

**BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST**

Committee Number: 12 Date 19 January '23

Name of Novel Glass by Ellen Hopkins

**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.	✓
Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: <u>See attached pages 1-2.</u>	



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 text.	✓
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:  <i>See attached pages 2-3.</i>	



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: <i>See attached pages 3-4.</i>	

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.		8	✓
The novel is appropriate to the content area.			✓
The novel/material reflects the contemporary community standards.			✓
Evidence from the text relating to APPROPRIATENESS: <i>See attached pages 4-5.</i>			







*Glass* by Ellen Hopkins

Educational Significance

1. This novel supports BCSD's mission, vision, and goals by providing a "personalized learning approach" and supporting a "diverse community" of students. *Glass* is the perfect example of what happens when the consequences of poor decisions come to bear. What began as using drugs as a way to escape or fit in with people Kristina thought were so much cooler than she was, the peer pressure of being socially accepted and not meek, ended up transforming a studious young girl who wanted to be an artist into a drug addict, unleashing a new and horrible way of life. This sequel to *Crank* shows how Kristina deals with motherhood as a 17 year old, working on her GED and understanding there is much more to life and being a mother than she wants to cope with. Merely telling a student about the consequences of their actions may seem like "lip service" - to see it played out on the page is beneficial to their understanding.
2. The educational significance of *Glass* crosses multiple core content subject areas as well as areas of concern regarding the social and emotional health of students.
  - English curriculum benefits from the format, themes, use of language, structure of the writing on the page and the significance of the words depending on the shape of the text reveals the message focus. Concrete poetry adds visual appeal and reinforces the theme or underlying message.
  - English curriculum may also use it as a companion text by making connections with nonfiction resources about drug use/abuse, teen pregnancy, family relationships, and then validating those same themes in fictional texts.
  - Child Development and Family Life Education curriculum benefits from exploration into safe sex, contraceptives, teen pregnancy, teen parenthood, raising children, child abuse, the financial impact of providing for an infant with and without the support of family while still trying to fund a drug habit.
  - Social and Emotional indicators and red flags recognized through trauma informed teaching may arise when reading, this book might offer a vehicle for student self expression and admission of problems they are facing.
3. The novel contributes to improved academic achievement for a variety of learners due to its "novel in verse" format, an engaging and unconventional manner of writing that many children actively seek out when choosing books for personal reading and as an academic supplement to assignments. National School Library Standards VC1 states "learners develop and satisfy personal curiosity by reading widely and deeply in multiple formats" and numerous peer-reviewed research studies show the correlation between improved academic achievement and reading.
4. This novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills because of the real world situations that Kristina encounters. She is a victim of rape, endures teen pregnancy and motherhood, battles addiction, makes economic and life decisions based on a relationship founded in drug abuse, suffers sexual harrassment by an employer, abuses a child and is a victim of abuse herself. The essential questions that students can answer as to why she made those choices and what choices would they make and why if they found themselves in similar circumstances abound.







5. This novel reflects the needs/interests of the school and culture of the community through the inclusion of possible situations and outcomes and the characters' response to drugs, alcohol, sex (both wanted and unwanted), teen pregnancy, and sexual trauma. Yes, teens get pregnant, and the age of consent in SC is still 16. The subject matter is relevant and highly relatable to high school students of all levels since Kristina's younger brother was in Junior High (grade 7-9) and then high school during the story. A sibling of one suffering from addiction could relate to his experience. The events in *Glass* are not unique and happen right here in Beaufort County, they are a direct reflection of many of our students' lived experiences. *Glass* is also a worthy example of family intervention, and an exploration into the depths and consequences of addiction.
6. *Glass* adds value to the school library collection because it is representative of even a small fraction of our student body, and as previously mentioned, provides examples of family/friend intervention on behalf of the addicted and examples of knowing better but succumbing to addiction. Specific examples include:
  - a. Support given/received by others despite Kristina's irrational, self-serving, and illegal behavior (page 12, 16, 29, 44, 49, 52, 53, 99, 100, 115, 116, 119, 130, 141, 160, 161, 240, 276, 277, 318, 319, 320, 332, 333, 342, 343, 349, 397, 559, 592, 593, 603, 617, 634, 638, 647)
  - b. Kristina's self-awareness, introspection, and actualizations in a variety of circumstances (page 4, 22, 45, 53, 87, 101, 110, 133, 166, 241, 285, 343, 360, 398, 438, 451)
  - c. Kristina's mature observations and expression of feelings (page 13, 48, 86, 117, 129, 131, 133, 165, 437)

#### Quality, Content, Manner of Representation

1. *Glass* is engaging, eye-opening, relatable, and representative of various students and student perspectives. It is free of textual errors and is organized in a format that makes it highly desirable for students to read. Additionally, because of the text shapes the author creates on many pages, another deeper message is conveyed in just reading those words.
2. Ellen Hopkins is a prolific author with 14 novels to her credit. She writes from personal experience, with characters and settings based on where she lives and is intimately familiar with. She founded a nonprofit youth housing and resource initiative that addresses the issues of addiction and homelessness that she writes about. And this story is "loosely based on the very real story of [her own] daughter's walk with 'the monster'" (Hopkins, p. 682), so she speaks from first hand experience.
3. Can be found for purchase anywhere for approx. \$15 depending on the version which is highly valuable with regards to the amount of circulation it may receive.
4. It has high artistic quality and literary style as previously mentioned due to the novel-in-verse format and addition of concrete poetry where the words make shapes on the page that correspond to an underlying message or theme.
5. *Glass* is highly sensitive to information presented about sexual trauma and rape as it







does not describe the rape in detail it recalls it as a thing of the past; about family and relationship problems relating to substance abuse; and demonstrates a mature attitude toward sex as none of the sex scenes are explicitly described.

