OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OSMS
Classes/Grade Level(s): 6th Grade

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: Middle School: Escape to Australia by James Patterson
Genre: Realistic Fiction
Lexile Reading Level: 820
Total number of pages: 288 pages

Book Summary	**Potentially Objectionable Content** (list all categories and at least one example, referenced with a page or chapter number)
In this adventurous installment of James Patterson's bestselling Middle School series, everyone's favorite underdog hero Rafe Khatchadorian is headed to the dangerous wilds of Australia! Rafe soon finds that living in the Land Down Under is harder than he could've ever imagined: his host-siblings are anything but welcoming, the burning temperatures are torturous, and poisonous critters are ready to sting or eat him at every step. So with the help of some new misfit friends, Rafe sets out to show everyone what he does best: create utter mayhem!	**Profanity** "The shorts from Hell". Ch 20 **Nudity and sexual innuendo** The main character tries surfing, crashes, and has to be resuscitated on the beach. When he wakes up he realizes he doesn't have his swim trunks on anymore. Ch 23

Book Reviews (1-2 link(s)) *Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links*
From Booklist:
In this adventurous installment of James Patterson's bestselling Middle School series, everyone's favorite underdog hero Rafe Khatchadorian is headed to the dangerous wilds of Australia! Rafe isn't exactly considered a winner in Hills Village Middle School to say the least, but everything's about to change: he's won a school-wide art competition, and the fabulous prize is getting to jet off to Australia for a whirlwind adventure! But Rafe soon finds that living in the Land Down Under is harder than he could've ever imagined: his host-siblings are anything but welcoming, the burning temperatures are torturous, and poisonous critters are ready to sting or eat him at every step. So with the help of some new misfit friends, Rafe sets out to show everyone what he does best: create utter mayhem!

ABOUT THE CLASS

Rationale for the Literature Selection (in addition to standards): (To be completed by the teacher or team)
This book is being used in 6th grade ELA as part of a cross-content ELA and social studies project on the 5 themes of geography, culture, and modern countries in the Eastern Hemisphere. Students will read the novel, and then research the country featured in the novel in preparation for sharing what they've learned with the class. They will research the elements of the country's culture and then they will evaluate the presentation of that culture in the novel they read.

This book has been selected because of its setting and genre. First, it is set in a modern day country in the Eastern Hemisphere, and second, it is a realistic fiction novel that allows students to learn about a culture by reading a story set in that culture. In addition to the culture of the country, students will be asked to describe the 5 themes of geography in relation to that specific country, and to evaluate whether the book's author accurately and fully portrayed the culture.

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

- RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- RL.6.2 Analyze literary text development. B. Incorporate a theme and story details into an objective summary of the text.
- RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

What alternative texts would allow students to meet the same objectives?
1. Rickshaw Girl by Mitali Perkins
2. The Kaya Girl by Mamle Wolo

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

Teacher: _____ Date: 9/3/25
Department Chair: Valerie Boggarm Date: 9.2.25
Building Principal: _____ Date: 9.11.25
District Curriculum Administrator: Elonie Ford Date: 9/24/25