### 2022-06-07 8:27 AM (email from Pierre Barns to the Chilliwack School District)

From: pierrebarns@gmail.com <pierrebarns@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 7, 2022 8:27 AM

**To:** Jared Mumford <<u>jared\_mumford@sd33.bc.ca</u>>; Willow Reichelt <<u>willow\_reichelt@sd33.bc.ca</u>>; Carin Bondar <<u>carin\_bondar@sd33.bc.ca</u>>; Darrell Furgason <<u>darrell\_furgason@sd33.bc.ca</u>>; Heather Maahs <<u>heather\_maahs@sd33.bc.ca</u>>; Barry Neufeld <<u>barry\_neufeld@sd33.bc.ca</u>>; David Swankey <<u>david\_swankey@sd33.bc.ca</u>>; Rohan Arul <<u>Rohan\_Arul@sd33.bc.ca</u>>

Dear Trustees,

I trust that you are passionate about helping students succeed at the Chilliwack School District and I recognize you have a challenging and demanding job, so I will try to make it short, but this is an important matter.

I have reason to believe that children or youth have been or could be likely abused or neglected based on what I have seen and information I have found on your library site; I am concerned about the safety and well-being of those under your authority about a serious matter that is happening within your school. As a Canadian citizen and under B.C. law, I have a duty to report the following concerns.

Children ages from 5 years old up to 17 years old at the schools mentioned below have been or are at risk of being exposed to books containing sexual references, sexual activity, sexual material, and books showing a person who is engaged in or is depicted as engaged in explicit sexual activity. The main characteristics of those books relate to sexual activity and expose children to individuals engaging in sexually explicit acts, including exposure to adult pornography, and encouraging children to masturbate or watch others masturbate.

It is important to know that we do not have to prove that a child has been abused in order to report abuse. If we observe or hear about concerning behavior or an inappropriate situation between an adult and a child within an organization, such as a school, daycare, or sports program, and as mentioned above due to mandatory laws in most provinces in Canada we must report our concern to the organization.

According to the Canadian Center for Child Protection, a non-contact sexual abuse is as follows:

- Encouraging a child to masturbate or watch others masturbate
- Secretly recording or observing a child in a private situation for a sexual purpose (voyeurism)
- Exposing a child to individuals engaging in sexually explicit acts (including exposure to adult pornography)
- Exposing a child to child sexual abuse material
- "Flashing" or exposing genitals to a child

- Communicating over technology to make it easier to commit a specific sexual offense against a child (luring a child)
- Taking a picture or recording a video of a child's sexual organs for a sexual purpose

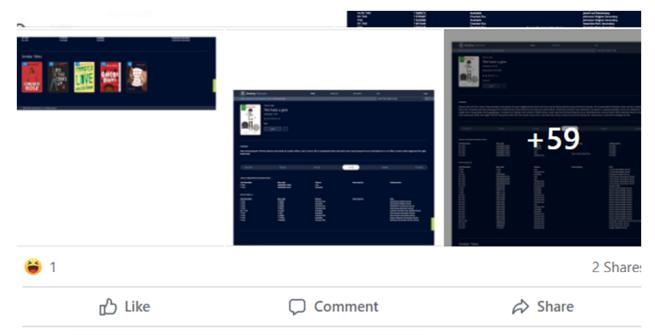
I understand that resources are to be inclusive and suitable based on diverse social considerations. Nevertheless, resources are to be ages appropriate, and within the boundary of the rules of law. In good faith, I would advise the School Board to remove those books from the library, contact the librarian, review those books with teachers and parents, and make sure that all book selection policy has been followed. Please advise on how the board will proceed.

Hope the following information will help you better understand the concern mentioned above. If you need more information regarding those books, please do not hesitate to ask.

On another note, I found it disturbing that Trustees Willow found fantastic a book like The Hate U Give and that she thinks concerned parents like myself are "ridiculous human being".

This book is loaded with profanity and swearing language including words (fuck 97 times, cocaine 2 times, bitch 14 times, and n\*\*\* 9 times)

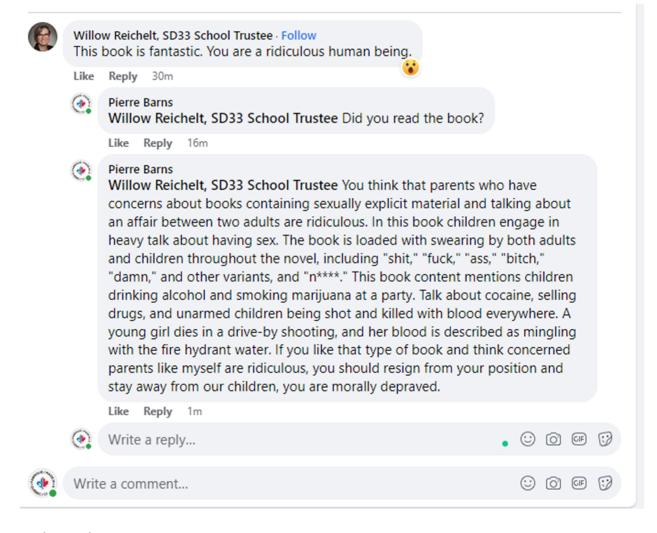
How will the board respond to her comment? and does her view representative of the board's vision?





