**The Selection**

**AUTHOR:** Kiera Cass  
**PUBLISHER:** HarperTeen  
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**GENRE:** Romance  
**SETTING:** This setting is fictional Illea, which was once known as the United States of America.

**SUMMARY:**  
In Illea, citizens are born into and defined by their social class. When Prince Maxon comes of age, the country launches The Selection, a contest which all teenage girls may enter for a chance to become his princess. America is skeptical but applies, hoping to help her family but thus going against her heart.

**BOOK TALK:**  
Every girl dreams of being chosen for the Selection, right? A chance to win the prince’s hand in marriage? Become a princess? Bring wealth to your family? One would have to be crazy to not want that. America, however, does not wish for that. Yes, she is a member of a lower social class, relegated to performing as a musician at events for the upper classes. Nevertheless, as long as she has her family and the love of her life, none of that matters. Or does it?

**BOOK TRAILER:**  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzYBBPjWIIU from HarperTeen

**AUTHOR’S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**  
**AUTHOR’S NAME:** Kiera Cass  
Author’s Website: [http://www.kieracass.com/](http://www.kieracass.com/)

**Other books written by the author:**  
Selection series: *The Elite, The One, The Heir.*  
Other (not in *The Selection* series): *The Siren.*

**SIMILAR BOOKS/BOOKS WITH A SIMILAR THEME:**  
*The Lone City* series by Amy Ewing  
*Delirium* series by Lauren Oliver  
*Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1. Maxon and Aspen: Are these two characters ones that you think of as good guys?
2. Can or should there be a society without documented history? Why or why not? What are the implications--or consequences--of such a society?
3. How do you feel about the whole idea of a “Selection”? Is it beneficial? Harmful? Why?
4. Discuss America’s motives and the financial results or possible consequences for contestants.

ACTIVITIES WITH STANDARDS:

Language Arts

- Write a narrative about The Selection from another contestant’s point of view. (Example: How did Marlee become a contestant? What is Celeste’s home life like?)

  7.RL.3.2 Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a work of literature.

  7.W.3.3 Write narrative compositions in a variety of forms that –
  - Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters.
  - Organize an event sequence (e.g., conflict, climax, resolution) that unfolds naturally and logically, using a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
  - Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
  - Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
  - Provide an ending that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.

Social Studies

- This is a carousel activity. Compare and contrast the current U.S. government with the futuristic Illean government. How are they similar? How are they different? Could something like the Selection ever happen in the present-day United States?

  8.2.3 Examine ways that the national government affects the everyday lives of people of the United States.
8.2.7 Explain the importance of responsible participation by citizens in voluntary civil organizations to bring about social reform.

8.2.9 Explain how citizens can monitor and influence the development and implementation of public policies at local, state and national levels of government.

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ReadFree Online - http://www.5novels.net/fantasticfiction/u6002.html

Book Trailer - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsvKnWOTPMU


Challenging Words

magistrate (p.3)
caste (p.3)
destitute (p. 3)
behoove (p. 65)
solace (p. 72)
vivacious (p. 81)
aversion (p. 90)
barrage (p. 141)
horde (p. 175)
inconsequentia (p. 168, 193)
imperative (p. 217)
commodity (p. 223)
chide (p. 244)
epitome (p. 248)
treason (throughout)