

NOVEL/BOOK-LENGTH WORK (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Drama) PROPOSAL

Proposal Request Information

Prior to filling out this form, please read the [Novel Adoption Proposal Checklist](#) with pertinent policies regarding novel selection and adoption.

Section I

To be filled out by requestor/educator:

Ia. REQUESTOR AND REVIEW TEAM INFORMATION

School	Cresthill Middle School	
Date	12/19/2020	
Requestor/Educator	Andy Levine	
Email address	atlevine1@dcsdk12.org	
Phone number	303-915-3040	
Proposal Review Team Member	Reviewer's Name	Contact Information - email
CIPG Strategist	Jeff Mlsna	jjmlsna@dcsdk12.org
Colleague	Sadie Levine	srlevine@dcsdk12.org
Parent #1	Stephanie Young	syoung13@dcdk12.org
Parent #2	Jen Bosely	jenbosley@comcast.net

Ib. BOOK INFORMATION

Title of proposed book	Kindred
Author (s)	Octavia E. Butler
Publisher	Beacon Press
Edition	4th Edition
ISBN number	0807083690
Copyright date	2003
Course and/or subject area in which work will be used	ELA
Grade level(s)	Requested 7-8 - Committee Recommended - 7th & 8th - parent informed; 9-12
Dates the book information was displayed at the school and posted on the school's website (2 week min.)	February 2021
Date the book was communicated to the School Advisory Council	January 2021

Ic. NOVEL DESCRIPTION

Kindred, by Octavia E. Butler, is a novel that places the main character, Dana, an African American woman, who is from 1976, and her husband, who is a white man, time-traveling back to the 1800s in slave times, specifically in antebellum Maryland. The fact that Dana is being swept back and forth from a time where she would have been a slave, and is treated that way when she is there, and her time, a more tolerant late 20th Century is challenging to navigate for her and her understanding of her family and her ancestors and her marriage. Ultimately it becomes clear that Dana is shifting through time in order to ensure her life happens, but what is at stake is much larger than just her existence, and that is the true beauty of this novel.

From Sid Rundle:

A hard and sometimes dark read, and for those reasons alone probably an important addition to the collection of novels available for what is a very challenging topic.

Id. ALIGNMENT WITH DCSD'S CURRICULUM

Please write a detailed description of how the novel **aligns to DCSD's Curriculum (Colorado Academic Standards, Higher Order Thinking Skills, and 21st Century Skills, 4 Cs):**

Kindred is directly connected to 8th grade Social Studies and therefore for an ELA text would fit nicely within the context of a humanities approach to the Civil War, slavery, white privilege, and the discussion around black lives and experiences. In ELA, The CAS say in their Reading for all Purposes Standard that:

Prepare graduates:

3. Read a wide range of literary texts to build knowledge and to better understand the human experience.

Grade level expectations:

1. Analyze and evaluate literary elements and an author's choices to understand literary text.

Prepare graduates:

5. Understand how language functions in different contexts, command a variety of word-learning strategies to assist comprehension and make effective choices for meaning or style when writing and speaking.

Grade Level Expectations:

3. Apply knowledge of word structure, grammar, and context to determine the meaning of new words and phrases in increasingly complex texts

Ie. RECOMMENDATIONS

Three recommendations, referrals or reviews must be included. Please use professional reviews (reviews from the School Library Journal, Kirkus, Booklist, Publisher's weekly etc.). The District Library Media Center will be happy to direct you to these sources. List the sources of the reviews below and attach copies of all reviews.

Review #1

Butler is one of those accomplished science-fiction writers (*Mind of My Mind*, 1977; *Survivor*, 1978) who tap out their tales so fast and fine and clear that it's impossible to stop reading at any point. And this time the appeal should reach far beyond a sci-fi audience—because the alien planet here is the antebellum South, as seen through the horrified eyes of Dana, a 20th-century black woman who time-travels in expeditious Butler fashion: "The house, the books, everything vanished. Suddenly I was outdoors on the ground beneath trees" . . . in 1819 Maryland. Dana has been "called" by her white ancestor, Rufus—on her first visit, Rufus is a small child, son of a sour slaveowner—and she'll be transported back to Maryland (twice with her white husband Kevin) to rescue Rufus from death again and again. As Rufus ages (the Maryland years amount to hours and days in 1976 time), the relationship between him and Dana takes on some terrifying dimensions: Rufus simply cannot show the humanity Dana tries to call forth; Dana, drawn into the life of slaves with its humiliation and atrocities, treads carefully, trying to effect some changes, but too often she returns beaten and maimed to her own century. And most frightening is the thought that, in the "stronger, sharper realities" of Rufus' time, Dana is "losing my place here in my own time." At one point Kevin and Dana lose one another (Kevin returns haggard, after five years working to help escaped slaves), but finally Dana, fighting off complete possession by Rufus, kills him and that past forever—but not the memories. There is tremendous ironic power in Butler's vision of the old South in science-fiction terms—capriciously dangerous aliens, oppressed races, and a supra-fevered reality; and that irony opens the much-lamented nightmare of slavery to a fresh, vivid attack—in this searing, caustic examination of bizarre and alien practices on the third planet from the sun.

