

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Mary Bischoff	School:	OLMS
Book Title:	Aliens on Vacation	Genre:	Science Fiction
Author:	Clete Barrett Smith	Pages:	272
Publisher:	Disney-Hyperion	Copyright:	2011

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

Scrub isn't happy about having to spend the summer with his hippie grandmother in "Middle of Nowhere," Washington. When he arrives at her Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast, he's not surprised by its 1960s-meets-Star Wars decor, but he is surprised by the weird-looking guests. It turns out that each room in the inn is a portal and his grandma is the gate-keeper, allowing aliens to vacation on Earth. She desperately needs Scrub's help with disguising the tourists as humans. As if that weren't difficult enough, the town sheriff is already suspicious of Granny. One wrong move and Scrub could blow Grandma's cover, forcing the B&B to shut down forever. And when it comes to aliens, every move seems very wrong....

Full of cosmic chaos and mind-bending mayhem, Scrub's summer adventure will leave readers wanting to make a return trip.

House Rules for a Successful Visit

1. Leave nothing behind
2. Take nothing with you
3. Dress appropriately
4. Two arms, two legs, one head
5. No harming the natives

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

School Library Journal

Gr 5-7—Instead of enjoying summer hanging out in the Florida sunshine, Scrub has been shipped clear out to Washington state to work at his grandmother's space-themed inn. He quickly realizes that the Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast is not merely a clever name. Grandma's guests are actual

aliens—from outer space—looking for a relaxing holiday on our quaint backwater planet. Grandma and Scrub try to provide appropriate Earth disguises for excursions, but it's tricky for tentacled, three-eyed, or 10-foot-tall travelers to pass through unobtrusively. The local townsfolk are leery of Grandma's New Age lifestyle and her unusual guests who don't speak English well and have odd customs and mannerisms. Scrub's new friend Amy seems particularly determined to solve the mystery of the inn's clientele—and, unfortunately, her dad is the town sheriff, who would relish an excuse to close Grandma down for good. When the growing suspicion boils over into mob action, it's up to Scrub to save his grandmother's secret—and her livelihood. This deceptively lighthearted tale includes plenty of chuckles. Scrub's chaotic campout with three rowdy juvenile aliens is especially funny. Each chapter is headed by an amusing illustration of a "Tourist"—often in Earth disguise. There is also a powerful message about tolerance and responsibility. The town's mounting prejudice and fear creates an atmosphere of conflict, and the final confrontation with the terrified crowd is genuinely tense. A good choice for young science fiction fans, with special appeal to middle-school boys.—Elaine E. Knight, Lincoln Elementary Schools, IL

Review #2

Children's Literature - Jean Boreen

Scrub is sent to live with his grandmother for the summer when his busy parents are, once again, too busy to stay home with him. He knows that his grandmother runs a bed and breakfast called The Intergalactic Bed and Breakfast and assumes that she named it that to capitalize on people's interest in Star Trek. But when Scrub starts to meet the guests, he confronts Grandma concerning their strange looks and characteristics, unique clothing styles, and unusual eating habits. Grandma admits to Scrub that her B & B is, indeed, a tourist spot for aliens wanting to experience Earth, and that lately she has been having a much more difficult time keeping their presence under the radar. Complicating this is Scrub's new friendship with Amy, the daughter of Sheriff Tate, a lawman who seems very suspicious of Grandma and her hospitality business. This is a fun book, the first in a series, and younger readers will certainly enjoy the variety of aliens and their unique requests.

Reviewer: Jean Boreen, Ph.D

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

<u>Title:</u>	The Giver	<u>Author:</u>	Lois Lowry
<u>Title:</u>	The Hunger Games	<u>Author:</u>	Lois Lowry
<u>Title:</u>		<u>Author:</u>	
<u>Title:</u>		<u>Author:</u>	
<u>Title:</u>		<u>Author:</u>	
<u>Title:</u>		<u>Author:</u>	

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): 12 yrs old

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 12/16/14

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