

# Williamson County Board of Education

## Standard Operating Procedure

Effective Date: 11/1/2022

4.102p

Committee Checklist for Reconsideration of  
Board Adopted Textbooks, Instructional  
Materials, Supplementary Materials  
(Board Policy 4.401)  
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Title The Boy's War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War

Author/Publisher Jim Murphy / Clarion Books (a Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company imprint)

Type of Resource ELA Text

Copyright Date 1990

### A. Purpose

- What is the overall purpose of the material?

The overall purpose of this book is to build background knowledge for students. This book is about a specific subset of the Civil War and focuses on how boys experienced the Civil War. This book supports both English/Language Arts Standards and Social Studies Standards.

- Is the purpose accomplished?  Yes      No
- Is the material pervasively vulgar?    Yes     No
- Is the material suitable for and consistent with the educational mission of the school?  
 Yes      No

### B. Appropriateness

- Is the material appropriate for the age and maturity levels of the students who may access it?  Yes      No
- Are the illustrations appropriate for the age and maturity levels of the students who may access it?  Yes      No      N/A

### C. Content

- Does the content of the material provide adequate scope, range, depth, and continuity?  
 Yes      No
- Does this material contain literary, historical, and/or artistic value and merit?  
 Yes      No
- Does this material present information not otherwise available?  
 Yes      No

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### D. Reviews/Evaluations

- Does this title appear in one or more reputable selection aids?    Yes     No

If answer is yes, please list title of selection aids and if it was reviewed favorably or unfavorably.

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### Additional Comments:

As a committee we would like to express two additional comments as they relate to Book Reviews and Age Appropriateness/Maturity Level.

1. Book Reviews – Reviews were somewhat limited. Many book reviews listed the recommended age levels as 10-12 years old. Grade levels recommended ranged from 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. As a committee, we had a lot of discussion on what is considered a reputable review.
2. Age Appropriateness/Maturity Level – This book is taught in the spring semester as part of the curriculum. We would encourage teachers to consider class dynamics when teaching this text. Due to this book being taught in the spring semester, it allows more time for teachers to determine and consider their class dynamics when teaching the few difficult topics.

### Recommendation of Committee:

As a committee, we recommend this book remain a part of the curriculum. In doing so, we do highly encourage teachers to consider their class dynamics with this book and with any topic that may be sensitive for students in their class. While our veteran teachers do a phenomenal job of teaching sensitive topics, we would also highly encourage our literacy coaches to meet with any new teachers to do a module study prior to teaching this book.

Date 05/08/2023

Signatures of Committee Members:

Bert Oakley  
Lindsay Wright  
Sarah Clausen  
Kate Patterson

Don Cook  
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