



OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OBMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): Grade 7

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: **Blackbird Girls by Anne Blankman**

Genre: historical fiction

Lexile Reading Level: 560

Total number of pages: 352

<p>Book Summary (abbreviated, bulleted list or link to a book summary) On a spring morning, neighbors Valentina Kaplan and Oksana Savchenko wake up to an angry red sky. A reactor at the nuclear power plant where their fathers work--Chernobyl--has exploded. Before they know it, the two girls, who've always been enemies, find themselves on a train bound for Leningrad to stay with Valentina's estranged grandmother, Rita Grigorievna. In their new lives in Leningrad, they begin to learn what it means to trust another person. Oksana must face the lies her parents told her all her life. Valentina must keep her grandmother's secret, one that could put all their lives in danger.</p>	<p>Potentially Objectionable Content (list all categories and at least one example, referenced with a page or chapter number)</p> <p>Drinking/smoking: N/A</p> <p>Sex: N/A</p> <p>Language: N/A</p> <p>Violence: N/A</p> <p>Other trauma inducing content: N/A</p>
<p>Book Reviews (1-2 link(s)) <i>Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links</i> Kirkus Review for <i>Blackbird Girls</i></p>	

ABOUT THE CLASS

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

This book is used for its high student engagement and the ability to make connections between the past and present in ways that facts and dates sometimes obscure. The author has completed years of credible and reliable research to narrate the historical event in a respectful and honest manner. It presents historical facts mixed with a fictional story with protagonists in which middle schoolers can engage.



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](#)

RL7.9: Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.

RL7.6: Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.

W7.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

What alternative texts would allow students to meet the same objectives? (1-2 texts, title/author; Note: these texts must also have lit. reviews forms associated with their selection)

1. The Boy at the Top of the Mountain by John Boyne
2. Flygirl by Sherri L. Smith

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

Teacher: Emma J. Henkle Date: 1/5/23
Department Chair: Kately Baker Date: 1/5/22
Building Principal: Morgan Pagel Date: _____
District Curriculum Administrator: [Signature] Date: 1/11/23