OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OBKMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): 7 ELA

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: The Bletchley Riddle by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin

Genre: historical fiction/mystery

Lexile Reading Level: HL540

Total number of pages: 416

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)
Summer, 1940. Nineteen-year-old Jakob Novis and his quirky younger sister, Lizzie, share a love of riddles and puzzles. And now they're living inside of one. The quarrelsome siblings find themselves amid one of the greatest secrets of World War II—Britain's eccentric codebreaking factory at Bletchley Park. As Jakob joins Bletchley's top minds to crack the Nazi's Enigma cipher, fourteen-year-old Lizzie embarks on a mission to solve the mysterious disappearance of their mother. The Battle of Britain rages and Hitler's invasion creeps closer. And at the same time, baffling messages and codes arrive on their doorstep while a menacing inspector lurks outside the gates of the Bletchley mansion. Are the messages truly for them, or are they a trap? Could the riddles of Enigma and their mother's disappearance be somehow connected? Jakob and Lizzie must find a way to work together as they race to decipher clues that unravel a shocking puzzle that presents the ultimate challenge.	Drinking/smoking: Main characters are billeted at an inn that is also a pub "We arrive at a huddled stone cottage with a sloped thatched roof. A bracketed sign swings and creaks on the night wind. SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN & PUB" (46) Sex: none Language: none Violence: mention of a train being bombed "Before Willa disappeared, that is. Willa is our mother. Killed in a bomb blast, they told us. A falsity I refuse to accept" (4-5) Other trauma inducing content: air raid sirens, characters must seek shelter underground during a bombing "The sirens rise and fall, mixed now with the metallic grind of engines in the sky. Small black dots drop from the planes and fall, tumbling, toward the city" (357)

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

Kirkus Review

ABOUT THE CLASS

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

This book is used for its high student engagement and the ability to make connections between the past and present in ways that facts and dates sometimes obscure. The author has completed years of credible and reliable research to narrate the historical event in a respectful and honest manner. It presents historical facts mixed with a fictional story with protagonists in which middle schoolers can engage.

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

RL7.9: Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.
RL7.6: Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.
W7.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

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. Flygirl by Sherri S. Smith
2. I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys

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

Teacher: _____ Date: 1/20/26

Department Chair: Katelyn Baker Date: 1/20/26

Building Principal: Myron Nagel Date: 2/2/26

District Curriculum Administrator: Elaine Ford Date: 2/26/26