Willow Reichelt, SD33 School Trustee · Follow
This book is fantastic. You are a ridiculous human being.

Like Reply 1m



Kind Regards,

Pierre Barns

Canadian Trustees raising their concern about the contents of the book in school:

https://www.facebook.com/LauraLynnTylerThompson/videos/814081779570576

Here is a video of a Mother in the USA complaining to the school board about the book The Glass Castle:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgRsqrMC4Lk

### What is SOGI -123?

SOGI-123 is an optional free resource, available online with ready to use, grade-level appropriate lesson plans, online learning modules, and customizable templates and tools that align with B.C.'s new curriculum. The ARC foundation developed SOGI-123 in collaboration with the B.C. Ministry of Education, B.C. Teachers' Federation, The University of British Columbia's Faculty of Education, nine school districts throughout B.C., and local, national and international LGBTQ community organizations.

# Are discussions about sexual practices taking place in elementary classrooms?

No, sexuality as a concept is discussed starting in grade 4 (with the onset of puberty) but does not include discussions about sexual acts or practices. Secondary students need accurate information about relationships and safe sex. Lack of information can have significant consequences for youth.

Are school aged children too young to be learning about gender? When discussing gender, the conversations are largely about what people like to wear, the activities they engage in and how they feel about themselves. Gender is about self-identity. When students learn about the diversity found in gender, they have an opportunity to explore a greater range of interests, ideas and activities.



Protecting You' Child | Reduce the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse

The following are examples of non-contact and contact sexual abuse offences. These are not meant to be exhaustive.

### Non-Contact Sexual Abuse:

- · Encouraging a child to masturbate or watch others masturbate
- Secretly recording or observing a child in a private situation for a sexual purpose (voyeurism)
- Exposing a child to individuals engaging in sexually explicit acts (including exposure to adult pornography)
- . Exposing a child to child sexual abuse material\*
- . "Flashing" or exposing genitals to a child
- Communicating over technology to make it easier to commit a specific sexual offence against a child (luring a child)\*\*
- Taking a picture or recording a video of a child's sexual organs for a sexual purpose

# An offender who is <u>known</u> to the child and/or family (is in a position of trust or is in the family's circle of trust) may:

- Establish trust with the adults around the child
- Manipulate the child by distorting their thinking and creating a dependency on the offender (grooming the child)
- Manipulate adults around the child to reduce any suspicion (grooming the adults)
- Find ways to spend ongoing time with the child to extend their access
- Misuse the child's trust and the trust of their family
- Normalize boundary crossing with the child
- Start making casual sexualized comments and/or jokes around the child

### An offender who is a <u>family</u> member may:

- Use their authority/role in the family and private access to control the child
- Take advantage of the child's dependency on them for survival<sup>®</sup>
- Assert their authority and domination in the home?









### All Boys Aren't Blu

Page 167

He reached his hand down and pulled out my dick. He quickly went to giving me head. I just sat...

Page 131

...what was about to happen, and then it did. You ejaculated into the toilet in front of me. I was very...

Page 131

Watching you ejaculate was shocking. I remember you telling me, "It'...



# "SCHOOL ACT [RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 412

## **Provision of educational program**

Section 75

(7) Subject to the regulations, a board

(a) is responsible for evaluating all of the educational programs and services provided by the board, including services provided under an agreement under section 86 (1) (a), and"

### **TEACHERS ACT**

### [SBC 2011] CHAPTER 19

### Duty to report professional misconduct

- 38 (1) An authorized person must promptly provide to the commissioner a written and signed report if the authorized person has reason to believe that another authorized person has engaged in conduct that involves any of the following:
  - (a) physical harm to a student;
  - (b) sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a student;
  - (c) significant emotional harm to a student.
  - (2) Subsection (1) applies even if the information on which the belief is based
    - (a) is privileged, except as a result of a solicitor-client relationship, or
  - (b) is confidential and its disclosure is prohibited under another Act.
  - (3) An authorized person who knowingly reports false information under subsection (1) commits an offence.
  - (4) No action for damages lies or may be brought against an authorized person for reporting information under this section unless the authorized person knowingly reported false information

