

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Mary Bischoff	School:	OLMS
Book Title:	2001 The Space Odyssey	Genre:	Science Fiction
Author:	Aurthor C. Clarke	Pages:	256
Publisher:	Penguin Group	Copyright:	1968

In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.

Book Summary and summary citation: (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

Overview

Written when landing on the moon was still a dream, made into one of the most influential films of our century, brilliant, compulsive, prophetic, 2001: A Space Odyssey tackles the enduring theme of man's place in the universe. Including a new Foreword by the author and a fascinating new introduction by Stephen Baxter, this special edition is an essential addition to every SF reader's collection.

On the moon an enigma is uncovered. So great are the implications that, for the first time, men are sent out deep into the solar system. But, before they can reach their destination, things begin to go wrong. Horribly wrong.

2001: A Space Odyssey confirmed Arthur C. Clarke's reputation as one of the best-known and most influential science fiction writers ever. The book and the 1968 movie are icons of the modern age. Now comes a special trade paperback edition, with a new introduction by the author which sheds light on the powerful synergy between the book and the movie.

Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s): (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

7R.L. 1,2,3,and 6

Include two professional reviews of this title: (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be "cut and pasted" (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

Review #1

By ELIOT FREMONT-SMITH; New York Times

2001: A Space Odyssey By Arthur C. Clarke

ee the movie, read the book. That's not the usual order of things, and not usually recommended. But in the case of "2001: A Space Odyssey," not much is usual.

Stanley Kubrick's awesome and flawed film about an interplanetary voyage through the solar system to the far side of space, time and consciousness, opened in New York three months ago. The novel, by the great science fact and fiction writer (and father of the communications satellite) Arthur C. Clarke, whose vast conception "2001" is, came out only this week.

Now the film, for those who have seen it—for myself, at any rate—is unforgettable; its visual impact made a permanent impression on my mind. Yet this does not, as one might expect, overwhelm the book. Quite the contrary; while reading "2001," the frames as they unreel in vivid memory serve as cues and illustrations for something even more breathtaking. For the immense and moving fantasy-idea of "2001"—that it is the destiny of man, as a creature of the ordering intelligence of the evolving universe, to unite when ready with that ordering intelligence and to be reborn as part of it, as God—is simply beyond the focus of tightly programmed visual and auditory imagery. It is an idea that can be dramatically envisioned only in the free oscillations of the delicately cued and stretched imagination.

Enigmatic to the End

The film of "2001" is too direct for this, its wonders too unsubtle and, for all their majesty, too confining. The movie can only orbit the central idea, not pierce it; it relays some true pictures but also many false and distorted ones; and in concentrating on mechanical aspects of the story, and injecting hints of satire that are misleading in crucial ways, the film makes "2001" enigmatic to the end.

Only in the novel does all become crystal clear—the function of the mysterious monolith excavated on the moon, the reason for the mutiny (psychosis) of "Hal," the mimic-brain computer on board the space ship Discovery, even the true purpose of the mission of the billion-mile voyage, which in the novel presses on past Jupiter to one of the moons of Saturn.

And what happens at the end, as the one surviving astronaut crashes through the "star gate" on the face of that moon into a gigantic universe-in-reverse and then into an imaginary room that resembles a television stage set, and then retreats back down his own memory to become a crying baby and through that to a cosmic rebirth as pure intelligence—all of this, and what it portends, and has portended since the beginning of the story three million years ago with another monolith implanted on Earth to teach Pleistocene ape-men the use of stones and bones as weapons and tools—all of it becomes clear and convincing in the novel. It is indeed an odyssey, this story, this exhilarating and rather chilling science fiction fantasy.

And, of course, it is a fantasy—you need not believe it—but a fantasy by a master who is as deft at generating accelerating, almost painful suspense as he is knowledgeable and accurate (and fascinating) about the technical and human details of space flight and exploration. But it is finally the stretching of the imagination that is most enthralling as Mr. Clarke entices the reader into strange and magnificent conceptions of other forms of time, dimension and existence.

Review #2

Amazon.com Review

When an enigmatic monolith is found buried on the moon, scientists are amazed to discover that it's at least 3 million years old. Even more amazing, after it's unearthed the artifact releases a powerful signal aimed at Saturn. What sort of alarm has been triggered? To find out, a manned spacecraft, the Discovery, is sent to investigate. Its crew is highly trained--the best--and they are assisted by a self-aware computer, the ultra-capable HAL 9000. But HAL's programming has been patterned after the human mind a little too well. He is capable of guilt, neurosis, even murder, and he controls every single one of Discovery's components. The crew must overthrow this digital psychotic if they hope to make their rendezvous with the entities that are responsible not just for the monolith, but maybe even for human civilization.

Clarke wrote this novel while Stanley Kubrick created the film, the two collaborating on both projects. The novel is much more detailed and intimate, and definitely easier to comprehend. Even though history has disproved its "predictions," it's still loaded with exciting and awe-inspiring science fiction. --Brooks Peck --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?

Title: **The Giver**
Title: **The Hunger Games**
Title:
Title:
Title:
Title:

Author: **Lois Lowry**
Author: **Lois Lowry**
Author:
Author:
Author:
Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)

Gifted/Accelerated ☒ Regular ☒ At Risk ☐

GRADE LEVEL(S): 6☐ 7☒ 8☒ 9☒ 10☒ 11☒ 12☒

Reading level of this title (if applicable):

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 12/19/14

Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults