

**Approved Book List Vertical Alignment Guidelines
Elementary & Secondary Reading and Language Arts
Northside ISD – Spring 2008**

To help clarify the appropriate selection of books for classroom use, the Elementary and Secondary Reading and Language Arts Departments set forth the following guidelines. For a more complete explanation of criteria, see the Northside Guidelines for Selection, Evaluation, and Approval of Supplementary Instructional Materials, INS-03, in the Administrative Regulations.

Books are placed on the lists for elementary, middle, and high school based on the following criteria:

- TEKS/TAKS correlation
- Relation to curricula, including grade-level content area application
- Age appropriateness
- Complexity of text (e.g., themes, vocabulary, structural sophistication such as plot lines, conceptual demands)
- Subject matter appropriateness
 - Language – Materials which include the use of profanity or sexual incidents **shall not** be selected for elementary schools. In secondary schools, strong discretion shall be exercised in using these materials. (INS-03.III.A)
 - Violence – Discretion shall be exercised in the selection of materials which include violence. Factors to be considered in the selection of such material include the age of the student users and whether the violence is dealt with in context rather than gratuitously. (INS-03.III.B)
 - Religion – Materials which by their design are intended to indoctrinate or to promote a particular religion or denomination shall not be selected. The use of the Bible or other religious writings within the context of current or historical traditions, literature, history or sociology shall be acceptable. (INS-03.III.C)

Recommendations of books for the approved lists are made using the following procedure:

- Three teachers read the book under consideration.
- Teacher reviewers complete and sign one NISD book selection criteria form.
- Reviewers forward the criteria form to the appropriate instructional specialist for committee review.

Whole Class Study

- For improved vertical alignment and to avoid repeated study of a single title, only books on the respective elementary, middle school, and high school lists are approved for in-depth, whole class study.

Small Group Study (e.g., Literature Circles, Guided Reading, Independent Study)

- For improved vertical alignment and to avoid repeated study of a single title, only books on the respective elementary, middle school, and high school lists are approved for in-depth, small group study.

Read-aloud or Audio Tape Selections: Whole Group or Small Group

- The benefits of reading aloud include teacher modeling of thinking processes and student responses to text; therefore, read-aloud books may be selected from the approved book list for the level taught or from another source, provided the book meets the Northside Guidelines for Selection, Evaluation, and Approval of Supplementary Instructional Materials, INS-03, in the Administrative Regulations. Read-aloud books **may not** be selected from a book list approved for a subsequent/higher grade level.

Independent, Self-selected Student Book Choice

- To meet personal interests, needs, and purposes, students may select any book from classroom or school library that meets the district requirements as designated in the Northside Guidelines for Selection, Evaluation, and Approval of Supplementary Instructional Materials, INS-03, in the Administrative Regulations.

Approved by: _____

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