

Arrowhead Union High School
Language Arts Department
Book Rationale

Book Title and Author	<i>Never Fall Down</i> by Patricia McCormick
Course	World Literature
Teachers	Liz Munkwitz & Kari Fellabaum

How is this book particularly appropriate for the students in this course?	<i>Never Fall Down</i> is appropriate for a student taking a World Literature in that it exposes them to one of the world's lesser-known genocides. Many students are only aware of the Hitler's genocide and this book opens their eyes to the fact that this sort of atrocity has happened across the history of the world. The book is written as Arn speaks, so the students have to get used to the region-specific dialect McCormick uses as a way to authenticate this fictionalization of Arn's story. This text serves to expand students' thinking about their world and fosters a global mindset. Students who are working toward their Global Education Certificate will be exposed to a wealth of subjects to explore in their portfolio work.
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How is this book especially pertinent to the objectives of this course and/or unit of study?	Students use this text as a vehicle to study other global genocides and examine the leaders, politics, and cultural ramifications of these tragic periods in history. Students also look into topics like child soldiers, displacement, and refugee camps and study short stories, nonfiction articles, and other media to supplement their study of this book.
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Identify any special problems that might arise and list activities/lessons that will address these issues.	It's possible that some families may take issue with some topics presented in this text (language, violence, graphic descriptions), but the reality is that these issues are a part of our world. We intend to address these issues from an academic standpoint and help students to understand the cultural roots of these problems and possible solutions.
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Provide a summary of the book.	Amazon Summary This National Book Award nominee from two-time finalist Patricia McCormick is the unforgettable story of Arn Chorn-Pond, who defied the odds to survive the Cambodian genocide of 1975-1979 and the labor camps of the Khmer Rouge. Based on the true story of Cambodian advocate Arn Chorn-Pond, and authentically told from his point of view as a young boy, this is an achingly raw and powerful historical novel about a child of war who becomes a man of peace. It includes an author's note and acknowledgments from Arn Chorn-Pond himself. When soldiers arrive in his hometown, Arn is just a normal little boy. But after the soldiers march the entire population into the countryside, his life is changed forever.
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	Arn is separated from his family and assigned to a labor camp: working in the rice paddies under a blazing sun, he sees the other children dying before his eyes. One day, the soldiers ask if any of the kids can play an instrument. Arn's never played a note in his life, but he volunteers.
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List awards or other accolades the book has received.	ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults National Book Award Finalist School Library Journal Best Book ALA Booklist Editors' Choice New York Times Notable
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