

Be Aware

- Many school reading lists now include books recommended by students but not reviewed for content by teachers or school administrators.
- In 2004, Amazon.com listed as a young adult best seller a book about a sex party hosted by a high school sophomore. *School Library Journal* found the novel appropriate for students in grades nine and above.
- Many books on required reading lists for high school students included violence, profanities and sexual situations.
- A high school history textbook published by the University of Illinois tells students that the early Christians considered homosexuality normal, and that some church leaders probably engaged in homosexual relationships.
- Parents concerned about the exposure of their young children to pro-homosexual literature have filed suit against the Lexington, MA school board.



Be Resourceful

Below are some organizations that offer information about children's literature, as well as book reviews:

Parents Against Bad Books in School

www.pabbis.com

Parents' Rights Coalition

www.parentsrightscoalition.org

Citizens for Literary Standards in Schools

www.classkc.org

Citizens for Community Values

www.ccv.org

SparkNotes

www.sparknotes.com

Citizens for Academic Responsibility

<http://users.owt.com/crbatish/>

Plan2Succeed

www.plan2succeed.org

Gateway to Better Education

www.gtbe.org

Back to School

A Parents' Guide to Children's Literature



381 Elliot Street, Suite 185L
Newton Upper Falls, MA 02464-1156
Ph (617) 928-0800 • Fax (617) 928-1515
www.mafamily.org

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Be Prepared

Know what books are on library and bookstore shelves

Parents should be aware that publishers, booksellers and librarians may not have the best interest of children in mind. From young adult literature that promotes casual sex and drinking to pro-homosexual books featured in first grade, children are being confronted with questionable material.

- The American Library Association has fought a 10-year battle to avoid limiting the access of young users to internet pornography, stating it would be "age discrimination" to do so.
- In June 2006 the Young Adult Library Association listed *F*** this Book* among its "Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers."
- Grammar school libraries frequently stock books recommended by the American Library Association including ones that show graphic drawings of sex acts.



Be Proactive

Introduce quality literature into your home

One of the best ways to encourage your child's interest in quality literature is to make it easily available to them.

- Discuss good books and what constitutes a "classic."
- Visit libraries and bookstores together.
- Find out if your church has a library, or if your children's ministry workers can suggest good reading material.
- Choose books to read together, and make time to discuss them.
- Read the books your children read and show interest in whatever they are reading.
- Solicit recommendations from trusted teachers and librarians.
- Share the names of books and authors you have enjoyed.
- Find books that focus on your child's particular interests such as sports, science or history.



Be Engaged

Ask what books are being read and recommended

- Investigate the lists of any required reading.
- Visit websites for reviews and summaries of popular literature.
- Be aware of the literature taught in the classroom.
- Talk to your child's teachers about what books they recommend.
- Learn how and why books are chosen.
- Determine what to do if your child brings home from a school a book you believe is objectionable and make sure other parents know about it.

