



Parent Reviews of Considered Instructional Materials

The information below is submitted by each IRC Committee member as a review of the instructional material being considered.

Committee Member Name: Avent, Lisa

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt de la Pena

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	Aa fiction book on survival, told through a young man's view point.
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	Yes
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children?	Not Applicable

8.	For young adults?	No
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	Yes
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	This is a fictional story of a young man. It includes power, class, and race issues. It is a story on survival with a lot of action.

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	Keep



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Committee Member Name: Baum, Carolyn

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt De La Peña

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	Using an action-packed read to highlight racial identity, class/socio-economic issues and divisions, and social injustice
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	Yes
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children?	No

8.	For young adults?	No
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	Yes
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	The story approaches racism, classism, and social injustices head on and highlights how it continues to be embedded in many facets of a modern society, meanwhile it also recognizes the humanity that connects all and the external forces that pit people against one another, highly values family and interpersonal connections and displays cultural identities in a positive way

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	Available for 7th-12th grades



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Committee Member Name: Brooks, Brie

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt De La Pena

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	fiction book that's an on-the-sea survival adventure with a global-disaster wrapped up in a thriller story.
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	No
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	19+
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	No
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	There is violence and language that would only be appropriate for an older reader
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children?	Yes

8.	For young adults?	No
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	No
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	It's a story for entertainment. Perseverance and survival as a side message

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	The story keeps you engaged but the details/violence could be disturbing to some and then the use of profanity just doesn't seem necessary.
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	I would recommend it be thrown out on terms of profanity and keep it out of the classroom as an educational resource.



Parent Reviews of Considered Instructional Materials

The information below is submitted by each IRC Committee member as a review of the instructional material being considered.

Committee Member Name: Cowart, Jami

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt de la Pena

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	The overall purpose is to entertain and provide thrill for the reader.
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	Yes
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	The Living is a thrill seeker that is suitable for young adults. The author is able to include some real life situations while also providing and exciting work of fiction. There is nothing in this book that I would consider inappropriate for young adults.
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that would make this material inappropriate for	No

	children?	
8.	For young adults?	No
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	Yes
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	The overall message, through fiction, is about perseverance and overcoming odds. The main character is from a poor background but gets a job in which he is able to experience a little bit of the life of the wealthy. When they are faced with adversity, they choose not to give up and they fight to find a solution to the predicament they are in. It provides a small glimpse of how some people are stereotyped and judged but it also provides a solution to that when two unlikely sources team together.

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	I think this is a book that would capture a young reader's attention. It was a fast read and the story is exciting.
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	I recommend it remain a resource. The only disclaimer might be for language.



Parent Reviews of Considered Instructional Materials

The information below is submitted by each IRC Committee member as a review of the instructional material being considered.

Committee Member Name: Gonzales, Holly

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt De La Pena

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	A fictional thriller/mystery
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	Yes
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children?	Yes

8.	For young adults?	No
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	Yes
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	Shy feels like he is seen as a lower class citizen but he doesn't let that get in the way of constantly trying to do the right thing.

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	This novel offers diverse characters and an interesting story that will appeal to many young readers.
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	I recommend we keep the book as a resource.



Parent Reviews of Considered Instructional Materials

The information below is submitted by each IRC Committee member as a review of the instructional material being considered.

Committee Member Name: Hale, Heather

Resource Title: The Living

Author:

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	reading
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	Yes
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	This isn't just a suspense book. This book casually deals with some preconceptions of socio-economic status. It doesn't moralize but gently shows it.
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children?	Not Applicable

8.	For young adults?	No
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	Yes
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	mystery, family, responsibility, corruption, survival

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	This is a fun read. I really enjoyed it, and I want to read the sequel. There's not much complexity unless you look at characters making assumptions (which ironically, the main character makes about a minor character, just as he complains about other characters doing to him). And how timely it deals with a pandemic... Students will enjoy this book and the twists and turns. I could see them eagerly engaging in discussions.
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	I highly recommend this book from 8th grade-10th. I don't know if older students would enjoy it quite as much.



Parent Reviews of Considered Instructional Materials

The information below is submitted by each IRC Committee member as a review of the instructional material being considered.

