

NOVEL/BOOK-LENGTH WORK (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Drama) PROPOSAL

Proposal Request Information

Prior to filling out this form, please read the [Novel Adoption Proposal Checklist](#) (scroll down to novel section) with pertinent policies regarding novel selection and adoption.

FOR DISTRICT USE ONLY FINAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED APPROVAL GRADE LEVELS:	11th & 12th
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Section I

To be filled out by requesting educator:

Ia. REQUESTOR AND REVIEW TEAM INFORMATION

School	Rock Canyon High School	
Date	8/24/23	
Requesting Educator Name	Karen Whitney	
Requesting Educator Email	kwhitney1@dcsdk12.org	
Novel Adoption School Process Manager Name	Jason Parker	
Novel Adoption School Process Manager Email	japarker@dcsdk12.org	
Proposal Review Team Member	Reviewer's Name	Contact Information - email
District Coordinator	Elyse Rhodes	evrhodes@dcsdk12.org
Colleague	Mackenzie Carson	mcarson2@dcsdk12.org
Parent #1	Mike Heene	mheene@adpay.com
Parent #2	Suzanne Gray	rusjgray@gmail.com

Ib. BOOK INFORMATION

Title of proposed book	Crying in H Mart
Author (s)	Michelle Zauner
Publisher	Alfred A. Knopf
Edition	Paperback Reprint edition (March 28, 2023)

ISBN number	978-0-525-65774-3
Copyright date	April 20, 2021
Course and/or subject area in which work will be used	English, AP English Language and Composition
Grade level(s)	9-12
Lexile Level Score (If you are unsure, please visit https://hub.lexile.com/fina-a-boo k/search)	Unknown
Dates the book information was displayed at the school and posted on the school's website (2 week min.)	August 8th, 2023
Date the book was communicated to the School Accountability Committee?	August 11th, 2023

Ic. NOVEL DESCRIPTION

Crying in H Mart is a memoir by Michelle Zauner. She tells the story of her life through the lens of her mother's death and the Asian supermarket where they shopped. The story includes Zauner's young life and her mother's high expectations mixed with family, food, culture, and travel. It is a window into her life filled with rich description, emotion, beauty, and heartbreak.

Id. ALIGNMENT WITH DCSD'S CURRICULUM

Please write a detailed description of how the novel **aligns to DCSD's Curriculum - Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) and Essential Skills:**

(Please cite the specific CAS Grade Level Expectations and if applicable, the Evidence Outcomes (EOs) the novel will help address).

Reading: 4. Read a wide range of informational texts to build knowledge and to better understand the human experience.

2. Interpret and evaluate complex informational texts using various critical reading strategies.

5. Understand how language functions in different contexts, command a variety of word-learning strategies to assist comprehension, and make effective choices for meaning or style when writing and speaking.

Writing: 1. Write thoughtful, well-developed arguments that support knowledgeable and significant claims, anticipating and addressing the audience's values and biases.

Ie. RECOMMENDATIONS

Three recommendations, referrals or reviews must be included. Please use professional reviews (reviews from the School Library Journal, Kirkus, Booklist, Publisher's weekly etc.). The District Library Media Center will be happy to direct you to these sources. List the sources of the reviews below and attach copies of all reviews.

Review #1

Kirkus Reviews starred (March 1, 2021)

A poignant memoir about a mother's love as told through Korean food. Losing a parent is one thing, but to also lose direct ties to one's culture in the process is its own tragedy. In this expansion of her popular 2018 New Yorker essay, Zauner, best known as the founder of indie rock group Japanese Breakfast, grapples with what it means to be severed from her Korean heritage following her mother's battle with cancer. In an attempt to honor and remember her umma, the author sought to replicate the flavors of her upbringing. Throughout, the author delivers mouthwatering descriptions of dishes like pajeon, jajjuk, and gimbap, and her storytelling is fluid, honest, and intimate. Aptly, Zauner frames her story amid the aisles of H Mart, a place many Asian Americans will recognize, a setting that allows the author to situate her personal story as part of a broader conversation about diasporic culture, a powerful force that eludes ownership. The memoir will feel familiar to children of immigrants, whose complicated relationships to family are often paralleled by equally strenuous relationships with their food. It will also resonate with a larger audience due to the author's validation of the different ways that parents can show their love—if not verbally, then certainly through their ability to nourish. "I wanted to embody a physical warning—that if she began to disappear, I would disappear too," writes Zauner as she discusses the deterioration of her mother's health, when both stopped eating. When a loved one dies, we search all of our senses for signs of their presence. Zauner's ability to let us in through taste makes her book stand out from others with similar themes. She makes us feel like we are in her mother's kitchen, singing her praises. A tender, well-rendered, heart-wrenching account of the way food ties us to those who have passed.

