

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OLMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): ~~6~~,7,8

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen / Isaac Blum

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Lexile Reading Level: 1010L

Total number of pages: 216

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

Hoodie Rosen's life isn't that bad. Sure, his entire Orthodox Jewish community has just picked up and moved to the quiet, mostly non-Jewish town of Tregaron, but Hoodie's world hasn't changed that much. He's got basketball to play, studies to avoid, and a supermarket full of delicious kosher snacks to eat. The people of Tregaron aren't happy that so many Orthodox Jews are moving in at once, but that's not Hoodie's problem.

That is, until he meets and falls for Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary—who happens to be the daughter of the obstinate mayor trying to keep Hoodie's community out of the town. And things only get more complicated when Tregaron is struck by a series of antisemitic crimes that quickly escalate to deadly violence.

As his community turns on him for siding with the enemy, Hoodie finds himself caught between his first love and the only world he's ever known.

Isaac Blum delivers a wry, witty debut novel about a deeply important and timely subject, in a story of hatred and betrayal—and the friendships we find in the most unexpected places.

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

There are swastikas graffitied on tombstones, anti semitic slurs, and some religious intolerance (page 45,

There are depictions of violence: muggings, beatings, combat overseas, a character is shot and killed in the incarceration camps (160, Chapter 8).

Character's kiss, but otherwise, there is no real explicit or mentioned romance (chapter 210-11).

There is a chapter dedicated to a mass shooting of a kosher grocer. Four people are killed and the main character is shot twice but survives (chapter 13, pages 169-180).



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

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/isaac-blum/the-life-and-crimes-of-hoodie-rosen/>

In a town seething over an influx of Orthodox Jews, a yeshiva boy falls in love with the mayor's daughter.

Yehuda "Hoodie" Rosen tells us on Page 1 that his horrible crime ruined his life, humiliated his family, and put him in the ICU—but in some ways, he also thought it was pretty funny. Once you get to know this jokester, you'll believe it; his sharp awareness of the ironies of life and language illuminate every page of this first-person narrative. Hoodie, his parents, and his "numerous and various" sisters have just moved to Tregaron, a fictional town (cued as being near Philadelphia) where his father is involved with building a high-rise intended to house many more Orthodox families. The community's outraged opposition to this is spearheaded by the mayor, Monica Diaz-O'Leary, so it's particularly inconvenient that the first love of Hoodie's 15-year-old life is her daughter, Anna-Marie—who seems to like him back. But after the two attempt to remove the swastikas that have been spray-painted on Jewish gravestones, Hoodie is ostracized by his community and harshly punished for consorting with a non-Jew. Then antisemitism explodes in a violent, ripped-from-the-headlines incident. Blum's engrossing debut explains myriad details of Orthodox Jewish faith and includes Hoodie's questioning of them. Through the brilliant character of Zippy, his wise older sister, Hoodie can see the path to a less constricted but still devout way of living. Anna-Marie's surname cues her ethnic background.

<https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/the-life-and-crimes-of-hoodie-rosen>

*When a book by a new author defies expectations, it not only engages readers, but it also forces them to examine their own assumptions. *The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen* is one such book, pushing against stereotypes and the conventions of the young adult genre.*

A yeshiva student who has recently moved to a new town is lovestruck by Anna-Marie Díaz-O'Leary, a bold and graceful non-Jewish girl. Isaac Blum's deft mixture of caustic critique and deep affection for the Orthodox community culminates with an



gradually learns that if “a peg is square, you get one of those lathe machines and you round the thing.”

ABOUT THE CLASS

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

The book is a contemporary example of prejudice and a colliding of cultures. It serves as a quick, stretch text, and uses a good deal of witty metaphors that require rereading. The book will teach students to question and notice the conflict between religious morals and personal values and how often they are at odds.

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](#)

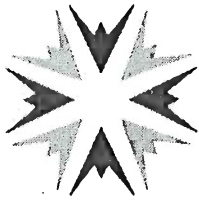
1. RL.7.3 Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).
2. RL.7.6 Analyze how an author uses the point of view to develop and contrast the perspectives of different characters or narrators in a text.
3. RL.7.2 Analyze literary text development. a. Determine a theme of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text. b. Incorporate the development of a theme and other story details into an objective summary of the text.

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 Outsiders
2. American Born Chinese

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



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Teacher: Nath Bah Date: 08/16/2023
Department Chair: Glenn Bischoff Date: 8/16/2023
Building Principal: Bill P. Bah / Brian BAILEY Date: 8/16/23
District Curriculum Administrator: [Signature] Date: 8/20/23