

Definition of Novel

Any extended fictional/non-fictional narrative, almost always in prose, developed around some organizing principle-plot, theme, or idea with a focus on characterization.

Purpose of LCISD Novel List

- ▶ To align novels as resources for achievement of grade-level curriculum objectives
- ▶ To provide common direction and equitable curriculum for all students
- ▶ To avoid repeated use of the same title, a practice that limits student literary experiences
- ▶ To suggest titles appropriate to varied reading levels of students
- ▶ To stimulate dialogue about quality literature for students
- ▶ To identify a rich and varied body of literature for children and adolescents

Practices Regarding Use of Novel List

1. Novels that are used for whole class instruction at grades 3 through 12 are included on the LCISD Novel List. The list does **not** include collections of short stories or plays.
2. A teacher may pilot a title not on the list. Following the pilot, the teacher should submit the title for placement on the Novel List before teaching it a second year.
3. Novels assigned to a grade level are not to be used at another grade level. (Exceptions: multi-level ESL, Sp. Ed., Read 180/Reading Improvement classrooms)
4. The LCISD Novel List comes up for review annually in March/April. Novels are placed on the list based on their alignment to the curriculum, readability and suitability for the age level of students. Proposed titles may be submitted to the Curriculum Department anytime in advance of the March/April review. Members will receive all proposed changes in advance of the meeting for study. No suggestions will be taken from the floor the day of the meeting. (See Novel List Application for deadline information.) Each campus in attendance has one vote. Decisions are determined by the votes the campuses present.
5. The LCISD Novel List Review Committee is composed of a curriculum specialist, librarians, and teachers representing elementary, middle, junior high, and senior high campuses. Members serve with principal approval.
6. Teachers may select other titles for small group instruction but **not** those included on the list for another grade level. (Exceptions: multi-level ESL, Sp. Ed., Read 180/Reading Improvement classrooms)
7. Principals monitor campus adherence to novel list practices.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. May a teacher select a title from a list at a lower grade level if the students have not already read the title?**

No. The titles would not necessarily align with grade level curriculum objectives and might be developmentally inappropriate for students at higher grade levels. (Exceptions: multi-level ESL, Sp. Ed., Read 180/Reading Improvement classrooms)

- 2. May a high school AP English class read a title listed for a higher grade level?**

Yes. AP lists follow College Board guidelines.

- 3. Who decides which books from a grade level are most appropriate for a class?**

The classroom teacher makes this decision. Titles are grouped at each grade by suggested readability level. The teacher decides which titles are most suitable for a particular group of students. It is always a good idea for the teacher to read the book before assigning it to students.

- 4. I often give an assignment to my students such as: Using a novel that you have read, explain the influence of the setting on plot development. Students will complete this assignment with any novel. I have a classroom library which contains many titles (single copies and a few duplicates) of novels that are on the novel list for assorted grade levels. I open my classroom library for students to select titles that they would like to read and students also select novels from the school library to complete this assignment. Am I in compliance with the Administrative Regulations regarding the Novel List?**

Yes, as long as you are not “teaching” the novels with either your whole class or small groups, you are in compliance.

- 5. Our textbook adoption has excerpts from several novels that are on novel lists for another grade level. Can I still use these excerpts in the literature book?**

Yes, these sections of novels can be used.