



OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OBKMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): 8

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: Unlawful Orders by Barbara Binns

Genre: memoir

Lexile Reading Level: 1090

Total number of pages: 320

Book Summary (abbreviated, bulleted list or link to a book summary)

The Tuskegee Airmen heroically fought for the right to be officers of the US military so that they might participate in World War II by flying overseas to help defeat fascism. However, after winning that battle, they faced their next great challenge at Freeman Field, Iowa, where racist white officers barred them from entering the prestigious Officers' Club that their rank promised them. The Freeman Field Mutiny, as it became known, would eventually lead to the desegregation of the US armed forces, forever changing the course of American history and race relations.

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

Drinking/smoking:

Sex:

Language:

"We are cowards and jackasses if now that the war is over, we do not marshal every ounce of our brain and brawn to fight..." (Binns, 31).

"That began the Elaine Massacre...hunt Mr. N**** in his lair." (Binns, 38).

Violence:

"They fired at every black person they saw, calling it target practice." (Binns, 38)

Other trauma inducing content:

"The tale grew taller with each retelling...SCREAMS SAVE GIRL FROM 2 NEGRO THUGS." (Binns, 46)

"Sometime he had to listen to racist pseudoscience masquerading as truth." (Binns, 204)



Book Reviews (1-2 link(s)) <i>Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links</i> <u>Kirkus review</u>	

ABOUT THE CLASS

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

Unlawful Orders provides the opportunity to study theme, character development, and how the structure of a story influences our perception of the story elements and the author's purpose. As a memoir, it offers students a unique perspective and format through which to practice these skills. We will cover the following state standards in depth through our study of this text: RL8.1, RL8.2, RL8.4, RL8.5

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

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. Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
2. Shoe Dog by Ohil Knight

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

Teacher: Emma Henkle Date: 9/19/25
Department Chair: Katelyn Baker Date: 9/19/25
Building Principal: Morgan Nagel Date: 9/19/25
District Curriculum Administrator: John Ford Date: 10-1-25