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR BC EDUCATORS



Educators have a privileged position of power and trust. Educators are responsible for the physical and emotional safety of students. Educators respect and value the diversity in their classrooms, schools and communities, inclusive of First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and other worldviews and perspectives. Educators foster students' positive personal identity, mental and physical well-being, social and personal responsibility, and intellectual development. Educators engage students in meaningful participation in their own learning. Educators treat students equitably with acceptance, dignity and respect. Educators understand the importance of confidentiality, and protect student privacy, unless disclosure is required by law. Educators do not abuse or exploit students or minors for personal, sexual, ideological, material or other advantage.

Here are some screenshots of the book It's Perfectly Normal by Robie h. Harris and Michael Emberly are available at the following schools:

 BC Chilliwack Elementary Evans Elementary School its perfectly normal <a href="https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/54563/search/all?q=It%27s%20perfect">https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/54563/search/all?q=It%27s%20perfect</a>
 ly%20normal even more as all of this is going on and feel more and more excited.



When these feelings come to a climax, semen is ejaculated from the penis and spurts into the vagina, and the muscles in the vagina and uterus tighten and finally relax. This is called having an orgasm. Often, right after an orgasm, a small amount of fluid may come out of the vagina and out of the penis.





When a person with a female body and a person with a male body are having vaginal intercourse, the erect penis goes into and inside the vagina, which stretches in a way that fits around the penis. The wetness from the vagina makes it easier for the penis to go into the vagina.

Vaginal intercourse is also called vaginal sex. As the two people move back and forth in rhythm, the movement of the penis inside the vagina soon feels very good. They may hug and kiss and touch each other





After a bit, a person's vagina becomes moist and slippery, and the clitoris becomes hard.

After a bit, a person's penis becomes erect, stiff, and larger. Sometimes a bit of clear fluid that may contain a few sperm comes out of the tip of the penis and makes it wet. This is usually when two people begin to feel excited about each other.

But in fact, there are different kinds of sexual intercourse — vaginal intercourse, oral intercourse, and anal intercourse.



3: Sexual intercourse.

Sex one also musts sexual intercornes. Some people cell sexual intercorne "lavving sex."



Most often, sereal intercovers happens when two people fiel very sery and very attracted to each other and may also here very leving and romonic feelings about each other. These feelings often make them, want to or decide to be very close to each other in a sereal way. Proofe on here a sereal way. Proofe on here a exceed way. People can have these feelings for people of a different gender, or for people of the same gender, or for all

genders. One kind of sexual One tent-of seriou intercounce happens when a person with a feesale body and a person with a male body are so slove to each other that the puris goes inside the vigina, and the vigina stretches in a

This kind of treating are make the whole body fast good — fast sexy. And when this kind of sety. And when this tool of setted interviews happens, it is possible for a female body and a sude body— outer finir reproductive organs have grown up— to make a body.



8 IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL

It's Perfectly Normal, Changing Bodies, Gro... 🗱 Q. 🛕 🗏 🖟 📋





PART ONE

# What Is Sex?

Babies, Kids, Preteens, Teens, Grown-ups Sex and Gender

What is see? What is it .....

about? These we questions lots of kids wonder about. You needs't field emburement or stopid if you don't know the nursues. because sex is not a simple

become six is not a simple sandrer.

Sex is many things, and people have many different feelings and opinious about it. Edings and opinious about it. edings which there is more than one assess to the question. What is sex."





One very to find out about we, is to adl consense you know and test. Remandon, there are no regard questions. Another very to find out about see in to read about it. For example, you can hole up the mensing of the versel even that dictionary. Here is what one discisonery says under the treed see.

t: Either of the two groups, female or male, into which



2. A label soundly given at both to humans and other living things beand solely on the mole body parts or the female hody parts they have or wore bone with.

may of the versi set in the summer. Here is where one discrept upon suffer the version on a distribution of the version of the trong groups, famile or math, into which most living fishings our placed.

In the contract of the version of the versio

2 IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL

# Strong Feelings Sexual Desire



4. Senool desire.

Nex is also the desire to be physically close to summun, so close as you can be. Do you ever really want

or errors occurring? That's desire, like when you really want sentence to be your best friend or when you really want



You don't know why you want them things. You don't area think about why you want them. There are simply feelings of wanting—of desire.

Sexual desire is different from them desire—different from the desire—different from just wenting chounted.

from just vasating chocolors in a cream, or vesting someones to be your best fissed, or even wanting to energist op to your present, a friend, or press or staffed mainted.

