

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

**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:	8th and up
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**Section I**

To be filled out by Requesting Educator:

**Ia. REQUESTOR AND REVIEW TEAM INFORMATION**

School	RCHS	
Date	8/26/24	
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	
<b>Proposal Review Team Member</b>	<b>Reviewer's Name</b>	<b>Contact Information - email</b>
District Coordinator	Tracie King	tking@dcsdk12.org
Colleague	Kelly Price	kprice@dcsdk12.org
Parent #1	Tina Schmidt	tschmidt@dclibraries.org
Parent #2	Jen Degen	jdegen@dclibraries.org

**Ib. BOOK INFORMATION**

Title of proposed book	I Must Betray You
Author(s)	Ruta Sepetys
Publisher	Philomel Books
Edition	1st

ISBN number	198483603X
Copyright date	2022
Course and/or subject area in which work will be used	English II and II Honors
Grade level(s)	8-12
Lexile Level Score (If you are unsure, please visit: <a href="https://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search">https://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search</a> )	HL500L
Dates the book information was displayed at the school and posted on the school's website (2 week min.).	August 26, 2024
Date the book was communicated to the School Accountability Committee?	August 27, 2024

**Ic. NOVEL DESCRIPTION**

Please write a brief description of the novel in your own words and how it relates to the content and age group of students using this proposed book.

*I Must Betray You* is the story of Cristian Florescu growing up in Communist Romania in 1989 before the fall of the Soviet Union. In a society that must follow the rules or face the consequences, strangers report on strangers, friends report on friends and even members of families betray one another. He is blackmailed by the secret police and when he is faced with betraying everyone he loves, he chooses instead to find a way to try to help take down the dictator, Nicolae Ceaușescu. Cristian is courageous and resourceful as he brings his people together to rise up against tyranny.

**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

*Booklist starred (January 1, 2022 (Vol. 118, No. 9))*

Grades 8-11. Sepetys (*The Fountains of Silence*, 2019) once again masterfully portrays a dark, forgotten corner of history: Bucharest, Romania, winter 1989. For nearly 25 years, Romania's communist dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu and his wife, Heroine Mother Elena, perpetrated unspeakable human-rights abuses on their people. By focusing on one voice, 17-year-old Cristian Florescu, Sepetys amplifies the isolation, fear, and uncertainty experienced during the final months of Ceaușescu's regime. Cristian shares a tiny apartment with his parents, older sister, Cici, and beloved, rebellious grandfather, Bunu. They speak in whispers and spend hours in line for cooking oil or a single onion. Cristian writes in a journal he hides under the floorboards and dreams of kissing his beautiful classmate, Liliana. When a dollar bill appears in his stamp collection, the secret police use it as leverage to force him to inform on a U.S. diplomat. Cristian's short, almost breathless first-person chapters are interspersed with chilling interview reports by his assigned Securitate agent. Cristian, Liliana, and their friend Luca join the final uprising, from University Square to notorious Jilava prison. The worst tortures take place offstage, but beatings, mental torment, and near starvation do not. Suspenseful twists continue to the very end, when Cristian's betrayer is revealed. The back matter, too, is fascinating; it encompasses archival photographs, an author's note, an extensive source list, and a description of the research process and several in-person interviews.

#### Review #2

*Kirkus Reviews starred (December 1, 2021)*

A rare look at the youth-led rebellion that toppled Romania's Ceaușescu. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu, with his spiky hair, love of poetry and English, and crush on Liliana Pavel, is as much of a rebel as it's possible to be in Bucharest, Romania, in 1989. Communist dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu has been in power for 24 years, and most Romanians live in poverty, exporting what they produce to unknowingly fund Ceaușescu's obscenely extravagant lifestyle. Wild dogs attack children in the streets, and secret agents are everywhere. When an agent confronts Cristian with evidence of treason—a single dollar bill tucked inside his notebook—and also offers medicine for Bunu, his sick grandfather, Cristian agrees to spy on the American diplomat family whose son he's become friendly with. But as young Romanians gradually become aware that other countries have gained freedom from communism, they rise up in an unconquerable wave. Sepetys brilliantly blends a staggering amount of research with heart, craft, and insight in a way very few writers can. Told from Cristian's point of view, intercut by secret police memos and Cristian's own poetry, the novel crackles with energy; Cristian and his friends join the groundswell of young Romanians, combining pragmatism, subterfuge, hope, and daring. While the story ends with joy on Christmas Day, the epilogue recounts the betrayals and losses that follow. The last line will leave readers gasping. Compulsively readable and brilliant. (maps, photos, author's note, research notes, sources) (Historical fiction. 12-18)

Review #3

*Publishers Weekly* starred (December 20, 2021)

