



Office of the Superintendent

DATE: March 5th, 2026

AGENDA TOPICS: Supplementary Novels for WHS

PRESENTER: Michelle O'Dell

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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:

Supplementary Novels

1) Grade Level: English 9th-12th Grade (Willows High School)

Publisher: Folger Shakespeare Library, 1992

Text/Novel: *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare

“In *The Merchant of Venice*, the path to marriage is hazardous. To win Portia, Bassanio must pass a test prescribed by her father’s will, choosing correctly among three caskets or chests. If he fails, he may never marry at all.”¹

2) Grade Level: English 9-12th Grade (Willows High School)

Publisher: Penguin Books, 2009

Text/Novel: *Three Cups of Tea (Young Reader’s Edition)* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

“In 1993, after a terrifying and disastrous attempt to climb K2, a mountaineer called Greg Mortenson drifted, cold and dehydrated, into an impoverished Pakistan village in the Karakoram Mountains. Moved by the inhabitants’ kindness, he promised to return and build a school. ‘Three Cups of Tea’ is the story of that promise and its extraordinary outcome.”²

Dates of Review

- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Advisory (January 13th, 2026)
- Proposed Public Review (January 14th-February 12th, 2026)

RECOMMENDATION:

Adoption of supplemental novels and curriculum:

1. *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare
2. *Three Cups of Tea (The Young Reader’s Edition)* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

Thank you!

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https://www.amazon.com/Merchant-Venice-Folger-Shakespeare-Library/dp/0743477561/ref=sr_1_4?adgrpid=188095215082&dib=eyJ2IjojMSI9_9cs7GcDMLz5Oq6l_4Kuxf76oGLOpAv5WxJmRvO_HIkY_s60rFXhoyv6rrPVOGLEeF_1SRcgY_qbrJVMNhp2oFlX3o6AunocIvdvsOrV8k_JDoU_ODn1loz-dbmR_64bF8Nck-WM7HcUP6qz88Z35A2sbuOKzwcKa4AFqFdM8Xv14_6e9liTl7epu5msSUxxOOS-sspEtn883K2SpEr2Fhm9YMHmzReXJOq57xHkO37MJOBuiFvRERKxcAFI11h4pOvYOpGAA4ccRneaWpANOjU&dib_tag=se&hvadid=779632542922&hvdev=c&hvexpln=0&hvlocphy=9032620&hvnetw=g&hvociid=17579614967695322617-&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=17579614967695322617&hvtargid=kwd-313160841263&hydadr=29169_1495623_1_32166&keywords=the+merchant+of+venice+amazon&mcid=64d599601e6d3d63bf6a98d27290f5d8&qid=1771281747&sr=8-4

² <https://www.amazon.com/Three-Cups-Tea-Greg-Mortenson/dp/0141034262#:~:text=Book%20overview,power%20of%20the%20humanitarian%20spirit>