

TEXT ADOPTION REQUEST  
2020F3

Instructional Materials Committee

Text Title *Night*

Author Elie Wiesel

Publisher Hill & Wang

Copyright Date 2006

Course Title and Grade Level Creative Writing, 12<sup>th</sup> grade English

This text is: New XXXX Replacing (Title)

Number of Copies Needed 20 Unit Price \$6.14 (paperback)

This text is intended for use during 2015-16

I have taken the following steps to determine the suitability of the above text:

(Yes ) 1. I have read it and found that it meets the criteria of the district Instructional Materials Committee, including criteria for the elimination of sex bias. This is a mandatory step.

(No ) 2. I have compared it with these other available texts: This is not a major textbook adoption, only a short book to be used in addition to other class readings.

(No ) 3. I have compared review of it with review of these other available texts: I'm sure there are other short memoirs that I could review but this one is well-known and respected as well as beautifully written. I have taught this book before; it is also widely taught in American high schools.

(Yes ) 4. I have evaluated the reading level and found it averages about grade : 8

(Yes\*\* ) 5. I have used the text on a trial basis for about weeks, per district policy and the Curriculum Director's approval. \*\* I taught this novel to tenth grade students at Union High School.

( ) 6. Other

Text Selector Signature



Date: 9/1/15

Approval dates

Principal or Dept. Head



Date: 9/8/2015

Instructional Materials Committee

Date:

Limitations:

Board of Directors Approval

Date:

Instructional Materials Committee  
Evaluation Form

Evaluated By: Heather Gordon

Date: 9/1/15

Department: English

School: High School

Subject Area: English

Author: Elie Wiesel

Title: *Night*

Publisher: Hill & Wang

Copyright Date: 2006

Reading Level (Use Fry Readability Graph): 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Use extra sheet or back if necessary.

1. Will this material be the basic text or will it supplement the basic text? If it is supplementary, what is your basic text?

This is a semester-long senior writing class for which there is no single textbook. *Night* will be one of several readings students will do as part of the class. Students will also read short stories, poetry, movie and book reviews, and blogs.

2. How did you become aware of this material? (Professional journals, salesman, publisher's catalog, know someone who has used it, used material before, etc.)

This is a critically acclaimed memoir that is widely taught throughout schools in the United States. Because the content is strong, it is not usually taught in middle school even though the reading level suggests it could be. I have taught it to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students before, and they found it engaging, informative, and powerful. It was a book they long remembered.

3. What other materials did you consider?

In honesty, I have not reviewed numerous memoirs before selecting this one. This one is so well-known, so well-written, and teaches so many lessons, it is hard to beat.

4. In what ways is this material better than the other materials? (Text format, organization content, unbiased content concerning minorities and women, teacher's guide, workbooks, etc.)

This memoir is compelling in a way that few stories are. Briefly, this memoir follows the experience of Mr. Wiesel from the time he becomes aware of the Nazi regime while living in his small village through his family's capture and imprisonment in the concentration camps, ending with his rescue by U.S. forces at the end of World War Two. All of Wiesel's immediate family perish while in the camps; he is the sole survivor. In reading this memoir, students learn history, Jewish culture, and the power of an

individual's story. Because the memoir is told by a 15-year old, students relate to the story immediately. This memoir will be used in a creative writing class for seniors. Students will be doing their own memoir pieces and I want them to see how important memoir can be. This memoir is both narrative and poetic. It is clear and easy to follow and models a strong writing style. Although the story is painful, it shows Wiesel's humanity and intelligence and the extreme senselessness and the cruelty of his suffering.

5. How does this material fit the students learning objectives for the subject area?

One key learning objective for the class is to write a non-fiction narrative that uses a style and diction appropriate to the intended audience. Mr. Wiesel's memoir is an excellent model for this learning objective.

6. How does this material ensure continuity with the District's overall program?

There are no book-length memoirs being taught in the high school English curriculum at the moment, so this book would be a wonderful addition to the curriculum. Also, this book introduces students to Jewish life and culture and therefore helps to meet our curricular goals of broadening students' cross-cultural understanding.

Instructional Materials Committee Evaluation Form cont.

## 7. Bias content check list:

<u>Bias Content</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Non-App.</u>
1. Presents more than one view point of controversial issues.					XXXX
2. Presents minorities realistically.	XXXXX				
3. Includes contributions of minority authors.	XXXX				
4. Presents non-stereotypic models	XXXX				
5. Facilitates the sharing of cultural differences.	XXXX				
6. Promotes the positive nature of differences		XXXX			
7. Includes the contributions, inventions, or discoveries of minorities.					XXXX
8. Includes the contributions, inventions, or discoveries of women.					XXXX
9. Presents minorities in a manner that promotes ethnic pride.					XXXX
10. Facilitates an environment open to discovery and experimentation					XXXXX