OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OLMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): ELA 8th grade

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: Twelve Angry Men, Reginald Rose

Genre: Trial drama

Lexile Reading Level: None is listed as it is a play

Total number of pages: 30

Book Summary (abbreviated, bulleted list or link to a book summary)	**Potentially Objectionable Content** (list all categories and at least one example, referenced with a page or chapter number)
"12 Angry Jurors" is a play where a jury of twelve people must decide the guilt or innocence of a young man accused of murder, with the entire play taking place in a hot, cramped jury room as they debate the evidence and confront their own biases, ultimately leading one juror to cast doubt on the seemingly open-and-shut case and force the others to re-examine the facts, potentially saving the defendant's life through a "not guilty" verdict. **Key points about the play:** **Central conflict:** **The tension arises from the need to reach a unanimous decision in a**	• **Drinking, drugs, smoking: Pg. 3 "NO. 7 stands at the table, puffing out a cigarette** • **Violence: Pg. 2 "Murder in the first degree - premeditated homicide - is the most serious charge tried in our criminal courts** • **No language or sexual content**



life-or-death situation, where one dissenting juror challenges the majority opinion, forcing them to confront their prejudices and consider all angles of the case. **Character development:** **Each juror brings their own personal experiences and biases to the table, revealing their personalities and motivations as the deliberations unfold.** **Theme of justice:** **The play explores the complexities of the judicial system and the importance of critical thinking, questioning assumptions, and considering reasonable doubt when making a verdict.** **Setting:** **The entire play occurs in a single jury room, intensifying the claustrophobic atmosphere as the jurors become increasingly frustrated and confrontational.**	
Book Reviews (1-2 link(s)) *Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links*	

ABOUT THE CLASS



Rationale for the Literature Selection (in addition to standards): (To be completed by the teacher or team)
Teaching *12 Angry Men* provides 8th-grade students with an engaging opportunity to explore essential themes such as justice, civic responsibility, and the complexity of human behavior. The play serves as a springboard for discussions on decision-making, prejudice, and the importance of critical thinking in resolving conflict. Through close analysis, students will develop critical literacy skills and gain insight into the democratic process of deliberation and jury duty.

This text provides opportunities to integrate lessons from:

- **Social Studies**: Exploring the judicial system, the role of juries, and the significance of civic responsibility in a democracy.
- **Civics Education**: Understanding the importance of unbiased decision-making and considering diverse perspectives.

By the end of the unit, students will be able to:

1. Analyze how the play's structure and dialogue develop characters and themes.
2. Apply critical thinking to evaluate evidence and arguments.
3. Reflect on their roles as members of a community and the responsibilities of fair decision-making.

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.8.2 Analyze literary text development.

2. RL.8.7 Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.

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. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry; Mildred D. Taylor
2. To Kill a Mockingbird; Harper Lee

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

Teacher: Madeleen Shepard Date: 12/5/2024

ELA Department Chair: Mary Boschoff Date: 12/5/2024

Building Principal: [signature] Date: 12/5/24

District Curriculum Administrator: [signature] Date: 12/10/24