



Office of the Superintendent

DATE: February 2nd, 2023

AGENDA TOPICS: Supplementary Novel for WIS

PRESENTER: Scott J. Booth

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

“Mississippi Trial, 1955”

In accordance with all relevant Education Code and current Board Administrative Regulation 6161.1 and Board Policy 6161.11; following a review and selection process that included approval by the CIA Advisory Committee, and a period of public review; I am pleased to present our recommendation to the Board of the WUSD, the adoption of:

Grade Level: 7-18 (Willows Intermediate School)

Publisher: Penguin Group, 2002

Text/Novel: *Mississippi Trial, 1955*; by Chris Crowe

This historical fiction novel, examines the famous and tragic case of Emmett Till, whose murder was one of the triggers of the Civil-Rights movement. Seen through the eyes of Hiram, he watches a friend, R.C., humiliate 14-year-old Emmett Till, an African-American visitor from Chicago. Doing nothing. Hiram says, “When things are scary or dangerous, it’s hard to see clear what to do.” When Till is brutally murdered, Hiram is sure R.C. is involved. Hiram, a white teenager who has come back to the Mississippi town where his father grew up, is the narrator and the perspective of the white outsider and the layers of his moral reflection make this an excellent examination of a difficult topic. When the case comes to trial, Hiram knows he must face his own trial: can he stand up to evil and do the right thing? Teen readers will find themselves caught up in Hiram’s very real struggle to do the right thing.¹

Dates of Review

- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Advisory (January 17th, 2023)
- Proposed Public Review (January 17th-February 2nd, 2023)

RECOMMENDATION:

Adoption of supplemental novel *Mississippi Trial, 1955*; by Chris Crowe

Thank you!

¹ KIRKUS Review; May 20, 2010; <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/chris-crowe/mississippi-trial-1955/> ; Putnam