6. The organization and readability of *Glass* clearly depict the quick downward spiral of a drug addict and the extreme consequences of that behavior. We are not supposed to like Kristina, she is selfish and uncaring about anyone except her immediate love interest and her drug habit. Even her infant child is left behind as she runs away from all responsibility - that is the point of the novel and it is quite clear.

#### Avoidance of Pervasive Vulgarities

1. When considered as a whole, *Glass* does not appeal to sexual interest in a shameful or pornographic way. Sexual activity between Kristina and her boyfriend happens multiple times, but the activities are not detailed for the express interest of arousal, the reader is emotionally detached despite the characters' desperation for each other which is the whole point and a major theme of the book: that sex cannot create closeness or replace meaningful relationships, that sex is not love.
2. Examples of scenes describing sexual activity that are not clearly offensive and include:
  - a. "And then he does things no one has ever done, takes me places I've never been, and my tears turn to cries of indescribable joy" (page 307).
  - b. "Then I'm back in his arms and he's doing those things to me again, those things I've only read about before making love with Trey. They're real. He takes his time, shows me ways to make him feel good too" (page 324).
  - c. "And suddenly, we're making love again. Sweaty, wonderful, don't-want-to-sleep-anyway love" (page 326).
  - d. "Silent, but for the *shush* of skin against skin, the sigh of heightened senses; the exclamation of bodies, no longer strangers" (page 479).
  - e. The most detailed or graphic depiction of sex occurs in a conversation between Kristina and her friend Robin, an addict who dropped out of college and now works for a whorehouse. Robin says "Some of 'em are really gross. I always make them shower first. No way will I let something dirty up inside of me. Condoms? Yeah, they're supposed to wear them. But they pay a lot extra if you don't make them. They also pay extra for oral sex and unusual sex, including threesomes with other girls" (page 541). Their discussion regarding the horrible environment and sexual activity with her customers is meant as a deterrent, it is supposed to be off-putting and a glimpse into the reality of what sex workers experience and why.
3. *Glass* is a title for mature readers who can think critically about the events being described. It follows a short timeline with distinct cause and effect moments that can be studied and dissected and as such abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to being suitable material for minors based on the following:
  - a. The sexual activity throughout the book is not graphic and is meant to present a theme of emptiness despite closeness or declaration of love.
  - b. The author presents a true depiction of a spiral into drug addiction that goes







beyond “hey kids, don’t do drugs”, it shows the immediate effects, how quickly a family can disintegrate, how quickly one choice leads to the next even worse choice until you end up in jail and pregnant again.

- c. Vulgarity was present throughout the book lending authenticity, intentionally increasing as Kristina’s situation and environment worsened. I wouldn’t expect a cartel affiliated drug dealer, a meth addict, or her consorts to say “aw shucks”.
- 4. There are no graphic depictions of sexual activity.

#### Appropriateness

1. Professional review sources recommend this book for teens 14-18 and grades 9 and up, and after full review of the material I agree that it is appropriate for those demographics. Kristina’s boredom with the monotony of her life and disgust with her postpartum body drive her to the easiest solution, go back to meth, feel better, get skinny. This age group contains young boys and girls who are dissatisfied with their bodies, dissatisfied with their lives, who wonder why they have to finish school, why are their parents always harping on them, they are looking for a way to deal with peer pressure and battling hormonal changes. Drugs are sometimes an all too easy solution in their mind, and they, like Kristina, believe they can stay in control, that it’s no big deal. It is a big deal and this book shows exactly how big of a deal it is for this age group.
2. As for maturity, this novel is again appropriate for grades 9-12 as the maturity levels of students in this grade band may differ. It is incumbent upon the teacher/librarian to know their audience and recommend accordingly. Also, many young people partake in their first drug or alcoholic drink between the ages of 12-16. According to WSU article (2020) the national average is rising to around 16 and early onset use was typically 15 (data varies based on study participants and other parameters). So by the time students enter high school they may have already had first-hand experience with drugs or alcohol or soon will. They may have also already experienced sexual assault according to the Department of Justice statistics as reported to law enforcement, nearly 40% of victims are under the age of 12. Kristina’s rape occurred right around her 17th birthday and with the help of her family she chose to not have an abortion. The number of births for teens ages 15-19 is declining but in 2020 the number is 158,043. The number of pregnancies that were terminated spontaneously or otherwise is unknowable, which means this is not an isolated occurrence. There have been multiple pregnancies at the high school level in Beaufort County that I have seen with my own eyes. The age of consent in South Carolina is 16, it would be naive to think students aren’t having sex.
3. Whether for recreational or choice reading based on subject matter or personal interest, or as a supplemental text for thematic study in all bands of high school English curriculum, this novel is appropriate to the content area. It is also applicable to national school library standards previously mentioned.
4. Glass reflects contemporary community standards because this community cares about the well-being of teenagers. DHEC reported 15 drug overdose deaths of minors ages 0-17 between the years 2014 and 2018 (2018), even one overdose death is too many. In response, this community provides programs for drug and alcohol intervention and teen







