

WILLIAM S. HART UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR ADOPTION

Book Title Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks **Copyright** 2019 **Cost** \$16
Author Jason Reynolds **Publisher** Atheneum Books **ISBN#** 978-1-71372-679-1
Course Title English **Grade(s)** 8

One-Paragraph Description

Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks, by Jason Reynolds, is a set of ten interconnected short stories that tell tales about students walking home from school. Each story can stand alone or can be read together as a larger piece. This book, which was named a 2020 Coretta Scott King Honor Book, will be a good match for readers who struggle with long chapter books and also a good match for advanced readers who appreciate literary qualities. Look Both Ways has a wide variety of characters, many of whom resemble students in our district and at Placerita Junior High, and is a study in point of view and descriptive writing. Various, age-appropriate themes are addressed including family and friendship, loss and grief, overcoming obstacles, and celebrating much that is good in life.

1. What are the anticipated concerns?

One chapter (Skitter Hitter) mentions one body part as one student bullies another. Another chapter (Call of Duty) finds two male characters sharing an accidental "kiss" at the water fountain.

2. Does the benefit of the read outweigh the possible problems that may arise because of the concerns? How/Why?

One chapter uses the word to illustrate the cruelty of bullying. The other chapter uses the kiss as a reason for some to bully and mock and for one character to stand up and defend his friend. Both instances allow for student reflection and discussion.

3. What is the plan to address/prepare for concerns?

Ask all 8th grade teachers to read the text prior to teaching it, discuss two named moments as a department and plan how to best frontload and prepare students for each, call upon maturity in students when reading, skip the word of the body part mentioned or read that section silently, or possible skip both chapters.

4. Does the site have the resources to administer the plan? If no, how will the site acquire the needed resources?

Yes, the English department is mature and well-established. They work well together and collaborate all the time. Site administration is very supportive and present at department meetings.

Does the book meet the requirements of the California Education Code as listed on the reverse side of this form? (mark w/ an "x")

Yes ☒ No ☐ Verified by Monica Ludlow

Evaluated and recommended by:

School Placerita Junior High School
 Recommending Teacher J Bozurich, K Seegmiller Date 04/18/2022
 Dept. Head Jeannie Bozurich Date 04/18/2022
 Librarian Monica Ludlow Date 04/18/2022
 Administrator John Turner Date 04/18/2022

Approved by Director of Curriculum & Assessment:

Print Name David N. LeBarron Signature David N. LeBarron Date 04/21/2022

Date approved for final adoption by Board of Trustees _____

Schools notified of final adoption or other action on:

Date _____ By _____

Article 3. Requirements, Materials

60040. When adopting instructional materials for use in the schools, governing boards shall include only instructional materials which, in their determination, accurately portray the cultural and racial diversity of our society, including:

- a. The contributions of both men and women in all types of roles, including professional, vocational, and executive roles.
- b. The role and contributions of American Indians, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other ethnic and cultural groups to the total development of California and the United States.
- c. The role and contributions of the entrepreneur and laborer in the total development of California and the United States.

60041. When adopting instructional materials for use in the schools, governing boards shall include only instructional materials which accurately portray, whenever appropriate:

- a. Man's place in ecological systems and the necessity for the protection of our environment.
- b. The effects on the human system of the use of tobacco, alcohol, narcotics and restricted dangerous drugs as defined in Section 11032 of the Health and Safety Code, and other dangerous substances.

60042. When adopting instructional materials for use in the schools, governing boards shall require such materials as they deem necessary and proper to encourage thrift, fire prevention, and the humane treatment of animals and people.

60043. When adopting instructional materials for use in the schools, governing boards shall require, when appropriate to the comprehension of pupils, that textbooks for social science, history, or civics classes contain the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

60044. A governing board shall not adopt any instruction materials for use in the schools that, in its determination, contain:

- a. Any matter reflecting adversely upon persons on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation, occupation, or because of a characteristic listed in Section 220.
- b. Any sectarian or denominational doctrine or propaganda contrary to law.

60045. All instructional materials adopted by any governing board for use in the schools shall be, to the satisfaction of the governing board, accurate, objective, and current, and suited to the needs and comprehension of pupils at their respective grade levels.

60046. Any governing board may conduct an investigation of the compliance of any instructional materials which it adopted with the requirements of this article.

60047. In the event that after the good faith acquisition of instructional materials by a governing board, the instructional materials are found to be in violation of this article, and the governing board is unable to acquire other instructional materials which meet the requirements of this article in time for them to be used when the acquired materials were planned to be used, the governing board may use the acquired materials, but only for that academic year.