



OLETANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OBMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): Grade 7

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: *They Went Left* by Monica Hesse

Genre: historical fiction

Lexile Reading Level: 730

Total number of pages: 400

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

Germany, 1945. The soldiers who liberated the Gross-Rosen concentration camp said the war was over, but nothing feels over to eighteen-year-old Zofia Lederman. Her body has barely begun to heal, her mind feels broken. And her life is completely shattered: Three years ago, she and her younger brother, Abek, were the only members of their family to be sent to the right, away from the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Everyone else—her parents, her grandmother, radiant Aunt Maja—they went left.

Zofia's last words to her brother were a promise: Abek to Zofia, A to Z. When I find you again, we will fill our alphabet. Now her journey to fulfill that vow takes her through Poland and Germany, and into a displaced persons camp where everyone she meets is trying to piece together a future from a painful past: Miriam, desperately searching for the twin she was separated from after they survived medical experimentation. Breine, a former heiress, who now longs only for a simple wedding with her new fiancé. And Josef, who guards his past behind a wall of secrets, and is beautiful and strange and magnetic all at once.

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

Drinking/smoking: Page 70- Reference to taking a swig of alcohol.

Sex: Page 259-262 Inexplicit reference to sexual activity

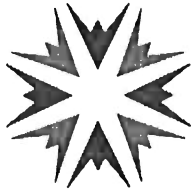
Language: N/A

Violence: xiv: Reference to violence within a concentration camp Page 14: Reference to gas chambers in a concentration camp

Other trauma inducing content: Whole Book: References to treatment of Concentration camp victims.

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

Kirkus Review for *They Went Left*



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.

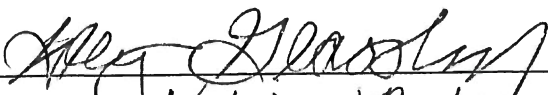
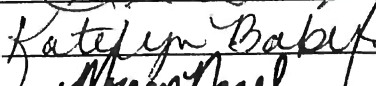
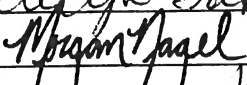

W7.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

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. Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys
2. Sophia's War by Avi

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

Teacher:  Date: 1/5/23
Department Chair:  Date: 1/5/22
Building Principal:  Date: 1/5/22
District Curriculum Administrator:  Date: 1/11/23