

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MEDIA AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

DISTRICT / SCHOOL MEDIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CHECKLIST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

FICTION

TITLE The Chocolate War  
AUTHOR Robert Cormier

A. PURPOSE

1. What is the purpose, theme or message of the material? How well does the author/producer accomplish this purpose? *The Chocolate War examines the theme of the loss of personal freedom and the abuse of power. It addresses the questions, "Is violence an inevitable response to tyranny? What are the alternatives to violence?"*
2. Does the story have imaginative appeal, and is it suitable for children?  Yes  No  
*The majority of the committee believed the book is well written.*
3. Does the story have imaginative appeal, and is it suitable for young adults?  Yes  No  
If both are marked no, for what age group would you recommend?
4. Will the reading and/or viewing and/or listening to the material result in more compassionate understanding of human beings?  Yes  No
5. Will the reading and/or viewing and/or listening to the material result in more compassionate understanding of cultural conditions?  Yes  No
6. Does it offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of various minority groups?  Yes  No
7. If there are any questionable elements of the story, are they an integral part of a worthwhile theme or message?  Yes  No

B. CONTENT

1. If the story occurs in modern times, does it give realistic picture of life as it is now?  Yes  No
2. Does the story avoid an oversimplified view of life, one which leaves the reader with the general feeling that life is sweet and rosy or ugly and meaningless?  Yes  No
3. When factual information is part of the story, is it presented accurately?  Yes  No
4. Are prejudicial views easily recognizable by the potential reader?  Yes  No
5. Are the concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the potential reader?  Yes  No
6. Do characters speak in a language true to the period and section of the country in which they live?  Yes  No
7. Does the material offend in some special way the sensibilities of women or minority group by the way it presents either the chief character or any of the minor characters?  Yes  No
8. Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, and aberrant behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children?  Yes  No  
*young adults*
9. If there is use of offensive language, is it appropriate to the purpose of the text for children?  Yes  No
10. Is the material free from derisive names and epithets that would offend minority groups?  Yes  No
11. Is the material well written or produced?  Yes  No
12. Does the material make a significant contribution to the history of literature or ideas?  Yes  No
13. Are the illustrations appropriate and in good taste?  Yes  No

*does not apply*