Review Posted Online: Oct. 4, 2019

Kirkus Reviews Issue: July 1, 1979

Review #2

Kindred by Octavia E. Butler. Beacon Press, 2003 (25th Anniversary Edition, original publication date, 1979). ISBN 0-8070-8369-0 Price: \$14.00 If you have never been to California, or Antebellum Maryland, Octavia E. Butler makes you feel as if you have been there before (San Francisco circa 1976 and Maryland as a slave state, circa 1819). Butler presents a well written novel that cannot be categorized into one particular genre. *Kindred* is not only a work of fiction, science fiction, psychological fiction, or historical fiction; it is also great American Literature. When 26 year old writer Dana Franklin starts to feel sick and dizzy, she suddenly disappears from her home. She and her husband (Kevin Franklin) are bewildered at what happened, as well as the events to come. Dana Franklin is one of many characters that are presented within this novel. Other characters include a little boy named Rufus (who happens to be Dana's great grandfather), Alice (a slave), and Hagar (the son of Rufus and Alice) and the precursor to Dana's branch of the family. Dana mysteriously disappears from her home in San Francisco, and reappears in Maryland before the emancipation proclamation. Dana continues to disappear and reappear within these two settings and times in history, in order to guide Rufus out of trouble (ultimately to keep him alive) — all while trying to manage her own life in the present. Dana is transported by some greater force, in order to save Rufus and keep her lineage intact. The characters in this novel are intertwined in the web of this magnificent story. Dana and Kevin make a seemingly happily married couple, and their relationship vaguely epitomizes what Rufus may have wanted with Alice. The culture of 1819 would not deem this interracial relationship socially acceptable. Within this timeless piece, Butler is able to create a story that condenses two different times in history to create a truly cohesive novel. Every character plays a part in this story, and they also have their own individual stories to tell. Butler is able to capture the plausible essence of a plethora of characters; therefore, every character plays a noteworthy part in the plot. Butler is also able to humanize the slave, as well as the slave-owner, and everyone in between. *Kindred* is truly a great read for teens/young adults, as well as mature adults. The novel embodies history, xenophobia, mysticism, forgiveness, understanding, love, and most importantly, family.

Dindi Rashida Robinson

Robert W. Woodruff Library/ Atlanta University Center

2012

Review #3

Lisa Yaszek

School of Literature, Communication, and Culture
Georgia Institute of Technology - 2003

If you have never been to California, or Antebellum Maryland, Octavia E. Butler makes you feel as if you have been there before (San Francisco circa 1976 and Maryland as a slave state, circa 1819). Butler presents a well written novel that cannot be categorized into one particular genre. *Kindred* is not only a work of fiction, science fiction, psychological fiction, or historical fiction; it is also great American Literature. When 26 year old writer Dana Franklin starts to feel sick and dizzy, she suddenly disappears from her home. She and her husband (Kevin Franklin) are bewildered at what happened, as well as the events to come. Dana Franklin is one of many characters that are presented within this novel. Other characters include a little boy named Rufus (who happens to be Dana's great grandfather), Alice (a slave), and Hagar (the son of Rufus and Alice) and the precursor to Dana's branch of the family. Dana mysteriously disappears from her home in San Francisco, and reappears in Maryland before the emancipation proclamation. Dana continues to disappear and reappear within these two settings and times in history, in order to guide Rufus out of trouble (ultimately to keep him alive) — all while trying to manage her own life in the present. Dana is transported by some greater force, in order to save Rufus and keep her lineage intact. The characters in this novel are intertwined in the web of this magnificent story. Dana and Kevin make a seemingly happily married couple, and their relationship vaguely epitomizes what Rufus may have wanted with Alice. The culture of 1819 would not deem this interracial relationship socially acceptable. Within this timeless piece, Butler is able to create a story that condenses two different times in history to create a truly cohesive novel. Every character plays a part in this story, and they also have their own individual stories to tell. Butler is able to capture the plausible essence of a plethora of characters; therefore, every character plays a noteworthy part in the plot. Butler is also able to humanize the slave, as well as the slave-owner, and everyone in between. *Kindred* is truly a great read for teens/young adults, as well as mature adults. The novel embodies history, xenophobia, mysticism, forgiveness, understanding, love, and most importantly, family. Dindi Robinson is a librarian at Robert Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center.

