OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

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

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: Prisoner B-3087, Alan Gratz
Genre: Historical Fiction
Lexile Reading Level: 760L
Total number of pages: 256

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)**
As a Jewish boy in 1930s Poland, Yanek is at the mercy of the Nazis who have taken over. Everything he has, and everyone he loves, have been snatched brutally from him. And then Yanek himself is taken prisoner -- his arm tattooed with the words PRISONER B-3087. He is forced from one nightmarish concentration camp to another, as World War II rages all around him. He encounters evil he could have never imagined, but also sees surprising glimpses of hope amid the horror. He just barely escapes death, only to confront it again seconds later. Can Yanek make it through the terror without losing his hope, his will -- and, most of all, his sense of who he really is inside? Taken from Goodreads *Based on an astonishing true story.*	Because it is set in Nazi Germany, there are several instances of the poor treatment of Jews and war violence. **Violence:** Several examples - Beatings and killings by Nazi guards. Examples throughout the book include: - Deaths of family members and strangers. (Example: chapter 20) -Executions, including hangings and shootings. -Graphic descriptions of starvation, forced labor, and the inhumane conditions of ten concentration camps. (Examples pulled from: chapters 6, 9, 13, 18) These scenes are realistic, though not gratuitously gory. **Stereotyping/ Anti-Semitism:** Several examples throughout the book. These are portrayed accurately and critically, not endorsed. Readers are exposed to: -Dehumanizing language used by Nazis. (pg. 39)

	-Systematic discrimination and extermination of Jews. -Ethnic and religious hatred. (pg. 45) (Examples are throughout the book) **Alcohol:** -Some examples of Nazi guards are shown drinking or smoking, but not in a glorified or detailed manner. p21
Book Reviews (1-2 link(s)) *Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links* Kirkus: https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/alan-gratz/prisoner-b-3087/ Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15756277-prisoner-b-3087	

ABOUT THE CLASS

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

Since most 8th grade students go on the Washington, D.C. trip, and visit The Holocaust Museum, reading books about The Holocaust gives us the opportunity to explore and share the different perspectives of those affected by this historical event. Prisoner B-3087 is high quality and selected because it shows a range of realistic perspectives that provide an opportunity to analyze decisions and actions taken (or not) during a time or crisis.

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

RI.8.6 Determine an author's perspective or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.

RI.8.3 Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).

RL.8.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

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

1. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
2. *The Light in Hidden Places* -Sharon Cameron

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

Teacher: _____ Date: 8-27-25

ELA Department Chair: _____ Date: 8-27-25

Building Principal: _____ Date: 8-27-25

District Curriculum Administrator: _____ Date: 9/8/25