OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): Olentangy High School
Classes/Grade Level(s): 9-12

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt
Genre: Contemporary Fiction
Total number of pages: 355

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)
A widowed woman, Tova Sullivan, works the night shift at a local aquarium, where she befriends an octopus named Marcellus. Tova's life intertwines with other characters, including a young man named Cameron, who is searching for answers about his family. The story blends Tova's emotional journey with Marcellus' perspective as he helps the humans around him solve mysteries. Themes include loss, redemption, connection, and the unexpected ways life changes when we least expect it.	Mature Themes/Death: The book deals with themes of loss and mourning (Tova's grief over her husband's death and the revelation of family secrets). This may be sensitive for younger readers. - Example: Chapter 9, Tova reflects on the passing of her husband, and there are other depictions of emotional loss throughout the novel. Language/Profanity: A few mild swear words (e.g., "damn," "hell") used intermittently. - Example: Cameron uses mild profanity in some conversations (Chapter 12). Substance Use: There's a reference to alcohol consumption. - Example: Tova enjoys a glass of wine occasionally, but there is no major focus on substance abuse. Romantic Relationships: The book contains a few mild references to romantic and physical relationships, but there are no explicit scenes or graphic depictions. The focus is on emotional connections and subtle flirtations rather than overt sexual content. - Example: In Chapter 14, there is a reference to a past romantic relationship involving Tova, though it is discussed more in terms

	of emotional impact than physical details. There are also some light romantic undertones in interactions between characters, but nothing explicit.
Book Reviews (1-2 link(s)) *Note: teacher is not responsible for broken links* https://bookclubchat.com/books/review-remarkably-bright-creatures-by-shelby-van-pelt/	

ABOUT THE CLASS

Rationale for the Literature Selection (in addition to standards): *Remarkably Bright Creatures* offers a distinctive narrative structure that enriches the reading experience. The novel alternates between multiple perspectives, including that of Tova Sullivan, a widowed woman in her 70s, and Marcellus, the octopus who becomes an unlikely companion to her. Marcellus' perspective, as an intelligent and observant creature, provides readers with a unique lens through which to explore the human condition—blurring the lines between animal and human experience. This unconventional narration challenges students to consider how different points of view shape the way stories are told and how themes like isolation, connection, and redemption are conveyed. The shifting perspectives deepen students' understanding of character development and enrich discussions about narrative voice and structure.

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. RL.11-12.3 Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).
2. RL.11-12.5 Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

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. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer
2. L*et the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann

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

Teacher: _____ Date: 4/30/2026

ELA Department Chair: Erin Cerro Date: 4/30/2026

Building Principal: Nichole Custer Date: 4/30/26

District Curriculum Administrator: Elaine Ford Date: 8/17/26