OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): Liberty Middle School
Classes/Grade Level(s): 8th Grade

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: Night by Elie Wiesel
Genre: Memoir/Nonfiction/Autobiography
Lexile Reading Level: 570-590
Total number of pages: 115

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)**
Night is Elie Wiesel's masterpiece, a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps. This new translation by Marion Wiesel, Elie's wife and frequent translator, presents this seminal memoir in the language and spirit truest to the author's original intent. And in a substantive new preface, Elie reflects on the enduring importance of Night and his lifelong, passionate dedication to ensuring that the world never forgets man's capacity for inhumanity to man. *Night* offers much more than a litany of the daily terrors, everyday perversions, and rampant sadism at Auschwitz and Buchenwald; it also eloquently addresses many of the philosophical as well as personal questions implicit in any serious consideration of what the Holocaust was, what it meant, and what its legacy is and will be (Amazon Summary)	**Public Hanging** "Then the entire camp, block after block, filed past the hanged boy and stared at his extinguished eyes, the tongue hanging from his gaping mouth. The Kapos forced everyone to look at him squarely in the face" (Wiesel 63). **Violence** "Then, as if waking from a deep sleep, he slapped my father with such force that he fell down and then crawled back to his place on all fours" (Wiesel 39). **Dehumanization** "Belt and shoes in hand, I let myself be dragged along to the barbers. Their clippers tore out our hair, shaved every hair on our bodies" (Wiesel 35). **Description of Life in Concentration Camp/Ghettos** "We stared at the flames in the darkness. A wretched stench floated in the air. Abruptly, our

	doors opened. Strange-looking creatures, dressed in striped jackets and black pants, jumped into the wagon. Holding flashlights and sticks, they began to strike at us left and right, shouting:" (Wiesel 28). **Mention of Sexual Content** "I moved closer and had a glimpse of Idek and a young Polish girl, half naked, on a straw mat." ... " Idek jumped, turned and saw me, while the girl tried to cover her breasts." (Wiesel 57)
Book Reviews (1-2 link(s)) *Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links* *Common Sense Media* *Amazon Review*	

ABOUT THE CLASS

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

Elie Wiesel's memoir, Night, has become a standard text used in many classes to both teach about the history and human impact of the Holocaust. This unit will help teachers and students understand the fuller historical context of the events described in Wiesel's writing. While reading, students will trace themes such as faith, empathy, and dehumanization within the novel. In addition, students will examine the purpose of a memoir and concept of bearing witness while examining Night for both its historical and literary contexts. Finally, unique resources allow students to learn about the later life and legacy of Elie Wiesel.

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.8.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently. Build background knowledge and activate prior knowledge in order to make text-to-self, text-totext, and text-to-world connections that deepen understanding 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. The Book Thief by Markus Zuzak
2. The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank

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

Teacher: Madeleen Sheppard Date: 11/18/24

ELA Department Chair: Mary Burkhoff Date: 11/18/2024

Building Principal: [signature] Date: 11/18/24

District Curriculum Administrator: Elena Johnson Date: 12/10/24