See that the present desire means you find attended on someone in a vary strong way. . . . Site being pulled by a energist. There was no to be a physically classe to that pursue as you can be.

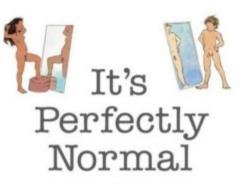
Even through you may think about that pursue a lot, sensed.

denire is mostly the way you find in your hody about that pursus. Your body may find excited or warm or quivery or tingly. And sometimes these feelings can be very

For late of kids, accound factor can happen when one has loggy; meryons, or exciting findings about mether person—findings that you scarp even find inside your body. Often it's hard is not grid thinking you entitled you entit in leve with that person. Bud's not you story even think you ent in leve with that person. That's colled 'howing a crede' no summon. Having credes is also perfectly accound. Not having credes is also perfectly account.

6 IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL

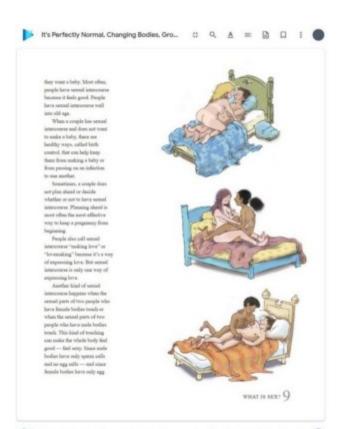
it's Perfectly Normal, Changing Bodies, Gro... 🗯 Q. 🛕 😑 📋 📋 🥫

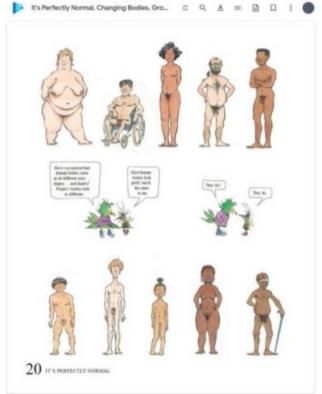


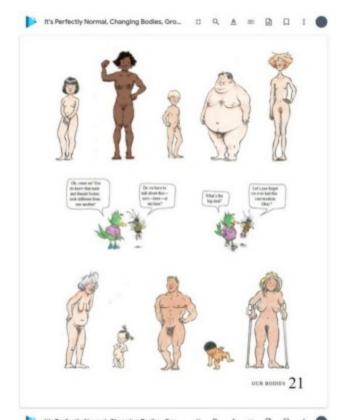
Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, Gender, and Sexual Health

> ROBIE H. HARRIS MICHAEL EMBERLEY













Value
The Clitorie
The clitorie is a small messed
of skin about the skin of a pen.
When the clitorie is bounded
and robbed, the clitorie is bounded
and robbed, the clitorie and the
whole body can find good both
contribe and insule. It feels kind
of traply, kind of warm and
non. It fools serve.

The Opening to the Urethra The opening to the uvellax in quite small. It is a take through which orize — liquid maste — leaves the body. The needles is not a reproductive







The Acres
The sens is a mostl opening
through which foces — solid
waste — larve the body.

For flavor what have female sex organs, in all, from front to book, there are these openings between the light the eposings to the orather, the opening to the orather, the opening to the various of the same. If they are nexicos about what these openings look like, holding a mainter between their legs is an any vary to faul out what these parts look like.

оскаоны 23

The Cervix
The cervix is a small opening
located in the lower part
of the sterns. It connects
the atterns to the top of
the region. This opening
stretches with when it's time
for a balls who have for a buby to be born.

The Visgino
The visgino is the pessageway
from the oterus to the outside of the famile body.

sude of the financial tooly; DOCTECT: A bully mendin through the regions whose it is mady to be been. The vagion is about the parameters for parameters for the parameter of the parameters there financia, and feature house their financia, and feature house for strength of the parameters of the parameters of second Mensions begins through pulsers and is called seconduction or "horizing and parameters of the parameters of the parameters of parameters of the paramete



The Male Sex Organs Outside

Most bely boys, beys, and non larve what many people unli "male sex organs"— sex request that are on the octoids of the body. These enter sex organs, the peris and the scrotum — which contains the two testides — are any to see when the body is sailed becase they long between the legs.







The Persis
The penis is made of self, spongy times and blood vessels.
Urine — liquid waste — larves the stole body firewagh a small opening of the tip of the penis.
The said of the penis is called the said.

The said of the power is called the glass. When the pensis is trouched and relibed, the pensis and the whole body can feel good both outside and smicke — kind of singly, kind of warm and nice. It feels sexy.

