

7/30/22 PES



CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

900 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043
P (904) 336-6500 F (904) 336-6536 W oneclay.net
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
David S. Broskie

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Janice Kerekes, District 1
- Mary Bolla District 2
- Beth Clark District 3
- Tina Bullock District 4
- Ashley Gilhousen, District 5

Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: BRUCE FRIEDMAN
 Phone: [REDACTED] Email: BRUCE.FRIEDMAN@NOLEFTTURN.VS
 Physical Address: [REDACTED]
 City: MIDDLEBORO State: FL Zip: [REDACTED]
 School: RIDGEVIEW etc Grade Level: HS etc Subject: VARIES

- Check as applicable:
- I represent a special interest group named NOLEFTTURN IN EDUCATION FLORIDA
 - I already have a copy of the material
 - I will review the material on-site
 - I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: VARIES

Title: * 10,000 DRESSES
 Author: * MARCUS EWERT ISBN: * 978-1-58322-850-0

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN

2. What is objectionable about the material: specific pages, chapters, language, scenes?
 Attach additional information, if necessary. ~~SEE ATTACHMENT~~

- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT PAGES
- COMMON CORE
- CSE
- SEL
- DEI / CRT / ANTI-POLICE
- SEXUAL CONTENT

SEE ATTACHMENT

3. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material? DAMAGED SOULS

4. For what age group would you recommend this material? ~~ADULT~~ ADULT

5. Is there anything good in this material? NA

6. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: NA

Printed name of Complainant: BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Signature of Complainant: * [Signature]

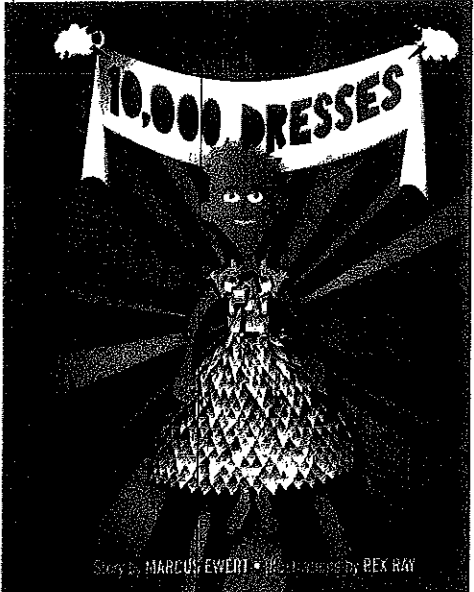
Date: 7/28/2022

Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

Clay County District Schools
Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

- To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:**
- Received in Instructional Resources: Date 11/27/23 by [Signature]
 - Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 4
 - The form was fully completed and accepted: **Yes/No**. If not, why? _____
 - Date Committee convened: _____
 - Committee Members: _____
 - Outcome: _____
 - Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____
 - Additional information: _____

10,000 DRESSES



Book Summary:

A young boy dreams of wearing dresses and eventually does despite his family's protestations.

Summary of Concerns:

This dress contains alternate gender ideologies.

Easy Reader

By Marcus Ewert
ISBN: 978-1-58322-850-0

1 / 5

Child Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating



Page	Content
9	"Bailey, what are you talking about? You're a boy. Boys don't wear dresses!" "But...I don't feel like a boy," Bailey said. ...Bailey went to her room...
15	"Dad, I dreamt about a dress," Bailey said. "Uh-huh," said her father. ..."Bailey, what are you talking about? You're a boy. Boys don't wear dresses!" "But...I don't feel like a boy," she said. "Well, you are one, Bailey, and that's that!"
22	"You dream about DRESSES, Bailey? That's gross. You're a boy!"
28	"You're the coolest girl I've ever met, Bailey!" said Laurel.

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Individual Requesting Review: BRUCE FRIEDMAN
 Phone: [REDACTED] Email: BRUCE.FRIEDMAN@NOLEFTTURN.VS
 Physical Address: [REDACTED]
 City: M State: [REDACTED] Zip: 3
 School: RIDGEVIEW etc Grade Level: HS etc Subject: VARIES

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Type of Instructional Material:

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- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: VARIES

Title: * A certain Slant of Light
 Author: * Laura Whitcomb ISBN: * 0618-58532-X

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN

2. What is objectionable about the material: specific pages, chapters, language, scenes?
 Attach additional information, if necessary. ~~VARIES~~

- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT PAGES
- COMMON CORE
- CSE
- SEL
- DEL/CRT/ANTI-POLICE
- SEXUAL CONTENT

SEE ATTACHED

BAD SERIES

3. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material? DAMAGED SOULS

4. For what age group would you recommend this material? ~~ADULT~~ ADULT

5. Is there anything good in this material? NA

6. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: NA

Printed name of Complainant: BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Signature of Complainant: * [Signature]

Date: 7/28/2022

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Clay County District Schools
Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:

Received in Instructional Resources: Date 8/17/23 by [Signature]

Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 4

The form was fully completed and accepted: Yes/No. If not, why? _____

Date Committee convened: _____

Committee Members: _____

Outcome: _____

Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____

Additional information: _____

39. A Certain Slant of Light

<http://titlepeek.fsc.follett.com/tp/query?action=3&subnumber=4300235&isbn=061858532X&apid=4>

Goodreads Reviews: I REALLY wanted to like this book. Up until page 53 or so, I really DID like this book. Interesting premise, and for once, it seemed like young adult literature actually written intelligently and almost poetic in places.

I don't know what happened after that. It almost seemed like another author picked up the book to finish it. In all fairness, I only read to page 94. By that point, the secondary characters had pretty much ruined the book for me. I understand that the characters in question are supposed to be horrible, abusive people, but I really don't enjoy reading the f-word every other paragraph. Also, all of the lewdness with Mitch's friends was entirely unnecessary. I skimmed ahead, hoping the book would return to the style in which it started, only to run across a fairly explicit sex scene between the two main characters.

I know that everyone says that kids these days know all about sex, talk about it, and all too often participate in it, but quite frankly, it is appalling to me to find a sex scene like that in a YOUNG ADULT novel. So kids hear about it from their lewd friends in school...does that mean that Young Adult authors have to encourage that?? It was so sad to see an author with true promise completely ruin this book.

Barnes and Noble Review:

Anonymous - Ok i liked this book but didn't love it because the publishers classified it incorrectly. As a teen book its not for anyone under 17.

Amazon Review:

Gina **Hate It**

Okay, before I say what I don't like about this book, I have to say that it has a great premise. The thought of a story about a lost ghost who meets and falls for a living person is a great idea. But there are a lot of things that I'm not okay with.

The first thing is that this book is unbearably slow. Sometimes I felt like the story wasn't going anywhere and that the author spent so much time on one little topic. I often found myself getting bored throughout the whole book and wanting to put it down. Another thing that I'm not really okay with is that Helen and James seem to fall in love very quickly even though they barely know each other. And I know that Helen used to live a long time ago when relationships went at a faster pace then they do today but I still don't buy that the two had some sort of love at first sight kind of thing. Third, the fact that Helen is willing to take over the body of somebody who is alive annoys me. Like another time in this book that I'll mention later, she has no regards to Jennifer and only thinks of herself when inhabiting Jennifer's body. James makes it seem like it's an okay thing to do as long as they "don't have the will to live" or something like that. So getting back to the other thing I was talking about how Helen has no respect for Jenny. On the first day that she goes to school as Jenny her and James sneak up to the tower that's well hidden from other people I guess. *And then her and James proceed to have sex while Helen is in Jenny's body and James is in the teenage boy's body. And in the middle of it James asks if this was Helen's first time having sex. Helen says no James asked if this was Jenny's first time having sex and Helen doesn't know. But considering that Jenny comes from an extremely religious household it is obvious that Jenny was still a virgin before then. Helen and James had no regards to the fact that they were having sex in other people's bodies. They have no respect towards the people they are inhabiting. And it's not like they even feel bad about it afterwards when they realize that Jenny was still a virgin. In fact they continue to have sex several times throughout the rest of the novel.*

And then at the end of the book we find out that Jenny is only 15 years old and the guy that James is inhabiting it's like 17 or 18 years old. Helen didn't even bother to figure out how old this girl is before she went and inhabited her. Plus Helen makes a mess of Jenny's life. She gets on her parents' bad side and causes her parents to lose trust in Jenny. Plus she almost ruined a marriage between her teacher and his wife. And unsurfaced Jenny's father's affair.

I could go on and on about what I find problematic about this book, but I don't want to turn this into a dissertation so I'll stop here. But if I could give this 0 Stars I would. This is one of the worst books I've ever read and that's saying a lot because I rarely ever dislike a book that I read.

07/30/22 WES



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Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: BRUCE FRIEDMAN
 Phone: 917 734 3706 Email: BRUCE.FRIEDMAN@NOLEFTTURN.VS
 Physical Address: 3933 TRAIL RIDGE RD
 City: MIDDLEBURG State: FL Zip: 32068
 School: RIDGEVIEW etc Grade Level: H.S etc Subject: VARIES

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named NOLEFTTURN IN EDUCATION-FLORIDA
- I already have a copy of the material
- I will review the material on-site
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Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: VARIES

Title: * A family is a family is a family
 Author: * Sara O'Leary ISBN: * 978-1-55498-794-8

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN

2. What is objectionable about the material: specific pages, chapters, language, scenes?
 Attach additional information, if necessary. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT PAGES

COMMON CORE

CSE

SEL

DEL / CRT. / ANTI-POLICE

SEXUAL CONTENT

SEE ATTACHED

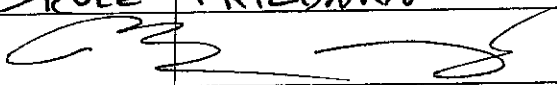
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Printed name of Complainant: BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Signature of Complainant: * 

Date: 7/28/2022

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Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:

Received in Instructional Resources: Date 1/17/23 by [Signature]

Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 3

The form was fully completed and accepted: Yes/No. If not, why? _____

Date Committee convened: _____

Committee Members: _____

Outcome: _____

Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____

Additional information: _____

ANON:

1.0 out of 5 stars Possibly the worst book I've ever seen. It actually stigmatizes family differences.

Reviewed in the United States on March 10, 2022

Horrible book. It actually does more to further stigmatize family differences! For example, the single mother "ordered him online" and the picture shows he was delivered by UPS in a box. This is a hideous narrative for children who don't come from "standard" families. It is exactly the opposite message that a child should hear (that they were loved, and wanted, not bought). Also, the one page about how families may (or may not) look alike chooses to talk about a family that looks...ALIKE! You'd think it would be about how they look different. It says "we all look alike in my family. we just kind of go together". With NO counterpart like another family that might say "OUR family looks DIFFERENT, but we're still a family". How did this book get published?? It seems like it's a book pretending to be about diversity but written by someone who wants all families to look alike and stigmatize those who don't. But the publisher didn't actually read the book to catch it. I've never written a review before but had to for this offensive and utterly confusing book that has the opposite message of what the title suggests.

3 people found this helpful

Helpful

[Report abuse](#)

ANON:

1.0 out of 5 stars I didn't realize that this book talks about same sex ...

Reviewed in the United States on December 27, 2017

I didn't realize that this book talks about same sex couples. Had I known that, I wouldn't have bought it.

10 people found this helpful

Helpful

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 City: M State: FL
 School: RIDGEVIEW etc Grade Level: H/S etc Subject: VARIES

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Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: VARIES

Title: * A good kind of trouble
 Author: * Lisa Moore Ramee ISBN: * 978-0-06-283268-7

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN

2. What is objectionable about the material: specific pages, chapters, language, scenes?
 Attach additional information, if necessary. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
- PAGES
- COMMON CORE
- CSE
- SEL
- DEI / CRT / ANTI-POLICE
- SEXUAL CONTENT

SEE ATTACHED

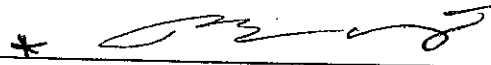
3. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material? DAMAGED SOULS

4. For what age group would you recommend this material? ~~ADULT~~ ADULT

5. Is there anything good in this material? NA

6. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: NA

Printed name of Complainant: BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Signature of Complainant: * 

Date: 7/26/2022

Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

Clay County District Schools
Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:

Received in Instructional Resources: Date 1/17/23 by [Signature]

Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 3

The form was fully completed and accepted: **Yes/No**. If not, why? _____

Date Committee convened: _____

Committee Members: _____

Outcome: _____

Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____

Additional information: _____

The following book that I am going to discuss is a book that is in the Gull Lake DEI book club for 7th graders to read.

Title: "A Good Kind of Trouble"

By: Lisa Moore Ramee

Here is a short introduction. The book is about a young black girl named Shayla who starts Junior High. It is set during a time when a black man was shot by a police woman. This shooting prompts Shayla to try and understand more about what she could do to bring attention to blacks being shot by police for no reason.

This book is supposed to help students at GL understand Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). But instead it invokes that because someone is White they have privileges that Blacks, Asians and Mexicans do not. It implies that police are trained to go after Black and Brown people and that all cops are bad. The teachers in this book reveal their political views to students, which in my mind should never happen no matter what view they have. Encourages students that conducting political protests at school is ok. It also encourages violence when you feel something is unjust. It clearly separates the whites from the Mexican's, Blacks and Asians in the end. How does this promote DEI? This is teaching kids that it is ok to think about the color of one's skin and not the content of their character.

Below is a small sampling of the how I came to this conclusion:

CRT

1. It references "White Privilege" often.
2. Page 23: Ms. Jacobs, a teacher, has the students writing an eyeball journal. One of the teachers suggested writing about Race factoring into police activity.
3. Page 41: Shayla asks her mom if police hate us, black people? Her mom states: " Okay,if you eat unhealthy food for a long time, you're going to be unhealthy right? Well, for too long people have been fed a diet about Black folks. About folks with brown skin. Making them think we're scary. And that's how the police have been trained to act".
4. Page 63: Ms. Jacobs states: "Injustice usually makes people angry. Some people are confused about why businesses get vandalized in protests. That can seem wrong. But I'm not sure what is the right way to act if people in your community seem to be unfairly targeted by police".
5. Chapter 25 promotes protesting on school grounds. (making any kind of political statement within the schools should never be allowed by anyone)
6. Page 203: Shayla's sister says that when black people get shot for no reason it makes her angry and makes her want to do something violent.
7. Page 209: Shayla and her family are at a silent protest and someone drives by and yells "All Lives Matter" and Shayla states they are against them.
8. Page 266: BLM protestors block off a highway and Shayla asks her dad if that was illegal. He states: " Yes. Technically. But sometimes you have to do something that's wrong in some people's eyes but is morally right".
9. Page 314: Another black person is shot and referenced it was for no reason without giving more details that led to the shooting.
10. In the end of the book it shows that the Asians, Mexicans and Blacks unite for BLM but for some reason not one single white person does.



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Physical Address: 3933 TRAIL RIDGE RD
City: MIDDLEBURG State: FL Zip: 32068
School: RIDGEVIEW HS... Grade Level: HS... Subject: VARIES

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named NO LEFT TURN IN EDUCATION
- I already have a copy of the material
- I will review the material on-site
- I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: VARIES

Title: A LITTLE PIECE OF GROUND
Author: ELIZABETH LAIRD ISBN: 978-1-931859-38-7

NOTE: Requests may be returned if questions 1, 2, and 3 do not include a detailed response.

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN!

2. Does this material violate F.S. Chapter 847 regarding Obscenity? Circle one: YES/NO NO
If YES, please explain in Question 3.

3. What is objectionable about the material? Include specific pages, chapters, language, scenes, etc., in your response. Attach additional information, if necessary.

VILE ANTISEMITIC ANTI-ISRAEL RUBBISH!

CRT - IF IT'S A THEORY, IT SHOULD WITHSTAND SCRUTINY.

SEE ATTACHED

4. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material? DAMAGED SOULS!

5. For what age group would you recommend this material? ADULT

6. Is there anything good in this material? NA

7. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: NA

Printed name of Complainant: BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Please do not forget to sign, as forms without signatures may be returned.

Signature of Complainant: [Signature]

Date: 1/11/2023

Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

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900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:

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The form was fully completed and accepted: **Yes/No**. If not, why?

Date Committee convened: _____

Committee: _____

Outcome: _____

Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____

Additional information: _____

Author: Elizabeth ... Submitted by: Maria Garcia | 111 Views | Add a Review

Please fill next button if you encounter an empty page

Light Font Text size

Part 1

< Prev Page

Next Page >

Next Page >

Chapter One

Karim sat on the edge of his bed, his head framed by the mass of soccer posters that covered the wall. He was frowning at the piece of paper in his hand.

The ten best things that I want to do (or be) in my life, he had written, by Karim Aboudi, 15 Jaffa Apartments, Ramallah, Palestine. Carefully, he underlined it.

Underneath, in his best handwriting, he listed:

1. Champion soccer player of the entire world (even I can dream).
2. Extremely cool, popular, and good-looking and at least six feet, two inches tall (or taller than Jamal, anyway).
3. The liberator of Palestine and a national hero.
4. Famous TV presenter or actor (famous, anyway).
5. Best-ever creator of new computer games.
6. My own person, allowed to do what I like without parents and big brothers and teachers on my back all the time.
7. Inventor of an acid formula to dissolve reinforced steel as used in tanks and helicopter gunships (Israeli ones).
8. Stronger than Joni and my other friends (this is not asking much).

He stopped and began to chew the end of his pen. In the distance, the sound of an ambulance siren wailed through the afternoon air. He lifted his head and stared out of the window. His eyes, large and dark, peered out from under the straight black hair that framed his slim, tanned face.

He started writing again.

9. Alive. Plus, if I have to get shot, only in places that heal up. Not in the head or spine, inshallah.
- 10.

But number ten defeated him. He decided to keep the slot free in case a good idea came to him later.

He read through what he'd written and sat for a while, tapping the end of the pen against the collar of his striped sweatshirt, then he took a fresh sheet of paper. More quickly this time, he wrote:

The ten things I don't want to do (or be)

1. Not a shopkeeper like Baba.
2. Not a doctor, like Mama keeps saying I should. (Why? She knows I hate blood.)
3. Not short.
4. Not married to a girl like Farah.
5. Not shot in the back and stuck in a wheelchair for the rest of my life like that boy who used to go to my school.
6. Not covered in zits like Jamal.
7. Not having our house flattened by Israeli tanks and ending up in some lousy tent.

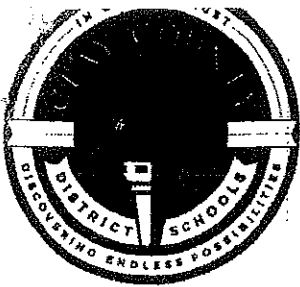
GO BACK TO JORDAN!

SPEW HATE

WHY

DON'T BE A TERRORIST

CAN WE DISCUSS WHY? NO = CRT



Hand Delivered

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

David S. Broskie

BOARD MEMBERS:

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Beth Clark, District 3

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 Phone: [REDACTED] Email: BRUCE.FRIEDMAN@NOLEFTTURN.US
 Physical Address: [REDACTED]
 City: [REDACTED] State: FL Zip: [REDACTED]
 School: MIDDLEVIEW HS... Grade Level: HS... Subject: VARIETIES

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named NO LEFT TURN IN EDUCATION
- I already have a copy of the material
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Type of Instructional Material:

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Title: A SONG BELOW WATER
 Author: BETHANY C MARROW ISBN: 978-1-25031532-8

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2. Does this material violate F.S. Chapter 847 regarding Obscenity? Circle one: YES/NO
 If YES, please explain in Question 3. NO

3. What is objectionable about the material? Include specific pages, chapters, language, scenes, etc., in your response. Attach additional information, if necessary.

