



OLETANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): *DLM S*

Classes/Grade Level(s): *7th, 8th*

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: **Moth Me**

Genre: **Book in Verse, Realistic Fiction**

Lexile Reading Level: **HL750L**

Total number of pages: **256**

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

FINALIST FOR THE 2021 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S LITERATURE

A debut YA novel-in-verse by Amber McBride, *Me (Moth)* is about a teen girl who is grieving the deaths of her family, and a teen boy who crosses her path.

Moth has lost her family in an accident. Though she lives with her aunt, she feels alone and uprooted.

Until she meets Sani, a boy who is also searching for his roots. If he knows more about where he comes from, maybe he'll be able to understand his ongoing depression. And if Moth can help him feel grounded, then perhaps she too will discover the history she carries in her bones.

Moth and Sani take a road trip that has them chasing ghosts and searching for ancestors. The way each moves forward is surprising, powerful, and unforgettable.

Here is an exquisite and uplifting novel

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

Violence: On page 74 a father hits his son and the boy runs away from home.

Drugs and Alcohol: On page 62 a bottle of wine is mentioned by the protagonist who is under age, but she never drinks it.

On page 23 one of the main characters smokes a cigarette but the main character explains that they cause cancer. Later on in the book, this character quits.

Romance: On page 75 two of the characters share a bed, but nothing happens.

There is a scene on page 150 in which two teenagers skinny dip in a lake. When they dress, they look away from each other to give privacy.

Two characters kiss on page 173.



about identity, first love, and the ways that our memories and our roots steer us through the universe.

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

★ Gr 8 Up—This searing debut novel-in-verse is told from the perspective of Moth, a Black teen whose life changed forever the day a car crash killed her family. Once a dancer who lived so hard she drank the sun, now she lives quietly with her aunt Jack in suburban Virginia. She no longer dances and is struggling with the guilt of her family's deaths. But then she meets Sani, a Navajo boy who lives with his white mother and abusive white stepfather and really sees Moth. Sani gave up making music after leaving New Mexico and takes pills to clear his mind. Summer arrives, and the two take off on a road trip out west, back to the reservation where Sani's Navajo father lives. Along the way, their stories entwine. Sani recounts the origin story of the Navajo, and Moth shares about her grandfather who taught her hoodoo. Like a moth in a cocoon, they each find themselves on the edge of transformation on their journey. Each free verse poem is tightly composed, leading into the next for a poignant and richly layered narrative. The story builds softly and subtly to a perfect, bittersweet ending. Fans of Jacqueline Woodson won't be able to put this one down.

—School Library Journal

Amber McBride. Macmillan/Feiwel and Friends, \$18.99 (256p)

ISBN 978-1-250-78036-2

Two years after a devastating car accident killed her family as they



drove from New York to northern Virginia, aspiring dancer Moth, the Black granddaughter of a Hoodoo root worker, is still navigating the accident's fallout, which includes a mark on her face "as crisp as the tip of a whip from jaw to eye." Poignant free verse details her resignation to a "bland" existence in the suburbs, where she's ignored by classmates and her aunt Jack, who has developed an alcohol reliance. When a new student—talented Navajo musician Sani—shows up in her junior homeroom class, Moth finds a kindred spirit whose similarly painful past and physically abusive stepfather compound his depression. Desperate for a change, Moth and Sani embark on a road trip out west to the Navajo Nation, where Sani's biological father lives. As the two travel, visiting national landmarks that connect them to the ghosts of their ancestors, a tender love story unfolds, one that debut author McBride skillfully renders while covering serious topics such as grief and mental health, including suicidal ideation. Ages 12–up. *Agent: Rena Rossner, Deborah Harris Literary. (Aug.)*

—Publishers Weekly

ABOUT THE CLASS

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



Verse books satisfy many of the standards 7th and 8th grade ELA departments often overlook by incorporating both poetry and narrative. This book would help struggling readers who lack stamina, dig into a complex and rigorous text. Literary analysis and comprehension standards can be achieved using this text.

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](#)

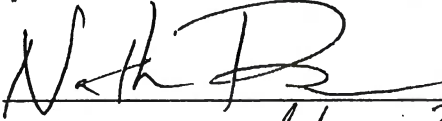
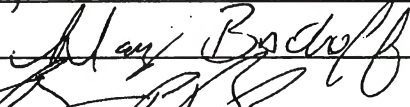
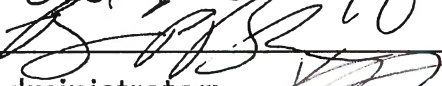

1. RI.8.3 Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).
2. RI.8.2 Analyze informational text development. a. Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas. b. Incorporate central ideas and their relationships 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. A Long Way Down
2. Crossover

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

Teacher:  Date: 04-25-2024
Department Chair:  Date: 4/25/2024
Building Principal:  Date: 4-25-24
District Curriculum Administrator:  Date: 4/29-24