Intervention of the points in self-and hange driver over the stretches. Sometimes, it becomes stiff and hard, and heaper and longer, and stands out from the body. This is called an erection.

оси вооня 25











to sexual intercorrect—at my times and for my reason. Sexual intercourse to mally bugins with two people to making, currening, liceing, and legging out-offers in the offers with a person's years becomes national and eliquency, and the citoris becomes head. After a bit, a person's penis becomes a cut of eliquency, and the citoris becomes head. After a bit, a person's penis becomes error, wiff, and larger. Sometimes a bit of clear final flat may contain a few aperas uses as out of the tips of the penis and candes it was. This is smally when two people bugin to feel existed about each other. But in fact, there are different hinds of sexual natarcorrect — registed

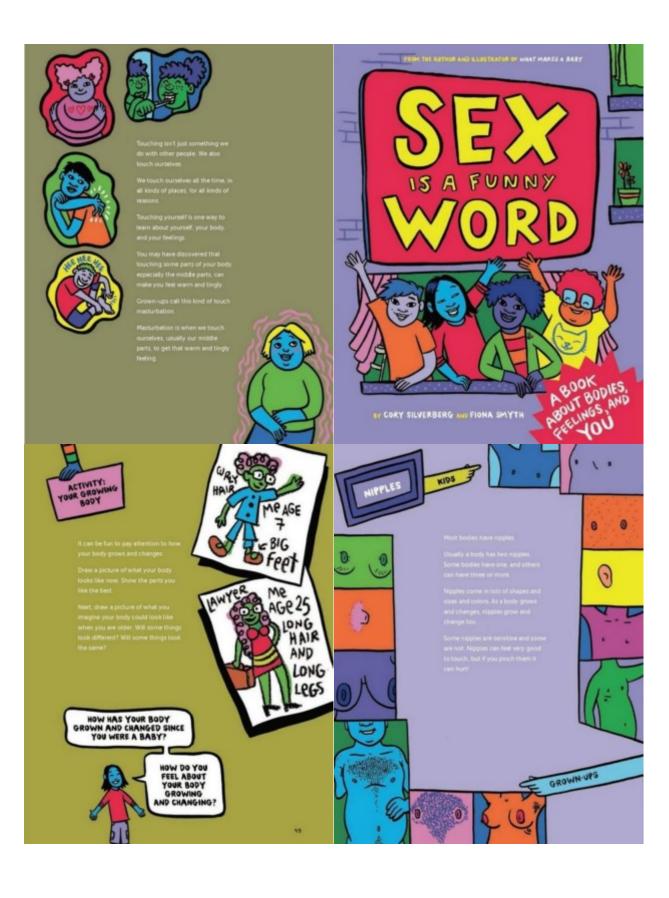
different kinds of sexual interconses, end interconses, not not interconses. When a person with a fensale body and a person with a male body and knoting regional interconses, the arest posts gone interconses, the arest posts gone interest and inside the vagins. Which stretches in a way that the areas of the posts. The first areas of the posts. fits around the penis. The tratuers from the vegina under it under for the penis to go into

It desire for the peace to go and the tragine. Vaginal intercorne is also utilised vagined sen. As the two people surver back and forth in rhythm. the movement of the penis inside the vegine soon. feels very good. They may long and kins and touch each other

60 IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL

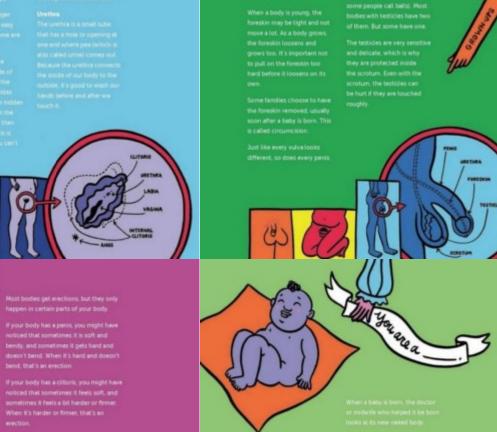
Here are some screenshots of the book Sex is a Funny Word by Cory Silverberg available at the following Schools:

 BC Chilliwack Middle Vedder Middle School sex is a funny word <a href="https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/55155/search/all?q=Sex%20is%20a%20funny%20word">https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/55155/search/all?q=Sex%20is%20a%20funny%20word</a>



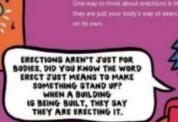


# Sheris The utilizers is a modelle part. The viscins is a modelle part, which is both models and outside the body. The citizers can be any pensistive, and touching it is a shone and stretchy tube. There is a hole or opening to the vaprus behand the wilvia. Use that is a model part. The vaprus behand the wilvia. Use that is a shole or opening to the vaprus behand the wilvia. Use that is a shole or opening at the unstance of the control of the control



you are a

If a baby is born with a penis, there will usually be a layer of skin that covers the end of the penis like a hood. This is called the foreskin. Scrotum and Testicles
The scrotum looks kind of
like a little bag or sac that is
against the body below the
pens. The scrotum holds and
protects the testicles (which
some people call belist, Most
bodies with testicles have two
of them. But some have one.