CRT

SEE ATTACHED
RACISM, RACIST MICROAGGRESSIONS, LATINX RACIAL PROFILING, CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT, SELF-HARM, ATTEMPTED SUICIDE, SCARS, DEATH, EXTENSIVE PROFANITY, POLICE VIOLENCE, ANTI-POLICE SENTIMENT, BLACK VICTIMHOOD, KIDNAPPING, BULLYING

4. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material?

DAMAGED SOULS

5. For what age group would you recommend this material? ADULT

6. Is there anything good in this material? NA

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YOUNG BLACK
(Secretly magical.)

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PROBLEMATIC

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Author of 'Take The Mic' was challenged in CSSD for CSE/CAT/GENDER EQUITY/ANTI-H

This is a work of fiction. All of the characters, organizations, and events portrayed in this novel are either products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously.

A SONG BELOW WATER

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To Jennifer, my Effie

I'm not a siren. I just know what I pick up from Tav, and she's not totally sure she knows how this whole searching-for-siren-gramma ritual is supposed to work. All I know right now is that she looks more traumatized than victorious. Like, even before I get to her, I can tell something's really wrong. She might be trying to become the wall, the way she's pressed into it.

They said she was like me. Tavia signs when I get closer.

When she defaults to ASL, I know there's a problem. It means her siren call is close to sliding free—or she's afraid it is, anyway. It means the safest thing for her to do is not to speak. When that happens, I try not to speak either, we sign. I've got my swim bag in one hand, and the other one's still checking that all my twists are safely bound inside my wrap and completely out of sight, so I have to respond out loud.

"What?" I ask, and even though it isn't my voice that has power, the sound of it makes Tavia shiver and she waves me even closer.

They said she was like me, she signs again, and when she swallows I can't help but remember how she said it feels when she's scared to speak out loud.

The inside of her throat must be burning. It must feel tight and tense, like a rubber band stretched too far. She told me once that it's like choking on a rock of fire that refuses to melt down, and that must be why she's teary-eyed.

"Who did?" I ask when my hands are free, but I mouth it too, the way I do at the Renaissance faire when me and the few other cosplay mermaids are in our tanks.

Tav reaches out and pulls me in before spelling Rhoda's name against my chest. When she's done, she just stares at me with these pleading eyes. Like I'm the strong one. Like she's not the one teaching *me* how to keep it together.

Like I haven't been waiting all day for the right time to tell her I'm having nightmares again. The swim was supposed to give me the courage, because the water's the only thing that does.

But now Tavia needs *me*. So I do what I do best; I sputter. I

open my mouth and just make generally unintelligible sounds like I sometimes do in class, hoping someone bails me out before I shrivel up and die.

Tavia knows my tricks.

She mouths my name once, then widens her eyes for emphasis—and that's when I remember who Rhoda Taylor is. That her boyfriend's going on trial for her murder, and that no one's ever mentioned her being a siren before. They've barely mentioned her at all.

"Is she?" I ask her. Like an idiot.

C'mon, Effie. That is *not* the point.

I expect Tav to gesture wildly, sign that she doesn't know or that I'm a jerk for thinking it matters. Instead she does something worse. She deflates, shrugging one shoulder like she doesn't have the energy to lift both.

"C'mon," I say, weaving my fingers through hers, and walking my sister around the puddles and the pool. I don't do a last sweep to find out if Wallace is still around. Tav and I just walk straight through the lobby, into the light rain.

We don't even break into a half-hearted jog or cover our hair. Mine's already in a wrap, but Tavia doesn't squeal or throw her hands up like they'll offer any substantial shelter. If the flax seed gel isn't enough to keep her coils from frizzing, it'll be okay. Her top knot'll still stay. Camilla taught her well.

When we're sitting in my car, we're holding hands again. Tavia sighs so I know she feels safe to speak.

"Does it still hurt?" I ask her.

"A little," she says, and almost grimaces. "But it's probably in my head."

She's touching her keloid so I'm not sure she's even talking about the fire in her throat. The scar is definitely too old and too healed to cause her pain anymore.

"This sucks."

"Yeah," I whisper through an exhale.

"This sucks."

SIGN LANGUAGE

WOUND FROM SELF-HARM
FREQUENT
PROFANITY

"A siren made me do it" is a pretty strong defense, I guess, even if the siren's the one who ends up dead.

"Anyway," I take a deep breath and look back out the window, "He hasn't gotten away with murder yet."

I don't say that I've always hated the way Siren Trials makes it sound like sirens were the perpetrators and not the victims. Despite my mom's advice, I don't tell the group how my stomach's too upset to eat solid food either. I don't tell them that even though we're intentionally saying her name and refusing to join the media in repeating her killer's, I'm already starting to cringe at the sound of Rhoda Taylor's name, and how that makes me feel like human garbage but I can't help it because I'm terrified of what could happen to me if the wrong person finds out what I really am.

I also don't bother saying that I've been looking for Gramma, or why. That it's not the first time I've tried to silence my siren voice, and that last time didn't go very well.

Why bother. Why get anyone else's hopes up when I still don't know what finding Gramma would accomplish. I don't know that there's a way to purge my voice of power, or if she'd even approve. After sirens lost their lives lending their voices to a cause, maybe my grandmother would be disappointed in me. I haven't thought that far ahead.

I swallow everything I'm not telling them and rejoin a conversation that's shifted to the upcoming competition. It's not long until, through the wall made equally of window, I see our missing member crossing the choir room to the emphatic delight of the class, whom Mrs. Cordova gives a bit of leniency until Naema has acknowledged them and disappears behind the solid door of our practice room. A rapping follows, and then she lets herself in.

"Sorry, sorry!" Naema's entrance here is received pretty much exactly as it was by the rest of the choir. There's no need to bat her naturally curled eyelashes or bat aside some of her unnaturally straightened hair. "I am so sorry," she says, and she beams this

perfect smile over us like she knows she doesn't have to be. "Did we already warm up?"

"We wouldn't start without you," Porsha says through a beaming smile.

"I am so sorry." Naema says again, only now she's holding the small silver bell at the end of her necklace with both dark, berry-brown hands. It's pretty obvious what she's about to say, or what the subject will be, anyway. "Principal Kelly asked a couple of us to welcome a new eloko, and I just completely lost track of time."

"There's a new eloko student?" Porsha is practically bouncing, and even those with more self-restraint have wide, wonder-filled eyes.

"One more for the roster," Naema says, sliding her bell charm back and forth along her necklace chain as though to make sure we haven't forgotten that she's one, too. "We're taking over!"

And everyone laughs. Which is the opposite of how they'd react if I'd said it. They're my network, but none of us are immune to the public distrust of sirens. Even though I depend on them to help me stay safe, to give me a place to siren call, I still don't think that joke would've gone over well coming from me.

My problem is that for a long time sirens have been Black women. Not just mostly. Exclusively. Now that it's just us, the romance is dead. Instead of inspiring songs and stories, now our calls inspire defensive anger. Our power's not enchanting or endearing anymore; it offends.

Once on par with elokos, all that changed long before I was born. Now the consensus is clear: the world is better off when we're silent, and if the system skews toward making that happen—if Rhoda Taylor's just another in a long list of victims whose pain or death seem justified by her identity . . .

Well. Everybody's safer for it.

Sirens might be exclusively Black women, but all Black women aren't sirens. We're not even *only* sirens. Naema, for instance, is a different kind of different—one that manifests in any and every

FOR SIRENS
"SIRENS
REARS
BLACKS
THIS
IS
CR

MENTALITY "CR
VICTIM



and it meant I didn't have to. He was the teacher, so, at least on that topic, I didn't have to educate my peers. He became the best teacher I've ever had with that one class period, and I seriously doubt anyone's gonna top that.

Still, as much as I think the real Mr. Monroe is everything, I'm not sure I agree with his imaginary analysis of my "sunshine." There's a lot he doesn't know: For one thing, that "agency" — we're always debating in fictional characters? I displayed mine by concocting a story to hide behind. I figured out that *not* using my siren calls at all is not an option. I tried that. It almost cost my family everything. But I also can't always have a choir entourage, and sometimes the call rises, replacing my human voice, and if I open my mouth, it's coming out.

So, I took a page from my parents. Without my consent, they came up with a cover story to explain the belt I tied around my neck in sixth grade; I came up with a cover story to explain why I sometimes lose my voice. Why I need to use ASL sometimes, and why I need an interpreter. — OK-ISM

I got what I wanted when I stumbled on a disorder called spasmodic dysphonia, but... I'm not sure that counts as agency. And it sure doesn't feel like "sunshine." It doesn't feel like "illumination" and "warmth," not always. Most of the time, it just feels like surviving.

As random as it sounds, it's Camilla Fox that makes me feel both awake and at peace. She was the first natural-hair diva I found when I decided to take my hair care into my own hands (literally), and she's still my favorite. Her perfect lips are always some gorgeous matte, her septum piercing is real and forever gleaming, she basically looks eternally like some envy-inducing photo from Afropunk, and I am obsessed.

She's everything I want to be when I grow up, everything a lot of Black girls want to be.

She deals with her fair share of drama, and she taught me the L.O.C. method of hydrating my hair, so if "agency" is breaking the rules, I'm gonna use it for Camilla. For my sanity, really.

I've already pulled up her latest video when a few more classmates wander into Mr. Monroe's room. I glance up and give an acknowledging smile to the two Jennifers and Altruism.

"Whatcha watching?" Allie comes around to peer over my shoulder. We're not close anymore, but when I moved to PDX the summer after sixth grade, Altruism was my first friend. Back when she went by Allie. It was easy then; her dad's Latinx, so even though her mom's white, they were the only other family of color in our neighborhood, and no one had to tell us what that meant. We just knew it was nice to see each other on the hill.

Nothing happened, we just made other friends and grew up, and while her world can get as big and unwieldy as she wants, I've got to keep mine under strict control. While she can date whenever and whomever she pleases—even if it's just the same person repeatedly, which in her case it is—I've seen how close I get to telling on myself when I'm in love.

Or whatever I was in.

"Hair vid," I say because no one in this room, or maybe the entire IB track, would know Camilla Fox's name.

"What's a hair video?" one of the Jennifers asks, and both of them join Altruism behind me.

"It's a video tutorial that teaches you how to do your hair," I answer while we all stare down at Camilla, who's talking about how she got two perfectly symmetrical braided buns while wearing rainbow overall shorts over a flowy-sleeved crop top.

Ugh. She's so dope.

"That's wild." It's a Jennifer again. "I didn't know people needed to be taught how to do their own hair."

"That's because all of mainstream media has been a white-girl hair tutorial all of your life," Allie says. "It's invisible to you."

"Wait, is that for real?" A symphony of bangles chime before a finger jabs in from behind me and accidentally pauses the video.

"She legitimately has millions of subscribers! She's famous!"

"Yeah." I unpause it. "She's kind of a big deal."

"I've never even heard of her!"

NO. IT
ALMOST
PEOPLE
PEOPLE
SHELL
I
MAYBE

RACIST
KUBBISH

finds my kit and hands it over, settling against the passenger door to watch me prepare. If she were anyone else, my scalp would be on fire and my skin would feel parched to cracking. It's Tavia, though, so under her watch, I apply my scales.

I don't wear makeup—I've never beat my face to the gods or whatever—but I don't set foot on the fairegrounds without a hint of Euphemia. I won't be in the water today, and there'll be no audience, so instead of my appliques, I brought along my scallop stencil and highlighter. Within seconds, Tav's cooing and wiggling in her seat.

"Not too much for setup," I say, dusting my cheekbones and temples a couple of times before handing the supplies back and gesturing for the final piece.

"Your potion, m'lady," Tavia says when she hands over the jewelry.

"Mer-lady!" I correct her, and Tav bursts into laughter the way basically no one else ever does when I make a joke. At this rate, my face is gonna be sore from smiling.

I clasp the chain around my neck and then hold the mini apothecary jar between my finger and thumb. The label is yellowed, but the calligraphy is elegant. I can't help but sigh at the sight.

It's land-walking potion. A gift from Elric, so that we can spend time together outside the Cove. Anytime I'm not wearing one of my tails, I'm walking the grounds with my betrothed, wearing a simple white peasant's dress—and my bare feet.

When Mom gave me my first land-walking potion, I broke character. I was so shook by the suggestion that I gaped at her, reminded her how she told me only white kids are allowed to run around barefoot.

That was in the real world, she told me. "Out there," which is what she always called it. Like in our hearts we were always in the Renaissance faire, and only the two of us knew it. (Besides, the grounds are mostly plush, lovely grass, and I always end up back in the water.)

I uncork the bottle and take what amounts to four drops of sugar water on my tongue.
I'm ready.

The park is beautiful. The grounds are so green, they look ripe. Tech hands are wearing present-day electric tools in their belts, but underneath them are long skirts or men's boots that rise to mid-thigh.

I smile when I hear my name—Euphemia—and I sign a few greetings, like my voice isn't land-ready yet. (I always try to keep them wanting.)

Really, I'm looking for Elric. I spy his father's storefront, a polished wood frame with an open roof above the forge. Attached, the matching wood of a vendor's counter, and beside all of it, the blacksmith's tent.

There's a temporary addition to the wood-burned sign.

"And son," I read the cloth out loud. I'm holding my potion jar before I notice. "Elric's made second smith."

I always enjoy the story of Euphemia and Elric, but once I'm on the fairegrounds, I get downright swoony. I haven't even been to the Cove yet, but I grab Tavia's hand and take a spin around the fairegrounds. My excitement is only slightly deflated when I've snaked between the stands and tents and back and forth along the main way and there's no Elric to be found.

"I guess we missed him," Tav says.

"I guess."

"I bet he left something for you at the Cove."

I give her a smirk. She knows him almost as well as I do. Now that we live together, she's gotten to see every gift he's left on our doorstep and every letter I've received in the mail. It starts up about this time every year, two weekends before opening day. He always makes sure our paths don't cross, but Elric leaves notes, potions, or handmade gifts on our porch before stealing away into the night. They'll all come to live here, come opening day. I'll bring my cassone to display beside my

a witch hunt," she said, easy as pie. I can't imagine looking like I do and having said that—let alone what she said next. "The sirens that were outed could've been killed, some of them were. What about the fact that to this day sirens have a shorter life expectancy once revealed? They're disproportionately represented in arrests, traffic stops—and they make up a tiny percent of the population. It doesn't make sense."

I stared at her. Not because she's an eloko, either. Unfortu-

nately, it was like Ms. Fisher hadn't heard a word. "Listen." She propped a hip on the edge of her desk. She was all in now. If ever a movie was made about her impact through teaching, this was gonna be the watershed moment where she really woke us up. "I'm not condoning that. No one is."

Except obviously *someone* was, all the time.

"You're sort of mixing apples with oranges, but as far as the witch hunt goes, that's serious. We're talking about something that has been compared to Salem. It was a dark moment in our history. But if we'd never gone through that we wouldn't have ended up here, creating solutions."

The room was a mix of agreement and uncomfortable silence. At least I hope someone besides me was uncomfortable. I knew what "solution" she was referring to, I just hoped she wouldn't say it. But this is Ms. Fish.

"There are sirens who agree with me, you know. What's her name?" She snapped her fingers. "She's on that reality show?"

Lexi.

A few people plus Ms. Fisher said the name at once before someone blurted out how hot the woman in question is.

"What's important is that she wears a dampening collar of her own free will, so her call doesn't give her any unfair advantage," Ms. Fisher said. "And you know what? That's something I respect. Let's make the playing field level."

When she scrawled the words "SPEAK SIREN" on the board, a jolt went through my body. The next few moments, everything she said sounded strange—and not just because it was hot gar-

OUT
PACIST

It was like my ears were packed, or like I was underwater. Her voice pulsed so that I could almost... sense it. When other people spoke, their voices were the same, except the pulses were distinct. I could tell them apart.

This was a new level of anger, sound distortion. Add that to the list of strange hallucinations and "probably eczema."

"I've heard you kids saying, 'Speak, siren' in these halls," Ms. Fisher was saying, even though she absolutely had not. It's one of those things attributed to teenagers that nary a real-life teen would say. But the truth didn't matter as much as being extra, so she kept going. "I get it. I totally get it. We should all speak like sirens. Use our voices to make a difference, because all of them matter."

Ms. Fish nodded, letting it all sink in. She could only hope we understood what she'd done today.

If I were brave, I'd have asked Ms. Fisher when siren voices had started mattering. I'd have clucked my tongue or grunted the way Mama Theo does when something's so foolish, anyone with sense doesn't need it pointed out.

Tavia's right. Everybody wants to be a siren, but nobody wants to be a siren.

But Ms. Fish moved right along. She announced final projects and when outcries erupted around the room, we went right back to class as usual. Everything she'd said was totally okay. Nothing to be offended by. No reason for my hands to be clenched so tight.

I held my breath and counted.

"Now, I usually give you kids free rein, let you choose your own partners, buuuut," and here she tapped her index finger against her lips. "I think this time around we're gonna mix it up."

Of course we were. I released my breath and started again.

Ms. Fisher announced that she'd be assigning our partners, in order, of course, to move us outside our comfort zones, which would obviously result in some really groundbreaking projects and end-of-the-year illuminations. None of which sounded at all interesting until she put me with Isabella Apatu.

ALL OF THEM ARE BLACKS
SO = BLM = SUSTLE = SNEYRY = NOT OK

SUNDAE
SUNDAE

FILE GETS PULLED BY POLICE ↓

We just look at each other for a moment, but I lose the staring contest and tighten my sweating palms around the steering wheel.

"Something wrong, miss?" he asks me.
"I don't know." And then I glance over to the passenger window again, but Priam's dad has moved away.

"Are you nervous about something?" the officer asks.

"No."

"Why are you looking at the glove box?"

"I'm not, I was looking out the window, I just didn't know where the other officer was."

"Don't worry about him, you can just talk to me."

For some reason, now I'm remembering that viral picture of the Black boy tearfully hugging the police officer. It happened years ago, when I was still in Santa Cruz, but when we moved to Oregon, I heard about it even more. Portland loved that picture. Because that's what's gonna heal the world. If we're the only ones crying, offering unlimited love no matter what's done to us. No matter how obvious our distress and discomfort.

WE = BLACKS

First that picture made me feel sick, and then it pissed me off.

Not the boy. Not even the cop in the picture who wasn't crying. But that Portland claimed it. Would not shut up about it. Plastered it all over social media so I couldn't go anywhere without seeing it. Like that's the world we all live in up here, separate and different and artisanal. Self-congratulatory, like I'm not terrified right now because I've been pulled over and my ex-boyfriend's dad doesn't seem to recognize me and no one's asked for my license or the car's registration and there's hot flint where my voice box used to be and Effie isn't here to sign for me. Because if I refuse to speak or if I say even a single word whatever happens to me next is my own fault. It's always our fault. On some level, my dad must believe that, otherwise why am I always getting lectured on what I could have done differently? When I get home—if I get home—this is gonna be my fault.

VICTIMHOOD ↓

Why didn't you show him the registration, Travia? Not, why did

UNCLEAR

he pull you over in the first place? Not, why didn't he ask to see it?

Why didn't you apologize, Travia? Not, you didn't do anything wrong. Not, I've been there before.

Did you speak respectfully? Did you prostrate yourself, did you lie facedown and show submission, did you make them feel like they were oppressors rather than civil servants?

BE POLITE BE FINE

Did you do something to make them afraid of you?

Did you have to be born a siren?

"Can you step out of the vehicle, miss?"

"Wait, what?"

"Step out of the vehicle." He stands upright and moves back to give me room. His hand is probably just used to resting on his holster but it makes my heart hiccup, and then it's thundering in my chest.

