

Approved for use in High School Special Education Setting

Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children (Riggs, 2012) is an exciting, thought-provoking, and unusual novel about a teenage boy whose journey to Wales meets with an unexpected discovery of a historic orphanage-like mansion for unwanted Children. Dealing with his friendless past, disavowing parents, and accusations of psychological instability, Jacob Portman learns that maybe this strange mansion is the only thing he’ll ever know that’s close to a home, with its residents being the only thing he’ll ever have for a family.

Rationale:

Many reviewers have noted that the book could be important for the development of teenage literacy. The book’s action and exciting sequences have the potential to stimulate an excitement and passion towards reading in traditionally non-readers.

Additionally, the novel’s connections to farther-reaching Holocaust overtones and allegories hold educational value and cross-curricular opportunities. Adept reviewers, such as Michael Cart Graham - 5 (2011) have noted this. In his review for *Booklist* (2011, May 15), he explains, “Riggs’ debut uses the framework of a horror novel to tell a more far-reaching tale with symbolic overtones of the Holocaust.”

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

“Vintage photographs heighten this atmospheric novel’s spooky factor and contribute to the story’s unfolding, which plays out with sharp plotting, well-developed major characters, and a central mystery that weaves between two worlds,” (p. 115). – *Library Journal* (2011, October)

“An original work that defies categorization, this first novel should appeal to readers who like quirky fantasies. Suitable for both adults and a YA audience. Riggs includes many vintage photographs that add a critical touch of the peculiar to his unusual tale” -*Library Journal* (2011, May)

“Riggs delves into an edge-of-your-seat adventure exploring a world just below the surface of our own, only frozen in time to save the children from the dangers that surround them. With real vintage photos of the “peculiar” children and action-packed text, this is sure to get even your most reluctant reader to whiz through the pages” – *VOYA* magazine.

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

“A tense, moving, and wondrously strange first novel. The photographs and text work together brilliantly to create an unforgettable story.”—John Green, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Looking for Alaska* and *Paper Towns*

“Readers searching for the next Harry Potter may want to visit *Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children*.”—*CNN*

“Riggs deftly moves between fantasy and reality, prose and photography to create an enchanting and at times positively terrifying story.”—*Associated Press*

Readability

- Lexile Score: 890
- Readability Level: 5.7

Learning Resources Guidelines

- The novel meets the [Learning Resources Guidelines](#).

Standard Alignment: CCSS 9-10.1, 9-10.2, 9-10.3, 9-10.5, 9-10.6, 9-10.9

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

Striving readers will find this story accessible and relevant. The low Lexile and high interest nature of the story will promote multiple scenarios for writing and analysis, character development, and creativity.

Connection to the Curriculum:

The novel demonstrates elements of literary techniques such as foreshadow, flashback, metaphor, symbolism, and multiple points of view. In addition, there are allegorical elements related to WWII and the Holocaust.

Additional Connections:

Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children is extraordinarily rich in the issues and topics it addresses, especially as pertains to the adolescent experience. In particular, this novel is a valuable piece of literature because of four important characters. Firstly, it deals with the issue of tumultuous friendships during adolescence. Secondly, it deals with the issue of gaining independence from parents during adolescence. Thirdly, it deals with the issue of growing up with alcoholic parents. Lastly, its genre provides a useful avenue by which kids can experience important history.