

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:	9th and up
---	------------

Section I

To be filled out by Requesting Educator:

Ia. REQUESTOR AND REVIEW TEAM INFORMATION

School	RCHS	
Date	August 23, 2024	
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	Debra Yarcho	dyarcho@dcsdk12.org
Colleague	Kelly Price	kprice@dcsdk12.org
Parent #1	Desiree Rozen	darozen@dcsdk12.org
Parent #2	Amy Neira	aneira@dcsdk12.org

Ib. BOOK INFORMATION

Title of proposed book	Out of the Easy
Author(s)	Ruta Sepetys
Publisher	Penguin Books
Edition	

ISBN number	978-1-48980-817-2
Copyright date	2013
Course and/or subject area in which work will be used	English II and English II Honors. Part of an author study.
Grade level(s)	9-12
Lexile Level Score (If you are unsure, please visit: https://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search)	HL590L
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

Out of the Easy is the story of Josie Moraine, the daughter of a brothel prostitute. At 17 she is hard working, bright, curious and stuck if she doesn't find a way to get out of the French Quarter and start a new life. But just as she is coming up with a plan to leave, there is a murder in the Quarter that changes everything. She must navigate her way through her relationship with her unscrupulous mother and Willie, the brothel Madame and also find a way to still get out of the Quarter. She is caught between the life she has always known and a new life at a prestigious college. Through a series of lessons learned and difficult choices, Josie paves an unconventional, but successful path to her future.

I would like to use this with my 10th grade English II Honors class as part of a Ruta Septys author study. We aim to explore her style and storytelling techniques through several of her historical fiction texts.

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

Step right onto the rough streets of the New Orleans French Quarter, circa 1950... ..and meet 17-year-old Josie Moraine, a feisty young woman whose mother, a prostitute in a Conti Street brothel, offers her nothing but scorn and abuse. From the tender age of 12, Josie has made her own way in the world, working in a local bookstore in exchange for a safe place to sleep and cleaning the brothel to earn money toward her planned escape from the Big Easy. Equal parts book smart and street smart, Josie's dream is to attend Smith College, and she will go to extremes, even blackmail, in her desperation to be accepted. But just when her plans start to gain some traction, her mother strikes again, putting Josie in the middle of a murder investigation and saddling her with a mob debt. There are some meaningful messages here: that love can come from the unlikeliest of sources--the rough-and-tumble brothel madam is much more supportive of Josie than her mother ever was--and that we are all in control of our own destinies if only we choose to be. With a rich and realistic setting, a compelling and entertaining first-person narration, a colorful cast of memorable characters and an intriguing storyline, this is a surefire winner. Immensely satisfying. (Historical fiction. 14 & up)

-Kirkus Reviews starred

Review #2

Gr 9 Up-Against a vivid 1950s New Orleans backdrop, 17-year-old Josie Moraine is caught between the harsh reality of her negligent, prostitute mother's lifestyle and her desire to escape to a new life. Josie is smart, resourceful, and determined. Her support group includes Willie, the shrewd brothel madam who recognizes Josie's potential; Cokie, Willie's kind and devoted driver; Patrick, who runs the bookshop where Josie works; Charlotte, an upscale acquaintance who encourages Josie to join her at Smith College; and Jesse, the handsome motorcyclist neighbor who has eyes only for Josie. When a mysterious death leads police to Josie's mother and abusive boyfriend, the teen is drawn into the investigation and into an underworld of threats, violence, and retribution. After her mother skips town, Josie is targeted to repay her debt to a powerful criminal boss. As she tries to handle mounting adversity on her own, she struggles with fear, desperation, and her conscience. Stealing from Willie or hooking up with a wealthy john seem her only choices for survival. Overwhelmed, she reveals her predicament to Willie, who saves her in a final act of generosity. Josie's narrative features a Dickensian array of characters; the mystique, ambience, and language of the French Quarter; a suspenseful, action-packed story; and a coming-of-age realization that personal decisions ultimately

shape one's future. With dramatic and contextual flair, Sepetys introduces teens to another memorable heroine.