"Don't you want my information?" I ask, wary of the burn building in my throat. I've opened the door and am stepping out like it's my first time outdoors.

"My partner'll get it," he says, nodding to Priam's dad, who ducks into my dad's car and pops the glove box.

On the sidewalk beside us, someone's watching me out of the corner of their eye as they walk by, and they're taking their sweet time getting past.

I'm humiliated. I could describe it in some lyrical detail like it's an essay assigned by Mr. Monroe. Try to hone in on what it feels like internally, the way there's not enough air inside my lungs and my hair feels wild and unwieldy, like some sort of spectacle even though I loved this hairstyle this morning. I could talk about how hot my face feels, so much so that the heat vibrating in my throat is almost indistinguishable from it now. I could say the tears hanging on my eyelashes aren't just from embarrassment and fear.

I'm sure there's some sense to be made from the fact that I'm still thinking about Devontae Hart, too. How he went missing

a couple years ago, presumed dead when his white adopted parents—the same ones who orchestrated pictures of their sobbing Black son holding on to that cop probably against his will—drove the family van over a cliff with Devonte and his five Black siblings inside.

There are thematic connections to be made, I'm sure. But this is simple. One moment, I was driving home, worrying about my sister and the otherworldly nature of having watched her skin peel away from her body while leaving perfectly intact skin beneath, and the next I'm standing outside my car still completely clueless as to what I've done wrong. The passerby confirms it; I'm the problem. But I refuse to cry.

"I need to go," I say, softly, and the officer in front of me cocks his eyebrow, leans in the way I expected him to.

Now I lift my chin so that I'm speaking directly to him, so that there's no way the sound of my voice won't wash over him, sliding around the curves of his face, filling his head so that it's the only thing he hears.

I unfurl the heat in my throat and it shoots down the center of me, simultaneously pooling in my core and coursing through me like it's taken the place of my blood. This is the part I love, the part I rarely let myself feel before Naema made space for me this morning—when it plumes all the way back up. When I was little, I imagined it like a Victorian collar growing up my neck and folding open beneath my chin like flower petals. I didn't know about silencing collars then, so the one that I imagined made me feel beautiful.

The police officer is staring because, before the call, there's a breath that draws them in. They're always waiting by the time we speak, to see whether we will Appeal or Compel them.

But I don't want to be something else today, not even if he just thinks I am. No. He'll be the one to change, not me.

"You had no right to stop me."

There's a tremor in my call like there always is. Like sound and sonar blended. In front of me, the officer's brow breaks and

we've traded places. His earlobes are flushing, red overtaking the former paleness of his skin.

He swallows and his Adam's apple bobs in his throat.

There are a million reasons I shouldn't be doing this.

We're out in the open, no choir voices to mask me, to make anyone unsure of the source if they hear my call at all.

I've been crying out to Gramma to teach me how to silence my siren voice, and between the choir competition and this, I've used it twice in one day.

But it feels so good, like I've been in a vise until now, like I've been walking on eggshells for the world and now I'm standing flat on my feet.

"It's time to let me go."

He blinks and I take it as agreement.

"I need my dad's registration," I remind him, the tremor gone but still reverberating around him. That'll take a few hours to dissipate, but by then I'll be long gone and he'll take credit for this.

"I'll get it." His hand's still on his holster, so I guess that's just where it rests. Maybe he's forgotten the gun beneath his fingers is a deadly weapon, but I won't. Not when (siren or not) Rhoda Taylor reminds all of us how real the threat of harm really is. Not when every Black person knows, cops face no consequences when they decide to pull the trigger.

Why should we be the only ones charged with taking care?

"Don't rest your hand on your gun. It's frightening."

His hand slides away from his holster before he goes back to the car. Officer Blake is sitting with the passenger door open, doing something with that monitor again. My officer puts out his hand while he's speaking to Priam's dad and then, when the seated officer hesitates, my guy makes an impatient gesture.

Hand it over.

He does, but then he looks at me. Even after my officer crosses between Officer Blake and me and hands me back the registration, wishing me a good night, Priam's dad doesn't blink.

NOT!
OK!

she said we don't get to be. I wish she had a blog or a YouTube channel or someplace all the people who need to be educated could go and shut up and listen... but of course I'm also glad she doesn't.

"Are you okay?" I ask, pulling her back in the garage so no one—and nothing—can see us. "What happened? What'd you do?"

"Nothing. I was driving while Black."

"Are you kidding me?" I don't doubt her, it's just the first thing out of my mouth. I'm surprised and I'm not, because even in what most people consider a liberal city, the small Black community always knows better. Portland is whiter than America, and that's a fact. But as jacked as it sounds, it's different when something like this happens to someone you care about.

Tavia doesn't sign anymore.

"Did you get a ticket?"

A shake of her head. Well, that's good, right? Especially if it means one less lecture from her dad. But instead of acting relieved, she's tense. What isn't she telling me?

There's a lot I'm not telling her, so I don't press it.

"I'm glad you're okay," I tell her, and wrap her in a hug. She stiffens for a moment, and then I feel the pressure of her head on my shoulder, my twists caught beneath it. If it were anyone else, I'd immediately want to pull back, but this is Tavia. She can touch my hair.

"You're okay, right?" I ask, pulling back to look at her. "Nothing else happened?"

"The cop..." She stops signing, falters with her hands still in the air.

"What?"

"Priam's dad," she whispers, before going back to ASL. "He's the one who pulled me over."

Yikes. What are the chances?

"Maybe it was personal then?" I ask. "He's probably way too involved in his kid's life." His precious eloko kid, I mean.

"Not personal," and she shakes her head. "Trust me."

I don't, because I have eyes and ears and I know how smug the parents of elokos can be.

"So he let you off with a warning?"

"Yeah. A warning."

We let out a weary exhale in unison and head into the house.

When the weekend finally comes, I'm out of bed and gathering my swim bag before I'm even fully awake. The last couple days I've decided it's best to just go on like normal, especially when I'm so close to Ren faire starting. If I can just make it one more week, just to opening day, everything'll be better. I'll be Euphemia again, and I'll have Elric. And everything'll be fine. Before I leave the house, I grab a necklace that reminds me of him.

Wallace's at the community center when I arrive. I spot him before he knows I'm there, so I take advantage. (He's fun to look at.) It's interesting, watching him watch people. He does more of that than swim, which is why I thought he was a lifeguard at first. That and he's always wearing the clothing that they sell at the front desk, and who but staff would do that? Maybe he just likes routine; I've known guys like that.

As usual, he's wearing a shirt and shorts with the pool's insignia, the white of the shirt stark against the golden brown of his skin. That's how Tavia describes my skin, but my golden is an undertone; Wallace's is a blend. If I had to guess I'd say he's probably of Mexican descent. Maybe mixed with a few things? We don't know each other all that well, and anyway, it's not the kind of thing you pop off and interrogate someone about.

He's crouched in front of the pool now, stretching out one arm, pushing onto the tips of his toes. His finger rests gently on the surface of the water, and then he lifts it, his tongue slightly peeking out between his teeth. Which makes my stomach do a little tumble. It's not particularly adorable, you wouldn't find it in a listicle about what hot guys do without knowing it's hot, but it works.

VICTIMHOOD

FOUNDED
— SKILL
NOT
CIVILIZATION
= CREDIT

to oversleep so she'd go to the pool without me... but this can't go on.

I have to do something.

Something more than listening for a Gramma who clearly isn't there.

Something smarter than what I tried before. Hopefully stealing (well, borrowing) Effie's car in the early morning and driving to a secret meet-up with Naema is that something.

I feel something in my throat, and when I touch my neck, I don't feel any heat. Just a keloid. Just a reminder of how badly things can go. How badly things went before I had a sister to sign with, and before I had a network giving me cover.

I was eleven years old when I decided that choking myself was a solid solution. I wasn't an anatomy geek or anything, but the fire was coming from my throat and that's where vocal cords are, so. One day I came home from school, closed my bedroom door, and put one of my dad's belts around my neck.

No one outside my family knew I was a siren; I'd never given myself away. But I was afraid it was only a matter of time. The way my dad talked, it was only a matter of time. The fact that I'd heard him break down into tears one night, talking to my mom about how he wished I was normal, like her... I couldn't just wait for my voice to ruin our lives even more. And once it was gone, once my siren voice was destroyed, maybe I wouldn't have to be alone anymore. It was suffocating, being surrounded by people and hiding from them at the same time.

I wanted it to end, but just that. Just my voice, and my siren-ness, and my loneliness, and my fear.

My own strength wasn't gonna be enough, or else I was too hesitant to pull the belt hard enough, so I secured the belt around one of the bars of my iron bedframe and leaned all my weight in the opposite direction. A wound

The keloid on my neck is because of how the belt strap and the buckle piece plucked the crap out of my skin. But it really didn't take long for me to pass out, which of course wasn't part of the

SOLS
SPARK
20K
20K

LEAK
SUICIDE?

plan. Neither was my mom finding me and calling the ambulance and my parents having to choose between telling the medical social worker that I was a siren, or that at eleven years old I'd tried to commit suicide.

They didn't ask for my input. And they didn't say I was a siren. Anyway. That was Santa Cruz. This is Portland, and there's a network, and even if Naema and I don't really get along, she's on her way to meet me.

It's too late to change my mind now. I'm already breathing into my hands in the shadow of St. Johns, trying to keep my eyes on something. Anything. The industrial wasteland of the construction outfit where I'm waiting, the river that looks like glass today, or the park on the other side. That's where a normal person would be, not skulking on the wrong side of the bridge in what looks like a great place to dispose of a body. While across the river Cathedral Park looks lush and distant, not yet overflowing with the Portland half of Effie's Renaissance brethren, here I am standing in what may as well be a robot graveyard. Not shiny androids, either. Filthy, first-gen clunkers we'll eventually torture for entertainment when civilization falls into shambles. When the train rumbles along the tracks behind me, the dreary scene is complete.

I accidentally glance over my shoulder and the workman who let me in nods from beneath the overhang. He's network, too. He knows what I am, and he's going to watch out for me. That's the promise, and for the life of me I can't figure out why anyone makes it. If everyone felt the way my dad does, I'd be a pariah even among them.

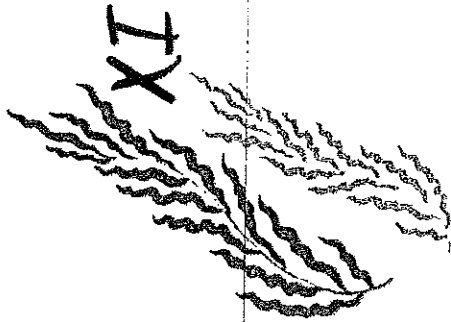
Maybe especially there.

No Black man, woman, or child—no one who could be mistaken for a siren or her relation—would ever come within a square mile of me. They'd pretend I don't exist. Go out of their way to be disinterested. I'd be on my own.

As far as I can tell, that's how it is for Black women and girls most of the time. Outside the network—this tiny community that never has to explicitly organize because it operates inside another

VICTIM
MOM

NOT
OK



LOVELY

TAVIA

I never drive Effie's car, but she's in no state. When I huddle next to her as we leave the theater—after giving Elric or Rick or whatever the hell that dick-face's name is plenty of time to get out of the parking lot—I take her keys.

Now we're sitting in her parked car, and she's staring at her hands in her lap. I don't want her to be embarrassed, but there's no escaping it. How could she not be? That POS just made a fool of her, even if nobody but the group of us know it.

I will dance on his grave.

When Effie moves, I whip my head to face her more fully, to hear whatever she has to say. But she's just untying her scarf and letting her twists cascade.

That makes sense. If I'd had a cloaking device after Priam dumped me right before homecoming, I for sure would've used it. "Eff," I whisper, but she sinks lower in her seat and shakes her head once. I shut up.

On the dashboard her phone buzzes, and when it's obvious she couldn't care less, I reach for it.

"It's Isabella."

Have you been super paranoid since the park, or am I losing it? And then there's a picture of what looks like a collection of butterfly wings. Cool.

"What's she say?" Effie must've heard me snort. She doesn't reach for her phone, but she almost looks at me.

"She thinks a sprite followed her home."

I wonder if I should've told her that. Effie's always had a hard time with sprites. A part of her has worried that she's been sprite-kin all along. The last thing she needs is some eloko princess getting her worked up.

That's not fair.

"Isabella's nice, huh?" I ask.

"Yeah." So quiet. "I like her."

And she tucks her chin back into her chest and disappears behind her hair.

I try to think of all the gentle prompts Dr. Randall might use to pry her open. The ones she hated because it felt like he was trying to trick or trap her, even though she knows better. Effie goes back and forth between being okay with needing outside help, and feeling forced; sometimes Dr. Randall was a trusted confidante and sometimes she hoped she never saw him again. I think maybe both were true, but she's got a right to process it however she wants, and for the last little while she hasn't wanted to see him. So rather than trying to be her therapist—especially in light of my own baggage—I decide to be her sister instead.

"Talk to me," I sign, but in the harsh light pouring in from the parking lot her eyes get glassy and I can't keep from speaking out loud. "Eff, what's the matter? Why did we come here?"

"Because I'm an idiot," she says, at last.

"You aren't," I insist. "Elric's the idiot if he didn't love you for real."

It's easy for me to leap all the way to hating his guts, but I should know better than to think calling him names will bring her any happiness right now. I've been where she is. Kind of. Priam and I were only together for a few months; Euphemia and Elric have been a fairytale for years already, even if they only play it out a few weeks at a time.

I study what I can see of my sister's face, and sigh.

"Do you think you'll be there another day?" he asks, and he starts to come toward me but he doesn't just walk. One of his shoulders is slung low, and the other one is higher, and as he models on a photo shoot? When he's standing in front of me, he rubs his hand back and forth over his short hair. It's... delightful.

"I" am stammering, "I don't think so. I think I'm taking a break this year, to be honest."

But you can watch me swim whenever you want, I should say, right now, before the moment ends.

"Well, then," and his eyes slide around a bit before he suggests, "what if I come along?"

"To where?"

"To the protest."

"Um. Why?" Shouldn't have said that. *Come on, Effie.* "I mean, that'd be really cool, I'd love that, I just didn't know if you know what it's about."

That's his out if he wants to take the safe route and bypass what's considered a "controversial" subject for anyone who can afford to play devil's advocate. But just in case he's feeling adventurous, I steel myself for his answer. Tell myself not to hold it against him when he says one of those things Tavia calls "woke-adjacent."

Palatable, I call it. Something that sounds thoughtful without demanding action.

I promise myself to let it slide for the moment if he says "people" without specifying which people keep being killed by police officers who apparently stay scared but are allowed to unload weapons into us instead of finding new jobs.

And I vow to abruptly fade out and disappear if he says any variety of "but I take issue with the method."

Standards. A girl must have them. Whether all of her internal organs are in knots or not.

"It's about not letting being Black in America be an excusable offense," he says. Like he's had this type of conversation before. Like having a maybe crush on a Black girl isn't the first time

he's watched the news and seen the problem. "Black Lives Matter. Everybody knows that."

I have to respond without sounding overly excited that he's a decent human being, so I blink a few times too many and settle on, "I mean. I don't know about everyone."

"Nah, they know." He nods and does a kind of shrug. "They just pretend they don't get it or they'd have to admit that they disagree."

He's just trying to impress me. Right? Like last year when some guy told me it was really important to him that he date a girl of every race. Except not like that at all because I didn't just involuntarily dry heave. Maybe it's because Wallace is brown himself, or because older guys are just more aware than the boys at Beckett High.

"So? Is that a yes?" he asks me, grinning like he can read my thoughts. "I can come, right?"

For once I'm glad there's nothing hanging in my face. This way, he can see how hard I'm trying not to smile.

After we swim, I don't really feel like heading to the park. I know I told Isabella I'd go, but I don't wanna deal with high-school final projects or sprites or statues of kids I used to know. I don't wanna know whose mom came to refresh the wreaths this time or explain to Wallace that I've got more than run-of-the-mill Black-girl baggage. I feel calm for the first time in forever and I want to keep it. I want to have fun, and I am. I don't think that makes me a bad person.

Across the booth, Wallace eats like it's his first meal in a week. "Aren't you hungry?" he asks while holding half a burger in his hands and the other half in his cheek.

"I was."

His face drops and I snort out a laugh.

"I'm kidding! You're not the first guy I've watched scarf down Skyline, relax."

Altruism and the reunited Jennifers are picking up speed by cause up ahead is "the heart of the protest." It's the spot where Kenyon Jones was shot and across from it is a wall of police officers with hard helmets and Plexiglas shields, like it was one of them struck down on this spot.

I drop my eyes in case there are any here from Portland. In case there's one in particular.

The crowd is telling the story of the deceased. School portrait in full color, the larger-than-life poster held over their heads could be a different kid than the one I saw in the paper and on the news. In the picture his mother points to while standing on a ladder held steady by the crowd, he looks like... someone. He looks like someone young enough for his murder to disrupt the national news. Someone whose death could not possibly go unanswered. And because we're here, it won't. Today the rules don't apply and the street belongs to him because we weren't dissuaded by the photo circulated on the TV screens. We don't think his low-slung jeans and shirtless brown skin cancel out his right to jaywalk without a death sentence. We don't think there is one kind of Black boy worthy of life, or that in the wake of his murder we need to prove him that one, elusive kind.

And still my dad's voice drowns out Kenyon's mother for a moment and I find myself wondering, would it have mattered if he'd pulled up his pants for that casual photo? If he'd gone to the crosswalk to cross the street would he be graduating high school next month? Is that why I am alive and he isn't? Is that the thing holding death at bay? Etiquette, and an ever-present fear of being shot? Because the fear is in all of us.

The crowd is responding to his mother's grief, her inability to get the words out leaving room for us to speak to her. To hold her up on the ladder with our love and encouragement, with tear-strewn faces to match her own.

There are smatterings of other people peppered throughout the street and block. Some are standing a little bit apart, recording or observing. It's impossible to tell whether they're part of us

or not, or whether they're still undecided. But the core, the tightly packed crowd that can't be mistaken for passersby, is like water, a tide swelling us toward the mother and then rocking us back, and among them I'm wet with perspiration and tears.

It happened so quickly, I'm deep in the crowd now and I don't remember how I got here, I just keep pressing closer. The curdle in my stomach is gone, replaced by a kind of peace that startles me. I don't understand it. The police are still nearby, I'm still lying to my parents, and if the news is to be believed, this place is a powder keg that could explode at any moment.

But it feels like therapy, not chaos. I've lost Allie and the others, Effie and Wallace are back where I started, and I'm in a throng of people so close I can't tell the difference between their sweat and mine.

But I can breathe. I've seen dozens more I AM SIREN shirts, but now that it's here among what feels like a concentration of every person of color in the Pacific Northwest, it makes sense. It doesn't feel like a disservice to Kenyon's memory, and it doesn't seem a distraction. Kenyon and Rhoda (and Camilla, if that's who the shirts are for) were from the same community, and so am I. I don't just feel like I belong here, I feel like I belong here.

Until the tide swells to the side and I turn and look at why. Whoever's approaching from that side isn't on the ladder yet, but I hear her name.

"Camilla!" My voice might be among the ones filling the air, waiting for her to step above the crowd and reveal herself.

But when I turn all I see is the wall of police officers, one of them turned to the other, his helmet in one hand, the other fiddling with a com or something in his ear.

That's when I remember Lexi on a Lensa. Footage of one of her public appearances that included a photo op with security.

Lexi wasn't offended by their plugs, she insisted! Whatever makes everyone comfortable! She wears the collar, they wear the plugs, and then we can see each other for who we really are, and our identity won't be divisive.

