

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

**Proposal Request Information**

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

FOR DISTRICT USE ONLY FINAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED APPROVAL GRADE LEVELS:	9th and up
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**Section I**

To be filled out by Requesting Educator:

**Ia. REQUESTOR AND REVIEW TEAM INFORMATION**

School	RCHS	
Date	August 23, 2024	
Requesting Educator Name	Karen Whitney	
Requesting Educator Email	kwhitney1@dcsdk12.org	
Novel Adoption School Process Manager Name	Jason Parker	
Novel Adoption School Process Manager Email	japarker@dcsdk12.org	
<b>Proposal Review Team Member</b>	<b>Reviewer's Name</b>	<b>Contact Information - email</b>
District Coordinator	Tracie King	tking@dcsdk12.org
Colleague	Alexis Savas	aasavas@dcsdk12.org
Parent #1	Tina Schmidt	tschmidt@dclibraries.org
Parent #2	Melanie Christensen	mgmchristensen@gmail.com

**Ib. BOOK INFORMATION**

Title of proposed book	Fountains of Silence
Author(s)	Ruta Sepetys
Publisher	Philomel Books
Edition	1st

ISBN number	0142423637
Copyright date	2020
Course and/or subject area in which work will be used	English II
Grade level(s)	9th and up
Lexile Level Score (If you are unsure, please visit: <a href="https://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search">https://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search</a> )	HL620L
Dates the book information was displayed at the school and posted on the school's website (2 week min.).	August 26, 2024
Date the book was communicated to the School Accountability Committee?	August 26, 2024

**Ic. NOVEL DESCRIPTION**

*Fountains of Silence* follows Daniel Mattheson, son of a Texas oil tycoon, in Spain during the fascist dictatorship of General Francisco Franco. He is there for the summer and has a passion for telling stories through photography and is hoping to win a photography prize that will earn him a scholarship to a prestigious journalism school in the US. Daniel's photographs leave him with more questions than answers and he leans on his new friend Ana for answers. But because of the nature of a dictatorship, she cannot reveal much to Daniel through words. So he tries to learn about her family and the country's secrets by immersing himself in the community and soon discovers that Madrid is not the bright, beautiful city that he sees. There are many layers to what the people can do and say and even how they can raise their children. He learns a lot about himself and about the nature of freedom as he explores life under the dictatorship of General Francisco Franco.

**Id. ALIGNMENT WITH DCSD'S CURRICULUM**

Please write a detailed description of how the novel **aligns to DCSD's Curriculum - Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) and Essential Skills:**

*(Please cite the specific CAS Grade Level Expectations and if applicable, the Evidence Outcomes (EOs) the novel will help address).*

*Reading: 4. Read a wide range of informational texts to build knowledge and to better understand the human experience.*

*2. Interpret and evaluate complex informational texts using various critical reading strategies.*

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.

*Writing: 1. Write thoughtful, well-developed arguments that support knowledgeable and significant claims, anticipating and addressing the audience's values and biases.*

#### 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

The pitiless dictatorship of Francisco Franco was examined through the voices of four teenagers: one American and three Spaniards.

The Spanish Civil War lasted from 1936-1939, but Franco held Spain by its throat for 36 years. Sepetys (Salt to the Sea, 2016, etc.) begins her novel in 1957. Daniel is a white Texan who wants to be a photojournalist, not an oilman; Ana is trying to work her way to respectability as a hotel maid; her brother, Rafael, wants to erase memories of an oppressive boys' home; and Puri is a loving caregiver for babies awaiting adoption—together they provide alternating third-person lenses for viewing Spain during one of its most brutally repressive periods. Their lives run parallel and intersect as each tries to answer questions about truth and the path ahead within a regime that crushes any opposition, murders dissidents, and punishes their families while stealing babies to sell to parents with accepted political views. This formidable story will haunt those who ask hard questions about the past as it reveals the hopes and dreams of individuals in a nation trying to lie its way to the future. Meticulous research is presented through believable, complex characters on the brink of adulthood who personalize the questions we all must answer about our place in the world.

