OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OSMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): 6th Grade

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: All you Knead is Love by Tanya Guerrero

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Lexile Reading Level: 640

Total number of pages: 400

Book Summary

Sometimes you find home where you least expect it. Twelve-year-old Alba doesn't want to live with her estranged grandmother in Barcelona. She wants to stay with her mom, even if that means enduring her dad's cutting comments to them both. But in her new home, Alba forms a close relationship with her grandmother, gains a supportive father figure and new friends, and even discovers a passion and talent for baking. And through getting to know the city her mother used to call home, Alba starts to understand her mother better–and may just be able to make their family whole again.

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

Racism

- Main character's friend describes how she gets labeled a lowly immigrant because she's Chinese even though she was born in Spain

Language

- Pg 9 Main character describes a girl who bullied her, saying she made her school life a "living hell"

Sexuality

- Pg 10 Main character laments how her parents don't like her short hair, "as if short hairstyles were exclusive to lesbians"
- Pg 22 Main character's grandmother asks her about how she's dressed and the girl explains that she doesn't like girly stuff like makeup and jewelry
- Pg 139 Main character's friend tells her she thinks their other friend, a boy, likes her
- Pg 143 They go to a flea market in a building that is shaped like a giant cucumber, and her grandma's friends joke that it looks like a giant penis
- Pg 180 Main character is putting stage

	makeup on her friend and he spontaneously kisses her **Violence/Alcohol Use** • Pg 13, 48, 112, 166 Main character alludes to her father's drinking problem and abusive behavior • Pg 86 On her way to the bakery at 4am, the main character stumbles across a drunk man on the city sidewalk

Book Reviews (1-2 link(s)) *Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links*
From Kirkus Reviews:
Twelve-year-old Alba Green is sent to Barcelona to live with her estranged grandmother. Ever since she was a little girl, Alba has been running away. She always returned home to her cold, indifferent mother and abusive father, though, because she had nowhere else to go. When Alba's mother sends her away to Barcelona to live with the maternal grandmother she hasn't seen since she was small, thanks to her father's controlling behavior, Alba at first meets her Abuela Lola's warmth and kindness with suspicion. Slowly, however, she begins to accept her new reality, making friends and learning to bake bread with the owner of the local bakery. Despite feeling lost and unsure of herself, Alba grows in confidence—not only in terms of her gender-neutral personal style, which her parents disapproved of, but also in her passion for bread-making—and she begins to carve out small moments of happiness for herself. Everything comes to a halt when an unexpected visitor arrives in Barcelona and Alba learns her favorite bakery is in jeopardy. Layered with explorations of topics such as family dynamics, abuse, and identity, Alba's first-person narrative is one of growth, forgiveness, and acceptance. Vivid descriptions of people, places, aromas, and food bring to life a colorful and beautiful multicultural neighborhood in Spain where English, Spanish, Catalan, Tagalog, and Mandarin intermingle. Alba is one-quarter Spanish, one-quarter Filipina, and presumably half White.
A delightful read. (glossary) (Fiction. 8-12)

From School Library Journal:
Gr 4-6–Twelve-year-old Alba feels discarded when her mother sends her across the ocean to live in Barcelona with the grandmother she hardly knows. With time, Alba builds a close relationship with her grandmother and other family friends she meets along the way. Alba finally gets to know the former version of her mother through Toni, her mother's childhood best friend, as they spend time together baking bread for his bakery. Eventually, Alba's mother joins her in Barcelona with a battered face and hopes to build a new life without Alba's abusive father. When Toni's bakery is in danger of closing, Alba and her mother team up to devise a rescue plan. Guerrero weaves traumatic flashbacks of domestic violence together with scenes of opportunity and hope in this coming-of-age drama about forgiveness, friendship, and family. Any reader will relate to Alba's experiences finding her true self and her first taste of romance. The author does a beautiful job educating readers about the differences between gender identity and sexuality in a way that is suitable for middle grade readers. A diverse range of



characters facilitate Alba's growth through her relationships. The Spanish language sprinkled throughout helps craft an authentic tone and will not impact non-Spanish speakers' understanding of the text. VERDICT A charming, original title that will draw fans of Janae Marks's From the Desk of Zoe Washington.

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: _____ Date: 9/10/25

Department Chair: Valerie Biagioni Date: 9.10.25

Building Principal: _____ Date: 9.11.25

District Curriculum Administrator: Elena Ford Date: 10.1.25