

Approved for use in English IV

Summary of the Work:

On a deserted mountain road in the Dominican Republic in 1960, three young sisters were assassinated after visiting their jailed husbands, suspected rebel leaders. The Mirabal sisters became martyrs and mythical figures in their country, where they are known as Las Mariposas (the butterflies). Three decades later, Julia Alvarez brings the Mirabal sisters back to life in this fictionalized account.

Rationale:

In the Time of the Butterflies is an excellent work that adds to the global perspective that World Literature tries to develop in the students. It is a novel by an acclaimed author and professor of writing at Middlebury College in Vermont. The voice is authentic as Julia Alvarez is from the Dominican Republic and she offers a native view of the history of oppression and revolution in the modern era. Additionally, this book represents a Latin American voice so prominent in our culture that we should represent in a World Literature class. Finally, the use of four narrators adds to the complexity of voice and point of view.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

Contemporary Authors Online, Thompson Gale, 2008.
Booklist, July 1994, Brad Hooper. 1892.
New York Times Book Review, Dec. 18, 1994.
Belles Lettres, Spring 1995.

* 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:

- National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist
- ALA Best Book for Young Adults
- ALA Notable Book

Readability:

- Lexile Score: 910
- Readability Level: 7.1

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: [\(link\)](#)

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

The nature of oppression and revolution are described with allusions to violent incidents.

Connection to the Curriculum:

Set in the Dominican Republic, written by a native Dominican, this book fits the curriculum of World Literature. The description of the Dominican Republic's culture adds to the curricular goal of providing breadth to our students' world view.

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)