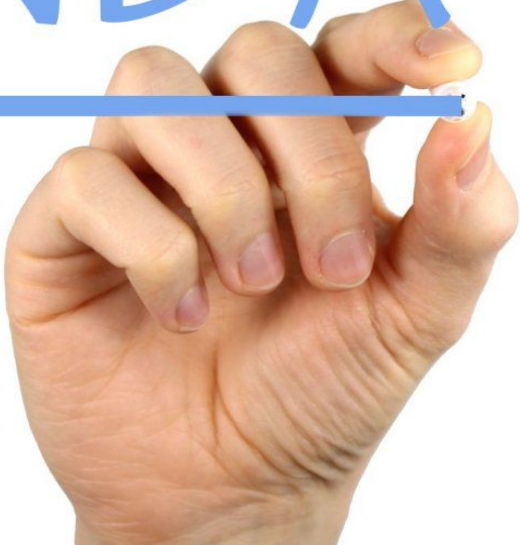


Secondary Novel Review Committee

Welcome!
Please remember to sign in.

April 11, 2022
5:00-7:00 PM

AGENDA



1. Introductions
2. Review purpose, norms
3. Small group presentations and recommendations of books followed by whole group discussion
4. Individual recommendations
5. Notes for next school year.

Introductions:

Tonight's Question:
What has been the most valuable part of participating in this novel review committee for you?



Purpose

- a) To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum and Arizona Standards, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, learning styles, and maturity levels of the students.
- b) To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge and literary appreciation.
- c) To provide materials so that young people may have an opportunity to practice critical analysis and make informed judgments in their daily lives.
- d) To assure a comprehensive collection appropriate to the school community.

*(adapted from American Library Association)

Norms



What is needed to be successful as a committee?

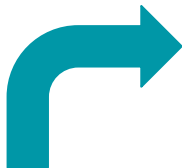
- Be genuine with each other about ideas, challenges, and feelings
- Listen to understand
- Practice being open minded
- Be mindful of how often and how long you speak in consideration of hearing all feedback
- Ask questions for clarification
- Support the group's recommendation after consensus is reached

Responsibilities and Expectations

Upcoming Meetings and Due dates

Completion of rubric:

~~Book #1: November 5~~
~~Book #2: January 7~~
~~Book #3 February 25~~
~~Book #4: April 1~~

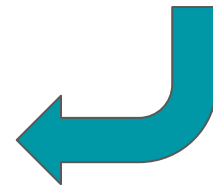


Small group meeting:

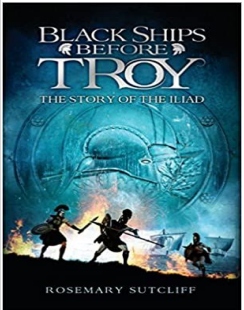
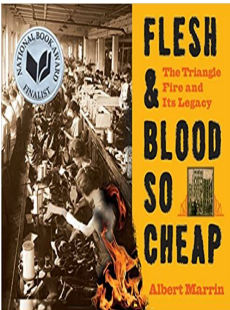
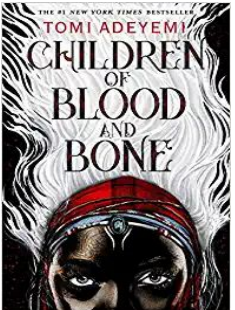
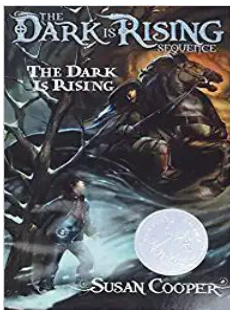
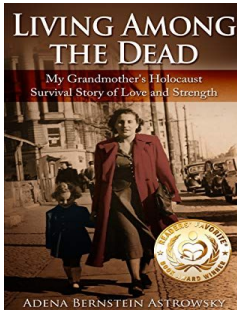
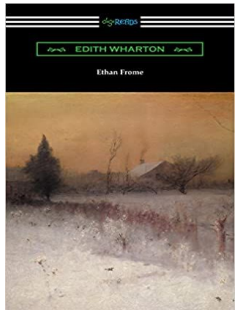
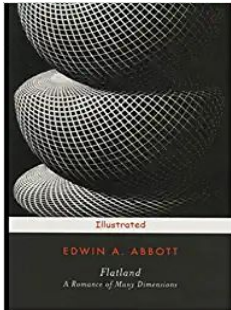
~~Book #1 discussion: Week of November 8~~
~~Book #2 discussion: Week of January 10~~
~~Book #3 discussion: Week of February 28~~
~~Book #4 discussion: Week of April 4~~