WOMEN'S
MATTERS
NOT A
MOMENT
TO
SPEAK
UP
FOR
SOMEONE
ELSE

I AM
SIREN
SHIRT
= I AM
BLACK

9/6/11

Fox is on the ladder, standing out above the crowd by choice. She's facing down danger, and members of her own community who want to use her powerful voice or else think her existing in this space is making things worse. She's holding Kenyon's mother's hand because hers is the only approval needed today, taking to the ladder and becoming visible because, if anyone's going to use Camilla's voice, it's going to be Camilla.

What didn't feel like an option to me before does now.

I can do this.

"Today isn't about me," she says, her hair faux-locked to perfection, the silver hoop in her septum a glistening accent to her sheeny, ebony skin. "It's about us. Men and women and children. It's about all our parts, of which I am one. So if I can use my voice in service, I will."

She means her common voice, and all in the tide know it, but the buzz in the air intensifies. I lock my eyes to her. I know what's behind us; I don't need to look. No reason to glance back when I can hear heavy steps. I don't know why they'd be approaching when we've done nothing wrong. If we turn and acknowledge that they're coming, someone will say *we* confronted them. And I still don't understand why they're here at all.

"If it is our destiny as Black women to stand before crowds, before press and police and people enamored of our grief—if we are to give eulogy after eulogy and defend the dead"—and now she raises her voice and her eyes go from the tide of us to the wall closing in—"if all we have are our voices, then why are we so feared?"

The sun is shining but there's gonna be a storm. My skin is goose-pimpled, an unseen sharpness dancing in the air and pricking me everywhere I'm exposed.

The peace is fading. I feel it escaping through my pores with every dull thud of armored footfall.

"Speak, siren!" someone cries, and they're echoed over and over again.

We aren't Camilla's audience anymore; we're her barricade

Someone links arms with me and without pause, I lock my free arm with the person on the other side.

There's no changing my mind now. No going home. I'm here. We are. If it's a choice between running or surrendering or standing together, I have to stand. Sweaty all over again and trembling, but I'm here—everyone is here—because we mean it. We have to make it better, and because Camilla's here and I'm here, that means for sirens, too.

Hands take hold of my shoulder and pull me out of the chain, and I close my eyes. I don't mean to; it just happens. One minute I see Camilla on the ladder and the next, Gramma in the water.

I let myself go limp.

I'm a minor. Better a record that can be sealed, one of the IB mothers said, than one that can destroy someone's life.

But I don't look like their daughters. I won't be escorted away from the protest like some gracious catch and release. I'll be booked, caged with the grown-ups. I don't know how to imagine what comes after that.

Court. Lawyers. My dad.

When they've turned me around, the hands shake me and I open my eyes to Altruism, armored men two steps behind her.

"We have to go!" Her hair is down for the first time in two years, the shaved parts of her head covered along with the collection of earrings that've been her calling card all that time. "We have to go now!"

"Allie," I say, careful not to sway or fall in my relief. "Calm down—"

"We're meeting back at the car, find Eiffel"

She grimaces, coughs on her own breath in her hurry, and I see the small white square at the base of her throat. Small icons describe proper care. Wash with like colors. Tumble dry.

"You turned your T-shirt inside out"

Her mouth goes slack for a moment and then Allie recovers. "It isn't safe here."

"No one said it would be."

NOTE



BETHANY C. MORROW

is a recovering expat recently returned from Montreal, Quebec, to live and write in the North Country, New York. A California native, Morrow graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz, with a B.A. in sociology, and studied clinical psychological research at the University of Wales, Bangor. She is also the author of the adult novel *Men* and the editor of the young adult anthology *Take the Mic. A Song Below Water* is her debut young adult novel.

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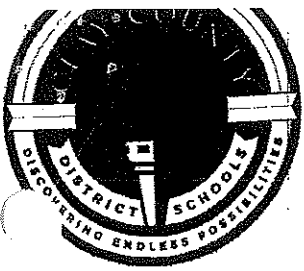
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Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: BRUCE FRIEDMAN
Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]
Physical Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED] State: FL
School: RIDGEVIEW HS... Grade Level: HS... Subject: VARIES

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named NO LEFT TURN IN EDUCATION
I already have a copy of the material
I will review the material on-site
I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel, Textbook, Workbook, Symbol, Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.), Other: VARIES

Title: ACE OF SPADES
Author: FALDAH AABIKE-LYIMIDE ISBN: 978-1-25080081-7

NOTE: Requests may be returned if questions 1, 2, and 3 do not include a detailed response.

- 1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN!
2. Does this material violate F.S. Chapter 847 regarding Obscenity? Circle one: YES/NO MAYBE
3. What is objectionable about the material? Include specific pages, chapters, language, scenes, etc., in your response. Attach additional information, if necessary.

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*CONTENT ON THESE PAGES IS CONCERNING (CRT):
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BLACK VICTIMHOOD & WHITE GUILT

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* ARE
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4. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material? _____

DAMAGED SOULS!

5. For what age group would you recommend this material? ADULT

6. Is there anything good in this material? NA

7. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: NA

Printed name of Complainant: BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Please do not forget to sign, as forms without signatures may be returned.

Signature: *[Signature]*

Date: 1/11/2023 (Also 7/20/22 BY DG)

Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

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Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:

Received in Instructional Resources: Date 1/17/23 by [Signature]

Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 2

The form was fully completed and accepted: **Yes/No**. If not, why? _____

Date Committee convened: _____

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Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: Deborah Gonzalez
 Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]
 Physical Address: [REDACTED]
 City: [REDACTED] State: [REDACTED]
 School: Middleburg High School Grade Level: HS Subject: [REDACTED]

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named _____
- I already have a copy of the material
- I will review the material on-site
- I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: _____

Title: Ace of Spades
 Author: Faridah aAbike-Iyimide ISBN: 978-1-25080081-7

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN

2. What is objectionable about the material: specific pages, chapters, language, scenes?
 Attach additional information, if necessary. INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

3. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material? Damaged Souls!

4. For what age group would you recommend this material? Adult

5. Is there anything good in this material? N/A

6. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: N/A

Printed name of Complainant: Deborah Gonzalez

Signature of Complainant: Deborah Gonzalez

Date: 20 Jul 2022

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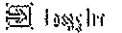
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Ridgeview High School



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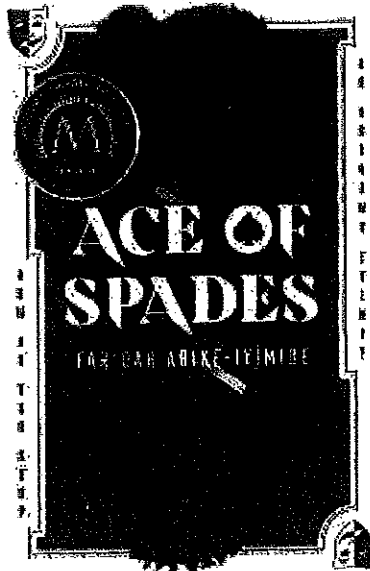
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Publication Info

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Format	422 pages ; 24 cm
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Media type term	unmediated
Carrier type term	volume
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- Private schools [Find It](#)

- Racism
- Sexual minorities
- African Americans -- Fiction.
- Cyberbullying -- Fiction.
- Mystery and detective stories.
- Private schools -- Fiction.
- Racism -- Fiction.
- Sexual minorities -- Fiction.
- LGBTQ people -- Fiction.
- School stories.
- Detective and mystery fiction.
- Thrillers (Fiction).
- Titles by: Abike-Iyimide, Faridah, author.

Additional Info

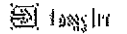
- Junior Library Guild
- Interest age level: Ages 14-17.
- Interest grade level: Grades 9-12.
- Lexile Service: HL740L
- A Junior Library Guild selection
- NK.

Top

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Ridgeview High School



Catalog

Library Search > Search Results > "Ace of spades"

Library Search

Destiny Discover

Resource Lists

Français

Español

How do I... ?

Title Details Reviews Copies

Ace of spades / [Book]

Faridah áAbíké-Íyímídé.

Copies at Ridgeview High School

Call #	Barcode	Status	Description	Sublocation
F ABI	T 31901	Available		GENRE: Mystery/Thriller

Off-site Copies

Copies: 1 - 2 of 2

Call #	Barcode	Status	Description	Site
F ABI	T 98659	Available		Middleburg High School
F ABI	T 25283	Due: 1/19/2022		Oakleaf High School

Copies: 1 - 2 of 2



HAND DELIVER

CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS
900 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043
P (904) 336-6500 F (904) 336-6536 W oneclay.net
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
David S. Broskie

BOARD MEMBERS:
Janice Kerekes, District 1
Mary Bolla District 2
Beth Clark District 3
Tina Bullock District 4
Ashley Gilhousen, District 5

Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: BRUCE FRIEDMAN
Phone: [REDACTED] Email: BRUCE.FRIEDMAN@NOLEFTTURN.US
Physical Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED] State: FL
School: RIDGEVIEW HS... Grade Level: HS... Subject: VARIES

Check as applicable:
 I represent a special interest group named NO LEFT TURN IN EDUCATION
 I already have a copy of the material
 I will review the material on-site
 I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:
 Novel Workbook Video (YouTube, DVD, etc)
 Textbook Symbol Other: VARIES

Title: AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS
Author: GENNIFER CHOLDENKO ISBN: 0-399-23861-1
& OTHERS

NOTE: Requests may be returned if questions 1, 2, and 3 do not include a detailed response.

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN!

2. Does this material violate F.S. Chapter 847 regarding Obscenity? Circle one: YES/NO
If YES, please explain in Question 3. NO

3. What is objectionable about the material? Include specific pages, chapters, language, scenes, etc., in your response. Attach additional information, if necessary.
SEE ATTACHED
THIS BOOK IS IN VERY POOR TASTE
AND CONTRIBUTES NO BENEFIT TO CHILDREN

35 COPIES IN CCSD
WHY?

4. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material?

DAMAGED SOULS

5. For what age group would you recommend this material? ADULT

6. Is there anything good in this material? NA

7. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: NA

Printed name of Complainant: BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Please do not forget to sign, as forms without signatures may be returned.

Signature of Complainant:

[Handwritten signature]

Date:

2/8/2023

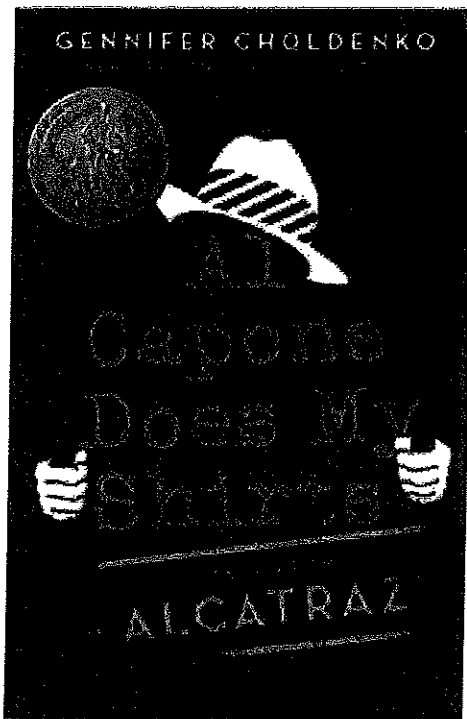
Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

Clay County District Schools
Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:

- Received in Instructional Resources: Date 2/8/23 by [Signature]
- Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 5
- The form was fully completed and accepted: Yes/No. If not, why? _____
- Date Committee convened: _____
- Committee: _____
- Outcome: _____
- Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____
- Additional information: _____

AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS



Juvenile

By Gennifer Choldenko

ISBN: 0-399-23861-1

Book Summary:

A young boy cares for his autistic sister who has befriended a prisoner on Alcatraz Island where they live.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains controversial social commentary; non-sexual nudity; and inexplicit sexual activities.

↳ BOOK HAS ZERO SERIOUS LITERARY VALUE & IS IN VERY POOR TASTE

2/5

Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
	<p>I can feel my whole face get red. Even the tips of my ears burn. I don't want to see my sister naked. "No! You can't do that!" I run to the front window and yank the drapes closed.</p> <p>Now she's in the kitchen, lying on the cool floor. At least this is better. It isn't so bad from the back.</p> <p>I think about the time we took Natalie to my cousin Cricket's wedding. It was boiling that day too, and right in the middle of the ceremony, Natalie took all her clothes off. But she wasn't so old. It wasn't like now.</p> <p>...I have five minutes to get out the door and a crazy naked sister on the floor. How does my mom get her dressed, anyway?</p> <p>"You can take your buttons outside. But only if you wear your blue dress." I get the button box from where my mom has hidden it inside the radio cabinet. What else am I supposed to do? I shake the buttons down by her ear and try to pull the dress over her head. She doesn't take it off.</p> <p>"You have to wear your underwear too. I won't look."</p> <p>She doesn't move a muscle. Her bare skin looks so white against the floor.</p> <p>"Come on, Nat," I plead.</p> <p>"Swim," she says.</p> <p>"You want to go swimming?"</p> <p>"Natalie swimming." "Okay. Here's what we'll do. If you wear your blue dress and your underwear, I'll take you swimming."</p>
95	<p>"Every day," I mutter, glancing back at Natalie, who is using her dress to fan herself. We all get a good look at her ruffled underwear. Thank goodness she put it on.</p> <p>"She better not do that when the cons are around," Annie says.</p>
100	<p>"If you were a girl, I'd give you a big sloppy kiss," I say.</p>
163	<p>"If he won't talk to you, what makes you think he'll talk to Natalie?" I ask.</p> <p>"Because he did already, idiot!"</p> <p>"Jeez, Piper, why do you go sticking your nose in this?"</p> <p>"What are you all bent out of shape about?" Piper asks, shifting her books to the other arm. "She's not pregnant, right?"</p> <p>"Piper! For crying out loud!"</p> <p>"You do know about the birds and the bees, don't you?"</p> <p>"Shut up, Piper! Just shut up!"</p> <p>"Did you ask her at least?"</p> <p>"Look, this is off limits." I make a flattening gesture with my hands. "I just have to keep her safe until the Esther P. Marinoff interview."</p>

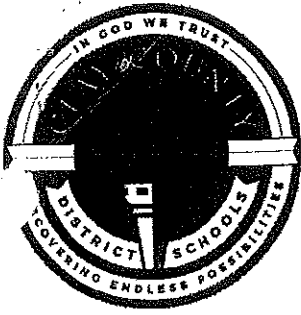
OK

OK

OK

NOT TRIVIAL

Page	Content	
10	What they say about females being the weaker sex is the biggest lie in the world.	OK
15	After dessert, Al's men lock the doors and Capone beats the traitors to death with a baseball bat. ...Favorite word for murder: "Rub-out"—often in front of many witnesses who then develop "gangster amnesia."	TRUE OK
17	"What's the matter with your sister?" ... "She retarded?" the girl asks. "None of your business," I tell her. The girl has freckles and full lips like a movie star. She winds her long dark hair around her finger and looks at me through half-shut eyelids. Something about the way she does this makes me glance down to make sure my fly is buttoned. When I look up again, she's staring at Natalie. "Stop looking at her like that!" I say. "That's Piper. Remember? I told you about her!" Theresa says. "So, not retarded. Stupid, then?" Piper asks. "Look, could we drop this already?" "I'm just asking a simple question," Piper says. "Not in front of Natalie," I whisper. She shrugs and walks behind the morgue. Theresa and I follow. Nat stays put. "How would you like it if I asked, are you stupid?" "I would just say no." Piper flips her hair behind her shoulder. "No, she's not stupid," I say. "Prove it." "Uhhh." I clench my fists. I'd really like to give this Piper girl a pounding. "See, I knew she was retarded," Piper tells Theresa.	BAD TASTE, OK UNKIND "
76	"Did you see that shiv?" "What's a shiv?" the girl asks. "It's a dagger made of old silverware, or carved out of a pot handle. The cons use them to stab each other or kill our dads," Piper says, though she barely looks at the girl, as if relaying this information is not her aim at all.	TRUE
77	"So, what happened?" Scout asks. "With the shiv in the library book?" The girl seems proud of herself for knowing the word now. "Like I said, somebody sliced up a guy. Maybe killed him."	OK
84	"Moose!" My mother's eyes are like the lit end of a cigarette burning into me.	OK-ISH
92	"Hot," she says. "Yeah, I know, but you can't wear your bathing suit. Put on something cool, but not that." "HOT!" she shouts. "Okay, okay, you're hot, I'm hot too." "Moose cool. Moose bathing suit." "You're a girl, Natalie. And it's... it's, you've got, you know, girl parts you have to keep covered up. It's not like home." How do I explain this to her? "Moose cool!" she repeats. There is no arguing with this. ...I'm just thinking I'm wasting my breath when Natalie starts to take off her suit. I walk out of my room and close the door. "All done, Nat?" I ask when I hear her come out. When I turn around she's standing in the living room, totally naked.	OK OK-ISH



TO BROSKIE BY HAND 2/2/2023
CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

900 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043
P (904) 336-6500 F (904) 336-6536 W oneclay.net
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
David S. Broskie

BOARD MEMBERS:
Janice Kerekes, District 1
Mary Bolla District 2
Beth Clark District 3
Tina Bullock District 4
Ashley Gilhousen, District 5

Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: BRUCE FRIEDMAN
Phone: [REDACTED] Email: BRUCE.FRIEDMAN@NOLEFTTURN.US
Physical Address: [REDACTED]
City: M...
School: MIDVIEW HS... Grade Level: HS... Subject: VICTORIES

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named NO LEFT TURN IN EDUCATION
- I already have a copy of the material
- I will review the material on-site
- I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: VARIES

Title: ALL BECAUSE YOU MATTER
Author: TAMI CHARLES ISBN: 978-1-33857485-2
E 978-1-33869192-4

NOTE: Requests may be returned if questions 1, 2, and 3 do not include a detailed response.

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN!

2. Does this material violate F.S. Chapter 847 regarding Obscenity? Circle one: YES/NO
If YES, please explain in Question 3. NO

3. What is objectionable about the material? Include specific pages, chapters, language, scenes, etc., in your response. Attach additional information, if necessary.
CRT - SEE ATTACHED

4. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material? _____

DAMAGED SOULS

5. For what age group would you recommend this material? ADULT

6. Is there anything good in this material? NA

7. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: NA

Printed name of Complainant: _____

Please do not forget to sign, as forms without signatures may be returned.

Signature of Complainant: _____

Date: 1/31/2023

Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

Clay County District Schools
Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:

Received in Instructional Resources: Date 2/7/23 by _____

Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 8

The form was fully completed and accepted: Yes/No. If not, why? _____

Date Committee convened: _____

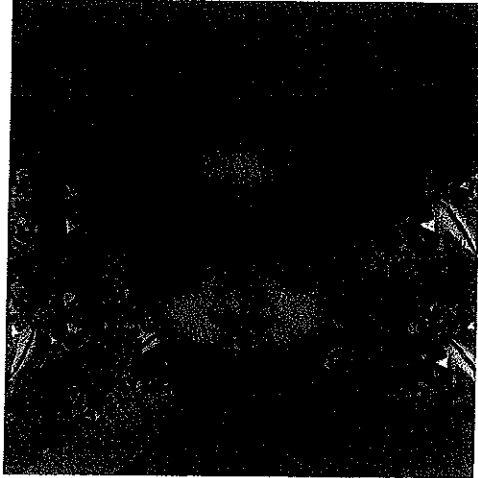
Committee: _____

Outcome: _____

Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____

Additional information: _____

ALL BECAUSE YOU MATTER



Easy Reader

By Tami Charles

ISBN: 978-1-338-69192-4

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains inflammatory racial commentary.

