OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OLMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): 6th grade

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: The Shadow Club Neal Shusterman

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Lexile Reading Level: 670L

Total number of pages: 199

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)
For Jared and Cheryl, nothing is worse than coming in second. Their idea to form a club of second best kids seems harmless at first. But when the Shadow Club members start playing anonymous practical jokes on each other's rivals, things quickly spiral out of control, and innocent people get hurt. This chilling page-turner about the effects of underlying resentment on a high school population is more timely now than when it was first published. Barnes and Noble	**Sexuality content: Page: 115 "I smiled,she smiled, and then. For no particular reason, I leaned over and I kissed her on the cheek." Language: Multiple references to hate and hell. Page 16 "I hate him!."**

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

Review #1 Publishers Weekly This engrossing book portrays how easily even `good" kids can lose control of themselves and do cruel and horrible things. Seven junior-high-school students (all `second-bests") led by narrator Jared and best friend Cheryl form the Shadow Club to get back at the `unbeatables" who make their lives miserable. Revenge tastes very sweet when they play humiliating practical jokes on all the school's first-bests, including track star Austin, Jared's nemesis. Any qualms that Jared has about the club get tossed aside when he's acknowledged as president. And, though he calls a temporary halt to the pranks, someone starts playing really dangerous tricks. Events come to a head when Austin is seriously injured. Sure that school weirdo Tyson is the culprit, the Shadow Club captures him. Jared leads the others in beating him up, then almost causes the boy's death. In the thrilling denouement, Jared learns where the blame really lies. Shusterman vividly conveys the overwhelming qualities of violent emotions and chillingly shows how a group of `nice" people can become an ugly, vengeful mob. Ages 12-up. (May) Barnes and Noble-Publisher's Weekly

Review #2 "An engrossing book... Shusterman vividly conveys the overwhelming qualities of

violent emotions and chillingly shows how a group of 'nice' people can become a vengeful mob." -- Publishers Weekly "Powerful... Every reader who has felt resentment will identify with these young people, their anger, and their terror." -- Kirkus Reviews "This is a provocative novel... The plot is ingeniously simple and the course of events compelling. Brisk enough to snag a popular audience, but forceful in impact, it will leave readers thinking." -- A.L.A. Booklist (starred review *) "A well-constructed mystery... with character complexity, and a logical, yet unexpected finale..." -- Bulletin of the Center for Children's books from www.storyman.com*

ABOUT THE CLASS

Rationale for the Literature Selection (in addition to standards): (To be completed by the teacher or team)
The focus for this novel is direct and indirect characterization as well as elements of literature.

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.6.1,2,4,10

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 Beasties, William Sleater
2.Touching Spirit Bear, Ben Mikaelsen

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

Teacher: Regina Fragale Date: 9/3/25
Department Chair: Meg Bischoff Date: 9/3/25
Building Principal: [signature] Date: 9/3/25
District Curriculum Administrator: Elons Ford Date: 9/5/25