

Instructional Materials Selection Criteria

Indicate how the literature, for which you are seeking approval, addresses each of the indicators under the following criteria. Indicators are meant to facilitate and guide conversation, it is not required that all be met in order for a piece of literature to be approved.

Book Title:	Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks		
Recommending Teacher:	J Bozurich, M Ludlow, K Seegmiller	School:	Placerita Junior High

► Relationship to the adopted course of study and current curricular goals (BP/AR 6161.1)

1	Material will help build foundational skills
	Reading this novel, which is a collection of interconnected short stories, will help increase reading comprehension, improve fluency, and develop vocabulary. The novel affords opportunity to study narration, point of view, and figurative language. The novel will allow for analysis, critical thinking, and conversation in the classroom.
2	Material is cross-curricular to allow for multiple perspectives and POVs
	This novel is told from many points of view, as every chapter focuses on a different character and his/her story. The characters from each story interact with one another and come together in the last chapter and conclusion.
3	Material is appropriate for level of course and units covered
	Yes, the novel was written for a middle school audience. The reading level is 4.8 which is appropriate for the students in our district. The novel ties into various 8th grade units of study provided within the district pacing calendar and can be used to help answer essential questions such as, "How do people develop their own identity?", "How can we be more inclusive?", and "What marks the passage from childhood to adulthood?"
4	Material allows teachers to address multiple state standards
	This novel will allow teachers to focus on the many standards including: Reading literature: 8.1 (analysis of text), 8.2 (determine theme and central idea), 8.3 (determine how dialogue and actions propel a story), 8.4 (determine meaning of words and phrases), 8.6 (analyze different points of view) Writing: 8.3 (write narratives), 8.10 (write routinely) Speaking and listening: 8.1 (engage in collaborative discussions), 8.4 (present claims)

► **Contribution to a comprehensive, balanced curriculum that is reflective and inclusive of diverse groups (BP/AR 6161.1)**

1 Material includes texts written by diverse authors that represent multiple perspectives and universal themes

The author is an African American male who writes specifically for young adult audiences. Many of his works have won literature awards, including this novel which is a Carnegie Medal winner, a National Book Award finalist, and a Coretta Scott King Honor Book. Various perspectives are presented in this novel by the wide assortment of characters and many universal themes are addressed, such as family and friendship, illness and loss, and challenges and determination.

2 Material has appreciation and understanding of character and story background

There are multiple, well-developed characters in the novel. The characters are multi-dimensional and represent so many students in our district. The plot is also well-developed and planned out and leads readers from a clear start to resolution, with many rising actions and climatic moments.

3 Material includes characters from diverse groups that are depicted as heroes, positive role models and not simply marginalized

The characters in this novel are diverse and portrayed positively, even when they are struggling with various plot challenges. The characters make best decisions and mature throughout the story. They are easy to like and cheer for and our students will relate to them.

4 Material includes main characters that represent diverse groups (e.g., women, people of color, LGBTQ+, disabilities, socio-economic groups, etc.)

The characters represent various ethnic groups, ages, and abilities. They also represent socio-economic groups that mirror those of our students.

► **Reliable quality of scholarship (BP/AR 6161.1)**

* Accurate and well documented information

1 Material is credible and reputable

The novel is credible, reputable, and relatable. Again, it has won various awards and is well regarded among readers, students, and educators.

2 Material is contemporary and/or relevant

The novel was written in 2019 and addresses modern themes that students will recognize and relate to.

► **Does not reflect adversely upon persons because of their disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation (EC 60044)**

1 Material that deals with culturally insensitive language, situations, events, etc. is addressed with empathy and nuance

The novel is culturally sensitive and includes appropriate language and situations. It is empathetic to teen struggles and empowers students to persevere and make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others. The title "Look Both Ways" and the story that follows encourages students to look beyond themselves, to notice others, and to make positive impacts on their community.

2 Material avoids promoting or favoring stereotypes

The novel does not promote stereotypes and rather encourages students to look beyond stereotypes and to be aware, open to, and sensitive to other people's realities.

► **Provision of a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty, with appeal to students of varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels (BP/AR 6161.1)**

1 Material provides experiences in a variety of mediums and different types of texts

The novel is told in prose form and is broken into chapters that represent different characters and their stories. However, the author also includes poetry and lists to make the story more interesting and to engage readers.

2 Material maintains appropriate grade level balance of fiction and non-fiction

This novel is a fictional piece. It is grade level appropriate in its format, vocabulary, usage, etc. It is a nice addition to a curriculum that relies heavily on informative non-fiction.

3 Material provides works from a variety of characters, voices, and perspectives

As stated earlier, the novel provides a variety of characters, voices, and perspectives, more so than most other adopted novels for this grade level.

► **Inclusion of materials which stimulate discussion of contemporary issues and improves students' thinking and decision-making skills (BP/AR 6161.1)**

1 Material promotes discussion among students through the synthesis of its content with current events/texts

The novel included many themes that students will find interesting and timely. These themes, in addition to the characters, setting and plot, will provide many opportunities for classroom discussion and personal reflection. The novel itself includes discussion starters and there are many online resources and supplemental materials available as well.

2 Materials promotes discussion of multiple perspectives on the same topic

Yes the novel provides multiple character points of view will will encourage multiple student points of view. Students will be able to see themselves, friends or family members represented in the pages of this book.

► **Contribution to the proper articulation of instruction through grade levels (BP/AR 6161.1)**

1 Material is an effective means or tool to teach the grade level content standards

This novel has wide appeal, addresses many state standards, and ties in with the themes of the district pacing calendar for 8th grade. It's reading level makes it accessible to many students, from those reading below grade level to above.

2 Material expands or builds upon the standards addressed in prior academic years and prepares students for their next year of instruction

This novel will bridge 7th grade curriculum to 9th grade curriculum and reading materials. Each chapter can be read as a stand alone short story or the novel can be studied as a whole. It will allow students to study character, plot, theme, and conflict, while encouraging higher order thinking skills, communication, and collaboration. Teachers will have many options when it comes to lesson planning for this novel.