ERECTIONS



Here are some screenshots of the book All Boys aren't Blue a memoir-manifesto by George M Johnson available at the following School:

 BC Chilliwack Secondary Chilliwack Secondary School all boys arent blue <a href="https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/45472/search/all?q=All%20boys%20aren%27t%20blue%20:%20a%20memoir-manifesto">https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/45472/search/all?q=All%20boys%20aren%27t%20blue%20:%20a%20memoir-manifesto</a> He reached his hand down and pulled out my dick. He quickly went to giving me head. I just sat back and enjoyed it as I could tell he was, too. He was also definitely experienced in what he was doing, because he went to work quite confidently. He then came up and asked me if I wanted to try on him. I said sure. I began and he said, "Watch your teeth." I didn't want to let him know I was inexperienced. So, I slowed down and took my time and luckily got into a good rhythm. He didn't know I was a virgin, and I did my best to act dominant like my favorite porn star. I was an actor, and this was my movie.

There was so much excitement running through my body. This was much more than losing my virginity. For once, I was consenting to the sexual satisfaction of my body. This moment also confirmed that sex could look how I wanted it to look. And that it could be passionate and kind, but most importantly, fun and satisfying. His body felt great in my mouth.

I had previously topped someone who clearly enjoyed it, but he had been enjoying anal sex before I ever came along. He knew what to expect. I didn't. As an avid porn watcher, the only thing I knew about anal sex previously was that it was painful, or at least played up as such on the cameras.

Nervous and drunk, I listened and got on my stomach. He got on top and slowly inserted himself into me. It was the worst pain I think I had ever felt in my life. He then added more lube and tried again, which felt better but not by much. He began his stroking motion. Eventually, I felt a mix of pleasure with the pain.

I can't say that I didn't enjoy it, because I did. But it was painful for sure. In those few minutes though, I can say that he was gentle. His aim wasn't to hurt me, and my aim was for him to be pleasured, too. He didn't last long inside of me, thankfully. He gave me a kiss before he pulled out. I didn't stay long, nor did I masturbate after. I was in a state of shock. I just wanted to get back home.

Here are some screenshots of the book a Quick and Easy Guide to Queer and Trans Identities by Mady G & R and JR Zucherberg available at the following School:

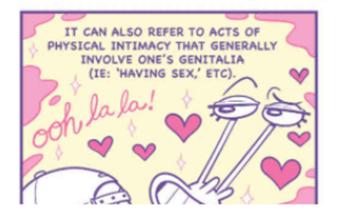
BC Chilliwack Secondary Chilliwack Secondary School a quick & easy guide to queer & trans identities <a href="https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/45472/search/all?q=A%20quick%20">https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/45472/search/all?q=A%20quick%20</a> &%20easy%20guide%20to%20gueer%20=&%20trans%20identities



