



Friday, September 20, 2024

# Instructional Materials Consideration Request Form

## Instructional Materials Consideration Request

Please use this form to submit instructional materials to be considered for adoption by the Instructional Materials Review Committee as outlined in [Board Policy 6161.1](#).

The Board of Trustees believes that instructional materials should be selected and evaluated with great care to effectively support the adopted courses of study and be aligned with the development and evaluation of the District's curriculum and standards. Taken as a whole, District instructional materials should present a broad spectrum of knowledge and viewpoints, reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of our society, enhance the use of multiple teaching strategies and technologies, and comply with current legal requirements.

The Board's priority in the selection of instructional materials is to ensure that all students in grades K-12 are provided with instructional materials that are aligned to state content standards in the core curriculum areas of reading/language arts, mathematics, science, and history/social science.

## Instructional Material Being Submitted for Consideration

**Title**

James

**Author**

Percival Everett

**Publisher**

Doubleday

**Copyright Year**

2024

**ISBN**

0385550367

**Instructional Material Format**

Book

Upload an image of the cover of the recommended text here



## Use of Instructional Materials

School(s): Please select all that apply.

Aliso Niguel High School

Intended Grade Level

11

Title of Course or Subject

AP Language and Composition, English III

Course or Subject Level

Grade Level

What subject(s) will the instructional materials support?

English/Language Arts

Requested recommendation:

Core

Estimated Readability

11th grade

Rationale for adoption

This heartfelt retelling of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is accessible without losing literary merit. It is current, published in 2024, and is now a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. I read it in a day and a half, unable to put it down, and think it is a funny, clever, astute retelling that matches the original in terms of quality. Unlike the original *Huck Finn*, however, this book tells the story from Jim's point of view. It is filled with poignancy, humor, anger, and a pointed commentary on current race issues in America. It occasionally features philosophical debates between Jim and Enlightenment-era thinkers like John Locke, which would be a perfect complement to AP Lang and AP Euro. It also ends on a triumphant note, with Jim successfully rescuing his wife and daughter from slavery and escaping to the north. Jim's compassion and agency are the

cornerstones of the novel, and the shift from Twain's original ending, which is ultimately humiliating for Jim, was a bold but appropriate move.

## Evaluation of Instructional Materials

### Review of Instructional Materials

	Yes	No
Does this instructional material include material or language which might be considered controversial or questionable by any segment of the community?	✓	
Have you compared this instructional material with other appropriate materials?	✓	
Have you reviewed the materials being recommended for adoption in relation to applicable statutes and regulations as listed in Board Policy 6161.1 ?	✓	

### Describe strategies that will be used to address material or language that might be considered controversial or questionable.

AP Lang and English III both already address topics of race and slavery (we read *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*); I think we already have the tools to teach this novel in an impactful way, and it would not replace *Douglass*, but rather help link the text to the present day.

### Rating of Instructional Material (Check the appropriate column)

	Rating	Comments
Subject coverage	Excellent	
Relevance to course of study	Excellent	
Organization of materials for effective learning	N/A	
Material is clearly presented in a suitable and interesting style	Excellent	
Accuracy, up-to-date, qualified authorship	Excellent	
Treatment of controversial issues	Excellent	
Format and durability	Excellent	
Illustrations: Well designed and meaningful	N/A	
Instructional aids: Suggested activities, bibliographies, etc.	N/A	

	Rating	Comments
Citizenship values	Excellent	

## Submitting Individual

### Name of Individual Submitting Materials

Kelsey Torres

### Email of Individual Submitting Materials

katorres@capousd.org

### Role of Individual Submitting Instructional Materials

Teacher

### Submitter Signature