BOOK COMMITTEE RATING

1

MOVIE RATING EQUIVALENT

PG

Some content may not
be suitable for very
young children.

PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED

Page	Content
27	And you hear Pop Pop's whispered prayers, as another name is called: Trayvon, Tamir, Philando, and you wonder if they, or you, will ever matter.

ANY DISCUSSION
ABOUT HOW CRIMINAL ACTIVITY
CONTRIBUTED TO THESE PERSONS'
DEMISE, IS ABSENT. THIS RESULTS
IN A SENSE OF ANTI POLICE/ANTI-WHITE
SENTIMENT & BLACK VICTIMHOOD —
ALL CHILDREN MATTER —
PROTECT THEM ALL FROM CRT —



CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

900 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043
P (904) 336-6500 F (904) 336-6536 Woneclay.net

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
David S. Broskie

Have 2 RHST31794
OPT 5653

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Janice Kerekes, District 1
- Mary Bolla District 2
- Beth Clark District 3
- Tina Bullock District 4
- Ashley Gilhousen, District 5

Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: BRUCE FRIEDMAN
 Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]
 Physical Address: [REDACTED]
 City: M [REDACTED]
 School: RIDGEVIEW etc Grade Level: HS etc Subject: VARIES

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named NO LEFT TURN IN EDUCATION FLORIDA
- I already have a copy of the material
- I will review the material on-site
- I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: VARIES

Title: * Allegedly
 Author: * Tiffany D. Jackson ISBN: * 978-0-06-242264-4

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN

2. What is objectionable about the material: specific pages, chapters, language, scenes?
 Attach additional information, if necessary. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT</u>	<u>PAGES</u>	<u>READ DESTINY SUMMARY</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>COMMON CORE</u>	_____	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>CSE</u>	_____	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>SEL</u>	_____	<u>SEE</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>DEL / CRT / ANTI-POLICE</u>	_____	<u>ATTACHED</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>SEXUAL CONTENT</u>	_____	<u>REPORT</u>

3. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material? DAMAGED SOULS

4. For what age group would you recommend this material? ADULT

5. Is there anything good in this material? NA

6. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: NA

Printed name of Complainant: BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Signature of Complainant: [Signature]

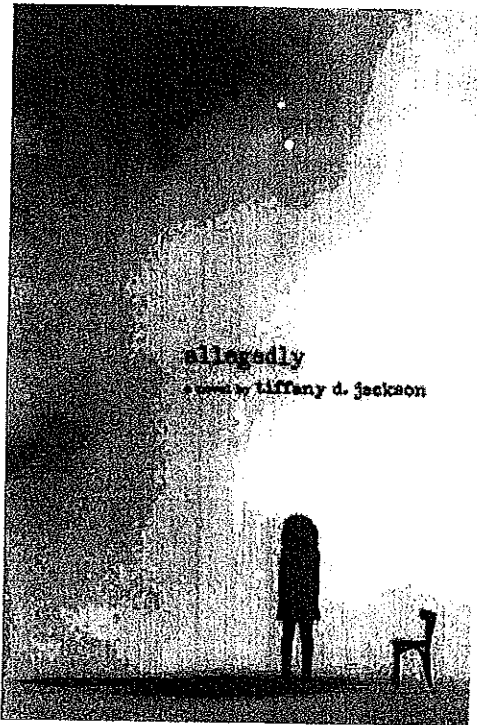
Date: 7/31/2022

Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

Clay County District Schools
Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

- To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:**
- Received in Instructional Resources: Date 8/2/22 by cf
 - Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 5
 - The form was fully completed and accepted: Yes/No. If not, why?
 - Date Committee convened: _____
 - Committee Members: _____
 - Outcome: _____
 - Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____
 - Additional information: _____

ALLEGEDLY: A NOVEL



Young Adult

By Tiffany Jackson

ISBN: 978-0-06-242264-4

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains references to sexual nudity and sexual activities, excessive profanity, and moderate graphic violence.

Page	Content
19	<p>Kelly drags New Girl off the top bunk and into the hallway while she screams. I watch from the safety of my own bunk.</p> <p>"No, please! NO!"</p> <p>"Shut up, you little cunt!"</p> <p>"Get her, Kelly!"</p> <p>She drags her down the hall by her hair, the others cheering like it's a football game.</p>
22	<p>"Disgusting puta! You smell like pussy through your holey panties."</p>
36	<p>Momma would be disgusted at the "nasty lesbian" I'm living with.</p>
62	<p>I jump, grabbing her sleeve, pulling her back. She spins around and slaps me, hand like lightning. The grease of her lotion sticks like oil to my flaming cheek.</p> <p>..."I know the devil got inside you and made you kill that little girl, but I didn't raise no 'ho! You know better than to open your legs up and let some boy inside you!"</p>
72	<p>She hit me with the wrong end of her belt. The buckle cut out a chunk of skin like an ice cream scooper. I should've got stitches, but that would've meant hospitals, questions; Momma in trouble and me left alone with Ray.</p>
80	<p>Momma beat me only because Ray told her to. She did everything he said.</p> <p>"Get in that corner! NOW!" she'd said.</p> <p>Sometimes, I think Momma used to forget who I was when she beat me. Or maybe she was just a whole different person altogether. Her eyes would go blank, face almost unrecognizably mashed up in rage.</p> <p>"Take off them clothes! You gonna feel every bit of this!"</p> <p>I'd strip down to my underwear and back into a corner, my whole body trembling, waiting for her to finish her belligerent rant.</p> <p>"How many times I got to TELL you. Lawd Jesus. How many! Huh? You don't listen, you just don't listen! Father God, why did you send me this little wretch?"</p> <p>She'd beat me with whatever was handy. Her favorite was the dirt brown extension cord she kept hanging on the refrigerator handle, a ready threat. It would crack in the air before biting my skin, leaving welts the size of fists all over my legs, arms, and ass.</p> <p>"Mami, don't hit her face," Ray would say with a smirk, sipping on the brown liquor he bought with Momma's money. "You leave marks and those nosy bitches come and be all in your shit."</p> <p>I thought maybe if I didn't scream so much she would stop, but she never did. It's like she wanted Ray to hear me beg for my life, to make him happy. She'd grunt and curse over me, working up a sweat, while I tried to block the blows. Then later, she'd complain about her arm hurting, blaming me for making her hurt herself. When the beatings started to get worse, when it was harder to explain the welts, cuts, and bruises, I thought about running away.</p>
112	<p>She'd slapped me so hard I'd hit my head on the radiator pipe. I hadn't cried. I'd just gotten on the floor with her and started scrubbing, eyes watering from the bleach.</p> <p>...Another time, when I was about seven, she'd just stayed in bed. Wouldn't talk, wouldn't get up for anything. I'd eaten peanut butter and water crackers for three days until we ran out.</p> <p>"Momma, please get up. I'm hungry."</p>

Page	Content
	"Not now, baby girl. Momma's just...having a day." Then the lights had gone out. The food in the fridge had started to rot until the whole apartment had smelled of spoiled chicken and the mice had come looking for their dinner.
132	Some nasty fat girl who can't read, getting raped by her daddy every night and cumming because of it?
136	"That nigga's not your boyfriend," Marisol says. "He just using you for pussy. You not the only bitch he fucking." ..."Oh, I got a man and he fucks me right everyyyyy night!" She moans, grinding on her chair before giving Kisha a high five. ..."Fuck you, bitch! I ain't no fag," Marisol snaps. ..."Aye, what the fuck you laughing at, psycho? Bitch, you have a man?" ..."Don't see how that bitch could have anything,"...
151	I scramble to my feet, gasping and coughing for air as she punches me dead in the face. The world is spinning...black spots...buzzing. She pins me against the door and I try to kick her...until I feel something sharp pressing against my stomach and I freeze. The blade kisses my skin. "Say anything," she whispers. "And I'll cut it out of you." Bean! Bean! I'm so sorry. Bean! "Please," I choke, trembling. "Don't." Kelly grasps the back of my neck with her cold hand, forcing me to look at her, to stare deep into her eyes. The eyes of a real killer. Then the knife is gone. She shoves me one last time before walking away, as if nothing ever happened and the darkness becomes darker.
173	"Niggas be robbing and raping girls like you..."
184	I asked if she was taking her pills; she slapped me. Then told me to get them for her. I went and got her pills. She said, "Stupid, I told you to bring your pills! I need to calm this baby down."
205	"...I like my ass the size it is," she says, slapping her butt with a smirk. "I made a little change though. Got them stupid niggas to pay for it. Tell them it's four-fifty at the clinic when it really be like two hundred.

Profanity	Count
Bitch	29
Cunt	1
Fuck	55
Motherfucker	1
Piss	3
Shit	36



District Committee Reconsideration Meeting Minutes

Title: Allegedly

Author: Tiffany D. Jackson

Date: 3/30/2023

Committee Members: [REDACTED]

Complainant: Bruce Friedman (not in attendance) *Reconsideration form read aloud for committee.

1. What is the overall purpose, theme or message of the material?

It's a fiction book, a lot of this author's story is based on real life events. This author does their research and takes real events and writes fiction. A lot of exposure to mental health and the foster system. It's informative, but written in a fictional way.

2. This work is most suitable for which grades? (Check all that apply.)

Pre-K K-6 7-8 9-12 None

3. Are concepts presented in a manner appropriate to the ability and maturity level of your suggested audience?

Yes No

4. Will reading or listening to this work result in a more compassionate understanding of human beings?

Yes No

If yes, explain how.

n/a

5. Does this work offer an opportunity to understand and better appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of different cultures and/or minority groups?

Yes No

If yes, explain how.

n/a



District Committee Reconsideration Meeting Minutes

6. Are questionable elements of this work an important part of the overall development of the story or text?

Yes No

Explain your answer in a few sentences.

It talks about how her mom was abusive and her mom had mental health issues and probably other students can relate to, such as the mom having boyfriends and misdiagnosis and given medications not needed. It is a very diverse book. The sexuality section is not necessary for the element of the story and didn't need to be there.

7. Non-fiction ONLY: Does the material contribute to the evolution of ideas?

Yes No

Explain your answer in a few sentences.

8. Are the illustrations appropriate for the student's developmental age?

Yes No

9. Does this work have literary merit?

Yes No Not Applicable

10. Could this work be considered offensive in any way due to:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _profanity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _brutality	<input type="checkbox"/> _Religion or portrayal of religious practices/ideologies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _sexual behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> _manner characters are presented
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _violence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _prurient behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> _portrayal of any societal groups
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _cruelty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _aberrant behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> _political positions

Notes:

MEETING NOTES:

Allegedly

3/30/2023 @ 9am

Lab 1002

Votes

2 - Remove

1 - Keep in H.S. only

Reconsideration Ballot

Date: 3/30/23

Title: Allegedly

Author: Tiffany Jackson

Select ONE option:

I vote to remove the book from all libraries

OR

I vote to keep in Clay County School Libraries (*specify recommendation below*)

- Keep the book at **ALL** school levels
- Keep the book at the **junior and high** school levels
- Keep the book at the **high school level ONLY**

Reconsideration Ballot

Date: 3-30-23

Title: Allegedly

Author: Tiffany Jackson

Select ONE option:

I vote to remove the book from all libraries

OR

I vote to keep in Clay County School Libraries (*specify recommendation below*)

- Keep the book at **ALL** school levels
- Keep the book at the **junior and high** school levels
- Keep the book at the **high school level ONLY**

Reconsideration Ballot

Date: 3/30/23

Title: Allegedly

Author: Tiffany Jackson

Select ONE option:

I vote to remove the book from all libraries

OR

I vote to keep in Clay County School Libraries (*specify recommendation below*)

Keep the book at **ALL** school levels

Keep the book at the **junior and high** school levels

Keep the book at the **high school level ONLY**



CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

900 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043
P (904) 336-6500 F (904) 336-6536 W oneclay.net

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
David S. Broskie

12/15, 10am
Lab 1001
BOARD MEMBERS:
Janice Kerekes, District 1
Mary Bolla District 2
Beth Clark District 3
Tina Bullock District 4
Ashley Gilhousen, District 5

Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: Elizabeth Phelps
Phone: [REDACTED] Email: liz.phelps@oneclay.net
Physical Address: [REDACTED]
City: Orlando State: FL
School: W.C. Cherry Grade Level: 5 Subject: NA

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named _____
- I already have a copy of the material
- I will review the material on-site
- I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: _____

Title: All the Bright Places
Author: Jennifer Niven ISBN: 978-0-385-75588-7

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? Protect Children

2. What is objectionable about the material: specific pages, chapters, language, scenes?
Attach additional information, if necessary.
INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Revised additional info 10/11/22 @

3. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material? _____

Damaged Souls

4. For what age group would you recommend this material? Adult

5. Is there anything good in this material? N/A

6. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: N/A

Printed name of Complainant: Elizabeth Phelps

Signature of Complainant: Elizabeth Phelps

Date: 7-20-22

Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

Clay County District Schools
Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:

Received in Instructional Resources: Date 7/21/22 by C Johnson S Gannon

Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 0 NO SPECIFIC OBJ.

The form was fully completed and accepted: Yes/No. If not, why? _____

Date Committee convened: _____

Committee Members: _____

Outcome: _____

Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____

Additional information: _____



Ridgeview High School

login

Catalog

Library Search > Search Results > "All the bright places"

Library Search

Destiny Discover

Resource Lists

Français

Español

How do I... ?

Title Details

Reviews

Copies



All the bright places

Jennifer Niven.

Call #:	F NIV	Local copies available:	1 of 2.
Sublocation:	GENRE: Romance	Off-site copies available:	4 of 4. See all...

"Told in alternating voices, when Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, both teetering on the edge, it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the "natural wonders" of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another"--Provided by publisher.

TitlePeek™

Selected List: My List

[Add to This List](#)

[Publication Info](#) | [Explore!](#) | [Quiz Info](#) | [Additional Info](#)

Publication Info

Published New York : Alfred A. Knopf, [2015]
 Edition 1st ed.
 Format 388 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
 LCCN 2014-2238
 ISBN 978-0-385-75588-7 ((trade))
 978-0-385-75589-4 ((lib. bdg.))
 0-385-75589-9
 0-385-75588-0

Explore!

- Friendship -- Fiction. [Find It](#)
- Suicide -- Fiction. [Find It](#)
- Adolescent psychology -- Fiction. [Find It](#)
- Indiana -- Fiction. [Find It](#)
- Titles by: Niven, Jennifer. [Find It](#)

Quiz Info

Accelerated Reader®

Quiz Number: 171493

Points: 14.0 pts.

Reading level: 5.3

Interest level: UG

Additional Info

- Includes bibliographical references (p. 383).
- School Library Journal starred, December 2014
- Pub Weekly, November 2014
- Kirkus Starred, October 2014
- Booklist, November 2014
- School Library Journal starred
- Pub Weekly
- Kirkus Starred
- Interest grade level: Young Adult Follett Library Resources.
- Interest grade level: Young Adult.
- Lexile Service: 830L

[Top](#)

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Ridgeview High School

Follett Inc

Catalog

Library Search > Search Results > "All the bright places"

Library Search

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Resource Lists

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How do I... ?

Title Details . Reviews Copies

 All the bright places

Jennifer Niven.



Copies at Ridgeview High School

Call #	Barcode	Status	Description	Sublocation
F NIV	T 30862	Lost		GENRE: Romance
F NIV	T 31398	Available		GENRE: Romance

Off-site Copies

Copies: 1 - 4 of 4

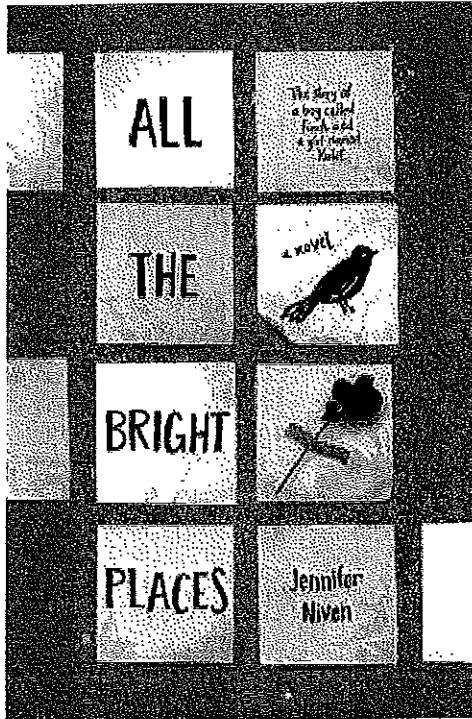
Call #	Barcode	Status	Description	Site
F NIV	T 47097	Available		Clay High School
F NIV	T 47940	Available		Clay High School
Fic Niv	T 6520	Available		Orange Park High School
Fic Niv	T 6521	Available		Orange Park High School

Copies: 1 - 4 of 4

BY HWZ
10/6/22



ALL THE BRIGHT PLACES



Young Adult

By Jennifer Niven

ISBN: 978-0-385-75588-7

Book Summary:

Two suicidal teenagers come together in a romantic relationship and try to save each other.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains moderate profanity and derogatory terms; suicidal ideations; sexual activities; and alcohol use.