SECTION II: Review Team Information

Each review team member will complete an individual section for a formal review of the book based on your stakeholder perspective. All members of the site review team **MUST read** the proposed novel/book prior submission to **CIPG strategist for final review prior to submission to CIPG Director.**

IIa. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by requestor/educator)

Andy Levine

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	Y	Kindred is very appropriate for 8th grade readers.
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	Parents should be informed of the content that the book consists of, but a permission slip is not necessary.
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	There is a wealth of visual meaning as well as historical meaning in this novel. The connections to the experience of slaves and oppression is well discussed and described.
actively engages students through the text	Y	I believe that the context, format and genre of the novel is very engaging for Middle School students.
facilitates learning that has long-term significance	Y	I see this book staying with kids after they read it for a long time.
Recommend novel for adoption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Iib. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by CIPG Strategist) Jeff Mlsna

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	Y	While the book does have some intense scenes it does not have anything graphic in nature.
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	Recommendation: Due to the references to rapes and beatings of slaves, parents should be informed of the content prior to students reading <i>Kindred</i> .
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	The novel’s varying timeline provides an excellent cross-content connection to social studies. Also the broad age ranges and personalities of characters provide multiple opportunities for students to connect to the reading.
actively engages students through the text	Y	The pacing of the novel along with the quality characters and storyline will keep students engaged in the reading.
facilitates learning that has long-term significance	Y	The varying timeline in the novel provide students with a “window” into the affect of slavery that provides a clear example of the impact of decisions that will stay with them long after they have read the book.
aligns with proposed connections to DCSD curriculum (Colorado Academic Standards, Higher Order Thinking Skills, 4 Cs, 21 st Century Skills, and Content)	Y	This novel supports the following major component of the CAS for Reading, Writing, and Communicating. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand how language functions in different contexts, command a variety of word-learning strategies to assist comprehension and make effective choices for meaning or style when writing and speaking. ● Read a wide range of literary texts to build knowledge and to better understand the human experience.
Recommend novel for adoption		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

IIc. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by a colleague) Sadie Levine

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	Y	Having taught 7th through 11th grade, I believe this text is thematically appropriate for 8th grade and above.
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	A text feature of the novel <i>Kindred</i> that would be especially relevant to making connections is the various timelines in the text- early 1800s and late 1976. I see opportunities for discussion and connections with current day as well as cross content research with social studies.
actively engages students through the text	Y	This text falls within the fantasy genre and dabbles in the realistic fiction genre. I believe the “what if” questions that <i>Kindred</i> sparks are very appropriate for middle level readers. What if you were transported back to the 1800s? What if you were a young person in the 1970s?
facilitates learning that has long-term significance	Y	<i>Kindred</i> a work of fiction from a Black female author and a Black female protagonist
aligns with proposed connections to DCSD curriculum (Colorado Academic Standards, Higher Order Thinking Skills, 4 Cs, 21 st Century Skills, and Content)	Y	5. Understand how language functions in different contexts, command a variety of word-learning strategies to assist comprehension and make effective choices for meaning or style when writing and speaking. I specifically highlight language functions in <i>Kindred</i> because of the two different timelines in the text. This text gives students a good example of how language changes over time and how the way one speaks can shape his or her opportunities.
Recommend novel for adoption		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

IId. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by Parent #1) Stephanie Young

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	Y	8th
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	Y	Parents should know that there are references to brutal rapes and beatings of slaves and give permission for their student to read Kindred.
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	
actively engages students through the text	Y	Experiencing slavery through Dana’s experiences were riveting. I felt like I was back in the 1800’s, too.
facilitates learning that has long-term significance	Y	Students learn about slavery and discrimination in social studies but to actually experience it (via Dana), can/will have a lifelong impact on their beliefs and behaviors.
Recommend novel for adoption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Iie. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by Parent #2)