Review #2

Library Journal (April 1, 2021)

Based on the viral 2018 New Yorker essay of the same name, this debut by Zauner is an exceptionally vivid memoir that deftly explores the complex relationships between culture and family, mothers and daughters. The details of Zauner's mother's illness and death, as well as their devastating impact on the author, make for gut-wrenching reading, but it's hard to put this book down. The author holds nothing back as she navigates her adolescent search to understand her identity, made more complex by her biracial background. She's particularly open about her evolving relationship with her mother. Much of the book follows her mother's cancer diagnosis and Zauner's efforts to care for her. Threaded throughout the narrative are musings on food and culture, and the role of food in helping us to build connections and memories—however difficult at times—with family. The details and cultural references here are particular to Zauner's life, but her account contains so many all-too-common experiences of grief and endurance that it will resonate with just about everyone. VERDICT Zauner has created a memoir that is distinctly her own, but it will leave a mark on anyone who reads it—a mark that will not soon be forgotten.—Sarah Schroeder, Univ. of Washington Bothell © Copyright 2021. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Review #3

Booklist (March 1, 2021 (Vol. 117, No. 13))

Readers will sense years of reflection built into every sentence of musician Zauner's debut memoir, which

began as a 2018 New Yorker article. After losing her mom to rapidly advancing cancer when Zauner was in her mid twenties, the author finds herself in an Asian supermarket chain, devastated that she can't call her mom for shopping advice or eat with her in the bustling food court. Zauner restores her mother in her vibrancy here, as a collector of knickknacks and face creams, an amazing cook who eschewed recipes, a loyal protector of her family. Zauner recalls trips to visit family in Korea, where she and her mother were both born, and moments during her adolescence that felt cruel at the time, but seem obviously born out of love in retrospect. As Zauner lives through her shocking grief, food binds her to her mother, as it always did, and in meditative paragraphs she shares her therapeutic experiences making jajjuk and kimchi. This is a beautiful, forthright memoir about the bewildering loss of a parent, and the complicated process of finding one's art.

SECTION II: Review Team Information

Each review team member will complete an individual section for a formal review of the book based on your stakeholder perspective. All members of the site review team **MUST read** the proposed novel/book **prior submission to the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Director.**

IIa. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by requesting educator)

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
is appropriate for the following grade level(s) 9-12	Y	Appropriate for high school students.
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	No permission required. Some heavy topics - death, loss, grief. But high school students are mature and can handle and discuss these topics.
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	It is a coming of age story as well as a historical description of Korean-American culture. Students can make connections with their own experiences growing up and learn about and make connections to the historical/cultural information.
actively engages students through the text	Y	Very engaging. Students will enjoy the storytelling, the way that food forms a bond or bridge between mother and daughter, and the interesting details about Zauner’s culture and childhood.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	The reading is accessible to all students. Some challenging vocabulary and topics, but explained in a way that students can access easily.
Is in alignment with Board File ADB on Education Equity , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	Provides opportunity to learn about diverse perspectives and develop critical thinking skills while evaluating the arguments and experiences of the author and individuals within the text.
Recommend novel for adoption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

IIb. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by District Coordinator) Elyse Rhodes

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	Y	This novel could be read by AP 11th and 12th graders.
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	No parental permission needed to read this novel.
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	This novel is about the author’s relationship with her mother and how her Korean heritage affects her life. The themes in this novel will resonate with most students: being bi-racial, mental health (depression), relationships (mother/daughter, father/daughter, husband/wife, family), cancer/terminal illness/death, drug addiction/recovery, loss/grief.
actively engages students through the text	Y/N	The themes in the text are engaging and could lead to rich discussions. The heavy use of the Korean language may cause significant difficulties for some readers.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	The novel is available in hard copy, eBook, and audiobook (7 hours 23 minutes).
Is in alignment with Board File ADB on Education Equity , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y/N	The book is filled with Korean words and phrases and may be difficult for some students (struggling readers, ELL, SPED) to comprehend. The text is too difficult for 9th and 10th graders.
Recommend novel for adoption		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Iic. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by a colleague)

