BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RECONSIDERATION COMMITTEE CHECKLIST

Committee Number: 85 **Date** October 11, 2023

Name of Novel Tower of Dawn 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.	✓
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:

Main characters are ethnically diverse, professionally-trained and skilled, and they fight to restore and protect their countries and citizens. They use intelligence and resilience in accomplishing their goals and thwarting the demons who seek destruction.

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:

The plot hangs together while following the exploits of the characters. The reader stays engaged and is able to follow the story despite many plot twists and competing narratives. Demons, talking spiders, eagles that carry warriors, and shape-shifting all are presented in prose that allows the reader to suspend incredulity.

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:

In addition to a few kisses, the 660 page novel describes one instance of intercourse which is consensual and not offensively graphic.

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 language of the book is not particularly complex so a reader at a sixth grade level would not find the vocabulary daunting. The novel creates an entire fantasy world with many non-human secondary characters so, to be enjoyable, the reader would have to buy-in. I don't know if that demands a high level of maturity given that books for preschoolers & kindergarteners are full of talking animals and fantasy situations.

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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:

Of the literary genres, plot and character development are written at a higher level to allow for critical thinking on part of the reader.

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:

The category of the literature is Science Fiction / Fantasy that includes major references to Servants, Demons, Murder, Violence, Death, and "agressive Spider Characters" p.541 p. 611; p.633; p.499

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:

Sexuality explored between (2) main characters (p. 516, 461, p. 255) other descriptions of servitude & references to sex. No explicit description of physical acts.

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:

Given depictions of underworld, violence, and sexual references, not suitable for grades K-8.

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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:	

QUALITY, CONTENT, MANNER OF PRESENTATION	Check all that apply
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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:	

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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:			

While I don't have objection to this individual book being in 6-8th grade, the series as a whole is better

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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's a struggle to read a book that is #6 in a series. It's jumping right in the middle of the events where prior bks introduced characters, settings, & important events took place that then impacted this text. • very descriptive wtg	

- The style & wording requires strategic reading & thinking

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Evidence from the text relating to PERVASIVE VULGARITY:	

APPROPRIATENESS	K-5	6-8	9-12
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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:			