



OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OSMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): 6th Grade

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: My Secret Guide to Paris by Lisa Schroeder

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Lexile Reading Level: 700

Total number of pages: 224

Book Summary

Nora loves everything about Paris, from the Eiffel Tower to chocolat chaud. Of course, she's never actually been there -- she's only visited through her Grandma Sylvia's stories. And just when they've finally planned a trip together, Grandma Sylvia is suddenly gone, taking Nora's dreams with her. Nora is crushed. She misses her grandmother terribly, but she still wants to see the city they both loved. So when Nora finds letters and a Paris treasure map among her Grandma Sylvia's things, she dares to dream again . . . She's not sure what her grandma wants her to find, but Nora knows there are wonderful surprises waiting for her in Paris. And maybe, amongst the croissants and macarons, she'll even find a way to heal her broken heart.

Potentially Objectionable Content (list all categories and at least one example, referenced with a page or chapter number)

Romance/Crushes

- Pg 30 The main character and her friend are daydreaming about traveling to Paris and they joke about cute French boys asking if they can sit with them and buy them some bread and cheese.
- Pg 70 On the metro, Nora's brother sits next to a British girl and the girl's sister muses to Nora that, "I believe your brother fancies my sister".
- Pg 102 Nora and her new friend Phoebe comment about how their siblings like one another.

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

From Kirkus:

After the death of her beloved grandmother, a girl travels to Paris with her mother and finds solace and resolution. Grandma Sylvia's promised 12th birthday gift to the City of Lights is set aside when she is killed in a tragic accident. Compounding her grief, Nora is angry that her mother doesn't appear sufficiently upset. While sorting affairs in Grandma's apartment, Nora discovers three tickets to Paris meant for her, Sylvia and her mother. Also included are a map and instructions for Nora to take several envelopes and a locked box on the trip to be opened in sequence, and Nora realizes it must be a kind of treasure hunt. She decides to keep the



Instructions, envelopes and box hidden from her mother. When they reach Paris (Nora's brother takes the third ticket), Nora is afraid her mother will not allow her to go to the places outlined in Grandma's Instructions, so the girl goes without her. She quickly learns that her mother was intended to be included, so the two of them follow Grandma's pre-planned and gift-filled journey, repairing and strengthening their relationship along the way. Nora's hopeful, open-hearted character is beautifully depicted. Plotwise, though, the story is a bit of a letdown. Though the ending provides a sufficiently appealing wrap-up, after such a long, suspenseful buildup, it almost can't help but be anticlimactic. Sweet but ultimately unsatisfying. (Fiction. 8-12)

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. Middle School: *Escape to Australia* by James Patterson



2. Rickshaw Girl by Mitali Perkins

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

Teacher: G. L. A. Date: 9/3/25
Department Chair: Valerie Bingham Date: 9.2.25
Building Principal: S. Ford Date: 9.11.25
District Curriculum Administrator: Elaine Ford Date: 7/28/25