

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	7 th Grade ELA Department	School:	Olentangy Libery Middle School
Book Title:	Ship Breaker	Genre:	Science Fiction
Author:	Paolo Bacigalupi	Pages:	352
Publisher:	Hachette Book Group	Copyright:	2009

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.)

The Printz Award winner, New York Times bestseller, and National Book Award finalist *Ship Breaker* is a gritty, high-stakes adventure set in a futuristic world where oil is scarce, but loyalty is scarcer.

In America's Gulf Coast region, grounded oil tankers are being broken down for parts by crews of young people. Nailer, a teenage boy, works the light crew, scavenging for copper wiring just to make quota-and hopefully live to see another day. But when, by luck or by chance, he discovers an exquisite clipper ship beached during a recent hurricane, Nailer faces the most important decision of his life: Strip the ship for all it's worth or rescue its lone survivor, a beautiful and wealthy girl who could lead him to a better life....

In this powerful novel, Paolo Bacigalupi delivers a thrilling, fast-paced adventure set in a vivid and raw, uncertain future.

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)

Science Fiction lends itself well to targeting many common core state standards. The organization of this book helps teach CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3 which requires students to "Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot)". The novel can be used for almost any literature standard but is especially helpful when teaching extrapolated ideas and author's message which fits standard CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.2 - Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text - very well.

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

From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up—A fast-paced postapocalyptic adventure set on the American Gulf Coast. Nailer works light crew; his dirty, dangerous job is to crawl deep into the wrecks of the ancient oil tankers that line the beach, scavenging copper wire and turning it over to his crew boss. After a brutal hurricane passes over, Nailer and his friend Pima stumble upon the wreck of a luxurious clipper ship. It's

filled with valuable goods—a "Lucky Strike" that could make them rich, if only they can find a safe way to cash it in. Amid the wreckage, a girl barely clings to life. If they help her, she tells them, she can show them a world of privilege that they have never known. But can they trust her? And if so, can they keep the girl safe from Nailer's drug-addicted father? Exciting and sometimes violent, this book will appeal to older fans of Scott Westerfeld's "Uglies" series (S & S) and similar action-oriented science fiction.—Hayden Bass, Seattle Public Library, WA

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Review #2

From The Guardian

Why is it, I am frequently asked, that teenagers seem to like dystopian fiction so much? The answer is obvious if we could properly remember our own teenage years. Consider the dystopia: a world where polite society has vanished, where you have to fend for yourself against impossible tyranny, where you have all the responsibilities of being an adult but almost none of the privileges. Sound familiar? Teenagers don't see dystopias as dystopias; they see them as barely fictional representations of their day-to-day lives.

Ship Breaker, for example, is dystopia at its grittiest and least fantastical. Roughly a hundred years from now, the ice caps have melted, causing sea levels to rise, particularly on the old southern coast of America, near what used to be New Orleans. Government has broken down, and the world consists of economically driven clans.

Nailer is a ship breaker, still small enough, for now, to be on "light crew" – pulling valuable copper wire out of the now-obsolete oil tankers that litter the coast. His future is bleak. He is unlikely to grow strong enough to be taken on to "heavy crew" when he gets older, and his father, Richard Lopez, is a terrifying, murderous, drug-addled nightmare.

Nailer dreams of a lucky strike: a forgotten barrel of crude oil or stash of gold in the bowels of a wreck that will allow him to buy his way out of his own serfdom, and possibly also the indentures of his friend Pima and her mother Sadna, who are more family to him than his father is. One day, a hurricane brings what could be a lucky strike beyond Nailer's wildest dreams. He and Pima happen upon a newly wrecked "clipper", a ship of the super-rich that should never have come this close to shore. Nailer and Pima find enough treasure inside to free them for ever.

But they find something else, too. The body of the beautiful young owner, who turns out to not be quite so dead after all. Nita is in terrible danger from rival clans who want to use her to control her powerful father. Pima wants to humanely finish her off, because the cataclysm Nita could bring down on them is all too terrible. But Nailer hesitates. Unlike his father, he can't bring himself to kill for callous reasons. His hesitation will have ever-expanding consequences for everyone.

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Which is what every decision feels like as a teenager, where every choice is life or death against impossible, entirely unfair odds. Teenagers care less, I find, about the set-up of a dystopic world (though it has to be cool, naturally) than for the hero within it and how they have to act against it. With Ship Breaker, they're in luck.

Bacigalupi is a highly acclaimed adult sci-fi writer, and Ship Breaker won last year's prestigious Printz award for young-adult fiction in the US. It's a taut, disciplined novel, moving with tremendous coiled energy and urgency. I found it a tad colourless in places, but Nailer is a fine hero, complicated and questioning, always wondering whether he's doomed to inherit his father's failings or whether he can make his own destiny.

Which is, of course, the essential question of every dystopia. And basically the essential question of every teenager, too. Why do teenagers like dystopias? Simple. They're looking for proof that there's a way to survive the one in which they're already living.

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

Title: **Unwind**

Author: **Neal Shusterman**

Title: **Adoration of Jenna Fox**

Author: **Mary E. Pearson**

Title:

Author:

Title:

Title:

Title:

Author:

Author:

Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Some references to violence.

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): 1040

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 12/12/2016

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