

Arrowhead Union High School  
LITERATURE TEXT ADOPTION RECOMMENDATION

DEPARTMENT Language Arts

SCHOOL YEAR 2005-2006

CLASS Modern Literature

REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS Donna Smith, Deidre Stoffel, Diane Judd, Greg Budzien,  
Andy Freeburg

RECOMMENDED TEXT

Kite Runner  
Khaled Hosseini  
Riverhead Trade  
2004

OTHER TEXTS REVIEWED

Storyteller's Daughter  
Sairah Shah  
Knopf  
2003

My Forbidden Face  
Latifa  
Knopf  
2004

**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- Previous texts are outdated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 Modern Literature

GRADE LEVEL(S) 11-12

TEACHER COMPLETING FORM Andy Freeburg

Approximate date(s) a book will be used: X 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:

This book examines the history of Afghanistan from pre-Soviet to Taliban through the eyes of an Afghani teenager.

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

This book showcases Afghani culture and society in ways most Americans never see. It also sheds light on the difficulty of cultural immigration, friendship, guilt. It is a classic coming-of-age story, with historical and contemporary themes.

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

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

Sparse profanity, violence, a young man is beaten and sexually assaulted by a mob.

Recommendation for parent notification: Yes  No

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

A pre-reading discussion of the violent history of Afghanistan and it's social conditions may prepare students for the gritty portrayal of life on the streets of Kabul.

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

Storyteller's Daughter by Sairah Shah

My Forbidden Face by Latifa

Summary of the book:

Afghan version of the American immigrant experience in the late 20th century, but betrayal and redemption come to the forefront when the narrator, a writer, returns to his ravaged homeland to rescue the son of his childhood friend after the boy's parents are shot during the Taliban takeover

in the mid '90s. Amir, the son of a well-to-do Kabul merchant, is the first-person narrator, who marries, moves to California and becomes a successful novelist. But he remains haunted by a childhood incident in which he betrayed the trust of his best friend, a Hazara boy named Hassan, who receives a brutal beating from some local bullies. After establishing himself in America, Amir learns that the Taliban have murdered Hassan and his wife, raising questions about the fate of his son, Sohrab. Spurred on by childhood guilt, Amir makes the difficult journey to Kabul, only to learn the boy has been enslaved by a former childhood bully who has become a prominent Taliban official. The price Amir must pay to recover the boy is just one of several brilliant, startling plot twists that make this book memorable both as a political chronicle and a deeply personal tale about how childhood choices affect our adult lives.

Reviews and/or awards of the book or author:

A San Francisco Chronicle Best Book of the Year

Review by The New York Times, Publishers Weekly, Booklist, Library Journal, School Library Journal, Kirkus Reviews, and many others.

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

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Department Chair/Department Liaison Signature                      Date

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

4/05