



OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OHMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): ELA 8

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: Genre: *The Light in Hidden Places*/Sharon Cameron/Historical Fiction
(based on a true story)

Lexile Reading Level: 650L

Total number of pages: 400

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

It is 1943, and for four years, sixteen-year-old Stefania has been working for the Diamant family in their grocery store in Przemsyl, Poland, singing her way into their lives and hearts. She has even made a promise of marriage to one son. But everything changes when the German army invades Przemsyl. The Diamants are forced into the ghetto, and Stefania is alone in an occupied city, the only one left to care for Helena, her six-year-old sister. And then comes the knock at the door. Izio's brother Max has jumped from the train headed to a death camp. Stefania and Helena make the extraordinary decision to hide Max, and eventually twelve more Jews. Then they must wait, every day, for the next knock at the door, the one that will mean death.

[Goodreads.com summary](#)

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

Violence/mistreatment of people and effects (several examples)

- Throughout the book, the mistreatment of Jews, and those who support them is shared. This includes the killing of entire families by the Nazis. (p. 100)
- Ch 7-The main character goes to get the rest of her siblings and realizes her youngest sister has been left in the care of an abusive man and nearly starved

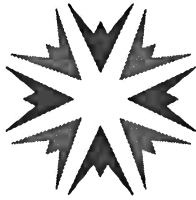
Stereotyping (several examples)

- The main character is Catholic and falls in love with a Jewish boy. Although she is close with his family, there is still "prejudice" about the idea of them being together. He is eventually killed in a labor camp, which the main character is blamed for. (67)

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

[CommonSenseMedia](#)

[JewishBookCouncil.Org](#)



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 Light in Hidden Places* is high quality and selected because it is based on a true story, including authentic character and perspectives that provide an opportunity to analyze decisions and actions taken (or not) during a time or crisis.

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](#)

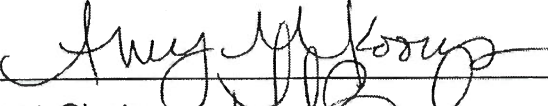

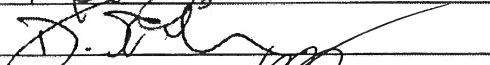

1. **RI.8.6** Determine an author's perspective or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.
2. **RI.8.3** Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, 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. *The Boy on the Wooden Box* by Leon Leyson

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

Teacher:  Date: 01/04/23
Department Chair:  Date: 1/4/23
Building Principal:  Date: 1/4/23
District Curriculum Administrator:  Date: 1/5/23