Sepetys (*The Fountains of Silence*) unveils the culture of constant surveillance in communist Romania through an ominously suspenseful historical novel set at the brink of revolution. Under the corrupt authoritarian's tenure in 1989 Bucharest, canny aspiring writer Cristian Florescu, 17, keeps his true observations secret as he studies English and jots down illegal thoughts, such as jokes and notes from a contraband travel guide, in a notebook. When an agent of the secret police blackmails him for accepting a dollar of foreign currency from the son of his mother's U.S. diplomat client, and promises life-saving medication for his grandfather, Cristian is forced to inform on his loved ones. Tensions intensify as the teen suspects everyone close to him for the betrayal that led to his blackmail, including best friend Luca, crush Liliana, and even his own family (all characters cue as white), and wrestles with how to use his new position to resist authority. As the betrayals' nuances become clear via interspersed intelligence reports, Cristian's tense first-person narrative foregrounds stark historical realities (families keep an inventory of American cigarettes as black market currency, police ruthlessly beat protesters), unflinchingly confronting deprivations and cruelty while balancing them with perseverance and hope as Romania hurtles toward political change. Back matter includes an author's note. Ages 12-up. Agent: Steven Malk, Writers House. (Feb.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

**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 <a href="#">following</a> grade level(s)	Y	8-12 Appropriate for high school students. I plan to use it in my English II classes.
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	No parent permission necessary. There is some description of violence and starvation, but it is wartime.
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	It is a coming of age story for the characters as well as a historical description of Romania before and during the fall of Communism. 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	Extremely engaging. Sepetys is a vivid storyteller and engages with emotion, life lessons, and historically accurate information that readers can relate to.
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 it in alignment with <a href="#">Board File ADB on Education Equity</a> , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	Provides opportunity to learn about diverse perspectives and historical contexts and develop critical thinking skills while evaluating the choices and experiences of the characters.
<b>Recommend novel for adoption</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**Iib. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by District Coordinator) Tracie King**

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
Is appropriate for the <a href="#">following</a> grade level(s)	Y	
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	All reviews support the level the book is being requested.
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	Students can make connections with their own experiences growing up and learn about and make connections to historical/cultural information. The story is about World War II in Romania.
Actively engages students through the text	Y	Septy's is an author who can engage her readers from the very beginning of her novels. Students should be able to relate and be engaged in the text.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	This book is in print, ebook, and audio book format.
Is it in alignment with <a href="#">Board File ADB on Education Equity</a> , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	The novel provides the opportunity to learn about a different perspective of World War II and from a country that a lot hasn't been written about.
<b>Recommend novel for adoption</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**IIc. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by a colleague) Kelly Price**

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
Is appropriate for the <a href="#">following</a> grade level(s)	Y	Appropriate for high school students, 9-12.
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	Not necessary. Wartime setting—has some descriptions of violence, starvation, etc.
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	Coming of Age novel. Students can relate to the characters’ process of growing up. Connections to similar aged kids during World War II in Romania.
Actively engages students through the text	Y	Engaging language and storyline.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	Generally accessible. Some challenging themes/topics and vocabulary.
Is it in alignment with <a href="#">Board File ADB on Education Equity</a> , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	Diverse setting and characters
<b>Recommend novel for adoption</b>	<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 <a href="#">following</a> grade level(s)	Y	This is a perfect book for High School students who love Historical Fiction
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	Not needed
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	The book is very well written and will allow students to put themselves in the place of the characters to determine if they would react the same.
Actively engages students through the text	Y	Ruta Sepetys is a wonderful author. She is able to write rich and well rounded characters that students can relate to.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	Characters and setting are diverse
<b>Recommend novel for adoption</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <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 <a href="#">following</a> grade level(s)	Y	An excellent choice for high school students. It blends historical facts with a storyline that is engaging.
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	The plot is age-appropriate.
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	The readers will find the main character relatable, flawed, and heroic. The author shows, not tells, the strife and difficulty of the Romanians, especially teens, under communism.
Actively engages students through the text	Y	The vivid descriptions of life in Romania and communism are life-changing and profound. It will challenge their thinking and create valuable discussion. This is a novel that will stay with them long after they read it.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	This story is engaging on every level. It will challenge all levels of readers and thinkers.
<b>Recommend novel for adoption</b>	<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			Tk, kw
1			Tk, kw
2			Tk, kw
3			Tk, kw
4			Tk, kw
5			Tk, kw
6			Tk, kw
7			Tk, kw
8	tk. kw		
9	Tk, kw		
10	Tk, kw		
11	Tk, kw		
12	Tk, kw		

**SECTION V: Signatures/Approvals**

**Va.**

Does the evaluating <i>Educator</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 09 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Educator Signature <u>Whitney</u>		

**Vb.**

Does the evaluating <i>Colleague</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 09 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Colleague Signature <u>[Signature]</u>		

**Vc.**

Does the evaluating <i>Parent #1</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 09 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Parent (#1) Signature <u>Tina Schmidt</u>		

**Vd.**

Does the evaluating <i>Parent (#2)</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 13 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Parent (#2) Signature <u>[Signature]</u>		

**Ve.**

Does the evaluating educator's <i>Administrator</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 10 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Administrator Signature <u>Jeff Henry</u>		

**Vf.**

Does the <i>District Coordinator</i> certify that the information on this form accurately reflects the process followed at the site.	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 09 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
District Coordinator Signature <u>Travis King</u>		

**Vg.**

Does the <i>Director of Library Programming</i> support adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Director of Library Programming Signature <u>Travis King</u>		

**Vh.**

Does the <i>DCSD Cabinet Member</i> support adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2024</u>	<input checked="" 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		