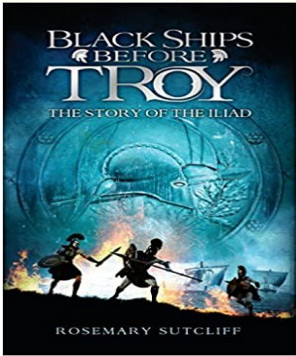
Whole group meeting:

~~Book #1 discussion: November 15~~
~~Book #2 discussion: January 18~~
~~Book #3 discussion: March 7~~
Book #4 discussion: April 11



Round 4 Books:

						
Grade 6: <i>Black Ships Before Troy</i> by Rosemary Sutcliff	Grade 7: <i>Flesh & Blood So Cheap</i> by Albert Marrin	Grade 8: <i>Children of Blood and Bone</i> by Tomi Adeyemi	Grade 8: <i>The Dark is Rising</i> by Susan Cooper	Grade 9: <i>Living Among the Dead</i> by Adena Bernstein Astrowsky	Grade 11: <i>Ethan Frome</i> by Edith Wharton	Grade 12: <i>Flatland</i> by Edwin A. Abbott



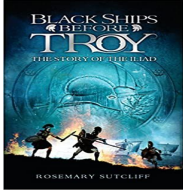
Black Ships Before Troy, by Rosemary Sutcliff, 6th Grade

Unit 3

Essential Question: *How do you know what to do when there are no instructions?*

Summary

The ancient world is thrown into turmoil when Helen, the most beautiful woman in all of Greece, is stolen away by her Trojan love. Inflamed by jealousy, the Greek king seeks lethal vengeance and sends his black war ships to descend on the city of Troy. In the siege that follows, history's greatest heroes, from Ajax to Achilles to Odysseus, are forged in combat, and the brutal costs of passion, pride, and revenge must be paid. In the end, the whims of the gods, the cunning of the warriors, and a great wooden horse will decide who emerges victorious.



Black Ships Before Troy, by Rosemary Sutcliff, 6th Grade

Unit 3 Essential Question: *How do you know what to do when there are no instructions?*

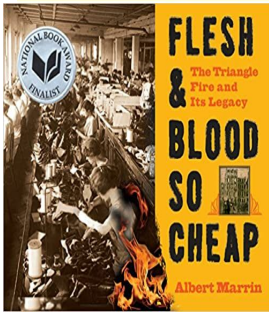
Positives

- Comprehensive Greek mythology
- Great preparation for *An Iliad* (grade 9) and *The Odyssey* (grade 9), *The Iliad* (grade 10)

Concerns

- Students will need quite a bit of support and the general ed. Level - names of characters and locations
- Hard to follow - needs explanations

Recommendation: Recommended



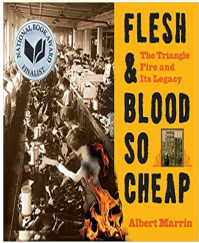
Flesh & Blood So Cheap, by Albert Marrin, 7th Grade

Unit 2

Essential Question: *What do we learn from love and loss?*

Summary

The 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in NYC was the most lethal workplace fire in American history until Sept. 11th. It killed 146 people - mostly women. This nonfiction book explores not just the fire, but the decades of events that led up to it and the changes it made to the garment industry both in America and world-wide. While exploring the story of immigration and the pursuit of the American dream, it also highlights the fortitude of the workers, bravery of fireman and activists, while unmasking the darker side of the garment industry including poor working conditions and greed.



Flesh & Blood So Cheap, by Albert Marrin, 7th Grade

Unit 2 Essential Question: *What do we learn from love and loss?*

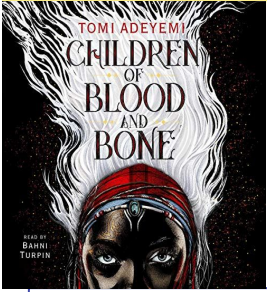
Positives

- Engaging writing style for a nonfiction text.
- Photographs are excellent. (primary source)
- History of immigrant movement to America was explained in an easy and engaging way.
- The history of workplace safety, unions, and regulations was explored.

Concerns

- The historical description of the actual fire could be disturbing, but was not gratuitous.
- Detailed account (not succinct) of the fire (a lot of additional information and background provided).
- May be a reach to fit the essential novel question.

Recommendation: Recommend :-)

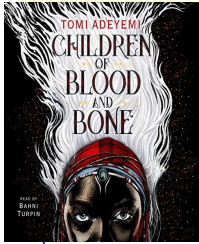


Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi, 8th Grade

Unit 6 **Essential Question:** *What do other worlds teach us about our own?*

Summary

Tomi Adeyemi conjures a stunning world of dark magic and danger in her West African-inspired fantasy. Zelig Adebola remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zelig's Reaper mother summoned forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zelig without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zelig, her brother, and a surprising accomplice, the king's daughter are on a quest to bring magic back.



