

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 the novel section) with pertinent policies regarding novel selection and adoption.

FOR DISTRICT USE ONLY FINAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED APPROVAL GRADE LEVELS:	10th and up
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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	8/25/23	
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	Debra Yarcho	dyarcho@dcsdk12.org
Colleague	Jolene Martinez	jmartinez4@dcsdk12.org
Parent #1	Mike Heene	mheene@adpay.com
Parent #2	Kelsey Faletra	kelsey@faletra.net

Ib. BOOK INFORMATION

Title of proposed book	<i>Born a Crime</i> (not young readers edition)
Author (s)	Trevor Noah
Publisher	Spiegel & Grau
Edition	2019 edition

ISBN number	1-72541-979-3
Copyright date	November 15, 2016
Course and/or subject area in which work will be used	English II, II Honors, AP Language and Composition
Grade level(s)	10-12
Lexile Level Score (If you are unsure, please visit https://hub.lexile.com/fina-a-boo k/search)	HL770L
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

Born a Crime is a memoir by comedian Trevor Noah. Noah describes his life growing up as a coloured (mixed) child in South Africa during Apartheid. Because his mother was black and his father was white, he was literally born a crime. The story is funny, engaging, heartbreaking and a glimpse into a history of South Africa. It is an important look at the impact of racism and segregation on Noah's character and development.

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 (October 1, 2016 (Vol. 113, No. 3))

South African comedian Noah brings a fresh and tonic perspective to the role of host for The Daily Show, frequently joking about life as a mixed-race child under the tyranny of apartheid. He now reveals the full brunt of the terror and diabolical absurdity he endured in this substantial collection of staggering personal essays deftly shaped by his stand-up gifts for timing and precision. Incisive, funny, and vivid, these true tales are anchored to his portrait of his courageous, rebellious, and religious mother, who defied racially restrictive laws to secure an education and a career for herself—and to have a child with a white Swiss German even though sex between whites and blacks was illegal; neither parent could be seen in public with their son. So dangerous was life for mischievous, polyglot Noah that he spent much of his time alone indoors and later endured hunger, homelessness, jail, and violence. But his episodic and electrifying memoir sparkles with funny stories of epic teen awkwardness, astounding accounts of his nervy entrepreneurial success as a music bootlegger and DJ, and vibrant and insightful descriptions of daily life in Johannesburg and Soweto. Noah's coming-of-age paralleled South Africa's emergence from apartheid, and his candid and compassionate essays deepen our perception of the complexities of race, gender, and class. Hopefully, Noah will continue to tell his bracing and redefining story. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: High-powered promotion will push celebrity comedian Noah's book forward, and buzz about just how excellent a work it is will sustain readership.

Recommended for teens (YA/M)

YAs will be riveted by Noah's complicated and frightening childhood, his resilience, and his gutsy teen hip-hop adventures.

Review #2

Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2016)

The host of The Daily Show reflects on his tumultuous South African childhood. In a gritty memoir, Noah relates his harsh experiences growing up during the final years of apartheid and the chaotic and racially charged conflicts that would continue to undermine the newly won freedom that was established in its aftermath. His story unfolds through a series of loosely assembled essays that touch

on his home life and school environment and later expand outward to various cities and neighborhoods and his encounters with petty crime and confrontations with domestic violence. Throughout, the author documents the evolving yet continually challenging race relations among blacks, whites, and "coloreds." Noah was born the son of a white Swiss-German father and a devoutly Christian black Xhosa mother who purposely chose to have a child through a mixed relationship, with full understanding of the legal ramifications established under the Immorality Act of 1927, which banned illicit carnal relations between a native woman and a European male. Noah's mother proved to be the dominant, remarkable force throughout his life, constantly striving to instill deep values of education, religion, and freedom as she struggled with her own desire for independence. "Perhaps even more amazing is the fact that my mother started her little project, me, at a time when she could not have known that apartheid would end," writes the author. "There was no reason to think it would end; it had seen generations come and go. I was nearly six when Mandela was released, ten before democracy finally came, yet she was preparing me to live a life of freedom long before we knew freedom would exist." On the whole, though studded with insight and provocative social criticism, Noah's material doesn't feel fully digested. As an accomplished adult humorist looking back to his childhood self, the attempt to inject a humorous tone into these grim proceedings frequently hits an awkward note. A somewhat disjointed narrative with flashes of brilliant storytelling and acute observations on South African culture.

