BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST

Committee Number: 70 **Date** 9/13/23

Name of Novel Empire of Storms by Maas, Sarah J.

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.	X
The novel promotes the integration of higher-level thinking skills.	X
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	X
The novel reflects a clear, adequate, and broad presentation of the content.	X

Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:

I think this book can attract different types of readers and engage kids who are interested in fantasy fiction.

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.	X
Ensure reputation and significance of author and producer.	X
The novel/material contains a value/currency commensurate with cost.	X
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.	X
Ensure that the novel/material contains clarity adequacy, and scope of test.	X
The presentation of contents is organized in a manner that provides clarity and ease to the reader.	X
The novel/material ensures a high degree of readability and/or comprehensibility.	X

Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:

I think it's pretty engaging fantasy but not high literary. Being the 5th book in the series, it could be a little confusing if you hadn't read the other 4.

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.	X
The novel does not depict or describe sexual conduct in a clearly offensive way.	X
The novel abides by prevailing standards in the adult community in regard to suitable material for minors.	X ?
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.	

Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:

I do not feel this adds value to a library collection.

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.	

Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:

It was difficult for me to understand the quality or literary style of the author because this is the 5th bk in a series. That being said, I do not feel it is well written because I struggled to even understand the story, the plot, and to keep the characters straight.

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:

There are extremely graphic scenes of sexual activity.

pp 350-357

p. 423 - also biting her & drawing blood during sexual activity

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 do not feel this is appropriate in a school library. This book should be read at the discretion of parents.

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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:

· Educational significance is lacking, as all literary standards could be taught with a variety of other novels

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.	✓

Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:

- Engaging, many enjoy the series
- Bestselling author
- A variety of issues with females being less respected throughout book
- Struggle to connect characters when out of context of the book series

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:

· Many instances of sexual activity

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:

· YA book suitable for 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.	—

Evidence from the text or standards relating to EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Promotes reading due to high level of interest ⇒ bestselling YA author

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.	✓

Evidence from the text relating to QUALITY:

Some difficulty in keeping characters straight could be attributed to it being the 5th book in the series. No recap → expected higher reading level of audience. More for high school.

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: Sexual encounters were brief and not extenstive enough to consider it pornographic or obscenity.	

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:			