Children of Blood and Bone, by Tomi Adeyemi, 8th Grade

Unit 6 Essential Question: *What do other worlds teach us about our own?*

Positives

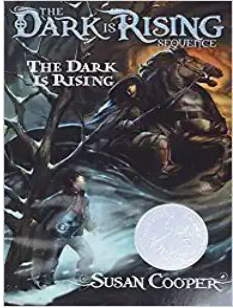
- Engaging with interesting characters in the fantasy world
- Beauty writing and very descriptive
- Fast paced
- Multiculturalism
- Multiple perspectives
- Connect fantasy to contemporary society

Concerns

- A lot of violence with torture of children and a high body count
- Over 500 pages in length
- Unnecessary Hells and Damn-its
- Novel needs to be done in a more guided setting

Recommendation:

We recommend this for high school not middle school.



The Dark is Rising, by Susan Cooper, 8th Grade

Unit 6 **Essential Question:** *What do other worlds teach us about our own?*

Summary

The Dark is Rising is a 1973 contemporary fantasy novel for young adult readers by English author Susan Cooper as part of a series. The series, published between 1965 and 1977, focuses on eleven-year-old Will Stanton, who learns on his birthday that he is what is known as an “Old One”—he is destined to wield the powers of The Light in an ancient struggle with the evil force, The Dark. Exploring themes of good vs. evil, the passage of time, fate vs. free will, and what it truly means to be powerful, *The Dark is Rising* is the best-known book in the sequence and was very popular upon its release. It influenced other book series in the young adult genre. It received a Newbery Honor upon its release. A film adaptation, *The Seeker: The Dark is Rising*, was released in 2007 and was criticized for major changes to the source material, including by Cooper. - <https://www.supersummary.com/the-dark-is-rising/summary/>



The Dark is Rising, by Susan Cooper, 8th Grade

Unit 6 Essential Question: *What do other worlds teach us about our own?*

Positives

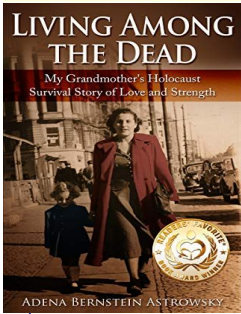
- Good vs. Evil
- Strong family unit, care for family, each other
- Hero is age of reader
- Adventure and mystery
- Does support the essential question
- Easy reading lexile level, accessible to many reading levels

Concerns

- Pacing (boring at times)
- Hard to connect with characters (not well developed)
- Confusing at times
- May not appeal to all students

Recommendation:

We recommend this novel.



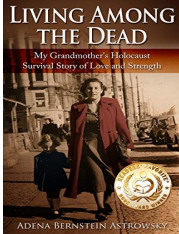
Living Among the Dead, by Adena Bernstein Astrowsky, 10th Grade

Unit: 2 **Essential Question:** *What does it take to survive?*

Summary

This is the story of one remarkable young woman's unimaginable journey through the rise of the Nazi regime, the Second World War, and the aftermath. Mania Lichtenstein's dramatic story of survival is narrated by her granddaughter and her memories are interwoven with beautiful passages of poetry and personal reflection.

Holocaust survivor Mania Lichtenstein used writing as a medium to deal with the traumatic effects of the war. Many Jews did not die in concentration camps, but were murdered in their lifelong communities, slaughtered by mass killing units, and then buried in pits. As a young girl, Mania witnessed the horrors while doing everything within her power to subsist. She lived in Włodzimierz, north of Lvov (Ukraine), was interned for three years in the labor camp nearby, managed to escape and hid in the forests until the end of the war. Although she was the sole survivor of her family, Mania went on to rebuild a new life in the United States, with a new language and new customs, always carrying with her the losses of her family and her memories.



Living Among the Dead, by Adena Bernstein Astrowsky, 9th Grade

Unit: 2 Essential Question: *What does it take to survive?*

Positives

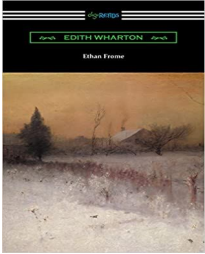
- First hand account
- Human spirit
 - Overcome adversity
 - Went on to live a productive life
- A different perspective on the Holocaust - heart wrenching but real

Concerns

No concerns

Be aware of some graphic conversation about death

Recommendation: This book would be great for any high school class studying the Holocaust. Could be used in a small group setting or a whole class setting.