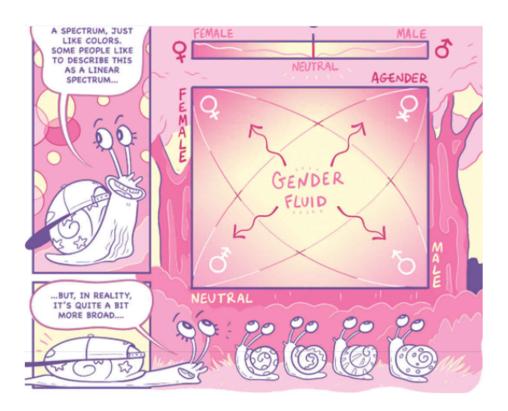


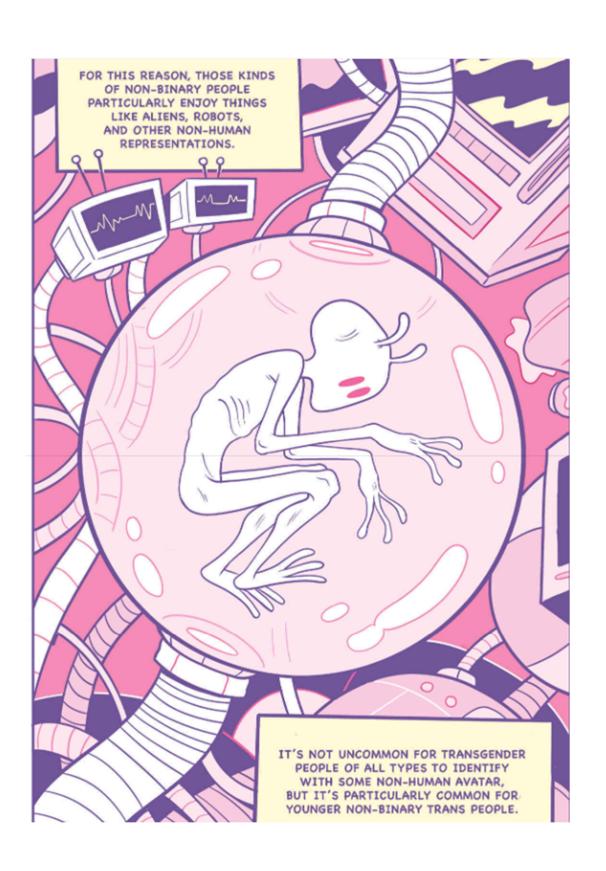






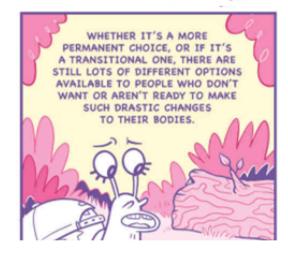








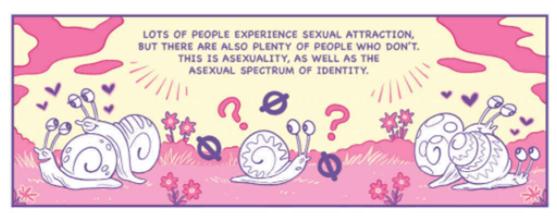








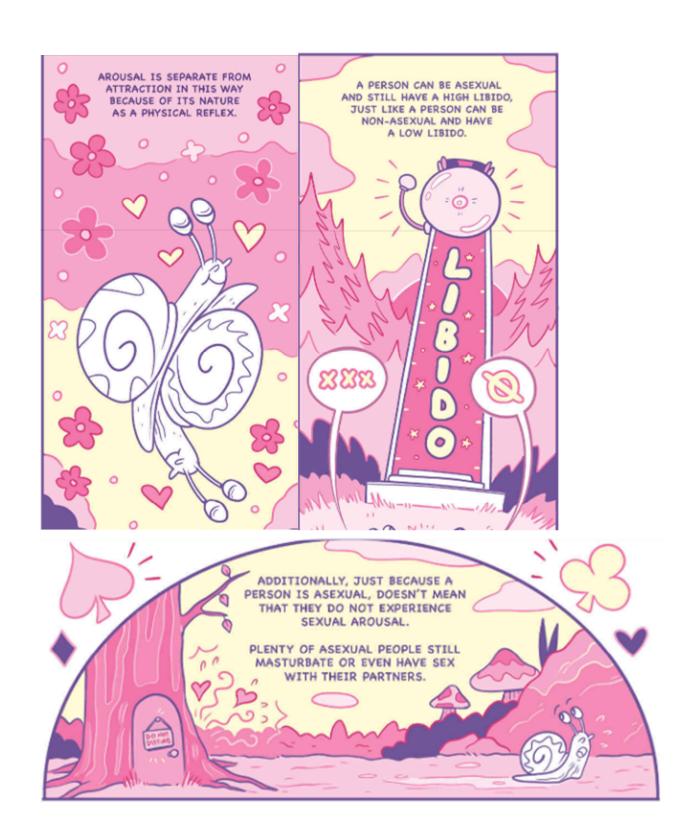


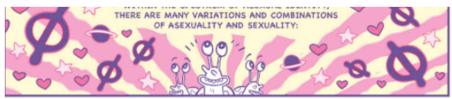














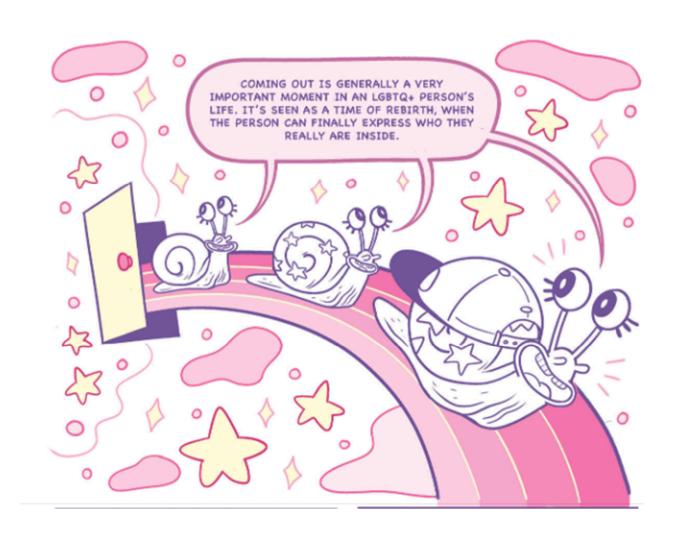


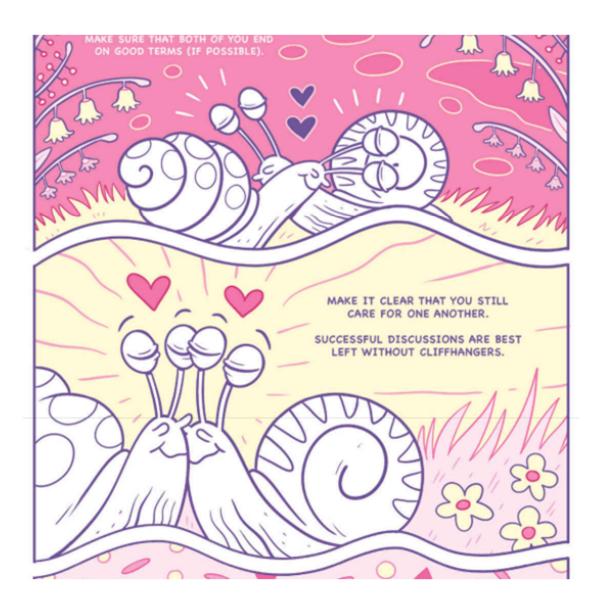












# Here are some screenshots of the book Rick available at the following School:

BC	Chilliwack	Elementary Robertson Elementary
School	rick	https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/52200/search/all?q=Rick
BC	Chilliwack	Elementary Sardis Elementary
School	rick	https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/52366/search/all?q=Rick
BC	Chilliwack	Elementary Strathcona Elementary
School	rick	https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/45844/search/all?q=Rick
BC	Chilliwack	Middle Chilliwack Middle
School	rick	https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/45471/search/all?q=Rick
BC	Chilliwack	Middle Mount Slesse Middle
School	rick	https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/52523/search/all?q=Rick
BC	Chilliwack	Middle Vedder Middle
School	rick	https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/55155/search/all?q=Rick
	School BC School BC School BC School BC School BC	School rick BC Chilliwack School Chilliwack

### PAGE 8:

Jeff was already in one of the beanbag chairs, controller in hand and screen paused. His face was peachy white, with a small white scar on his forehead and short brown hair that stuck up like loose spikes. He wore red basketball shorts and a black sleeveless T-shirt.

"This game is awesome. You can actually crack a bottle on a guy's head and the shards embed in his skull."

"Lemme see!" Rick dropped into the empty chair.