A stunning novel that exposes modern fascism and elevates human resilience. (author's note, research and sources, glossary, photographs) (Historical fiction. 15-adult)

-Kirkus Reviews starred

##### Review #2

Gr 7 Up—In her latest historical novel, Sepetys illuminates dark secrets about Francisco Franco's fascist rule of Spain. In 1957 Madrid, 18-year-old aspiring photojournalist Daniel Matheson is staying at the luxurious Castellana Hilton Hotel with his Texas oil tycoon father and Spanish mother. Daniel befriends Ana, a hotel employee, whose attraction to Daniel is constrained by fear about losing her job and by silence about her family tragedies. When Daniel turns his camera lens on local people and places, he captures provocative images of nuns and orphans, infant burials, an impassioned, struggling bullfighter, the intimidating Guardia Civil military police, Ana's impoverished homelife, and his father shaking hands with Franco. Gradually, Daniel discovers that beneath the bustling tourist and business vibe of Madrid lurks the dark realities of Franco's regime: stolen children, sinister church and government collusion, murder of Franco's political adversaries, and the abuse and re-education of

surviving children—like Ana and her siblings. Troubled by unanswered questions, Daniel returns to the U.S. with his parents and a newly adopted sister. He revisits Spain with his sister 18 years later, after Franco’s death. As he introduces his sister to her original culture, he fondly reconnects with Ana and learns the truth of his sister’s parentage. This multidimensional story contains a rich cast of characters with different perspectives, vivid descriptions, romance, and cultural insights. Multiple narrative threads are skillfully woven together. Official quotations from academic and foreign service archives are interspersed among the chapters and document the conflicted relationship between the U.S. and Franco. VERDICT This well-crafted story sheds light on a disturbing chapter of 20th century history and helps break the silence and expose the tragedy of 300,000 children adopted or stolen during Franco’s rule.

-School Library Journal Starred Review

### Review #3

It’s 1957 and aspiring photographer Daniel Matheson is visiting Spain with his Texas oil tycoon father. Daniel is eager for the opportunity to flesh out his portfolio for a photography contest—what would be more prize-worthy than photos of daily life in notoriously secretive Spain?—but he gets repeated warnings, some quite aggressive, against looking too closely. Another thing Daniel doesn’t bank on is Ana, an arrestingly beautiful maid at the Castellana Hilton, where he’s staying with his parents. As their affection deepens, so, too, do their differences: Ana, daughter of executed anti-Fascists, lives a tightly constrained existence, and Daniel has unprecedented freedom in her country and can’t quite wrap his head around the danger he puts her in. In another meticulously researched novel, *Sepetys* (*Salt to the Sea*, 2015) offers a captivating glimpse into Franco’s Spain, a region awash in secrets and misinformation. As *Sepetys* slowly unspools hard truths about the era, such as the prevalence of babies stolen from poor, Republican families, the facts become increasingly impossible to ignore, both for the reader and for Daniel. The romance ultimately takes center stage, but the troubling events in the margins add terrifyingly high stakes to Daniel and Ana’s relationship. For all her extensive, careful research (evident in the back matter), *Sepetys* doesn’t overwhelm readers with facts; rather, she tells a moving story made even more powerful by its placement in a lesser-known historical moment. Captivating, deft, and illuminating historical fiction.

- Booklist Starred review

**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 the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Director.**

**IIa. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by requesting educator)**

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
Is appropriate for the <a href="#">following</a> grade level(s) 9-12	Y	9-12 Appropriate for high school students. I plan to use it in my English II classes.
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	No parent permission necessary.
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	It is a coming of age story for the characters as well as a historical description of Spain during the fascist dictatorship of General Francisco Franco. Students can make connections with their own experiences growing up and learn about and make connections to the historical/cultural information.
Actively engages students through the text	Y	Extremely engaging. Sepetys is a vidi storyteller and engages with emotion, life lessons and historically accurate information that readers can relate to.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	The reading is accessible to all students. Some challenging vocabulary and topics, but explained in a way that students can access easily.
Is it in alignment with <a href="#">Board File ADB on Education Equity</a> , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	Provides opportunity to learn about diverse perspectives and historical contexts and develop critical thinking skills while evaluating the choices and experiences of the characters.
<b>Recommend novel for adoption</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**Iib. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by District Coordinator) Tracie King**

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
Is appropriate for the <a href="#">following</a> grade level(s)	Y	The book may be a bit too long for 8th and 9th graders to fully engage.
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	Reviews support the ages of the request.
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	Students can make connections with their own experiences growing up and learn about and make connections with their own experiences growing up and learn about and make connections to the historical/cultural information.
Actively engages students through the text	Y	The book may be too long for 8th and 9th graders to fully engage.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	The book is available in print, ebook, and audiobook format.
Is it in alignment with <a href="#">Board File ADB on Education Equity</a> , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	The book provides opportunities for diverse perspectives and historical contexts and develops critical thinking skills while evaluating the choices and experiences of the characters.
<b>Recommend novel for adoption</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**Iic. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by a colleague) Alexis Savas**