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	Y	Acceptable for 11th & 12th grade students.
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	Not necessary.
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	This novel will allow students to explore their cultural background while also considering the backgrounds of others. It also discusses themes of parental relationships, grief, and mental health.
actively engages students through the text	Y	Very engaging topic and writing style.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	Can be accessed through hard-copy, audiobook, e-book.
Is in alignment with Board File ADB on Education Equity , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	There are some Korean phrases that may be challenging, but will also encourage students towards a broader understanding of that culture. The text is appropriate for 11th & 12th grade students, but would probably be more challenging for 9th & 10th.
Recommend novel for adoption		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

IId. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by Parent #1)

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	11-12	Accessible for 11-12
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	Not necessary
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	Themes: growing up, parent-child relationships, bilingual, bi-racial, trauma, mental health. These will give many students a way to relate to the text.
actively engages students through the text	Y	There are many stories and engaging ideas that students could discuss or write about.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	Yes. There are a lot of Korean phrases that would be challenging but that could lead to greater understanding of Korean culture.
Recommend novel for adoption		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes YES X <input type="checkbox"/> No

Iie. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by Parent #2)

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	Y 9-12	Very mild profanity/language, nothing high school students haven't encountered already. Topics of grief and loss are all a part of the human experience.
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	No permission required.
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	Students will connect to the author's evaluation of herself as a teenager in regards to her relationship with her parents. They will see themselves and potential older selves. They will see another perspective and perhaps another culture and how that experience compares and contrasts to their own American experience.
actively engages students through the text	Y	Students will be engaged with the text as it is written in an entertaining style.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	Even Though the author is female and about her relationship mostly with her mother, students other than female can relate to the parent/child relationship, a family's culture and the food that reminds one of their childhood.
Recommend novel for adoption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

SECTION III: Requestor/Educator & District Coordinator Level Process Review

IIIa. Grade Level Recommendations (to be collaborated on between Requesting Educator & District Coordinator based on recommendations made by the review team)

Place initials in the columns indicating level of recommendation. Complete by initialing for every grade level indicated on the chart below. Please include justification if necessary for the level(s) of recommendation below the chart.

Note: If approved by the Board of Education, this novel can be used by all educators in DCSD. Please consider the use of this book for all PK-12 grades, not just the grade or content you teach.

Grade level	Recommended	Recommended: Requires parent notification and consent: The novel/book may contain some mature content and themes	Not Recommended: Content inappropriate for grade level(s)
PK/K			ER KW
1			ER KW
2			ER KW
3			ER KW
4			ER KW
5			ER KW
6			ER KW
7			ER KW
8			ER KW
9			ER KW
10			ER KW
11	ER KW		
12	ER KW		

SECTION V: Signatures/Approvals

Va.

Does the evaluating <i>Educator</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2023</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Educator Signature <u>Karen Whitney</u>		

Vb.

Does the evaluating <i>Colleague</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2023</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Colleague Signature <u>Mackenzie Carson</u>		

Vc.

Does the evaluating <i>Parent #1</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2023</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Parent (#1) Signature <u>Mike Heene</u>		

Vd.

Does the evaluating <i>Parent (#2)</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2023</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Parent (#2) Signature <u>Suzanne Gray</u>		

Ve.

Does the evaluating educator's Administrator recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2023</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administrator Signature <u>Jeff Seary</u>		

Vf.

Does the District Coordinator certify that the information on this form accurately reflects the process followed at the site.	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2023</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District Coordinator Signature <u>Elyse Rhodes</u>		

Vg.

Does the Director of Library Programming support adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2023</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director of Library Programming Signature <u>Tracie King</u>		

Vh.

Does the DCSD Cabinet Member support adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 12 2023</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DCSD Cabinet Member Signature <u>Matt Reynolds</u>		

SECTION VI: Superintendent's Approval

SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

Does the Superintendent approve adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date _____		
Superintendent Signature _____		

SECTION VII: Board of Education Approval

BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

Does the Board of Education approve adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date _____		
Board of Education Signature _____		


OFFICE USE





	DATE	INITIALS
Approved novel list updated (including recommended grade level)		
Approved form with BOE signatures scanned to CIA folder on District server		



Document Details

Title	Novel Adoption - Crying in H Mart
File Name	Novel Adoption [Crying in H Mart].pdf
Document ID	8635413ef33144668e29d4327b98a050
Fingerprint	477488933d57f366ea73f096ba0dc784
Status	Completed

Document History

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Document Sent	Document Sent to Karen Whitney (kwhitney1@dcsdk12.org)	Oct 11 2023 01:05PM America/Denver
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Matt Reynolds

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