

**BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST**

Committee Number: 8

Date 1/19/23

Name of Novel The Freedom Writers Diary by Grawell, Erin

Directions: After reading the selected novel, review the material using the below criteria. Note upon review of the book the following Beaufort County School District Non Discrimination will be taken into consideration:

Non-Discrimination. The BCSD affirms the right of all individuals to be treated with respect and to be protected from intimidation, discrimination, physical harm, and/or harassment. The BCSD is committed to nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all students, parents/legal guardians, staff, visitors, applicants for admission and employment, personnel, and community members who participate or seek to participate in its educational programs or activities. Accordingly, the BCSD does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, sex, pregnancy, childbirth, or any related medical conditions, color, physical or mental disability, age (40 or older), ancestry, genetic information, national origin, or any other applicable status protected by Title VI, Title VII, Title IX or any other local, state, or federal law.

EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	Check all that apply
The novel supports the BCSD's mission, vision, and goals.	/
The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance)	✓
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.	✓
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	✓
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	✓
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	✓
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	✓
<p>Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:</p> <p>This book does an amazing job of teaching children to see themselves in an experience one of the writers also had. But also, allows students to experience empathy because of what the writers share.</p>	

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
The novel is to be engaging and able to meet a variety of student needs. Meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation to include, but not limited to: i. No errors, validity, accuracy; ii. Objectivity; iii. Well written; and iv. Strong visual appeal.	✓
Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	✓
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	✓
The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	✓
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	✓
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	✓
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	✓
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	✓
<p>Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:</p> <p>The novel is clearly non-fiction and relatable non-fiction for the reader.</p> <p>The novel is clearly organized and well organized (organized by freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, etc.).</p> <p>The writers are also labeled by number.</p>	

This book does an amazing job of teaching children to be themselves and to be one of the writers out there. But also allows students to experience something that the writers out there have done.

AVOIDANCE OF PERVASIVE VULGARITY	Check all that apply
When considered as a whole, the novel does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful way.	✓
The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.	✓
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.	✓
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.	✓
Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY: This book includes scenes in which the reader learns about various sexual experiences these students went through, were forced through, or willingly experienced. But, these descriptions were not vulgar.	

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.	X	✓	✓
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.	X	✓	✓
The novel is appropriate to the content area.	X	✓	✓
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.	X	✓	✓
Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS: The student writers who created this book share experiences that are timeless and relatable to middle & high school students.			

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were not vulgar.
or winningly experienced. But, there description
these statements were found thorough,
reader learned about various sexual experiences
This book included scenes in which the

The student writers who created this book share experiences that are universal and relatable to middle & high school students.

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EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	Check all that apply
The novel supports the BCSD's mission, vision, and goals.	✓
The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance)	✓
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.	✓
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	✓
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	✓
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	✓
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	✓
<p>Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:</p> <p>Throughout the book students are prompted to read and reflect on their own experiences while relating it to the books they are tasked to read. Pg 93 - Discussion on discrimination and society's labels.</p> <p>Book also discusses other literary references and how students draw relevance. The novel's theme is of hope, and how to respect all people no matter their differences.</p>	

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
<p>The novel is to be engaging and able to meet a variety of student needs. Meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation to include, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No errors, validity, accuracy; ii. Objectivity; iii. Well written; and iv. Strong visual appeal. 	✓
Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	✓
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	✓
The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	✓
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	✓
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	✓
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	✓
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	✓
<p>Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:</p> <p>The journal entries are written by the teacher and students. They are the students age and learn their journals show growth as well. The depth of thought is remarkable to see from when they start at the age of 14 to 20 years later, as adults.</p>	

AVOIDANCE OF PERVASIVE VULGARITY	Check all that apply
When considered as a whole, the novel does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful way.	✓
The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.	✓
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.	✓
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.	✓
<p>Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY:</p> <p>There are a few diary entries that discuss sexual activity but nothing is described in detail and graphic. conversations These parts are not in any way offensive and would lead to discussions on how to help someone that has been a victim of assault.</p>	

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.		✓	✓
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.		✓	✓
The novel is appropriate to the content area.		✓	✓
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.		✓	✓
<p>Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS:</p> <p>The students in the novel are of high school age and experiences are relevant to high school age students. However, the topics in the book are very relevant to students in middle,</p>			

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EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	Check all that apply
The novel supports the BCSD's mission, vision, and goals.	✓
The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance)	✓
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.	✓
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	✓
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	✓
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	✓
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	✓
<p>Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:</p> <p>The book is written by students for students. It shows true longitudinal growth. It is fully relatable to a variety of students.</p>	

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
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Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	✓
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	✓
The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	✓
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	✓
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	✓
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	✓
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	✓
<p>Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:</p>	

AVOIDANCE OF PERVASIVE VULGARITY	Check all that apply
When considered as a whole, the novel does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful way.	✓
The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.	✓
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.	✓
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.	✓
Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY: It's not vulgar. it I hear way worse walking down a middle school hall.	