Jeff pressed a series of buttons, and a hulking character on the screen picked up a bottle that read XXX and cracked it over the skull of a skinny little guy drinking at the bar.

"Aww man!" Jeff groaned. "None of them stuck that time! Here, you take the other controller and I'll restart the game."

"Won't you have to do everything over?" asked Rick.

### **PAGE 13:**

Or lately, to stare at, if there was a girl he deemed pretty. This morning, it was a girl.

"Check out the hottie!" Jeff said in greeting. He tossed his head vaguely across the schoolyard.

"Which one?" Rick hated when Jeff called girls hotties. He made it sound like they were sexy pancakes.

"Right there." Jeff pointed. "In the blue skirt."

### **PAGE 14:**

knew that Rick knew what he meant, but Jeff continued anyway. "With her clothes off."

Rick gave what he hoped was enough of a laugh.

"You know," said Jeff, "I saw a lady walking around on the beach without her clothes this summer."

"You told me. You sure she wasn't just wearing a bathing suit the color of her skin?"

"No, dude, I told you! She was super naked. And hot too. Everyone was staring. Men, women, kids. Even the fish."

Rick gave another expected laugh, but before Jeff could tell him any more about the beach show, the school doors opened and a graceful but firm woman wearing a deep purple suit jacket stepped outside with a bullhorn. She pressed the whooping alarm button twice and the crowd of students turned to face her, their conversations trailing off into whispers.

"Wait, is that you, G-?"

Melissa stopped him with a raised finger as well as her voice. "I don't use that name anymore. You can call me Melissa."

"Oh. Um, hi."

"Yeah, hi."

They sat there for a moment in the din of introductions, just seeing each other.

"You look good." