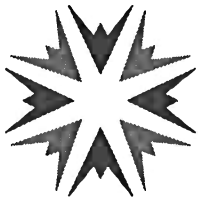
The Ohio Department of Education ELA Standards (list priority standards *only and* abbreviations of the main ideas of the priority standards) [Link to Ohio’s ELA Standards](#)

1. **RI.8.6** Determine an author’s perspective or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.
2. **RI.8.3** Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).

ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

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

1. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
2. *Projekt 1065* by Leon Leyson



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

Teacher: Amy McKernan Date: 01/04/23
Department Chair: [Signature] Date: 1/4/23
Building Principal: [Signature] Date: 1/4/23
District Curriculum Administrator: [Signature] Date: 1/5/23