



CHECKLIST FOR REVIEW OF MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS FICTION

This checklist is used by building- and board-level review committees to review media center materials. The review committee shall read, examine and evaluate the material as a whole; consider the district’s policy, procedures, and philosophy for selection of media center materials; weigh strengths and weaknesses; and form opinions based upon the selection criteria (Board Policy IF).

Media Center Materials to Review

Material at Issue: Book/E-book Film/Video Recording Magazine Other

Title of Material: _____

Author or Editor: _____

Publisher: _____

Review Criteria

A. Purpose

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

Is this purpose accomplished? Yes No

If this is a fantasy text, is it the type that has imaginative appeal and is suitable for...

- ...children? Yes No
- ...young adults? Yes No

If both are marked “No,” for what age group would you recommend? _____

Will engaging with this material result in more compassionate understanding of human life? Yes No

Will engaging with this material result in a better understanding or appreciation of the aspirations, achievements, and problems of various minority groups? Yes No

Are any questionable elements of the story an integral part of a worthwhile theme or message? Yes No

Comments

B. Content

Does a story about modern times give a realistic picture of life as it is not? Yes No

Does the story avoid an oversimplified view of life, one which leaves the reader with the general feeling that life is always positive or always negative? Yes No

When factual information is part of the story, is it accurately presented? Yes No

Is prejudicial appeal readily identifiable by the potential reader? Yes No

Are concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the potential readers? Yes No

Do characters speak in a language true to the period and location in which they live? Yes No

Does the material offend, in a specific manner, the sensibilities of any group by the way it presents either the main character or any of the supporting characters? Yes No

Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, substance use/abuse, cruelty, brutality, and aberrant behavior that would make this material inappropriate for...

- ...children? Yes No
- ...young adults? Yes No

If there use of offensive language, is it appropriate to the purpose of the text for...

- ...children? Yes No
- ...young adults? Yes No

Is the material free from derisive names and epithets that would offend...

- ...children? Yes No
- ...young adults? Yes No

Is the material well written or produced? Yes No

Does the story give a broader understanding of human behavior without adversely stressing differences of class, race, ethnicity, sex, education, religion, or philosophy? Yes No

Does the material make a significant contribution to the history of literature or ideas? Yes No

Are the illustrations appropriate and in good taste? Yes No N/A

Are the illustrations realistic in relation to the story? Yes No N/A

Comments

C. Reviews

Does this title appear in one or more reputable selection aids? Yes No

If yes, please attach information found from the reputable selection aids.

Comments

D. Additional Comments

Please attach additional comments to this form.