



OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OOMS

Classes/Grade Level(s): 7/8

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

Genre: Historical Fiction

Lexile Reading Level: 730

Total number of pages: 70

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

- 13 year old Hannah is surprised when what she thought would be an uneventful Passover Sedar, she is actually transported to the past to a Polish shtetl in 1942
- Hannah, now Chaya, experiences the journey to a concentration camp, and the everyday fight to survive in the camp

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

Violence

Example - characters hung for trying to escape: "Then she lost control and six zugangi hanged themselves one night, my aunt Sarah among them. Aunt Sarah had been sick for a long time and could no longer disguise it." pg. 138

Nudity

Example - "They sat on the bench naked and cold for a long time while the barber worked on each in turn. Hannah glanced around cautiously. With their hair gone, they still all looked like little old men." pg. 96

Book Reviews (2-3 links) *Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links*

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/jane-yolen/the-devils-arithmetic/>

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-670-81027-7>



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. It presents historical facts mixed with a fictional story with protagonists that middle schoolers can relate to being similar in age.

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](#)

1. Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot) along with elements of foreshadowing, flashbacks, conflict, mood, and tone.
2. Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.

ALTERNATIVE TEXTS

What alternative texts would allow students to meet the same objectives? (Title/author)

1. Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
2. Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli

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

Teacher: 

Date: 3/8/22

Department Chair: 

Date: 3/8/22

Building Principal: 

Date: 3/8/22

District Curriculum Administrator:

Date: ~~3/8/22~~



4/15/24