pregnancy. Lowcountry Alliance for Healthy Youth has a large membership and influence, so it follows that this community would be averse to young people experimenting with crystal meth and going down the path of destruction. The issues and experiences contained within *Glass* are timeless and popular because they are real and their importance is not diminished by the presence of vulgarity or difficult subject matter. Hopkins even calls out attempts to ban this and her other books, writing: "You can't shutter the truth" (page 691), as well as offering a reader's group discussion guide with intelligently worded questions designed to engage critical thinking and decision making skills, encouraging further research into methamphetamines, their effects on the brain and body, and where students can go for help.

Van Dongen, J. (2020). *Study shows rising age of first drug use in teens, young adults*.  
<https://news.wsu.edu/press-release/2020/03/02/study-shows-rising-age-first-drug-use-teens-young-adults/>

Snyder, H. (2000). *Sexual assault of young children as reported to law enforcement*.  
<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/saycrle.pdf>

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control: Drug Overdose Deaths 2018.  
<https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/Drug%20Overdose%20Deaths%20-%20South%20Carolina%202018.pdf>

SC ELA Standards via Rubicon Atlas  
<https://beaufort.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/References/Standards/View/Default?ShowKey=1&AllStandards=1&localStandards=1&DistrictID=1&FromReferences=1&>







**BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST**

Committee Number: 12

Date 1/19/2023

Name of Novel Glass by Ellen Hopkins

**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.	<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: <u>Novel in verse is an engaging format.</u>	



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"> <li>i. No errors, validity, accuracy;</li> <li>ii. Objectivity;</li> <li>iii. Well written; and</li> <li>iv. <u>Strong visual appeal.</u></li> </ul>	✓
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 text.	✓
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>Glass was easy to read and clearly portrayed the dangers of drug use.</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: <i>Minimal curse words. Very limited descriptions of sex. In no way could this be construed as pornographic.</i>	

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: <i>This book is appropriate and <u>NEEDED</u> at both the H.S. level and mature YA Middle school level. Kids should be exposed to the negative aspects of drug use.</i>			







**BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST**

Committee Number: 12

Date 1/19/23

Name of Novel GLASS BY ELLEN HOPKINS

**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.	✓
Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: TEXT IS WRITTEN IN PROSE EXPOSING STUDENTS TO A POETRY-LIKE TEXT. TEXT FEATURES GIVE STUDENTS EXPOSURE TO SOMETHING OTHER THAN TRADITIONAL TEXT; LENGTH ELICITS SUSTAINED PERIODS OF READING THAT IS ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL READERS. TEXT IS NOT GRAPHIC BUT CALLS ON STUDENT ANALYSIS & CRITICAL THINKING THROUGH HIGH INTEREST MATERIAL.	



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"> <li>i. No errors, validity, accuracy;</li> <li>ii. Objectivity;</li> <li>iii. Well written; and</li> <li>iv. Strong visual appeal.</li> </ul>	✓
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>REFER TO "EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE" - EXPOSURE TO PROSE, HIGH INTEREST MATERIAL THAT ENGAGES READERS IN A LONGER TEXT</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>PG. 11 - REFERS TO ADDICTION/DRUGS IN A NEGATIVE CONNOTATION</p> <p>PG. 13 &amp; MORE - RAPE IS MENTIONED BUT NO DETAILS AT ALL</p> <p>PG. 308 - SEX OCCURS WITH NO DESCRIPTION AT ALL; ALLUSION TO AN ORGASM BUT NOT EVEN THE USE OF THE WORD</p> <p>PG. 324 - SEX ACT NO DESCRIPTION</p> <p>THROUGHOUT BOOK - NO EXPLICIT DETAILS; DOES CONTAIN DRUG USE &amp; SEX WITHOUT DETAILS FOR READERS. APPROPRIATE FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS</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>GLASS DISCUSSES ISSUES THAT HIGH SCHOOLERS ARE AWARE OF (WHETHER SOCIAL MEDIA, FAMILY SITUATION, NETFLIX/TV, ETC.) &amp; ENCOUNTER IN LIFE; HOWEVER, GLASS AVOIDS EXPLICIT DESCRIPTIONS THAT <del>ARE</del> DON'T PROMOTE BCSD'S VISION &amp; MISSION. WHILE THERE IS REFERENCE TO DRUGS &amp; SEX, GLASS SERVES AS A CAUTIONARY TALE SHOWING THE DANGERS OF DRUGS, ADDICTION, UNSAFE SEX, ETC.</p>			