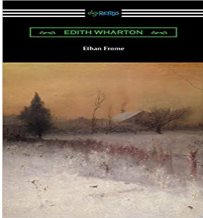


Ethan Frome, by Edith Wharton, 11th Grade

Unit 2 **Essential Question:** *What role does individualism play in American society?*

Summary

Ethan Frome works his unproductive, isolated farm in the cold, gray bleakness of New England and struggles to maintain a bearable existence with his difficult and hypochondriac wife, Zeena. But when Zeena's cousin, Maddie, enters their household as a hired girl, Ethan finds himself attracted to her and the possibilities for happiness she comes to represent. Not wanting a relationship to form between the two, Zeena sends her cousin away which leads Ethan and Maddie, to consider running off together. When that is not possible, they try unsuccessfully to end their lives. Maddie is injured, and as a result the family lives their lives together in the family home with Zeena now coming to be the caregiver. . The story has compelling characters trapped in circumstances from which they seem unable to escape. Published in 1911, the story is set in the fictitious town of Starkfield, Massachusetts.



Ethan Frome, by Edith Wharton, 11th Grade

Unit 2 Essential Question: *What role does individualism play in American society?*

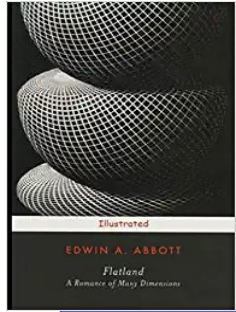
Positives

- Takes place long ago therefore requires the reader to pay attention to the details of the story to visualize events and characters
- Character development
- Doesn't present areas of concern for offensive language or sex
- Length is attainable for students during a semester
- Could be used as an anchor or paired selection
- Could pair well with other 11th grade text

Concerns

- *Caution not concern :Ends in an attempted suicide

Recommendation: Group recommends

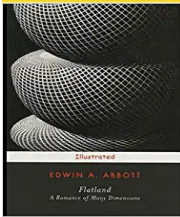


Flatland, by Edwin A. Abbott, 12th Grade

Unit 1 Essential Question: *What makes a hero?*

Summary

The story describes a two-dimensional world occupied by geometric figures, where women are simple line-segments, while men are polygons with various numbers of sides. The narrator is A Square, a member of the caste of gentlemen and professionals, who guides the reader through some of the implications of life in two dimensions. The first half of the story goes through the practicalities of existing in a two-dimensional universe as well as a history leading up to the year 1999 on the eve of the 3rd Millennium. On the eve of the 3rd Millennium, A Square meets the Sphere who comes from a three-dimensional world. After A Square's mind is opened to new dimensions, he tries to convince the Sphere of the theoretical possibility of the existence of a fourth and higher spatial dimensions, but the Sphere returns his student to Flatland in disgrace.



Flatland, by Edwin A. Abbott, 12th Grade

Unit 1 Essential Question: *What makes a hero?*

Positives

- Presents an interesting and unique challenge for students by asking them to read fiction that requires so much spatial reasoning.
- Can serve as an anchor text for discussing allegory, satire, and social commentary.
- The idea within the story is well developed from the beginning to the end.

Concerns

- It creates discrimination based upon subjective criteria - “the lessers, the undesirable”
- There are other more relevant dystopian books that would be beneficial to students
- Outdated
- This novel would be a challenge for an English teacher to teach as it is so mathematical

Recommendation: This novel would be okay to use, but better suited for Unit 4
(*Essential Question: Why are both vision and disillusion necessary?*)

Recommendation Directions

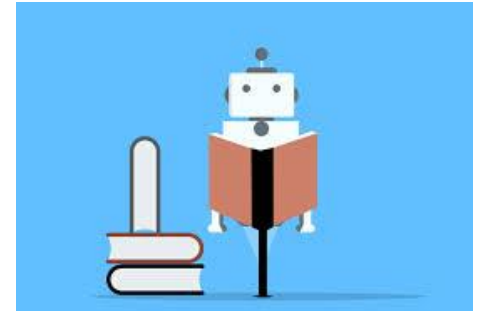
- Please do *not* write your first and last name on your ballot.
- For each novel check your choice of: **yes**, you would recommend this book to be used in SUSD, or **no**, you would not recommend this book to be used in SUSD.
- When you are finished marking your choices, hand your ballot to your group facilitator.

Process for **Yellow** Novels

- Teacher will fill out Novel Proposal Form
- Form will go to Secondary ELA Curriculum Coach
- Curriculum Coach will share form with site administrator
- Teacher will need approval from site administrator before proceeding further
- If approved, teacher will send out parent letter and permission slip

Interested in Participating on This Committee Next Year?

- A sign-up sheet for the 2022-23 school year will be posted on the SUSD Committees page in mid-May.
- Committee will begin meeting in August.
- A survey will be sent to you to evaluate the work of this committee. Please fill it out when it arrives.



*Thank
you*

Governing Board presentation
date:

May 10, 2022,

6:00 PM

Mohave District Annex

