



OLETANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OBKMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): grade 8

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: Popular by Maya Van Wagenen

Genre: memoir

Lexile Reading Level: n/a

Total number of pages: 274

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

Stuck near the bottom of the social ladder at "pretty much the lowest level of people at school who aren't paid to be here," Maya has never been popular. But before starting eighth grade, she decides to begin a unique social experiment: spend the school year following a 1950s popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell.

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

Drinking/smoking:

Some vague references to drugs that the main characters do not partake in (example on page 50) as well as Mexican drug cartels nearby, which only affects the characters by putting their school on lockdown (page 75)

Sex:

Character relays a conversation in her sex education class (page 213)

Language:

Violence:

Character hears about a school shooting at another school (page 119)

Other trauma inducing content:

Some instances of bullying and name calling, which the author takes in stride (example on page 41)

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)

Popular 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. Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
2. It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

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

Teacher: Tayza Dalzell Date: 9/29/23
Department Chair: Katelyn Baker Date: 9/29/23
Building Principal: Morgan Nagel Date: 10/2/23
District Curriculum Administrator: [Signature] Date: 10/5/23