

## WHS Book Rationale

**Title:** *Sold*

**Author:** Patricia McCormick

- **Intended Audience**

College Prep English 10

- **Brief summary and educational significance**

Patricia McCormick is an accomplished young adult author and her 2006 novel, *Sold*, is a National Book Award Finalist, a Quill Award winner and an American Library Association Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults. In her young adult novels, McCormick addresses current world problems with compassion and insight. *Sold* is written in free verse, set in Nepal and is written through 13-year-old Lakshmi's perspective. Lakshmi lives with her family in the mountains of Nepal trying to survive in impoverished conditions. Once her home gets destroyed, her stepfather introduces her to a stranger who promises work as a maid in India. In desperation to help her family survive, Lakshmi agrees and goes to the city to find work. Her promise is a lie and she becomes one of the 12,000 Nepalese young women sold into sex slavery in India each year. The novel focuses on Lakshmi's ability to survive in unimaginable circumstances and her attempt to stay connected with family.

- **Purpose of teaching the work and how it will be used**

This novel is appropriate on a college prep level because its simple plot structure and engaging plot. The book is 222 pages, and narrated in vignettes, so many students find this book accessible to their reading level, engaging and worthwhile. The author, Patricia McCormick, conducted extensive research in Nepal and India, hearing stories first hand, in order to bring attention to this awful practice. This novel, considered world literature, aligns with the curriculum of 10<sup>th</sup> grade English and is a powerful novel that sheds light on a global crisis that is unknown to most teenagers living in Wyoming, Ohio. Within the context of teaching the novel, students will refine research skills and increase their global competency by exploring problematic issues: human trafficking, third world countries, treatment of women, etc. In addition, students will analyze the novel's literary devices appropriate for 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will find this book accessible, engaging and will be able to make an abundance of real-world connections.

- **Potential problems**

Since the story is written in free verse, the words are carefully chosen to convey a gritty, heartbreaking tale. This novel deals with mature themes as Lakshmi is sold into

prostitution by her stepfather. The storyline is intense and impactful, but the details are never sensationalized.

- **Addressing potential problems**

Students will learn about an unfortunate but true global crisis that is occurring around the world: human trafficking. Although the book is a work of fiction, McCormick's extensive research allows her to accurately portrayed life for the thousands of girls sold every year into prostitution- a fictional tale, yet undoubtedly realistic.