Committee Member Name: Hinders, Tami

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt de la Pena

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	This is a fictional story written for entertainment.
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	Yes
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	9th Grade (14 to 15 years old)
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	Mr. de la Pena represents the voice of LatinX voices in the US. He characters allow students to see themselves in books. His writing is engaging and leaves the reader wanting more. This book appeals to all readers, but especially those who are looking for action/adventure in their reading.
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that	No

	would make this material inappropriate for children?	
8.	For young adults?	No
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	Yes
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	This is a survival story. When all odds stack against the protagonist, he prevails and works to keep others alive, too.

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	One of the things that we are taught, is that if you can get a student hooked on a series, it can lead to a love of reading. This book is continued in the title "The Hunted." It is an engaging story and showcases latinX characters. We need titles that represent all the students in the classroom.
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	Make it available as a resource for the classroom.



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Committee Member Name: Huddleston, Rachel

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt de la Pena

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	The Living offers a gripping tale of survival while weaving through it, lessons of acceptance, family, racism, and doing the right thing. It offers a hispanic voice to students not traditionally provided books that represent their culture and life experience.
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	Yes
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that	Yes

	would make this material inappropriate for children?	
8.	For young adults?	No
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	Yes
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	This is a survival and coming of age novel set against the backdrop of a major disaster and the beginning of a worldwide pandemic. Themes include racism, family, working together, and survival.

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	I did not personally love this book, but many students will. It is highly engaging while being accessible to low and reluctant readers.
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	I would not teach this as a whole-class novel, but it should remain an option for independent reading selections and stay in the library, bookrooms, and class libraries.



Parent Reviews of Considered Instructional Materials

The information below is submitted by each IRC Committee member as a review of the instructional material being considered.

Committee Member Name: Hudson, Serena

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt de la Peña

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	This is a fictional disaster tale with a dash of murder and scientific experimentation gone wrong, all told from the perspective of a Mexican American teenager named Shy Espinoza. After reading it, I have come to the conclusion that it's purpose is entertainment only - there is no educational value in the story.
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Not Applicable
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	Yes
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	The writing very much reflects the intended audience - teenage boys. The main character and narrator, Shy, is fixated on a girl named Carmen, describing her body in lurid detail at one point, including the type of underwear he catches a glimpse of. Shy and his

		friends curse frequently and casually. Excessive attention is given to other female characters, always through the sexual male gaze.
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children?	Yes
8.	For young adults?	Yes
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	No
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	From what I understand the author has written about race and class in other books, but this book is pure entertainment. It is meant to be an exciting adventure tale with bad guys and evil scientists and even some sharks thrown in for good measure. I don't know what message the author is attempting to convey, aside from don't toss your moral compass overboard when all hell breaks loose.
REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS		
11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	I would have this book available in the library but not as an instructional resource. This is not an educational book - I do not see any value in using it in a classroom setting, and the sexual tones and profanity found throughout would be problematic for many parents.



Parent Reviews of Considered Instructional Materials

The information below is submitted by each IRC Committee member as a review of the instructional material being considered.

Committee Member Name: Johnson, Bill

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt de la Pena

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	"The Living" captures social/cultural divides through a thrilling adventure that takes place on a high-end cruise liner. The protagonist is "Shy", a young man newly employed by the cruise line. The ship encounters disaster in the form of a tsunami. Shy diligently does his duty rescuing passengers, even those that were rude to him because of his ethnicity and social status. After days on life boat, he is rescued. Shy must then work with a small group friends to escape from a secret island.
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	Yes
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	9th Grade (14 to 15 years old)
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500	This book is fine for high school students (= young adults). There are

	character maximum)	coming of age concepts, but nothing inappropriate. The language is mild -- it is true to the age of the characters and period represented in the book.
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children?	Yes
8.	For young adults?	No
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	Yes
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	This book addresses race/social/class issues. When stranded on a life boat with Addie, Shy learns that his first opinion of her, which was based largely on her social status, was incorrect. The messages are embedded in an entertaining, thrilling story. It is Novel 1 of 2, so the story doesn't have "full closure". Even so, the concepts and story presented stand alone

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	I was skeptical of this book at first (due to the cover). It turned out to be much better than my initial impressions. It is a quality book. It will appeal to high school students. With parents permission, "The Living" would also be appropriate as an 8th grade resource.
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	"The Living" should absolutely be kept as an instructional resource. It is a coming-of-age "thriller" and will have an appeal that many classics lack, as students will have an easy time relating to the characters. It will broaden students' perspectives -- it let them see/experience/feel "subtle" racism from the perspective of the protagonist. "The Living" is appropriate for high school students.



