



OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OBKMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): grade 8

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: Free Lunch by Rex Ogle

Genre: memoir

Lexile Reading Level: HL 570

Total number of pages: 206

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

Instead of giving him lunch money, Rex's mom has signed him up for free meals. As a poor kid in a wealthy school district, better-off kids crowd impatiently behind him as he tries to explain to the cashier that he's on the free meal program. The lunch lady is hard of hearing, so Rex has to shout.

Free Lunch is the story of Rex's efforts to navigate his first semester of sixth grade—who to sit with, not being able to join the football team, Halloween in a handmade costume, classmates and a teacher who take one look at him and decide he's trouble—all while wearing secondhand clothes and being hungry. His mom and her boyfriend are out of work, and life at home is punctuated by outbursts of violence. Halfway through the semester, his family is evicted and ends up in government-subsidized housing in view of the school. Rex lingers at the end of last period every day until the buses have left, so no one will see where he lives

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

Drinking/smoking:

Some boys try alcohol and the main character refuses to join in (pages 107-108)

Sex: n/a

Language:

Some instances of racial slurs (example on page 94)
Some name calling between kids (example on page 109)

Violence:

Domestic violence between the main character's mom and step-dad, most often behind closed doors and the main character just hears it and sees the aftermath (example on page 74)
A few instances of violence toward the main character himself from his step-dad or his mom (example on page 115 and 154)

Other trauma inducing content:

Main character faces discrimination based on his race and/or poverty from his teacher (example on page 47), which they eventually talk about and she apologizes
Some emotional abuse in words exchanged with the main character's mom (example on page 154)

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

Review from Kirkus



ABOUT THE CLASS

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

Free Lunch provides the opportunity to study theme, character development, and how the structure of a story influences our perception of the story elements and the author's purpose. As a memoir, it offers students a unique perspective and format through which to practice these skills. We will cover the following state standards in depth through our study of this text: RL8.1, RL8.2, RL8.4, RL8.5

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. RL8.2: Analyze literary text development.
2. RL8.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning, mood, and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
3. RL8.5: Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.

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. Bad Boy by Walter Dean Myers
2. Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

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

Teacher: Taylor Daryl Date: 9/29/23
Department Chair: Katelyn Baker Date: 9/29/23
Building Principal: Myron Nagel Date: 10/2/23
District Curriculum Administrator: [Signature] Date: 10/5/23