Review #3

Publishers Weekly (October 31, 2016)

Having thoroughly mined his South African upbringing in his standup comedy and monologues on The Daily Show, Noah here tells the whole story in this witty and revealing autobiography. Born to a black African mother and a white Swedish father, Noah violated the Immorality Act of 1927, which outlawed interracial relationships. Though apartheid ended a decade after Noah's birth, its legacy lived on in the country's nigh-inescapable ghettos and perpetual racial conflicts, continuing to affect his life as he came of age. Noah's story is the story of modern South Africa; though he enjoyed some privileges of the region's slow Westernization, his formative years were shaped by poverty, injustice, and violence. Noah is quick with a disarming joke, and he skillfully integrates the parallel narratives via interstitial asides between chapters to explain the finer details of African culture and history for the uninformed. Perhaps the most harrowing tales are those of his abusive stepfather, which form the book's final act (and which Noah cleverly foreshadows throughout earlier chapters), but equally prominent are the laugh-out-loud yarns about going to the prom, and the differences between "White Church" and "Black Church." (Nov.) © 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 following grade level(s) 9-12	Y	Appropriate for high school students. I plan to use it in my English II and AP Language and Composition classes.
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	While there is some profanity, some instances of teenage rebellion (drinking and marijuana use), a few descriptions of fights, and reference to sex, they are examples from Noah’s life and described in meaningful and engaging ways that add to the themes of coming of age and learning from mistakes.
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 South Africa. Students can make connections with their own experiences growing up and learn about and make connections to historical/cultural information.
actively engages students through the text	Y	Extremely engaging. Noah is a master storyteller and engages with humor and life lessons 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 in alignment with Board File ADB on Education Equity , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	Provides an 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) 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	Yes, this text is appropriate for grades 10-12.
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	It is not necessary to require parent permission.
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	Students will be able to create meaning as this content is nourishing and rich with details.
actively engages students through the text	Y	The book has several breaks with quotes and relevant introductions to the following chapter. It will definitely engage high school students.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	This text is interesting and accessible for all students (grades 10-12).
Is in alignment with Board File ADB on Education Equity , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	The book is in alignment and does contribute to an inclusive culture for all students.
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	Yes, this book is appropriate for grades 10-12.
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	No, it is not necessary to require parent permission for this book.
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	Yes, there are many themes that create meaningful and relevant connections to knowledge and experience beyond the high school classroom.
actively engages students through the text	Y	Yes, there are many anecdotes which students will find engaging throughout the text.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	Yes, all students (grades 10-12) can access this text in a few ways.
Is in alignment with Board File ADB on Education Equity , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	Yes, this book is in alignment and contributes to an inclusive culture for all students.
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)	Y	Yes, appropriate for grades 10-12.
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	Offers content that will allow students to expand their thinking, see another perspective, and discuss issues that are relevant.
actively engages students through the text	Y	Yes, it is a highly engaging text.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	Yes, the text is interesting and accessible for all students (grades 10-12).
Recommend novel for adoption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

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

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	Y	High school students, particularly 10th -12th.
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	Not necessary. Any references to potentially objectionable content like profanity or use of marijuana/alcohol is connected to meaningful life lessons relayed by Trevor Noah and contribute to the overall meaning of the work as a whole, including coming of age, overcoming obstacles, becoming your own person, etc.
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	This text is rich in learning opportunities for students. It provides diverse perspectives that will enable them to develop empathy and understanding of the complexity of the world around them, and most importantly, that their experiences in the world are not the only ones. It also introduces students to Apartheid, a complex issue that many of this age are unaware of–yet it is part of the world’s not-so-distant past.
actively engages students through the text	Y	Trevor Noah is an incredibly engaging and funny writer with a witty voice that young people can connect with. As a comedian, he is also relevant and known to students already, so they are invested in learning his story. He tells compelling, emotionally engaging stories and anecdotes with a sometimes sardonic, sometimes irreverent, but always well-placed humor.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	The text is accessible for all students. The story is engaging to read, and the language is appropriate (lexile-wise) for high school students. It is also non-fiction, which many students find more interesting to read than fiction because it’s based on the reality of someone else’s life. Any complex language or issues are explained in a way that all reading levels, thinking levels, and maturity levels at the high school level can access and process.
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 10 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 10 2023</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Colleague Signature <u>Jolene Martinez</u>		

Vc.

Does the evaluating <i>Parent #1</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 10 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 10 2023</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Parent (#2) Signature <u>Kelsey Faletra</u>		

Ve.

Does the evaluating educator's <i>Administrator</i> 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 <i>District Coordinator</i> certify that the information on this form accurately reflects the process followed at the site.	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2023</u> District Coordinator Signature <u>Debra Yarcho</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vg.

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

Vh.

Does the <i>DCSD Cabinet Member</i> support adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2023</u> DCSD Cabinet Member Signature <u>Matt Reynolds</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>