Teen Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
3	<p>Is today a good day to die? This is something I ask myself in the morning when I wake up. ...Is today the day? And if not today- when? I am asking myself this now as I stand on a narrow ledge six stories above the ground. I'm so high up, I'm practically part of the sky. I look down at the pavement below, and the world tilts. I close my eyes, enjoying the way everything spins. Maybe this time I'll do it- let the air carry me away. It will be like floating in a pool, drifting off until there's nothing.</p>
4	<p>I open my eyes, and the ground is still there, hard and permanent. I am in the bell tower of the high school, standing on a ledge about four inches wide.</p>
6	<p>See, I excel at other, more important things- guitar, sex, and consistently disappointing my dad, to name a few.</p>
7	<p>"So it'll be an open coffin for me, which means if I jump, it ain't gonna be pretty. Besides, I kind of like my face intact like this, two eyes, one nose, one mouth, a full set of teeth, which, if I'm being honest, is one of my best features."</p>
12	<p>The truth is, there are a lot of reasons, most of which change daily, like the thirteen fourth graders killed earlier this week when some SOB opened fire in their school gym, or the girl two years behind me who just died of cancer, or the man I saw outside the Mall Cinema kicking his dog, or my father.</p>
21	<p>I wonder what she would say if I told her that an hour ago I was being talked off the ledge of the bell tower.</p>
22	<p>At least fifteen people- some I know, some I don't, some who haven't talked to me in months- stop me on the way to class to tell me how courageous I was to save Theodore Finch from killing himself.</p>
26	<p>My cousin Stacey, who goes to New Castle, says she and a friend were in Chicago and he was playing this club and he totally hooked up with both of them?</p>
34	<p>"What we need to do is get you laid." It's an indirect reference to the bell tower incident. If I get laid, I won't try killing myself. According to Charlie, getting laid fixes everything. If only world leaders would get laid well and regularly, the world's problems might disappear.</p>
36	<p>I fish through my desk for a cigarette, stick it in my mouth, and remember as I'm reaching for my lighter that Theodore Finch, 80's kid, doesn't smoke. God, I hate him, the clean-cut eager little prick. I leave the cigarette in my mouth unlit, trying to chew the nicotine out, and pick up the guitar, play along, then give it up and sit down at the computer, swinging my chair around so it's backward, the only way I can compose.</p>
46	<p>"Did you get any ass?" "Yeah, but I think it was by mistake." ...I don't see Ashley or Shelby anywhere, but fifteen guys are sprawled on the floor playing a drinking game. ...Couples re making out.</p>
47	<p>when they're done, Suze says to me, "We hooked up sophomore year. He may be weird, but I'll say this for him, that's one guy who knows what he's doing."</p>

Page	Content
48	Roamer pops the top off a beer and chugs it down. ...Ten months ago, I would have sat beside them, drinking beer and fitting in, and writing witty commentary in my head:...
49	The smell of beer is everywhere. ...Tomorrow they'll think it was just another drunk kid.
50	We tried to catch them with our tongues, and then Ryan's tongue found its way into my mouth, and I closed my eyes as the flakes landed on my cheeks. ...Ryan's hands found their way under my shirt. I remember how warm they were, and even as I kissed him, I was thinking, I'm kissing Ryan Cross. Things like this didn't happen to me before we moved to Indiana. I slipped my own hands under his sweatshirt, and the skin there was hot but smooth.
59	"So, how long have you been having these suicidal feelings?"
69	One of the great pleasures of my life is making comments like this, because having a gay son is my bigoted prick of a father's worst nightmare.
74	January 11. According to the New York Times, nearly 20 percent of suicides are committed by poison, but among doctors who kill themselves, that number is 57 percent. My thoughts on the method: Seems like kind of a coward's way out, if you ask me. I think I'd rather feel something. That said, if someone held a gun to my head (haha- sorry, suicide humor) and made me use poison, I'd choose cyanide. In gaseous form, death can be instant, which I realize defeats the purpose of feeling something. But come to think of it, after a lifetime of feeling too much, maybe there's actually something to be said for fast and sudden. When I finish, I walk into the bathroom to dig through the medicine cabinet. Advil, aspirin, and some kind of over-the-counter sleeping pills I stole from Kate and then stored in an old prescription bottle of Mom's. ...But you never know when you might need a good sleeping pill. I open the bottle now, dump the blue tablets into my palm, and count them. Thirty. Back at my desk, I line the pills up one by one by one, like a little blue army.
76	I adjust myself and think how weirdly, stupidly sexy this is.
77	I scoop up the sleeping pills and hold them in my palm. I can swallow them right now, lie down on my bed, close my eyes, drift away.
82	"Violet Markey, and she's not skinny. She has hips." "And a sweet, sweet ass."
106	I wonder if I could sleep like this, here on the bottom of the bathtub, if I wanted to sleep which I don't. I let my mind drift. I hear words forming as if I'm sitting at the computer already. In March of 1941, after three serious breakdowns, Virginia Woolf wrote a note to her husband and walked to a nearby river. She shoved heavy stones into her pocket and dove into the river. She shoved heavy stones into her pocket and dove into the water. "Dearest," the note began, "I feel certain that I am going mad again. I feel we can't go through another of those terrible times...So I am doing what seems the best thing to do." How long has it been? Four minutes? Five? Longer? My lungs are starting to burn. Stay calm, I tell myself. Stay relaxed. The worst thing you can do is panic. Six minutes? Seven? The longest I've held my breath is six and a half minutes.

Page	Content
108	The Bartlett Dirt has named the top ten suicidal students in school, and my phone is buzzing because Theodore Finch is number one on the list. Jordan Gripenwaldt has covered the front page of the school paper with resources and information about teen suicide and what to do if you're thinking of killing yourself, but no one is paying attention to this.
122	Amanda's head pops up over the seat, her shirt hanging open so that I can see her bra, which is baby blue with yellow flowers. Like that, I can feel the image burning into my retinas, where it will remain forever... There are too many distractions, and so I talk over the noise to Ryan, but he's more interested in sneaking his hand up my shirt. I've managed to make it seventeen years, eight months, two weeks, and one day without having sex in the backseat of an Impala (or anywhere, for that matter), so I tell him I'm dying to see the view, and I push open the door and stand there.
123	Then Ryan's hand is snaking its way up my shirt again, and I pull away.
140	Interesting fact: Hanging is the most frequently used method of suicide in the United Kingdom because, researchers say, it's viewed as being both quick and easy. But the length of the rope has to be calibrated in proportion to the weight of the person; otherwise there is nothing quick or easy about it. Additional interesting fact: The modern method of judicial hanging is termed the Long Drop.
145	I try to tell it he might have meant "Just be careful when you have sex. Use a condom," but instead, because, you know, it's a brain, and therefore has- is- a mind of its own, it starts thinking of every way in which Violet Markey might break my heart.
159	He's got a beer in one hand and a remote in the other.
161	The rate of car exhaust suicides in the States has declined since the mid-sixties, when emission controls were introduced. In England, where emission controls barely exist, that rate has doubled. ...I picture a body of water and me on my back floating, still and peaceful, no movement except my heart beating in my chest. When they find me, I'll just look like I'm sleeping. In 2013, a man in Pennsylvania committed suicide via carbon monoxide, but when his family tried to rescue him, they were overcome by the fumes and every single one of them died before rescue crews could save them.
163	Protect the penis.
185	Roamer swings and hits Finch's face with a thud. He swings again and again, his fist smashing into Finch's mouth, into his nose, into his ribs. At first Finch isn't fighting back- he's just blocking the shots. But then he has Roamer's arm twisted behind his back, and he's plunging his head into the water and holding it under.
200	Then I hold her face in my hands and kiss her. I kiss her harder than I mean to, so I ease off a little, but then she's kissing me back. Her arms are around me neck, and I'm up against her, and she's against the car, and then I pick her up, and her legs are around me, and I somehow get the back door open, and then I'm laying her down on the blanket that's there, and I close the doors and yank off my sweater, and she pulls off her shirt, and I say, "You are driving me crazy. You have been driving me crazy for weeks."

Page	Content
	<p>My mouth is on her neck, and she's making these gasping sounds, and then she says, "Oh my God, where are we?" And she's laughing, and I'm laughing, and she's kissing my neck, and my entire body feels like it's going to fucking explode, and her skin is smooth and warm, I run my hand over the curve of her hip as she bites my ear, and then that hand is sliding into the hollow between her stomach and her jeans. She holds on to me tighter, and when I start undoing my belt, she kind of pulls away, and I want to bang my head against the wall of Little Bastard because, shit. She's a virgin. I can tell by the pull-away.</p>
205	<p>"I thought it was a good idea not to get myself incarcerated before I have a chance to get laid again."</p>
209	<p>Do you think any guy will ever have sex with me or love me for who I am?</p>
214	<p>By now, the wandering is really an excuse to drive somewhere and make out. I tell myself I'm not ready because to me sex is a Big Deal, even is some of my friends have been doing it since ninth grade.</p>
215	<p>I feel like I'm living for these moments- the moments when I'm just about to lie down beside him, when I know it's getting ready to happen, his skin on mine, his mouth on mine, and then when he's touching me and the electric current is shooting through me everywhere. ...We kiss until my lips are numb, stopping ourselves at the very edge of Someday, saying not yet, not hear, even though it takes willpower I didn't know I had.</p>
220	<p>She kicks off her shoes and pulls off her shirt and pants so that, in seconds, she is standing there in only her bra and underwear, which are a kind of dull rose color but somehow the sexiest things I've ever seen. I go totally and utterly speechless and she starts to laugh. "Well, come on. I know you're not shy, so drop your pants and let's do this. I assume you want to see if the rumors are true." My mind draws a blank, and she juts one hip out, Amanda Monk-style, resting a hand on it. "About it being bottomless?" "Oh yeah. Right. Of course." I slide off my jeans so I'm in my boxers, and I take her hand.</p>
222	<p>We tread water, looking at each other, and suddenly there's not enough water in the world to clean away my dirty thoughts.</p>
224	<p>Less than 2 percent of people in the U.S. kill themselves by drowning, maybe because the human body was built to float. The number one country in the world for drowning, accidental or otherwise, is Russia, which has twice as many deaths as the next highest, Japan. The Cayman Islands, surrounded by the Caribbean Sea, has the fewest drownings of all.</p>
227	<p>I pull her in and kiss her the way I've always wanted to kiss her, a lot more R-rated than PG-13.</p>
228	<p>And then she kisses me. It's the kind of kiss that makes me lose track of everything, and so it may be hours or minutes by the time we break apart. ...So that she doesn't feel she has to say it back, I kiss her again, and wonder if I dare do anything else, go any further, because I don't want to ruin this moment. And then, because I'm now the one thinking too much, and because she is different from all other girls and because I really, really don't want to screw this</p>

Page	Content
	up, I concentrate on kissing her on the banks of the Blue Hole, in the sunshine, and I let that be enough.
230	<p>He takes my hand and spins me out and then in so I'm tucked against him, and we sway, and rock a little, but mostly stand still, pressed together, my heart pounding because if I tilt my head back, just like this, he will kiss me like he's doing now.</p> <p>...And then I realize his towel is lying on the floor and he's naked.</p> <p>...And then I close my eyes as my own towel drops and the song comes to an end. I still hear it after we are in the bed and under the sheets and other songs are playing.</p>
248	I sit beside him, across the room from Amanda and Roamer and Ryan, and afterward he pulls me under the stairwell and kisses me like he's afraid I might disappear.
250	He laughs when I pinch his arm, and then his hands are on my face and he's kissing me, which makes the stitch disappear.
251	Under the covers, we get naked and heated, and afterward we talk like children, the blanket up over our heads.
260	By sunset, I'm on my way back to Bartlett, cutting through the heart of Indianapolis, smoking my fourth American Spirit cigarette in a row.
264	For a few seconds, all she does is breathe in the scent of flowers, and then she turns to me and, without a word, kisses me.
269	I walk Violet to class and hold her hand and kiss her and give her the best smile I can find so that she won't watch me that way.
271	<p>"I'm fine. Believe me, if I decide to kill myself, you'll be the first to know. I'll save a front-row seat, or at least wait till you've got more money for the lawsuit."</p> <p>Note to self: Suicide is not a laughing matter, particularly for authority figures who are in any way responsible for you.</p>
278	<p>We eat in silence, and afterward, I find the sleeping pills in my mom's medicine cabinet. I take the whole bottle back to my room and drop half the contents down my throat and then, in the bathroom, bend over the sink, washing them down.</p> <p>Let's see what Cesare Pavese felt. Let's see if there's any valiant acclamation to this. I stretch out on the floor of my closet, the bottle in my hand. I try to imagine my body shutting down, little by little, going totally numb. I almost feel the heaviness coming over me, even though I know it's too fast.</p> <p>I can barely lift my head, and my feet seem miles away. Stay here, the pills say. Don't move. Let us do our work.</p> <p>It's this haze of blackness that settles over me, like a fog, only darker. My body is pressed down by the back and the fog, into the floor. There's no acclamation here. This is what it feels like to be asleep.</p> <p>...I force myself up and drag myself to the bathroom, where I stick my finger down my throat and throw up. Nothing much comes out, even though I just ate.</p> <p>...I push my limbs through the doors of the emergency room and say to the first person I see, "I swallowed pills and can't get them out of me. Get them out of me."</p>
279	<p>Fact: Most suicides occur between the hours of noon and six p.m.</p> <p>Guys with tattoos are more likely to kill themselves with guns.</p>

Page	Content
	People with brown eyes are more likely to choose hanging or poison. Coffee drinkers are less likely to commit suicide than non-coffee drinkers.
281	This isn't a nature class, but a support group for teens who are thinking about, or have attempted, or have survived, suicide.
283	When it's my turn, I introduce myself as Josh Raymond, seventeen, no previous experience beyond my recent halfhearted experiment with sleeping pills.
284	In a wooden voice, she recites, "I'm Rachel, I'm seventeen, I'm bulimic, and I tried to kill myself twice, both times with pills..." ...I want to get away from labels. "I'm OCD," "I'm depressed," "I'm a cutter," they say, like these are the things that define them.
285	She holds up her wrists , and even across the table I can see the scars.
292	He writes I, want, to, have, sex, with, Ultraviolet, Remarkable.
293	He slaps this onto the wall and then kisses me, his arm circling my waist. Before I know it, I'm on my back and he's looking down at me, and I am pulling off his shirt. Then his skin is on mine, and I'm on top of him, and for a while I forget we're on the floor of a closet because all I can think of is him, us, him and me, Finch and Violet, Violet and Finch, and everything is okay again.
298	"It's called Life Is Life. It's this- it's a support group for teenagers who've either thought about suicide or tried it."
301	He kisses me again and leans sexily against the door, as if he knows how good he looks.
302	A bottle of vodka sits on ice.
303	He kisses me. I kiss him. ...He kisses me. I kiss him.
336	Each time, I can stay a little longer, but not as long as Finch, who could hold his breath for minutes. Could hold. Because at some point, I know: he's gone. He's not somewhere. He's nowhere.
341	I stand, thinking how it wasn't an accident at all and how "suicide victim" is an interesting term. The victim part of it implies they had no choice. And maybe Finch didn't feel like he had a choice, or maybe he wasn't trying to kill himself at all but just going in search of the bottom.
377	In August of that year, he took a lethal dose of sleeping pills, and even though he kept a daily journal, no one could ever truly explain why he did it.

Profanity/Derogatory Term	Count
Ass	16
Bitch	4
Faggot	1
Fuck	8
Goddamn	1
Piss	8
Prick	2
Shit	16



District Committee Reconsideration Meeting Minutes

Title: All the Bright Places

Author: Jennifer Niven

Date: 12.15.22

Committee Members:



Complainant: Elizabeth Phelps (not in attendance) *Reconsideration form read aloud for committee.

1. What is the overall purpose, theme or message of the material?

How the impact one person can have on anothers life (pros and cons).

2. This work is most suitable for which grades? (Check all that apply.)

Pre-K K-6 7-8 9-12 None

3. Are concepts presented in a manner appropriate to the ability and maturity level of your suggested audience?

Yes No

4. Will reading or listening to this work result in a more compassionate understanding of human beings?

Yes No

If yes, explain how.

How to be more honest and find someone who will accept you as you are. You don't have to be picture perfect.

5. Does this work offer an opportunity to understand and better appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of different cultures and/or minority groups?

Yes No

If yes, explain how.

Different races and obstacles that others face.



District Committee Reconsideration Meeting Minutes

6. Are questionable elements of this work an important part of the overall development of the story or text?

Yes No

Explain your answer in a few sentences.

Nothing questionable in this book. A lot of ways that are written on how to commit suicide.

7. Non-fiction ONLY: Does the material contribute to the evolution of ideas?

Yes No NA

Explain your answer in a few sentences.

8. Are the illustrations appropriate for the student's developmental age?

Yes No

9. Does this work have literary merit?

Yes No Not Applicable

10. Could this work be considered offensive in any way due to: NO by state statute

profanity brutality Religion or portrayal of religious practices/Ideologies
 language sexual behavior manner characters are presented
 violence prurient behavior portrayal of any societal groups
 cruelty aberrant behavior political positions

Notes:

MEETING NOTES: One of the best books they read according to one schools students. Was made into a movie as well.

All the Bright Places

12/15/22

11:00 am

Lab 1001

Vote

2 - Keep @ JH + HS

3 - Keep @ HS only

Reconsideration Ballot

Date: 12/15/22

Title: All the Bright Places

Author: Jennifer Niven

Select ONE option:

I vote to **remove** the book from all libraries

OR

I vote to **keep** in Clay County School Libraries (*specify recommendation below*)

Keep the book at **ALL** school levels

Keep the book at the **junior and high** school levels

Keep the book at the **high school level ONLY**

Reconsideration Ballot

Date: 12/15/22

Title: All the Bright Places

Author: Jennifer Niven

Select ONE option:

I vote to **remove** the book from all libraries

OR

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Keep the book at **ALL** school levels

Keep the book at the **junior and high** school levels

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Reconsideration Ballot

Date: 12/15/22

Title: All the Bright Places

Author: Jennifer Niven

Select ONE option:

I vote to remove the book from all libraries

OR

I vote to keep in Clay County School Libraries (specify recommendation below)

Keep the book at ALL school levels

Keep the book at the junior and high school levels

Keep the book at the high school level ONLY

Reconsideration Ballot

Date: 12/15/22

Title: ALL THE BRIGHT PLACES

Author: JENNIFER NIVEN

Select ONE option:

I vote to remove the book from all libraries

OR

I vote to keep in Clay County School Libraries (specify recommendation below)

Keep the book at ALL school levels

Keep the book at the junior and high school levels

Keep the book at the high school level ONLY

Reconsideration Ballot

Date: Dec 15, 2022

Title: All the Bright Places

Author: Jennifer Niven

Select ONE option:

I vote to remove the book from all libraries

OR

I vote to keep in Clay County School Libraries (*specify recommendation below*)

Keep the book at **ALL** school levels

Keep the book at the **junior and high** school levels

Keep the book at the **high school** level **ONLY**



CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

900 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043
P (904) 336-6500 F (904) 336-6536 W oneclay.net

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
David S. Broskie

BOARD MEMBERS:

Janice Kerekes, District 1
Mary Bolla, District 2
Beth Clark, District 3
Tina Bullock, District 4
Ashley Gilhousen, District 5

Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: BRUCE FRIEDMAN
Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] NOLEFTTURN.ORG
Physical Address: 3 [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED]
School: RIDGEVIEW etc Grade Level: HS etc Subject: VARIES

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named NOLEFTTURN IN EDUCATION FLORIDA
- I already have a copy of the material
- I will review the material on-site
- I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: VARIES

Title: * Alt Ed

Author: * Catherine Atkins

ISBN: * 0-399-23854-9

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN

2. What is objectionable about the material: specific pages, chapters, language, scenes?
Attach additional information, if necessary. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
PAGES
COMMON CORE
CSE
SEL
DEL / CRT / ANTI-POLICE
SEXUAL CONTENT
See
ATTACHED

THIS IS RUBBISH

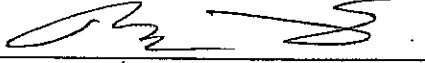
3. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material? DAMAGED SOULS

4. For what age group would you recommend this material? ADULT

5. Is there anything good in this material? NA

6. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: NA

Printed name of Complainant: BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Signature of Complainant: 

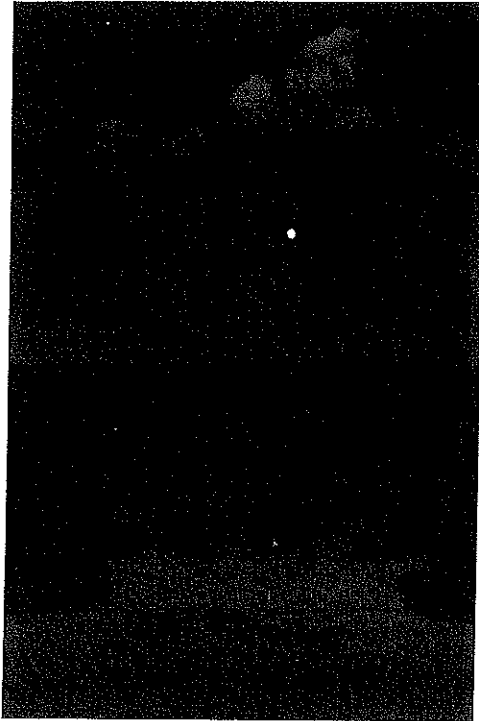
Date: 7/31/2022

Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

Clay County District Schools
Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

- To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:**
- Received in Instructional Resources: Date 8/2/22 by AB
 - Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 4
 - The form was fully completed and accepted: Yes/No. If not, why? _____
 - Date Committee convened: _____
 - Committee Members: _____
 - Outcome: _____
 - Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____
 - Additional information: _____

ALT ED



Summary of Concerns:

This book contains profanity and derogatory terms, as well as inexplicit references to sexual activities.

