

OLETANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OBLMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): 6th Grade

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: Rez Dogs by Joseph Bruchac

Genre: Historical Fiction, novels in verse

Lexile Reading Level: 820

Total number of pages: 185 pages

Book Summary

Malian was visiting her grandparents on the reservation when the COVID-19 pandemic started. Now she's staying there, away from her parents and her school in Boston. Everyone is worried about the pandemic, but on the reservation, everyone protects each other, from Malian caring for her grandparents to the local dog, Malsum, guarding their house. They always survive together.

Malian hears stories from her grandparents about how it has always been this way in their community: Stories about their ancestors, who survived epidemics of European diseases; about her grandfather, who survived a terrible government boarding school; and about Malian's own mother, who survived and returned to her Native community after social services took her away to live in foster care as a child. With their community and caring for one another, Malian and her family will survive this pandemic, too.

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

Language or actions that reflect bias, stereotypes, and prejudice

- "Macintosh", like the apple, and also "apple" as a rez insult for someone who's red on the outside, white on the inside. Pg 29

Violence and/or abuse of any kind

- The threat of COVID-19, which is why Malian has been unable to return home, hangs over the story.
- Most of the violence is in the past, particularly generations of Native American kids snatched from their families and functionally imprisoned in government schools and/or the foster care system -- and there's a hint of a repeat when a social worker shows up wondering what Malian's doing on the rez. Pg 50-59
- It's suggested that Indian Health Services sterilized Malian's grandmother against her will -- but it didn't work, as Malian's father was born 10 years later. Pg 132

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



Kirkus Reviews
Book Page

ABOUT THE CLASS

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

This book is being used by the ELA tutor as part of a series of small group lessons to improve reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills. Students will complete a packet of Commonlit and Newsela readings related to the historical context of this novel, and after completing the packet for background knowledge, they will read the novel. After completing the novel they will work on writing skills and response to literature.

This book has been selected because of its structure and genre. First, it is written in prose, which means that it is more accessible for struggling and/or reluctant readers. Second, it is historical fiction, so it requires building background knowledge. To fully understand the novel, students must interact with related non-fiction texts as well, which will strengthen their comprehension skills.

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](#)

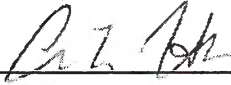
1. RL.6.2 Analyze literary text development. B. Incorporate a theme and story details into an objective summary of the text.
2. RL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings.
3. RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from 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. Inside out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai
2. The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney

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

Teacher:  Date: 1/3/24



Teacher: AM Ah Date: 1/3/24
Department Chair: C Zeller Date: 12-10-23
Building Principal: [Signature] Date: 12/18/23
District Curriculum Administrator: [Signature] Date: 1/4/23



	prostitutes to mingle among them. Pg 316
Book Reviews (1-2 link(s)) <i>Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links</i> Kirkus Reviews BookPage	

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1. Becoming Muhammad Ali by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander
2. All the Broken Pieces by Ann E. Burg

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