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
Is appropriate for the <a href="#">following</a> grade level(s)	Y	It is appropriate for grades 9+. There is no foul language. There may be some upsetting descriptions of shooting and dead people due to the Franco regime, but the book is historically accurate in the descriptions of historical events.
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	It is a grade level appropriate book that allows for deep historical discussion about a time period in history not often studied.
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	This book is a perfect springboard for discussions about fascism, Spanish history, human rights, and more. It is cross curricular with Social Studies and World Language. There would also be a good discussion to use Picasso’s painting Guernica and to talk about how history influences art.
Actively engages students through the text	Y	I think students will be engaged with this historical fiction story because it is a fast paced story. It opens up some good discussion topics.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	I think yes, but I don’t know if there is a braille, big print, or audio version. If yes to all of those, then yes, the book would be accessible.
Is it in alignment with <a href="#">Board File ADB on Education Equity</a> , AND contributes to an inclusive culture for all students?	Y	This link doesn’t work, but there all students could benefit from how human rights have been violated through history and how dictatorships and regimes have shaped cultures.
<b>Recommend novel for adoption</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes YES (it wouldn’t let me check the box) <input type="checkbox"/> No	

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

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
Is appropriate for the <a href="#">following</a> grade level(s)	Y	It is appropriate for High School
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	No permission needed
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	The historical references in the book are well detailed and students will be able to make connections with the characters
Actively engages students through the text	Y	The author is very accomplished and does a wonderful job giving references to the history that took place.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	The characters are diverse and well rounded
<b>Recommend novel for adoption</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	



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

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
Is appropriate for the <a href="#">following</a> grade level(s)	Y	My own daughter read it in 8th or 9th grade.
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	This is a great story based on true events. Ruta Supety does a lot of research and explains the research at the end of her books. I was flabbergasted to learn what happened in Spain under Francisco Franco and how ruthless he was.
Actively engages students through the text	Y	This author is superb at engaging her readers. She writes for young adults. The characters are well developed and the story line is always moving.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	You can purchase it on Amazon, listen to it on Libby or get it from the Library.
<b>Recommend novel for adoption</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**IIf. EVALUATION of Book (to be completed by Parent #3) Jen Degen**

The proposed novel...	Y/N	Examples/Justification Please be specific and give examples when applicable
Is appropriate for the <a href="#">following</a> grade level(s)	Y	Yes. The content is age appropriate and the main characters are teenagers.
Requires parent permission for students to read the book?	N	High school students are the target audience and content is at the appropriate level.
Allows students to create meaning and make relevant connections to other knowledge and experience	Y	This is a powerful and important piece of historical fiction. Sepetys does an excellent job of weaving factual experiences into an engaging storyline. The characters are flawed and realistic. The themes will allow for deeper discussions and higher level thinking.
Actively engages students through the text	Y	This was a page-turner. Once I started, I could not put it down. The love story was tasteful and kept me emotionally engaged. I was invested in the characters and rooting for them. It strikes a perfect balance between factual and fictional.
Gives an opportunity for all students to access	Y	This book is perfect for reluctant and high readers. It has something for all students. The characters move the story along and the themes are universal. This story encourages empathy and awareness of how difficult life was for Spaniards under the rule of Franco.
Recommend novel for adoption		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> </ul>

**SECTION III: Requestor/Educator & District Coordinator Level Process Review**

**IIIa. Grade Level Recommendations (to be collaborated on between Requesting Educator & District Coordinator 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			KW,tk
1			KW,tk
2			KW,tk
3			KW,tk
4			KW,tk
5			KW,tk
6			KW,tk
7			KW,tk
8			KW,tk
9	KW,tk		
10	KW,tk		
11	KW,tk		
12	KW,tk		

**SECTION V: Signatures/Approvals**

**Va.**

Does the evaluating <i>Educator</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 09 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Educator Signature <u>Karen Whitney</u>		

**Vb.**

Does the evaluating <i>Colleague</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 09 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Colleague Signature <u>Alexis Savas</u>		

**Vc.**

Does the evaluating <i>Parent #1</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 09 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Parent (#1) Signature <u>Tina Schmidt</u>		

**Vd.**

Does the evaluating <i>Parent (#2)</i> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluating Parent (#2) Signature <u>Melanie Christensen</u>		

**Ve.**

Does the evaluating educator's <b>Administrator</b> recommend adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administrator Signature <u>Jeff Seary</u>		

**Vf.**

Does the <b>District Coordinator</b> certify that the information on this form accurately reflects the process followed at the site.	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 09 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District Coordinator Signature <u>Tracie King</u>		

**Vg.**

Does the <b>Director of Library Programming</b> support adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director of Library Programming Signature <u>Tracie King</u>		

**Vh.**

Does the <b>DCSD Cabinet Member</b> support adoption of this book?	YES	NO
Date <u>Oct 11 2024</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DCSD Cabinet Member Signature <u>Matt Reynolds</u>		

**SECTION VI: Superintendent's Approval**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL**

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

**SECTION VII: 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 CIA folder on District server		