Young Adult

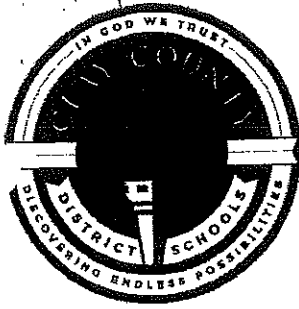
By Catherine Atkins

ISBN: 978-1-415-55478-4

Page	Content
80	"...I tell them that just because Brendan is more civilized than most guys, that doesn't make him a homosexual."
81	"Sophomore year, everyone decided I was gay. I started hearing faggot everywhere I went..."
81	"We, the undersigned, refuse to share a locker room with Brendan Slater the Faggot.'..."
83	"...My pastor says homosexuals account for three percent or less of the population, and even that-" "My uncle's gay," Randy says.
95	"The porker or the fag?..."
103	"Yeah, and at Wayne High, if you're gay, you better..."Brendan hesitates. "You better pretend you're not." "How does everyone know you're gay?..."
116	"He hates gays, you hate gays."
116	"I said I disapprove of homosexuality..."
116	"In my church, we hate the sin, not the sinner. We don't hate homosexuals;..."
116	"Are you waiting for your first time to find out if you're gay or straight?"
128	"What if I tell you I'm pregnant, but I won't be after today?" Amber spreads her hands across her belly. "What would you say to that?" I think about it. "I'd say I'm sorry. I'd say it's your business."
168	"...Fags are tailor-made for it."
194	"It was 'Die, faggot, die,' wasn't it?"

Alternate ISBN
0-399-23854-9
0-14-240235-4

Profanity	Count
Bitch	5
Fuck	2
Shit	4



Town Hall 3 1/23/2023
TO BROSKIE BY HAND
CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

900 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043
P (904) 336-6500 F (904) 336-6536 W oneclay.net
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
David S. Broskie

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Janice Kerekes, District 1
- Mary Bolla District 2
- Beth Clark District 3
- Tina Bullock District 4
- Ashley Gilhousen, District 5

Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: BRUCE FRIEDMAN
 Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]@GMAIL.COM
 Physical Address: 395 [REDACTED] RD
 City: [REDACTED] State: FL Zip: [REDACTED]
 School: MIDVIEW HS... Grade Level: HS... Subject: VARIES

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named NO LEFT TURN IN EDUCATION
- I already have a copy of the material
- I will review the material on-site
- I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: VARIES

Title: AMERICAN BORN CHINESE
 Author: GENE LUEN YANG ISBN: 1-59643-152-0

NOTE: Requests may be returned if questions 1, 2, and 3 do not include a detailed response.

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN!

2. Does this material violate F.S. Chapter 847 regarding Obscenity? Circle one: YES/NO
 If YES, please explain in Question 3. NO
BUT IT'S AWFUL!

3. What is objectionable about the material? Include specific pages, chapters, language, scenes, etc., in your response. Attach additional information, if necessary.
SEE ATTACHED P 35, 50
ANTI SEMITISM
RACISM
TRIVIALIZES THIEVERY

4. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material? _____

DAMAGED SOULS

5. For what age group would you recommend this material? ADULT

6. Is there anything good in this material? NA

7. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: NA

Printed name of Complainant: _____

Please do not forget to sign, as forms without signatures may be returned.

Signature of Complainant: _____

Date: 1/21/2023

Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

Clay County District Schools
Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:

Received in Instructional Resources: Date 1/24/23 by _____
 Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 4
 The form was fully completed and accepted: Yes/No. If not, why? _____

Date Committee convened: _____

Committee: _____

Outcome: _____

Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____

Additional information: _____

Anyone get this book assignment for their high school age kids for Literature class? "American Born Chinese"

👤 1

7 comments 🌐

👍 Like

💬 Comment



MY SOBYNY
RACISM...

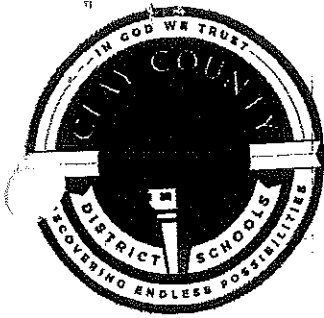
ANTI SEMITISM
THAT EVERY
TRIVIALIZED



"LAST BEFORE WINTER BREAK DURING MY FIFTH GRADE YEAR PETER WAS IN SITTIN'. PETER TOLD ME HE WAS GOING TO VISIT HIS FATHER IN PENNSYLVANIA. 'THE FRIGGIN' GOVERNMENT FINALLY CAME TO ITS FRIGGIN' SENSES,' HE SAID."



"WHEN WINTER BREAK WAS OVER, PETER NEVER CAME BACK."



CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

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P (904) 336-6500 F (904) 336-6536 W oneclay.net
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
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Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: BRUCE FRIEDMAN
 Phone: [REDACTED]
 Physical Address: [REDACTED]
 City: [REDACTED] State: [REDACTED]
 School: [REDACTED] Grade Level: HS... Subject: VARIES

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named NO LEFT TURN IN EDUCATION
- I already have a copy of the material
- I will review the material on-site
- I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: VARIES

Title: And Tango Makes Three
 Author: Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell ISBN: 978-0-689-87845-9

NOTE: Requests may be returned if questions 1, 2, and 3 do not include a detailed response.

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN!
2. Does this material violate F.S. Chapter 847 regarding Obscenity? Circle one: YES/NO NO
If YES, please explain in Question 3.
3. What is objectionable about the material? Include specific pages, chapters, language, scenes, etc., in your response. Attach additional information, if necessary.
CSE K-3 CONFLICT
SEE ATTACHMENTS

4. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material?

DAMAGED SOULS!

5. For what age group would you recommend this material?

ADULT

6. Is there anything good in this material?

NA

7. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN:

NA

Printed name of Complainant:

BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Please do not forget to sign, as forms without signatures may be returned.

[Redacted]

[Signature]

Date:

1/11/2023

Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

Clay County District Schools
Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:

- Received in Instructional Resources: Date 1/17/23 by [Signature]
- Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 11
- The form was fully completed and accepted: Yes/No. If not, why?

Date Committee convened:

Committee:

Outcome:

Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____

Additional information:

Florida Citizens Alliance Template (LGBTQ and Sex Ed 102 materials)



Last Name of Reviewer(s) and FL County where you reside: White, Polk County

Publisher: Simon and Schuster

Exact Title of Publication: *"and tango makes three"*

Authors: Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

Year Published/ISBN: 2005, 978-1-4814-4994-6

Problem: Materials designed for Pre k and Elementary students are age inappropriate, hyper-sexualize children, violating numerous Florida Statutes.

In all 50 states, federal law makes it illegal to discriminate based on: race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions), Disability, age (40 and older), citizenship status, and genetic information.

In addition, Florida state law also prohibits discrimination based on: race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability "Handicap", age, marital status, AIDS/HIV, and sickle cell trait.

Under Federal and Florida's state law sexual orientation or gender identity are NOT a protected class. Below are relevant existing statutes that are important but common sense and Judeo-Christian values matter as well

Constitution of Florida: SECTION 27. Marriage defined.—Inasmuch as marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized.

1003.42 2 (n) Comprehensive health education that addresses concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional health; injury prevention and safety; Internet safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention and control of disease; and substance use and abuse. The health education curriculum for students in grades 7 through 12 shall include a teen dating violence and abuse component that includes, but is not limited to, the definition of dating violence and abuse, the warning signs of dating violence and abusive behavior, the characteristics of healthy relationships, measures to prevent and stop dating violence and abuse, and community resources available to victims of dating violence and abuse.

FS 1006.31(2) EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS. — Instructional materials recommended by each reviewer shall be, to the satisfaction of each reviewer, accurate, objective, balanced, non-inflammatory, current, free of pornography and material prohibited under s. 847.012, and suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented.




1006.34 4. Any instructional material containing pornography or otherwise prohibited by s. 847.012 may not be used or made available within any public school.


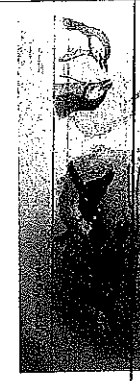



847.012 3(b) Any book, pamphlet, magazine, printed matter however reproduced, or sound recording that contains any matter defined in s. 847.001, explicit and detailed verbal descriptions or narrative accounts of sexual excitement, or sexual conduct and that is harmful to minors.

847.001 (6) "Harmful to minors" means any reproduction, imitation, characterization, description, exhibition, presentation, or representation, of whatever kind or form, depicting nudity, sexual conduct, or sexual excitement when it:

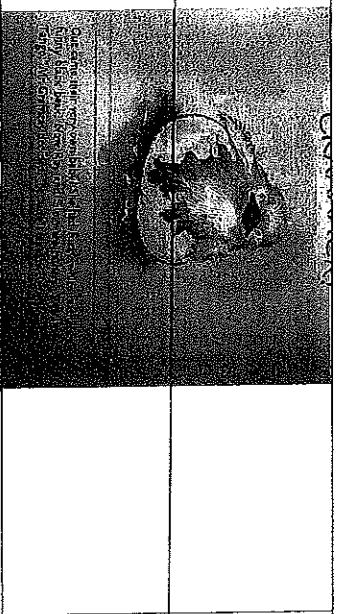
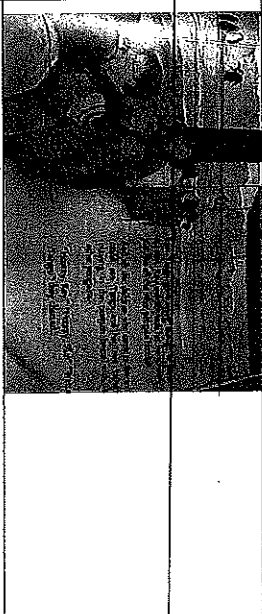
- (a) Predominantly appeals to a prurient, shameful, or morbid interest;
- (b) Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material or conduct for minors; and
- (c) Taken as a whole, is without serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

Location	Quote	Problem
Identify actual page(s) number(s); if page number is n/a, state Chapter & sub-chapter number & title.	Copy the exact words/sentences or picture from the Novel. Do not change punctuation, or add bold, underline or italics in order to make your point. Everything within this section must be verbatim out of the book. Do not take quote out of context or eliminate words in order to "prove" your point.	Use following abbreviations to describe problem: <u>VFC</u> means violates the Florida Constitution Section 27 directly or by bias <u>IA</u> means age-inappropriate
	For Pictures, take a picture and turn it into a URL link (we can help you figure this out) Thoroughly read the entire novel and highlight and tab the objectionable content you find that violates the FL Constitution or Statutes noted above. Please provide as many exact examples as you find that are offensive according to these FL Statutes. If you find more than 6 quotes,	<u>LGBTQ</u> means the target audience is subjecting all readers to LGBTQ agenda. <u>BI</u> means bias and indoctrination <u>EA</u> means explicit and detailed verbal descriptions or narrative accounts of sexual excitement, or sexual conduct and that is harmful to minors

	document 6 of the most egregious quotes in this template and in the 7 th row provide a total count of all offensive quotes that you have tabbed and highlighted.	<p><u>N</u> nudity or sexual conduct, <u>SE</u> sexual excitement, <u>SB</u> sexual battery, <u>B</u> bestiality, or <u>SA</u> sadomasochistic abuse</p> <p><u>NSC</u> means not suitable material of conduct for minors per existing statutes</p> <p>Example 1 : IA with LGBTQ Example 2: BI with IA and LGBTQ Example 3: EA with N, NSC</p>
Cover " and tango makes three"		BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination
Every year at the same time, the girl penguins start to notice the boy penguins. And the boy penguins start to notice the girls. When the right girl and the right boy, find each other, they become a couple		BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination
Two penguins in the penguin house were a little different. One was named Roy, and the other was named Silo. Roy and Silo were both boys. But they did everything together.		BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination

<p>They bowed to each other. They walked together.</p>			<p>BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination</p>
<p>They sang to each other. Wherever Roy went, Silo went.</p>			<p>BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination</p>
<p>They didn't spend much time with the girl penguins... Their keeper Mr. Gramzay noticed the two penguins and thought to himself "They must be in love"</p>			<p>BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination</p>
<p>Roy and Silo watched how the other penguins made a home. So they built a nest of stones for themselves. Every night they slept together, just like the other couples.</p>			<p>BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination</p>
<p>And every morning Roy and Silo woke up together. But one day... saw that other couples could do something they could not.</p>			<p>BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination</p>

<p>Roy and Silo had no egg to sit and keep warm. They had no baby chick to feed and cuddle and love.</p>		<p>BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination</p>
<p>Then Mr Gamszay got an idea.</p>		<p>BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination</p>
<p>He found an egg that needed to be cared for, and he brought it to Roy and Silo's nest.</p>		<p>BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination</p>
<p>Until one day, they heard a sound coming from inside the egg... Peep, peep</p>		<p>BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination</p>

<p>Out came their very own baby..... Now Roy and Silo were fathers. "We'll call her Tango", Mr Gannzay decided, "because to takes two to make a Tango"</p>		<p>BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination</p>	
<p>And all the families who came to the zoo, could see Tango and her two fathers playing in the penguin house.....</p>		<p>BI with IA and LGBTQ indoctrination</p>	

To add another row to the end of the table, place your cursor at the end of the text in the last cell (last row, last column) and hit Tab. Continue to hit Tab to add additional rows. Otherwise, you can use Layout Tools to insert rows above and/or below existing rows.

Please save this file using following file format: *Author_Publisher_Publication_YMMDD_ReviewersSurnames.docx*

An evaluation of the class room or media center materials provided to the student.

Number	Questions	Yes	No
--------	-----------	-----	----

1	Does the novel or textbook material violate FL Constitution, Chapter 27 or Statutes 1003.42, 1006.34, 847.001 and 847.012?		X
2	You are ask to document at examples and pictures that contain age-inappropriate and LGBTQ agenda material. Does the theme of this material contain age-inappropriate for minors?	X	
3	Does this material predominantly appeals to a prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of a minor student?		X
4	Is this material patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is <u>suitable material or conduct for minors</u> ?	X	
5	Taken as a whole, is this material without serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors? The book equates penguin behavior with human family structure providing false information. "Their keeper Mr. Gramzay noticed the two penguins and thought to himself, "They must be in love." Penguins don't fall in love, they mate, raise their young and separate until next mating season. Penguin behavior is again falsified. "Roy and Silo watched how the other penguins made a home. So they built a nest of stones for themselves. Every night Roy and Silo slept there together, just like the other penguin couples." The second sentence falsely equates sleeping together of two males as normal behavior among penguins.	X	
6	Does this material contain excerpts that cannot be printed in public newspapers or read on public television or radio?		X
7	By design does this material serve as a major tool for assisting in the instruction of a subject or course by school officers. The book first provides false information about penguin behavior removing any scientific value the book might have had, it rather focuses on the behavior of two male penguins in abnormal circumstances and their actions upon the interference of a human zookeeper. The book attempts to equate penguin behavior with human behavior (family structure) and influence the reader to accept LGBTQ behavior as normal, promoting a lifestyle rather than providing honest information to the reader.		X
8	Would you personally share this material with your minor children or grandchildren? The book without stating it (they may not realize that they did this) conveys that the penguins are not in normal circumstances, in this case the wild. They are in an abnormal situation and the zookeeper takes steps outside of what ecologists suggest for animal species. In the case of normal chin straps, the couples generally lay two eggs the first one being smaller which doesn't survive and then a larger egg which tends to be the one nurtured to adulthood. There are multiple reasons for this behavior, however in the		X

	<p>story, the zookeeper takes the step of interfering with the natural course of chinstrap behavior and slips an egg into the nest created by the two male penguins. His interference infers that same-sex behavior is not normal, and in this case occurred due to abnormal circumstances created by man. In nature there is always fierce competition for the right to mate and males who do not win that fight do not mate. I would not provide false information to anyone under my influence.</p>		
<p>The theme of this book is acceptance of an alternative lifestyle and the objective is to influence impressionable young minds at a very vulnerable age to accept abnormal relationships as normal, acceptable and to be expected, by using endearing language, graphics and false information. Had this book been just a story about this true occurrence, that was clearly out of the norm and factual information about penguins, it would have been perfectly acceptable and in interesting case study into animal behavior.</p>			

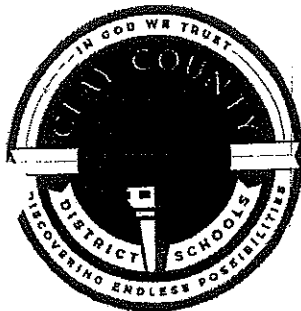
Concerns: State your brief narrative of your concerns (100 words or less)

The book provides false information about penguin behavior removing any scientific value the book might have had, it rather focuses on the behavior of two male penguins in abnormal circumstances and their actions upon the interference of a human zookeeper. The book is an attempt to influence young impressionable minds to accept the gay lifestyle. It does so in a very endearing and attractive format to preschoolers. It does not move the reader toward critical thinking it is written to influence and manipulate thinking.

Evaluations based on template

Choices	Explanations	Yes	No
1	This material has no violations of FL State anti- pornography and instructional materials laws requiring age appropriate material.	X	

2	This material has minor violations of FL State anti- pornography and instructional materials laws requiring age appropriate material.		X	
3	This material has many violations of FL State anti- pornography and instructional materials laws requiring age appropriate material			X
4	This material is so flawed or objectionable that it is not recommended for use in public schools	X		



CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

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David S. Broskie

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Beth Clark District 3

Tina Bullock District 4

Ashley Gilhousen, District 5

Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: BONNIE FRIEDMAN

Phone: [REDACTED]

Physical Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

School: MIDDLEVIEW HS...

Grade Level: HS...

Subject: VARIES

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named NO LEFT TURN IN EDUCATION
- I already have a copy of the material
- I will review the material on-site
- I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: VARIES

Title: Angel of Greenwood

Author: Randi Pink

ISBN: 978-1-25096847-6

NOTE: Requests may be returned if questions 1, 2, and 3 do not include a detailed response.

1. What is your interest or reason for this request?

PROTECT CHILDREN!

2. Does this material violate F.S. Chapter 847 regarding Obscenity? Circle one: YES/NO

NO

3. What is objectionable about the material? Include specific pages, chapters, language, scenes, etc., in your response. Attach additional information, if necessary.

CAT + MORE
SEE ATTACHED

4. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material?

DAMAGED SOULS!

5. For what age group would you recommend this material? ADULT

6. Is there anything good in this material? NA

7. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: NA

Printed name of Complainant: BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Please do not forget to sign, as forms without signatures may be returned.

[Redacted Signature]: [Signature]

[Redacted Date]: 1/11/2023

Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

Clay County District Schools
Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:

Received in Instructional Resources: Date 1/17/23 by [Signature]

Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 5

The form was fully completed and accepted: Yes/No. If not, why?

Date Committee convened:

Committee:

Outcome:

Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____

Additional information:

NEW Challenge 007_Angel of Greenwood by Randi Pink

[Fictional account of historical racism associated with the 1921 Tulsa Massacre; promotes white-hatred; violence; infidelity; promiscuity; murder; mature themed discussions; Black activism; CRT subtly injected in a variety of ways.]

Format = p # and content/keyword - my comments follow

Inside cover – "...Du Bois...Black people should rise up to claim their place as equals" – I can respect that the author, Randi Pink, like W.E.B. DuBois and the Black Lives Matter movement, has an agenda, but I expect this book won't consider that with the same logic, short Jewish guys should demand a proportional presence in the NBA. The problem lies with the word "equal." Like the often misused word "equity," it's an important lesson to know that each of us is of roughly equivalent importance to the people that love us, but in many ways, we are not equal at all.

