



Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

The Burlington County Library has a responsibility to provide a comprehensive collection representing a wide range of ideas and viewpoints; moreover, BCLS has committed to the right of free access to information for all individuals. Customers wishing to recommend the removal or reclassification of a particular item may submit a Request for Reconsideration form. Requests to remove materials will be considered by the Library Director in consultation with librarians selected in a review committee. The Director will offer a response upon consideration of the review committee's recommendation.

Title of Book or Resource: Sex is a Funny Word

Author: Cory Silverberg

Other identifying information (Publisher, format, publication date, library call number):
Seven Stories Press, 2015, T613.9071 SIL

Do you represent:

Yourself

1. What concerns you about this work? (Please be specific. Cite pages or sections.)

Pages 24/25: Defining sex, a serious word, for young children. Early readers may consume this content before they are mature enough for it.

37: depiction of confusing sexual orientation, a Furry, is pictured. Children are still learning how to share and play together and this image can be confusing.

54: confusing to young readers to have their "private parts" or the term given by their trusted parent or guardian described as "middle parts". Very confusing for young children and can cause conflict when a family is trying to teach their child about their body for safety and protection.

Pages 60/61: ADULT AND CHILD BREASTS: nudity of adults and kids pictured, various pictures of ADULT breasts, ADULT nipples, ADULT naked torsos

Pages 62/63: ADULT AND CHILD GENITALIA: pictures of adult and kid anuses

Pages 64/65: ADULT AND CHILD GENITALIA: pictures and labels of Kid and Adult vaginas, clitorises, vulvas

Pages 66/67: ADULT AND CHILD GENITALIA: pictures of child and adult penises, erect penises

Pages 70/71: Educating children that they may not be a boy or a girl, a conversation best had with their doctor or parent. Very confusing content for children.

Page 106: Comic book picture of masturbation

Pages 158/159: Glossary of words that DO NOT appear in the book, defining sensitive sexual topics that can be confusing for young readers

2. What brought this work to your attention?

I frequent the Pinelands library [REDACTED] We were searching for books for a science project on the human heart.

This book is housed in the children's section. It is on the same shelf next to books titled, "Keeping Clean" "Taking Care of my Teeth" "Yoga for Children" "Eating Well" "Ships" "Cranes" and on the book column directly next to the dinosaur books. Easily accessible for young children that love looking at books and exploring at their library. I was shocked to see a book with this content housed with books geared towards YOUNG children.

I brought the book to a librarian and mentioned that I thought it was filed incorrectly, but later that week it was in the same place.

3. Did you examine the entire work? (Circle one) Yes- I took the book out to prepare this document.

4. What do you feel might happen as the result of reading/viewing this work?

Children are viewing pornographic pictures! Young children of reading age can access a book with adult content and pictures of penises and vaginas. This content can be confusing and alarming to children. I think many can agree it is not appropriate for young children to see images of adult genitalia. This is information and content that should be handled by a parent, not something they can stumble upon while looking for books about dinosaurs or brushing their teeth.

5. What actions are you requesting the committee consider? Please remove the book from the library due to pictures of ADULT AND CHILD GENITALIA or refile the book to the adult section. In a new placement (in the adult section) a parent can take out the book for their child as they see fit and appropriate.

6. Have you read the library's Collection Management Policy? (Circle one) Yes

If yes, in what way does the work in question violate this policy?

BCLS understands that materials acquired for youth must be regarded with special care due to the developmental needs of children and their readiness to master sensitive topics and/or content. In response, BCLS asserts that the responsibility of a child's use of materials as well as content appropriateness lies with the parent or guardian.

BCLS should be ashamed and disgusted that they have placed a book with graphic sexual content (geared towards children) in their library. They are accepting the viewing of adult and child genitalia in various stages of erection/arousal on their shelves. Content appropriateness should lie with the parent, as you state, giving them the opportunity to discuss these topics in their own home.

Your Name (First, Last):

[REDACTED]

BCLS Library Barcode:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Signature

[REDACTED]

Date 4/26/2024

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