

**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 Night

AUTHOR Elie Wiesel
PUBLISHER Hill and Wang
COST \$9.95
COPYRIGHT 2006

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- Previous texts are outdated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 Sarah Johansen

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 Holocaust novel, *Night*, was written by Elie Wiesel, a survivor of multiple concentrations camps. The novel was first published in 1960, breaking Wiesel's silence on his experience. It's a haunting memoir that is appropriate for both boys and girls. It complements what students learn in their History courses and is a nice melding of the Social Studies and Language Arts disciplines. Wiesel is now an American citizen, and the book serves as an important discussion starter in terms of American involvement in WWII.

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

The book fits well into the theme of Uncertainty/Loss (second semester) and Freedom (first semester). The novel is highly applicable for both themes and allows students to be introspective about their own lives and current conditions in society.

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

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

Some of the memories Wiesel writes about are particularly difficult to read, given the horrific examples of cruelty evidenced in the concentration camps.

Recommendation for parent notification: Yes No

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

This book should be taught by someone with a solid historical background in the Holocaust/WWII, in order to supplement the material in the book with historical evidence and information. Additionally, there are sensitive topics in the book that need discussion based activities to help students process the material.

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

Dawn- Elie Wiesel, *Things Fall Apart*- Chinua Achebe, *Maus I*- Art Spiegelman

Summary of the book:

In Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night*, a scholarly, pious teenager is wracked with guilt at having survived the horror of the Holocaust and the genocidal campaign that consumed his family. His memories of the nightmare world of the death camps present him with an intolerable question: how can the God he once so fervently believed in have allowed these monstrous events to occur? There are no easy answers in this harrowing book, which probes life's essential riddles with the lucid anguish only great literature achieves. It marks the crucial first step in Wiesel's lifelong project to bear witness for those who died.

Reviews and/or awards of the book or author:

"*Night*" has been translated into 30 languages. By 1997, the book was selling 300,000 copies annually in the United States alone. By March 2006, about six million copies were sold in the United States. On January 16, 2006, Oprah Winfrey chose the work for her book club. One million extra paperback and 150,000 hardcover copies were printed carrying the "Oprah's Book Club" logo, with a new translation by Wiesel's wife, Marion, and a new preface by Wiesel. On February 13, 2006, *Night* was no. 1 on The New York Times bestseller list for paperback non-fiction.

Wiesel was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986 for speaking out against violence, repression, and racism. He has received many other prizes and honors for his work, including the Congressional Gold Medal in 1985, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1996. He is also the recipient of The International Center in New York's Award of Excellence. Wiesel has published two volumes of his memoirs. The first, *All Rivers Run to the Sea*, was published in 1994 and covered his life up to the year 1969 while the second, titled *And the Sea is Never Full* and published in 1999, covered 1969 to 1999. Wiesel and his wife, Marion, started the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. He served as chairman for the Presidential Commission on the Holocaust (later renamed US Holocaust Memorial Council) from 1978 to 1986, spearheading the building of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

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