

**ARROWHEAD UNION HIGH SCHOOL
LITERATURE TEXT ADOPTION RECOMMENDATION**

DEPARTMENT Language Arts

SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011

CLASS English 11

REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS Sarah Johansen, Jennifer Passler, Kathy Nelson, Emily Knippel, Stephanie Janigo, Mike Feuerstahler

RECOMMENDED TEXT **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**
AUTHOR Mark Twain
PUBLISHER Penguin Classics
COST 12.95
COPYRIGHT 1884

TEXT BEING REPLACED
AUTHOR
PUBLISHER
COST
COPYRIGHT

OTHER TEXTS REVIEWED

NAME OF TEXT
AUTHOR
PUBLISHER
COPYRIGHT

NAME OF TEXT
AUTHOR
PUBLISHER
COPYRIGHT

RATIONALE FOR LITERATURE TEXT PURCHASE (check all that apply)

- Previous texts are worn
- Previous texts are outdated
- There was a change in curriculum
- Text rotation
- Other Please explain: _____

The following has been taken into consideration in the selection of this literature text.

CONTENT

- Meets state and national standards
- Meets local Power Standards
- Aligns with course curriculum
- Integrates with other content areas
- Reflects a cultural and pluralistic society
- Appropriate for age group
- Provokes critical discourse
- Reflects board policy for selection of materials

Please explain any areas not checked and/or elaborate on the qualities of the book chosen.

ARROWHEAD UNION HIGH SCHOOL
TEACHER'S RATIONALE FOR LITERATURE IN THE CURRICULUM

DEPARTMENT Language Arts

CLASS English 11

GRADE LEVEL(S) 11

TEACHER COMPLETING FORM Kathy Nelson

Approximate date(s) a book will be used: Semester 1 Semester 2

This book will be (check one or more):

- studied by the whole class.
- studied by small groups.
- placed on a reading list.
- recommended to individual students.
- part of a larger study of (explain):
- other (explain):

Ways in which the book is especially appropriate for students in this class:

The protagonist, Huck Finn, comes to universal realizations concerning American morals and flawed societal ideals through his adventures down the Mississippi with the slave Jim. The satirical undertones that color and couple the serious subject matter in Twain's masterpiece are identifiable to every teenager, and help them in their own realizations as they come of age.

Ways in which the book is especially pertinent to the objectives of this course or unit:

Huck Finn goes on an epic journey along with Jim in this novel that shows how journeys can change us and help us grow. Journey is one of the overarching units in the American Literature curriculum. It also illustrates the nature of man for the Nature unit, and is a quest to Freedom for Jim, convenient for all the lessons of that unit.

Indicate types of concepts in this book that might be questionable to some readers:

(for example: explicit sexuality, violence, profanity, etc.)

The word "nigger" is used more than 200 times in the novel, which is very controversial. However, the book is of the genre Realism which requires the use of language that is exactly used during the time period of the story, which is the 1840s in America. The book also addresses religion and has some violence.

Recommendation for parent notification: Yes No

Special problems that might arise in relation to the book and some planned activities that handle this problem:

The students examine and research Realism and the use of the word "nigger" in the book. The word is never used in class or in papers, and is replaced with the euphamism "n-word."

Some other appropriate books an individual student might read in place of this book:

Summary of the book:

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain, is about a young boy, Huck, in search of freedom and adventure. The shores of the Mississippi River provide the backdrop for the entire book.

Huck is kidnapped by Pap, his drunken father. Pap kidnaps Huck because he wants Huck's \$6000. Huck was awarded \$6000 from the treasure he and Tom Sawyer found in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Huck finally escapes from the deserted house in the woods and finds a canoe to shove off down the river. Instead of going back to the widow's house, he decides to run away. He is sick of all of the confinement and civilization that the window enforces upon him. He comes across Jim, Miss Watson's slave, and together, they spend nights and days journeying down the river, both in search of freedom.

While traveling on a raft down the river, Huck and Jim have many adventures and during many long talks, become best of friends. They find a house with a dead man. They end up stealing many things from the house. They find a wrecked ship, and go on it, only to be mixed up with murderers. They get away with money and some other goods. They get separated from each other in the heavy fog, but eventually find each other. A steamboat crashes into their raft and Jim and Huck are separated again. Huck has a run-in with the Grangerfords and the Shepherdsons, two families at war with each other. He is reunited with Jim shortly after this. Then, they meet the King and the Duke, and get into a good deal of trouble performing plays. The King and the Duke pretend to be Peter Wilks' long lost brothers from England and try to steal all of the money left behind in his will. They escape before they are caught. Huck finally gets rid of them, but is left to search for Jim, who gets sold by the King. He ends up at Tom Sawyer's Aunt Sally's house, where Tom and Huck rescue Jim.

Through all of the adventures down the river, Huck learns a variety of life lessons and improves as a person. He develops a conscience and truly feels for humanity. The complexity of his character is enhanced by his ability to relate so easily with nature and the river.

Reviews and/or awards of the book or author:

From Amazon.com:

Mark Twain's classic novel, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, tells the story of a teenaged misfit who finds himself floating on a raft down the Mississippi River with an escaping slave, Jim. In the course of their perilous journey, Huck and Jim meet adventure, danger, and a cast of characters who are sometimes menacing and often hilarious.

Though some of the situations in Huckleberry Finn are funny in themselves (the cockeyed Shakespeare production in Chapter 21 leaps instantly to mind), this book's humor is found mostly in Huck's unique worldview and his way of expressing himself. Describing his brief sojourn with the Widow Douglas after she adopts him, Huck says: "After supper she got out her book and learned me about Moses and the Bulrushers, and I

was in a sweat to find out all about him; but by and by she let it out that Moses had been dead a considerable long time; so then I didn't care no more about him, because I don't take no stock in dead people." Underlying Twain's good humor is a dark subcurrent of Antebellum cruelty and injustice that makes *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* a frequently funny book with a serious message.

Once approved, a copy of the Rationale for Literature in the Curriculum should be posted on the AHS web page.

Department Chair/Department Liaison Signature

Date

This form must be completed and on file with the district administrator before purchasing materials.

4/05