

MINUTES OF THE SECONDARY NOVEL COMMITTEE
SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48
Mohave District Annex, 8500 E. Jackrabbit Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85250
March 23, 2023 5:00-7:00 PM

Attendance:

Present: Tammy Holmberg, Gail Oper, Nick Noonan, Shawn Crosier, Jessie Winget, Dan Milligan, Doreen Thomas, Stuart Rhoden, Jill Scott, Whitney Jennings, Traci Avalos, Chad Johnson, Harry Towner, Barrie Muzbeck Pinto, Brandi Brumfield, Michael Wierzbick, Harry Towner; Kim Dodds Keran

Absent: Karina Bohn, Becky Antioco, Theresa Byro, Pat Shaler, June Woods, Sara Johnson, John Andrews, Diane Murphy

Information/Discussion and Possible Action:

1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2022 – Action:
Motion by: Brandi Brumfield
Seconded by: Chad Johnson
Vote Count: Unanimous
[Discussion: No comments](#)
2. Introductions:
Me! If you had to describe yourself using three words, it would be . . .
Group members shared out their responses using a “whip around” protocol.
3. Review purpose & norms - Information
4. Schedule of upcoming whole-group meetings - Information: 5-7 PM at the MDA Room A/B April 27, 2023
5. Small Group Novel Presentations and Recommendations – Information/Action:

Grade 9: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Persuasion of religion; Sexuality; May need some backstory for understanding; Needs a maturity level that kids might not have

[Can it be recommended for a different \(higher\) grade? It is meant to prepare students for higher grade reading.](#)

[How does it tie into civil rights? It might not be direct, but discusses the culture of the time, how one would have grown up in the time,](#)

Grade 10: *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

How does the story motivate forgiveness?- Character did not get over fiancée not waiting for him, but was eventually able to even though he is not a forgiving person, and continued to hold resentment towards others

[Could this motivate a discussion about forgiveness, or how this character could have found ways to forgive?](#)

Very long and difficult pronunciations for some of the words and word understanding; students may struggle with comprehension; book is not an easy read.

Grade 10: *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

What is the motivation for forgiveness? Would be a more analytical take; may be better used to motivate a discussion about forgiveness, or a discussion about being unable to forgive.

May be a good tool to teach with other text excerpt discussions. Good piece to use excerpts of text vs entire book.

Grade 11: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett

Questions/Comments/Concerns: None expressed

Grade 11: *Heart of Darkness and the Secret Sharer* by Joseph Conrad

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

How come the crew wasn't told that Leggatt was on the boat? The captain chose not to reveal this stowaway to the crew because they are kindred spirits in that neither the captain nor Leggatt know the crew, and they are unsure of the crew's loyalty.

Grade 11: *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

Would this be a protected book for 11th grade so MS couldn't use it? - Interested teacher would have to ask for permission. Question again but from policy position: From the district level, if it is assigned and approved for higher grade, then it is not possible to use in lower grades because it was not approved for that use... conversation went into policy questions. - need to keep concentration on grade it would be recommended for.

If approved for higher grades only, how long is that decision stay active?

Once a book is on the approved novel list, it will remain on it.

Grades 12: *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

This novel is over 900 pages long; it might be better to break the reading into individual exploits and not read the novel in its entirety.

6. Round 6 book assignments and small group meetings – Information:

Grade 12: *Narrative of Sojourner Truth* by Sojourner Truth

Grade 11: *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Grade 11: *The Federalist Papers* by James Madison

Grade 11: *Black Boy* by Richard Wright

Grade 11: *Dubliners* by James Joyce

Grade 11: *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience* by Henry David Thoreau

Grade 12 & Dual Enrollment: *On Writing Well* by William Zinsser

6. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM

Dated this 23th day of March 2023