

## OLETANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

### LOCATION

**Building(s):** OHMS

**Classes/Grade Level(s):** 7th ELA

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**Selection Title/Author:** *A First Time for Everything*/ Dan Santat

**Lexile Reading Level:** unavailable, graphic novel, middle grade reading level, Accelerated  
**Reader Level** 2.6, 2 Points

**Total number of pages:** 320 pages

#### Book Summary

As the winner of 2023 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, this graphic novel is Dan Santat's memoir of his awkward middle school years and the class trip to Europe that changed his life. Dan isn't one to step outside his comfort zone, but a series of firsts during his travels helps Dan become more optimistic about his future.

#### Potentially Objectionable Content

**Violence/ abuse-** a few examples. One example on page 224, Dan steals a bike to get away from a gang who is chasing him

**Drinking, drugs, smoking-** a few scenes, Ex. two 13 year old girls are smoking and offer Dan a cigarette. After he first declines, he tries it, coughs, and gets sick. pg. 195

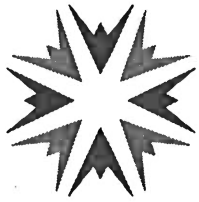
Dan lies about his age and drinks alcohol, p153  
**Romance-** a crush includes several examples of flirting, hand holding but one kiss is illustrated, p.291

**Psychological trauma-** a few scenes. One example on p156, a local was drunk and was trying to pull an American student away because he thought she was his daughter.

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

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/dan-santat/a-first-time-for-everything/>

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-reviews/a-first-time-for-everything>



## ABOUT THE CLASS

**Rationale for the Literature Selection (in addition to standards):** Memoirs are written to share specific moments and life experiences. Because memoirs typically surround a central theme, they give the author the opportunity to also share what they have learned from these experiences. Through book groups, students have the opportunity to discuss different perspectives to gain a more general understanding of the world, cultures, and humans around them. In addition to earning the National Book Award, *A First Time for Everything* is high quality because it is a humorous, coming-of-age story that addresses those awkward years in middle school that so many students can relate to.

**The Ohio Department of Education ELA Standards (list priority standards *only* and abbreviations)** [Link to Ohio's ELA Standards](#)

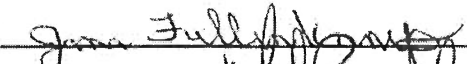
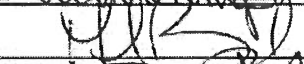

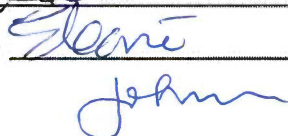
1. R.L. 7.2 Summarize and determine theme development
2. R.L. 7.3 determine how elements of a story interact
3. R.L. 7.6 analyze how authors use point of view and contrast different perspectives

## ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

What alternative texts would allow students to meet the same objectives?

1. *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowsk
2. *It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories of a South African Childhood- Adaptation for Young Readers* by Trevor Noah

## SIGNATURES

Teacher:  Date: 10/25/24  
Department Chair:  Date: 10/25/24  
Building Principal:  Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Curriculum Administrator:  Date: 12/12/24