



OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OLMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): 7, 8, 9, 10

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: *The Name She Gave Me by Betty Culley*

Genre: Realistic Fiction, Novel in Verse

Lexile Reading Level: 925L

Total number of pages: 400

<p>Book Summary (abbreviated, bulleted list or link to a book summary)</p> <p>Rynn was born with a hole in her heart—literally. Although it was fixed long ago, she still feels an emptiness there when she wonders about her birth family.</p> <p>As her relationship with her adoptive mother fractures, Rynn finally decides she needs to know more about the rest of her family. Her search starts with a name, the only thing she has from her birth mother, and she quickly learns that she has a younger sister living in foster care in a nearby town. But if Rynn reconnects with her biological sister, it may drive her adoptive family apart for good.</p> <p>This powerful story uncovers both beautiful and heartbreaking truths and explores how challenging, yet healing, family can be.</p>	<p>Potentially Objectionable Content (list all categories and at least one example, referenced with a page or chapter number)</p> <p>Sex/Gender: There is mention of starting menstruation (page 10).</p> <p>There is a moment when the protagonist is a baby sitting in which a baby puts his hands down the front of the protagonist's shirt. Looking for comfort and perhaps to be nursed (page 28-29).</p> <p>Two characters kiss (page 314).</p> <p>Violence: The main character goes to live with a neighbor after a fight with her mother in which her mother bruises her by holding too tight to her wrist (page 185).</p> <p>It is mentioned a parent is sent to jail and the children are sent to foster care (page 175).</p>
<p>Book Reviews (1-2 link(s)) Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links</p>	



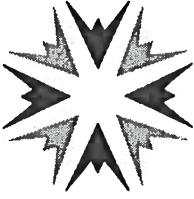
A teen in rural Maine searches for her birth family against the wishes of her adoptive mother and the state's legal barriers in this novel in verse.

Rynn, 16, knows her birth mother named her Scheherazade, wanted her raised on a farm, and kept her younger sister, born seven years later. Surgery cured Rynn's cleft palate and mended the holes in her heart and back but not her aching sense of loss. Close to her gentle adoptive dad, a New York City transplant who sells his garlic at the farmers market, Rynn has stopped trying to please her unhappy adoptive mom, Leanne, whose grievances, genuine traumas (her lost pregnancies and own mother's abandonment), and simmering resentment erupt unpredictably. Lacking Leanne's consent, Rynn can't access her birth records until she's 18, but supported by friends, she finds an uncle in Arizona and Ella, her 9-year-old sister, who is in foster care nearby. Fleeing Leanne's abusive anger, Rynn finds refuge with family friends. She opposes her parents' efforts to adopt Ella, who has a loving bond with her foster mother. Various scarred by past addiction, poverty, bad health, and bad luck, the well-drawn characters, mostly White, largely prove resilient and kind. An adoptee herself, Culley writes with insight and nuance about biological families and those formed in other ways. The direct, straightforward poems effectively flesh out the characterization and are accessible to reluctant readers.

-Kirkus Review

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/betty-culley/the-name-she-gave-me/>

*I went on a big verse novels kick earlier this year while working on an article about them for School Library Journal. As new books arrive at my house, I'm **The verse format really worked for the kind of straightforward way Rynn tells her story.** Her story has the many layers that so many adoption stories (real and fictional) have: unknown histories and people, feelings of loose ends and loss, sudden discoveries of family, complicated feelings, and new connections. The people she is surrounded by are so vividly drawn and unique, from the extremely factual new friend Alexander to the adorable and enthusiastic toddler Douglas to the big-hearted new sister Ella. Rynn juggles her quest for unknown family with her existing familial relationships. Her kind but meek father clearly would do anything for her... anything except choose*



her and her needs over that of her cruel and terse mother, a person Rynn views as a volcano. Rynn is so vulnerable, so clearly aching to fill what she's always felt as holes in her life. This compassionate and quiet story is a beautiful and poignant look at family, belonging, and self-discovery.

-School Library Journal

<https://teenlibrariantoolbox.com/2022/06/29/book-review-the-name-she-gave-me-by-betty-culley/>

ABOUT THE CLASS

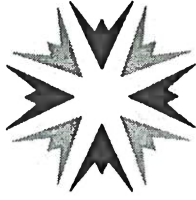
Rationale for the Literature Selection (in addition to standards): (To be completed by the teacher or team)

This book serves as a way to teach students both poetry and sustained reading. As a novel in verse, this book is uniquely positioned to be accessible and rigorous. Students who struggle to read will find the pages turn quickly, and those who love to read can focus on extending their learning by rereading for different angles, each of the poems.

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.
4. L.8.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

ALTERNATIVE TEXTS



This book serves as an example of a novel in verse—focusing heavily on internal monologue and brief, pithy vignettes. As a part of a large novels in verse unit, this book serves as a high-interest read, exposing students to different conflicts outside of the United States. We'll be using the protagonist's experiences to delve into internal versus external conflicts and the relationships between both.

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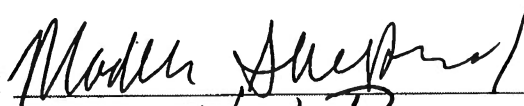
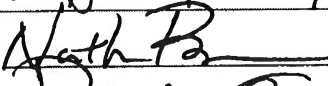
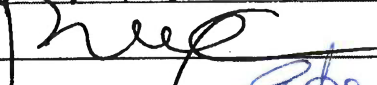
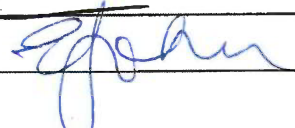
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ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

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. All The Broken Pieces
2. American Born Chinese

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

Teacher:  Date: 9/13/24
Department Chair:  Date: 09/13/2024
Building Principal:  Date: 9/13/24
District Curriculum Administrator:  Date: 9/24/24