-School Library Journal

Review #3

Grades 10-12. In a radical departure from her first novel, *Between Shades of Gray* (2011), Sepetys' second is partially set in a 1950s New Orleans brothel where Josie's mother works as a prostitute. Humiliated, the 18-year-old fears she is destined "for nothing more than a crummy life skirting the New Orleans underworld." That underworld looms larger when a murder occurs and it appears Josie's mother may be complicit. Josie's dream is to go to Smith College, but even if she is admitted, how will she pay for it? Meanwhile, she finds herself attracted to two very different young men: her best friend, clean-cut Patrick, with whom she works at his father's bookstore, and "quietly mysterious" biker Jesse. Complicated? You bet! Sepetys' latest strongly evokes 1950s radio soap operas, but despite over-the-top emotional pitch and stereotypical characters, this is nevertheless a page-turner that noir romance fans will gobble up like popcorn shrimp. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** The legions of fans that Sepetys earned with her best-selling debut novel will all be lining up for this.

-Booklist

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	9-12 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. The setting involves a brothel, but there are no in-depth descriptions of sexual encounters.
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 part of the French Quarter in New Orleans. 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 vidi 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 ADB: Educational Equity 05.23.2023 , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	Provides an opportunity to learn about diverse perspectives and historical contexts and develop critical thinking skills while evaluating the choices and experiences of the characters.
Recommend novel for adoption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Iib. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by District Coordinator) Debra Yarcho

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
Is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	Y	Appropriate for high school students, 9-12.
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	No parental permission is necessary.
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	The novel includes themes of resilience, ambition, and the search for identity which will allow students to make connections throughout the book.
Actively engages students through the text	Y	Very well-written and has a variety of well-developed characters and a mystery component
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	The reading is accessible to all students.
Is it in alignment with Board File ADB on Education Equity , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	Students will be able to make connections to the diverse range of characters.
Recommend novel for adoption	<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 following grade level(s)	Y	Appropriate for high school students, 9-12.
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	Brief descriptions of happenings within a brothel setting, but no overt sexual descriptions used.
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	Coming of Age novel with a main character of similar age to intended readers. Students can relate to the emotions/struggles of growing up and themes around self-discovery/finding one's identity through hardship
Actively engages students through the text	Y	Descriptive storytelling, relatable characters with depth, interesting story arc
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	Some challenging vocabulary and themes, but generally accessible for students
Is it in alignment with Board File ADB on Education Equity , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	Offers a diverse range of characters, character perspectives and experience.
Recommend novel for adoption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Iie. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by Parent #1) Desiree Rozsen

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
Is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	Y	Appropriate for high school students, 9-12.
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	The book centers around a young girl growing up exposed to brothel life and has some adult insinuations but nothing graphic or explicit.
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	The author does a great job portraying the feelings and emotions of a person growing up in the marginalized fractions of society that tend to induce feelings of shame and lack of worth and how they can overcome these barriers.
Actively engages students through the text	Y	Yes, the story has many twists and turns that keep the reader engaged and invested in the protagonist's journey.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	Yes, some students may need to look up words and discuss the full meaning with others in the class to fully grasp the content - overall, it is easily accessible.
Recommend novel for adoption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No The novel exposes students to aspects of American life that they may not otherwise be exposed to as well encouragement to pursue one's dreams regardless of their circumstances.	

IId. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by Parent #2) Amy Neira

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
Is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	Y	9th - 12th
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	The book does reference the subject of prostitution but does not go into detail.
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	I like that the main character is about the same age as the reader would be. The characters are brought to life in the story, dealing with not so perfect lives but showing that determination can get you on the right path.
Actively engages students through the text	Y	The story is relatable, making choices that aren't the best but realizing the opportunity to change to be better.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	It was an easy read that I feel the majority of students would be able to relate to the character's experiences.
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			DY, KW
1			DY, KW
2			DY, KW
3			DY, KW
4			DY, KW
5			DY, KW
6			DY, KW
7			DY, KW
8			DY, KW
9	DY, KW		
10	DY, KW		
11	DY, KW		
12	DY, 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>Karen 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>Kelly Price</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>Desiree Rozen</u>		

Vd.

Does the evaluating <i>Parent (#2)</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 09 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Parent (#2) Signature <u>Amy Neira</u>		

Ve.

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

Vg.

Does the Director of Library Programming support adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 10 2024</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 10 2024</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		