Jen Bosley

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
is appropriate for the following grade level(s)	Y	This novel would be appropriate for students in 8th grade and above.
requires parent permission for students to read the book?	Y	Parents (of MS students) could be made aware of the language and harsh, but accurate, descriptions of the treatment of slaves in the 1800s that appear throughout the novel.
allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	Both the language and treatment of the slaves may be difficult for the modern ears of students to hear. However, the authenticity and accuracy of the author’s words provide a well developed historical picture of both the ante-bellum South in the 1800s and of California in the 1970s. Students can contrast these settings and prevailing attitudes with their own experiences.
actively engages students through the text	Y	The way the author combines personal historical narrative with science fiction is engaging and keeps the reader interested in the main character’s journey between two very different worlds. The author also humanizes and allows for connections to each of the individual characters as their stories are woven and shared throughout the novel.
facilitates learning that has long-term significance	Y	This novel provides students access to a story written by a Black, female author, who uses descriptive language to help readers imagine what it was like to live under harsh conditions as a slave in the 1800s. It is a powerful story of connection, history, love and family. The reader comes away with both a better understanding of Black history in our country and hope for the continued betterment of all members of our society.
Recommend novel for adoption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

SECTION III: Requestor/Educator & CIPG Strategist Level Process Review

IIIa. Grade Level Recommendations (to be collaborated on between Requestor/Educator & CIPG Strategist based on recommendations made by the review team)

Place initials in the columns indicating level of recommendation. Complete by initialing for every grade level indicated on the chart below. Please include justification if necessary for the level(s) of recommendation below the chart.

Note: If approved by the Board of Education, this novel can be used by all educators in DCSD. Please consider the use of this book for all PK-12 grades not just the grade or content you teach.

Grade level	Recommended	Recommended: Requires parent notification and consent: The novel/book may contain some mature content and themes	Not Recommended: Content inappropriate for grade level(s)
PK/K			Not Recommended
1			Not Recommended
2			Not Recommended
3			Not Recommended
4			Not Recommended
5			Not Recommended
6			Not Recommended
7	✓ JM AL SRL	Recommendation: Due to the references to rapes and beatings of slaves, parents should be informed of the content prior to students reading <i>Kindred</i> .	
8	✓ JM AL SRL	Recommendation: Due to the references to rapes and beatings of slaves, parents should be informed of the content prior to students reading <i>Kindred</i> .	
9	✓ JM AL SRL		
10	✓ JM AL SRL		
11	✓ JM AL SRL		
12	✓ JM AL SRL		

SECTION IV: Signatures/Approvals

IVa.

Does the evaluating Educator/Requestor recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Mar 31, 2021</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Evaluating Educator Signature <u><i>Andy Levine</i></u> <small>Andy Levine (Mar 31, 2021 11:16 MDT)</small>		

IVb.

Does the evaluating CIPG Strategist certify that the information on this form accurately reflects the process followed at the site?	YES	NO
Date <u>Mar 31, 2021</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Evaluating CIPG Strategist Signature <u><i>Jeff Miano</i></u>		

IVc.

Does the evaluating Colleague recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Mar 31, 2021</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Evaluating Colleague Signature <u><i>Sadie R. Levine</i></u> <small>Sadie R. Levine (Mar 31, 2021 12:50 MDT)</small>		

IVd.

Does the evaluating Parent (#1) recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Mar 31, 2021</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Evaluating Parent (#1) Signature <u><i>Stephanie Young</i></u> <small>Stephanie Young (Mar 31, 2021 13:20 MDT)</small>		

IVe.

Does the evaluating Parent (#2) recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Mar 31, 2021</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Evaluating Parent (#2) Signature <u><i>Jennifer Bosley</i></u> <small>Jennifer Bosley (Mar 31, 2021 13:57 MDT)</small>		

IVf.

Does the evaluating Educator's <i>Administrator</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Mar 31, 2021</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Signature <u><i>Sidney R. Rundle</i></u> <small>Sidney R. Rundle (Mar 31, 2021 13:59 MDT)</small>		

IVg.

Does the <i>CIPG Director</i> support adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Mar 31, 2021</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
CIPG Director Signature <u><i>Erica Mason</i></u> <small>Erica Mason (Mar 31, 2021 15:14 MDT)</small>		

SECTION V: Superintendent's Approval

SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

Does the Superintendent approve adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Apr 7, 2021</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Superintendent Signature <u><i>Corey J Wise</i></u> <small>Corey J Wise (Apr 7, 2021 08:27 MDT)</small>		

SECTION VI: Board of Education Approval

BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

Does the Board of Education approve adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date _____		
Board of Education Signature _____		

OFFICE USE

	DATE	INITIALS
Approved novel list updated (including recommended grade level)		
Approved form with BOE signatures scanned to CIPG folder on District server		