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.		8	✓
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.		8	✓
The novel is appropriate to the content area.		8	✓
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.		8	✓
Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS: Eng 1 H 8 th grade for Social Issues. I believe all 6-8 but at the very least give it to 8 th .			

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EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	Check all that apply
The novel supports the BCSD's mission, vision, and goals.	✓
The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance)	✓
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.	✓
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	✓
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	✓
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	✓
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	✓
Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: <i>The novel focuses on the power of words, written and spoken. Students in the book are given the opportunity to read about the struggles that others their own age have gone through during wars (WWII and in Sarajevo). It teaches understanding of others, acceptance, compassion, pride in one's self and how to use writing to grow as an individual. Academic skills improved through time.</i>	

improved through time.

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
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Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	✓
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	✓
The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	✓
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	✓
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	✓
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	✓
<p>Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:</p> <p>"Chapters" are listed as numbered diary entries with no identifying information. Entries are short and easy to read.</p> <p>Author, Erin Gruwell, was a teacher to the students whose diaries became the book. She went on to become a Distinguished Teacher in Residence at California State University.</p> <p>The novel illustrates the power of a good teacher and the ways in which young adults can change their lives and circumstances through lessons in writing.</p>	

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The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.	✓
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.	✓
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.	✓
Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY: The only sentence was used to illustrate the connection one student made to another student's circumstance through a peer editing assignment.	

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.		✓	✓
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.		✓	✓
The novel is appropriate to the content area.		✓	✓
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.		✓	✓
Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS: The book highlights the importance of teens being able to "find themselves within the pages of a book". Reading about life events and situations that show them that they are not alone in their struggles. Learning that by writing they develop pride and self confidence. Learning the value in being a contributing member of society and the world. Best for higher middle and high school.			

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The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance)	✓
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.	✓
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	✓
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	✓
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	✓
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Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:	

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The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	✓
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	✓
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	✓
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	✓
Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:	

AVOIDANCE OF PERVASIVE VULGARITY	Check all that apply
When considered as a whole, the novel does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful way.	✓
The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.	✓
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.	✓
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.	✓
Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY:	

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.		✓	✓
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.		✓	✓
The novel is appropriate to the content area.		✓	✓
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.		✓	✓
Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS:			

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EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	Check all that apply
The novel supports the BCSD's mission, vision, and goals.	✓
The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance)	✓
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.	✓
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	✓
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	✓
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	✓
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	✓
<p>Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the book as a vehicle, students create a connection, teachers find their strength and parents gain a deeper understanding of their kids. (pg. 280) • Powerful message • Made me realize that with education you can become whoever you want (pg. 173) • Covers all walks of life, many issues discussed • Diversed and personalized 	

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
<p>The novel is to be engaging and able to meet a variety of student needs. Meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation to include, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No errors, validity, accuracy; ii. Objectivity; iii. Well written; and iv. Strong visual appeal. 	✓
Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	✓
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	✓
The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	✓
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	✓
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	✓
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	✓
<p>Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New York Times Bestseller list • Featured on Oprah • Diary Format - organized • Easy Read • Follows the same students 	

AVOIDANCE OF PERVASIVE VULGARITY	Check all that apply
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The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.	✓
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.	✓
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.	✓
Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY: Fell into context Words were powerful Bring Power to Students Students are not alone Not too much details	

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.		✓	✓
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.		✓	✓
The novel is appropriate to the content area.		✓	✓
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.		✓	✓
Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS: Great Resource for students, teachers and parents Open door for communication			

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EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE	Check all that apply
The novel supports the BCSD's mission, vision, and goals.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel directly supports the acquisition of related standards. (Educational Significance)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners and learning styles.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and the culture of the school community.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel/material adds value to the library/school collection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:	

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
<p>The novel is to be engaging and able to meet a variety of student needs. Meet high standards of quality in factual content and presentation to include, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No errors, validity, accuracy; ii. Objectivity; iii. Well written; and iv. Strong visual appeal. 	Y
Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	Y
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	Y
The novel/material has high artistic quality, and/or literary style.	Y
The novel/material avoids bias and adheres to standards of sensitivity relative to student race, sex, religion, culture, ethnicity, disability, and socioeconomic status.	Y
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	Y
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	Y
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	Y
<p>Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:</p>	

AVOIDANCE OF PERVASIVE VULGARITY	Check all that apply
When considered as a whole, the novel does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful way.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The novel is free from graphic depictions of sexual activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY:	

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12
The novel is appropriate to the age and grade level of students.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
The novel is appropriate to the maturity level of students.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
The novel is appropriate to the content area.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS:			

