



November 17, 2021

Ms. Ebony Langford-Brown,
Executive Director Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Howard County Public School System, Board of Education
10910 Clarksville Pike (Route 108)
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Dear Ms. Langford-Brown:

At your request, the Instructional Materials/Criteria Review Committee met on November 09, 2021, to reevaluate *Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Perez, an approved title in high school media centers. The committee voted to retain this title for media center use in high school media centers. The committee offered the following rationale for its recommendations:

“This book is about a time period and actual events in history.”

“The author captures a historical event while acknowledging the diverse background of its characters and the social struggles they experience.”

Based upon the committee’s recommendation, I support the decision to retain this title in high school media centers.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Czarnecki, Coordinator, Secondary Language Arts.

Sincerely,

William Barnes
Chief Academic Officer

Cc: Ebony Langford-Brown, Executive Director, School Improvement and Curricular Programs
Nancy Czarnecki, Coordinator, Secondary Language Arts
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