

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OBMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): Grade 7

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys

Genre: historical fiction

Lexile Reading Level:

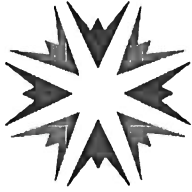
Total number of pages: 400

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| <p>Book Summary (abbreviated, bulleted list or link to a book summary) Romania, 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force.</p> <p>Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe.</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: Page 95-97 two characters hide and share a brief kiss</p> <p>Language: N/A</p> <p>Violence: Page 156 reference to a character's grandfather being beaten</p> <p>Other trauma inducing content: Pages 232-272 description of characters being sent to a communist detention center and their treatment.</p> |
| <p>Book Reviews (1-2 link(s)) <i>Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links</i> Kirkus Review for <i>I Must Betray You</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. Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys
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: Kathy Ball Date: 1/5/22
Building Principal: Myron Angel Date: 1/5/22
District Curriculum Administrator: [Signature] Date: 1/11/23