"May 31, 1921...vicious white mob..." – This is historically correct, see Tulsa Massacre. A stain on all of us. Meanwhile, notice that Black is capitalized and white is NOT. Seems a bit racist because it is. This is an aspect of CRT.

P4-5 – "Damn white boys" – Okay, there WAS cause for concern as this story tells us these are poorly behaved white boys.

P14 – "*The Souls of Black Folk*...W.E.B Du Bois..." – Over a century ago, in 1903, Du Bois called for a not so peaceful protest. He'd be very happy with the BLM/Antifa crowd. Me, not so much. It IS okay that children learn there were all colors of angry violent people, just like today.

P23 – "...Black folks in these shifty times." – Again 'Black' is capitalized, as it is throughout this text, while "white" is not. – That's one very subtle ANTI-WHITE thing to set as your standard. I would not refuse to purchase this book for such a weak reason, but I might first explain to the readers that the author's agenda has affected them poorly.

P26 – "...daydream...for white boys." – Fine, maybe even historically accurate. In current times, this seems anti-racist, AKA CRT.

P27 – "...world made complicated by the color of his skin." – Again, fine, maybe even accurate.

P32 - "Booker T. Washington..correct about tolerance and eventual progress." – This book leans more towards activism than pacifism. Also, more towards mutual community rather than individual effort. Fine.

P33 – "...railroad tracks, dividing white Tulsa from Black Greenwood." - True. Also true that the author has capitalized everything except 'white.' At the very least, I believe that's uncool.

P40 – (comparing Booker T. Washington to Du Bois) – Well done! Author might be a racist but is not stupid.

P41 – "...back bleachers for a smoke." – Okay, some kids smoke. Fortunately, not mine.

P56 – "no dead white authors" – Not very nice but okay.

P57 – (Character Isaiah pens a poem about his love interest, Angel) – quaint.

P82-83 – “Du Bois is not just politics. He’s starting a revolution for our people...taking our power back from the white man” – True about Du Bois. Fine. Better if we read Du Bois instead of this book – in my opinion.

P124 – “The Souls of Black Folk.” – Du Bois is a better read than this book, so far. Do kids ever get to read from this original source or does the low bar of “equity” also apply to our library books and curriculum?

P125 – “Every Black man would stand...daring the jealous hearted white man...way of the future...” – Since in modern times, here in America, most people treat each other well or with indifference, how much racism or anti-racism is a benefit to our mutual futures? How much is good for our children? I’m not exactly sure either but my answer is “less.”

P128 – “I should save *you*...from your oppression.” – The author is speaking vicariously through Isaiah to the readers.” Trouble is, teaching ongoing current oppression (real or imagined) is CRT!

P129 – “I know our people [blacks outside of Greenwood] are in a state of terror.” – okay.

P130 – “...Washington...was an Uncle Tom.” – Fierce dialogue but we must assume the author agrees. Calling anyone an Uncle Tom is quite racist. It’s CRT too but won’t be admitted because usually in CRT only WHITE people can be racist.

P138 “ankle deep in [Booker T.] Washington’s muck.” – In my opinion, our world would be better served by more studying of Up from Slavery and LESS Du Bois. Fine.

P141 – “My Mother would have died for such an opportunity” – [Admiring his teacher’s food storage] – Fine.

P146-147 – “...master-minded white man, winning by any means necessary.” – Okay.

“Never tell a good Black man he’s just like the vilest white one.” – Good to know.

P166 – “She’s never held hands with anyone before.” – A chaste child. Thank goodness.

P167 – (Discussion of a humiliated wife due to her husband’s unfaithful behavior) – Fine.

P168 – (mature discussions of fatherhood and death) – Okay but maybe best for High School, not younger.

P174 – “Your sweet, perfect boy is just as into whores as I am.” – Unpleasantness. Okay.

[Friends fist fighting] – Fine.

P175 – “Kid had it coming...Go on home.” – Okay

P187 – The children’s teacher, Miss Ferris, has a system for distributing age appropriate books!

Each was marked: “birth to five, then six to 10; then eleven to fourteen, and, finally, fifteen and up.”

*Notice there’s no “YOUNG ADULT” category. Maybe she knew something our ALA indoctrinated librarians have failed to accept?

P199 – Isaiah salutes the soldiers [of WW 1] in a parade. Partly out of respect for them, but also because his own father died in that war a few years earlier. He felt compelled to salute them all. Someone failed

to teach Kaepernick about this. I'm interested to ask this author about Kaepernick. I do not think he is as good a role model as some suggest. Anyway, no American should deny that their freedoms are the result of many other person's sacrifices. That lesson is actually missing in this book.

P202 – "Papa is dying." – Not the heaviest of emotions in this book but maybe not for every kid.

P203 – "Right there in the middle of the street, Angel Hill kissed Isaiah Wilson." – Okay, not unexpectedly.

P232 – (Ongoing burning and looting of Greenwood in progress) – "And her beloved Booker T. Washington was more wrong than she ever could've imagined." – Cathartic note from author to reader is pushing activism. So are our public schools. This is NOT their place.

P277 – "We've tasted glory...This, Men, cannot be burned away from us." – Again, the author wants all readers to be actively engaged in fighting injustice. That's her right as the author, but is not ideal as a message to all our children. Especially since this author seems as angry at the modern white person as those that razed Greenwood a century ago. **Hatred of others is NOT a good message.

The rest of the book details the further horrors of the burning of Greenwood. Some of the writing is detailed and poignant. None of it, in my opinion, is disqualifying for my own high school age child but I would not let him read this until he's at least finished "Up from Slavery."



CLAY COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

900 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043

P (904) 336-6500 F (904) 336-6536 W oneclay.net

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

David S. Broskie

3- RHTJ 29310
DHT T 28275

DA 28274

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Janice Kerekes, District 1
- Mary Bolla District 2
- Beth Clark District 3
- Tina Bullock District 4
- Ashley Gilhousen, District 5

Request for Reconsideration or Review of Instructional Materials

Individual Requesting Review: BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Phone: [REDACTED] .V6

Physical Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

School: RIDGEVIEW etc Grade Level: H.S etc Subject: VARIES

Check as applicable:

- I represent a special interest group named NO LEFT TURN IN EDUCATION FLORIDA
- I already have a copy of the material
- I will review the material on-site
- I wish to check out the material for a two-week period

Type of Instructional Material:

- Novel
- Textbook
- Workbook
- Symbol
- Video (YouTube, DVD, etc.)
- Other: VARIES

Title: * Ask the passengers

Author: * A.S. King

ISBN: * 978-0-316-19468-6

1. What is your interest or reason for this request? PROTECT CHILDREN

2. What is objectionable about the material: specific pages, chapters, language, scenes?

Attach additional information, if necessary. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT</u>	<u>READ</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>COMMON CORE</u>	<u>SUMMARY</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>CSE</u>	<u>see</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>SEL</u>	<u>attached</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>DEL / CRT / ANTI-POLICE</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>SEXUAL CONTENT</u>	

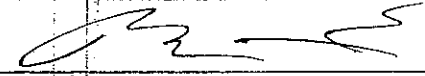
3. What do you believe might be the result of a student using this material? DAMAGED SOULS

4. For what age group would you recommend this material? ADULT

5. Is there anything good in this material? NA

6. Would you care to recommend another instructional material in the same format, covering the same subject or content standards? If so, please list the title, author, publisher, and ISBN: NA

Printed name of Complainant: BRUCE FRIEDMAN

Signature of Complainant: 

Date: 7/31/2022

Please submit the completed form and any additional documentation to:

Clay County District Schools
Attn: Supervisor of Instructional Resources
900 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

To be completed by Instructional Resources Office Staff:

Received in Instructional Resources: Date 8/2/22 by JG

Attachments were included with this form. Total number of pages 6

The form was fully completed and accepted: Yes. If not, why?

Date Committee convened: _____

Committee Members: _____

Outcome: _____

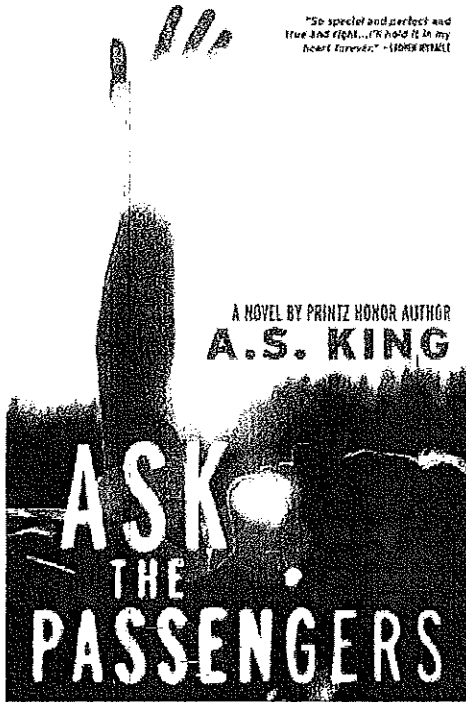
Notification of Complainant: Date _____ by _____

Additional information: _____

PENDING FINAL REVIEW



ASK THE PASSENGERS



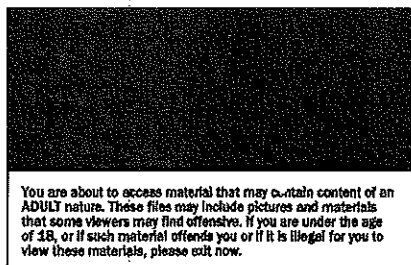
Summary of Concerns:

This book contains alcohol and drug use; profanity and derogatory terms; sexual activities; alternate sexualities.

Young Adult

By A.S. King

ISBN: 978-0-316-19468-6



3 / 5

Minor Restricted
BookLooks Review Rating

28	"I don't like pot has taken my dad away from me, but I like how it's given him the balls to stick up for me like that. I send love from my bedroom. Dad, I love you for saying what you said at dinner. I know it was hard because Mom has chopped off your balls and baked them in a testes casserole, but thank you for trying.
31	The swirling white air dances around the caged freezer light bulb, and she pushes me right up against the dappled stainless-steel wall and kisses me with both her hands braided into my hair. This is not our first kiss. ... She's also kissing me. A lot. And I'm kissing her back. ...I only knew her as the neighboring school district's badass hockey star who would periodically get mentioned in small-town gossip. I'm pretty sure she used the word dyke in her description, too.
32	Now she's laughing while she kisses me. "You're not going to tell me to back off again, are you? she asks. Mmmm, Hmmm, "I manage while still kissing her neck, her ear. "Back off," I say. I bite her earlobe. ... So far in my life, Dee is the only person who wants to totally ravish me. I have to stop her all the time. I swear she'd do it right here in the walk-in freezer if she could.
41	Dad is in his Saturday stoner clothes. ... The only thing he did while he was "cleaning out the garage attic" was take a few hits from the pipe he hides up there and exhale out the exhaust fan towards Bob's house.
42	Dad disappears to the garage again on some vague errand, which means he's going to toke up.
49	Before we can have any sort of conversation, which is what I'd really like to do, Dee leans over and kisses me. Then as always, she goes too fast. I take her hand out of my shirt and place it on my hip.
49	I want to tell her that I'm not ready for intimacy. I want to tell her to stop looking at me with those lovesick eyes. Instead, I do what any awkward geek who wants to avoid the topic of sex at all costs would do.
63	A bunch of underage queer kids is the last thing they care about.
64	If they've ever snuck out on a Saturday night. (To a gay bar.) If they've ever wondered what making love to a girl must feel like.
65	In my case, I thought happiness was a lot of stupid shit. Drugs. Guys. Telling my parents off. More drugs. More telling my parents off. More guys. More drugs.
68	Dancing gay people. People letting loose and not giving a shit what other people think about them, just as Kristina promised.
69	They say: All normal teenagers are doing it. As long as they don't come home with a disease or a baby, what's the big deal?
72	"You sure this isn't weird for you?" She points to two women kissing. I shrug. "I've seen you and Donna do that before."
75	She kisses my neck and my cheek and my head, and I instantly get giggly, and then she turns my head and kisses me and time stands still. ... When she moves to put her hand between my legs, I stop her.

76	I grab her approaching hand. "If all you want is sex, then why don't you find a girl who just gives out?..."
106	When Dee kisses me, the taste of her is enough to make me die right here on the spot
107	I can't believe no one else can smell the pot wafting from his core. At this point, I think we could scrape off his epidermis and smoke it for a buzz.
114	I hop into Dee's car and jump on here like a lonely dog after a day at home alone. This is probably the most forward I've ever been with her, and while I'm doing it I try to figure out why. ... She slips her hands into the waistband of my jeans, onto my hips. I kiss her as if we are not in a parking lot surrounded by a bunch of other people.
116	It's as if someone has taken the real Astrid Jones and replaced her with one who is okay with intimacy in public places. ... Dee is right here, rubbing up against me. We are two parts of the same animal. People are hooting. We're on fire. Every time Dee gets her face near mine, we kiss.
117	I kiss her on her neck. "Totally worth it." "True." She kisses me sloppily and it makes my insides twist up and we make out for a few minutes and everything is going great until she jams her hand into my pants and I have to stop her from going too far because I don't want to go that far. ... She slaps the car seat and says, "Damnit, Jones! Just shit or get off the pot!"
121	"Is that how you want to make love to me the first time? Forcing yourself?" ... "I wouldn't have ever done something that made you feel horrible. Jesus! You make me out like a date rapist.
141	I admit I could us a night out away from my house, and I wouldn't mind a hard lemonade after the cruddy week I had.
149	As we kiss--and Kim is a spectacular kisser--I begin to think about what this means. This means I've kissed two girls in my life. Which is one more than the one boy I've kissed--if you don't count Jeff Garnet, who I'm not really kissing. It means I am more of a lesbian than I was only a minute ago when I was just looking at Kim and thinking about how cute she is. It means that one day I will have to tell my parents. And Ellis, who says things like lesbian luncheon. It means that maybe I will finally drive my pseudo-agoraphobic mother into full-fledged hiding.
152	I make my exit while Donna and Kristina start making out in the backseat and Justin texts Chad because he's not here yet. ... When we kiss, it overflows into a longer kiss and then a longer one and then a passionate, sink-down-in-the-seats kiss and I feel a blanket of desire over me like I've never really felt before. She grabs my hair and twists it. She squeezes my hips, and I put my right hand up her shirt and touch her through her bra and then slide my index finger around her waistband. Just a little.
153	She chuckles and slips her hands into my jeans and down the sides of my legs. Under my panties, and then aims them around my ass and holds it like someone would hold a water balloon. Carefully. Skillfully.

Page	
	... She removes her hands from my jeans and lifts my shirt a little. She kisses my lips. My chin. My neck. My collarbone. My belly. My ribs. "I'm sorry. I wasn't paying attention. Were you trying to say something?" She begins to unbutton my fly.
155	...and Dee and I start to kiss again in the corner while our hips are pressing into each other and our hands are touching places that should not be touched in a public place.
155	Even if I just did what I did with a complete stranger named Kim.
179	"Who'd have thought they were dykes? They don't look like dykes."
183	"Hey, dyke! Hey lezzer!" the whole time. "One night with me and my crew would cure that, you know!"
193	YES, Astrid, I know the whole world is talking about you, too, but you are the one who chose to go out and shake your booty with your gays, you know?
206	Dad gets up and goes out the back door toward the garage, and I almost want to follow him and ask him if I can have a toke off the pipe just so I can unhear what he just said.
209	..and the only person I've really seen is my dad, and he's just--us--useless," I say. I mean stoned. Useless and stoned."
215	They pay me to be the good-looking young guy on their arm. They pay me for other stuff too.
215	Then I remember that it takes a lot of clients to get rich...unless one of them falls in love like I do.
252	"I don't care who knows I'm gay!" I say. "I'M GAY! Okay? I'm fucking GAY!"
252	I stand in the long hall and hear it echo back at me, She's fucking gay. Okay?
252	Frank Socrates, who is stationed at the water fountain, echoes, too. "She's fucking gay, okay?"
254	Does Mom know you're stoned all the time?
254	So far, I get that you think I smoke too much weed and that Mom is a bitch who doesn't love you.
258	He's too stoned to know what to say.
284	"So I say, no way, I would know if I ever said that because it was about my own fucking sister and that it was wrong to say that you'd tried to do anything to mean that you aren't some sort of weirdo lesbian rapist or anything.

Profanity	Count
Ass	7
Bitch	4
Dyke	4
Fuck	11
Piss	1
Pussy	1
Shit	19



District Committee Reconsideration Meeting Minutes

Title: Ask the Passengers
Author: Amy S. King
Date: 3/30/2023
Committee Members: [REDACTED]
Complainant: Bruce Friedman (not in attendance) *Reconsideration form read aloud for committee.

1. What is the overall purpose, theme or message of the material?

Basic theme that everyone experiences in life, expectations that society has for you to live up to. Coming of age story.

2. This work is most suitable for which grades? (Check all that apply.)

Pre-K K-6 7-8 9-12 None

3. Are concepts presented in a manner appropriate to the ability and maturity level of your suggested audience?

Yes No

4. Will reading or listening to this work result in a more compassionate understanding of human beings?

Yes No

If yes, explain how.

n/a

5. Does this work offer an opportunity to understand and better appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of different cultures and/or minority groups?

Yes No

If yes, explain how.

n/a



District Committee Reconsideration Meeting Minutes

6. Are questionable elements of this work an important part of the overall development of the story or text?

Yes No

Explain your answer in a few sentences.

Yes and no. This could be about any kind of teen, but the gender identity of the character isn't important. Participating in drinking and sexual encounters could be questionable due to the age of the characters. Finding commonality with other peers is an important element of the reason the book was written. But, wish they didn't put so much sex in the book for children.

7. Non-fiction ONLY: Does the material contribute to the evolution of ideas?

Yes No

Explain your answer in a few sentences.

8. Are the illustrations appropriate for the student's developmental age?

Yes No

9. Does this work have literary merit?

Yes No Not Applicable

10. Could this work be considered offensive in any way due to:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> profanity | <input type="checkbox"/> brutality | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or portrayal of religious practices/ideologies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> language | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sexual behavior | <input type="checkbox"/> manner characters are presented |
| <input type="checkbox"/> violence | <input type="checkbox"/> prurient behavior | <input type="checkbox"/> portrayal of any societal groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cruelty | <input type="checkbox"/> aberrant behavior | <input type="checkbox"/> political positions |

Notes:

MEETING NOTES:

SR the Passengers

3/30/2023 @ 10am

Lab 1002

Notes

- 1 - Remove from all libraries
- 2 - Keep at H.S. only

Reconsideration Ballot

Date: 3/30/23

Title: Ask the Passengers

Author: A.S. King

Select ONE option:

I vote to **remove** the book from all libraries

OR

I vote to **keep** in Clay County School Libraries (*specify recommendation below*)

- Keep the book at **ALL** school levels
- Keep the book at the **junior and high** school levels
- Keep the book at the **high school level ONLY**

Reconsideration Ballot

Date: 3/30/2023

Title: ASK the PASSENGERS

Author: A. S. King

Select ONE option:

I vote to **remove** the book from all libraries

OR

I vote to **keep** in Clay County School Libraries (*specify recommendation below*)

- Keep the book at **ALL** school levels
- Keep the book at the **junior and high** school levels
- Keep the book at the **high school level ONLY**

Reconsideration Ballot

Date: 3-30-23

Title: ASK THE PASSENGERS

Author: A. S. KING

Select ONE option:

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OR

I vote to **keep** in Clay County School Libraries (*specify recommendation below*)

Keep the book at **ALL** school levels

Keep the book at the **junior and high** school levels

Keep the book at the **high school level ONLY**