

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS LITERATURE SELECTION REVIEW FORM

LOCATION

Building(s): OLHS

Classes/Grade Level(s): English 9

ABOUT THE BOOK

Selection Title/Author: The Book Thief/Markus Zusak

Genre: Fiction

Lexile Reading Level: 730L

Total number of pages: 550

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

Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.

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

Violence:

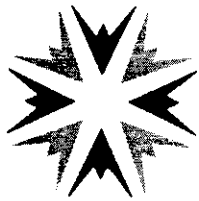
Many upsetting events are described, but the language used rarely goes into gory detail. The war results in the deaths of many major beloved characters, including children. There's a burial and funeral. Injuries are mentioned, such as punctured hearts, beaten lungs, infected limbs, broken bones, and body parts blown off. A person is described as being "found in several pieces" pg. 172 during battle. Characters are beaten and whipped, including children being slapped and hit by parents and teachers (pg. 99). Bullying includes name-calling and fistfights that result in black eyes and blood from nose and mouth . A child injures their foot and blood seeps through their sock. (Pg. 78-80). Descriptions of death camps, gas chambers, and starving Jews being forced to walk great distances through streets where they're reviled by those who watch. A hand-drawn picture included as part of the book shows people standing on a pile of dead Jews.(Pages 340-359)

Suicide:

A character dies by suicide, and there are other references to suicidal thoughts. (Page 503)

Nudity:

Children are forced to undress at school.(Page 453)



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

Kirkus Review

Common Sense Media

ABOUT THE CLASS

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

Besides allowing up to cover content standards, this book shows the importance of books themselves and how they can bring hope. Today, most of our students are not avid whole-book readers. This book is a full text with over 500 pages. The omniscient narrator gives the reader many perspectives that are engaging, hopefully showing our students that they can read whole books.

Secondly, the overall theme for Freshman English is Identity. This novel teaches that identity is shaped, tested, and rewritten through language, personal relationships, and quiet acts of resistance against oppressive political systems.

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.9-10.2. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
- 2 RL.9-10.3. Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.
- 3 RL.9-10.5. Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.

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. [The Boy in the Striped Pajamas](#) by John Boyne



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

Teacher:  Date: 9/23
ELA Department Chair:  Date: 9/23/20
Building Principal:  Date: 9/28/20
District Curriculum Administrator:  Date: 10/1/20