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Committee Member Name: Mabry, Ashley

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt De La Pena

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	Thriller; Survival Story
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	Yes
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children?	Yes

8.	For young adults?	No
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	Yes
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	At the surface, this is a story of survival, but beyond that, it is also illustrates the classism and racism present in our society. Suffering isn't considered real until it affects the rich, white communities. It also touches on the dangers of corporate greed.

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	This book offers several opportunities for discussion, especially post-COVID. Beyond the themes of survival, classism, and racism, it is a fast-paced plot driven novel that will keep more reluctant readers engaged. Not to mention, the characters are well-developed and relatable.
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	This book is appropriate for use in high school classrooms.



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The information below is submitted by each IRC Committee member as a review of the instructional material being considered.

Committee Member Name: Merriss , Jennifer

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt De La Pena

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	This is a story of a young man working on a cruise ship to earn money to help his family out financially. He's lost one family member to a horrible disease, and now another relative is sick from it as well. Then a massive earthquake hits, and the young man is fighting just to survive.
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	Yes
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence,	Yes

	cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children?	
8.	For young adults?	No
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	Yes
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	This is an intense but entertaining story. It tugged at my heartstrings, made me laugh, and at times shocked me. I absolutely enjoyed this book.

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	I would recommend that this be included for use by high school students.



Parent Reviews of Considered Instructional Materials

The information below is submitted by each IRC Committee member as a review of the instructional material being considered.

Committee Member Name: Morris, Belinda

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt De La Pena

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	Action- packed survival adventure for a high school student and his fellow workers/companions.
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	No
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	10th Grade (15 to 16 years old)
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children?	Yes

8.	For young adults?	No
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	Yes
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	Every person has value and unique abilities. Too often we judge others too quickly.

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	Suitable for older High School Students



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The information below is submitted by each IRC Committee member as a review of the instructional material being considered.

Committee Member Name: Trela, Tori

Resource Title: The Living

Author: Matt de la Pena

#	Question	Response
PURPOSE		
1.	What is the overall purpose of the material or resource? (500 character maximum)	It is a fantastical adventure / action story and it is written in the 3rd person narrative style from the perspective of a young man character. It is an entertaining narrative and geared towards young adult / adolescent readers.
2.	Does this material offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of other populations or groups?	Yes
APPROPRIATENESS		
3.	Is the resource appropriate for the level of students for whom it is intended?	Yes
4.	If marked no, for what age would you recommend this resource?	11th Grade (16 to 17 years old)
CONTENT		
5.	Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the reader/listener/viewer?	Yes
6.	Add any comment you feel justifies your response from the previous question. (500 character maximum)	For high school age students who are drawn to adventure / action stories, this narrative is approachable in reading level and appropriate for maturity of older adolescents.
7.	Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, or other behavior that	No

	would make this material inappropriate for children?	
8.	For young adults?	Yes
9.	Does the story attempt to offer a broader understanding of human behavior?	No
10.	To you, what is the overall message the story is attempting to convey? (500 character maximum)	This book is like Die Hard for adolescents on a boat. It is a fantasy thrill ride and the purpose is for entertainment.

REVIEWS & EVALUATIONS

11.	Do you have any additional comments about the instructional resource? (500 character maximum)	As an instructional resource this book could be used for character study and narrative study for an adventure story genre.
12.	What is your recommendation for the treatment of this instructional resource?	I believe the book should remain as a choice given that it is a story of a specific type and genre that may not otherwise be available for older high school students in the classroom. I believe it should also remain available in the library.