

**Township of Union Public Schools
Secondary English Department
Novel Approval Request**

Disclaimer: Because novels are supplementary texts to the unit and teachers are able to use their choice of novels from the approved unit list, department members are encouraged to keep the novel lists modern and appropriate for their current students. This form is a formal request for a novel to be included in the available novel list. **A novel, including the title listed on this form, may NOT be used in a classroom until it has received Board of Education approval AND the curriculum guide is updated to reflect its inclusion.**

Grade Level: 8

MyPerspectives Unit #: 2

Unit Essential Question: How do we remember the past

Title: *Together: A Journey of Survival*

Author: Ann S. Arnold

Genre: Biography

Content/Summary of the Novel: Sala Schonwetter lived the perfect life. Married to the man of her dreams, mother to two beautiful children, and a member of one of the most respected families in town; she had it all. The year was 1939, and the world was about to change. In a heartbreaking instant, she had to trade her life of security, family, and simple pleasures--for one of unspeakable loneliness, hardship, and danger. Nothing more than hunted prey, she relied on her inner strength and indomitable will to keep her children alive. But would it be enough? How far would she have to go, and did she have the resolve to get there? One thing she knew for sure ...she and her children would live or die one way TOGETHER.

How/Where is this novel available to students: Available for sale at all booksellers / budgeted for purchase

Ethnic/Cultural/Gender/etc. Representation: Women, Polish, Judaica

Language/Graphic Content/Controversial Topics/Sexual Content: Mild age appropriate description of the Holocaust and anti semitism.

Briefly describe the potential appeal to the intended audience: The information about World War II given in "The Diary of Anne Frank" and the Unit 2 theme are mirrored in the book in a different format. Mark Schonwetter, the child in the book, has been to Burnet Middle School in the past and is available to speak to students in the future, recounting the experiences detailed in the book. Students will have an opportunity to read in-depth descriptions of real Holocaust survival stories.

Final Rational/Comments/Areas of Concern: All eighth grade English teachers at BMS have expressed an interest in using this book as a read-at-home supplemental book.

By signing this form, I understand the following:

1. I have a personal understanding of this novel and I have identified any concerns there may be regarding appropriateness to the grade level and subject.
2. I understand that this novel may not be used in a classroom until it has received Board of Education approval and the curriculum guide is updated to reflect its inclusion.



Signature of Committee Member

12/4/18

Date



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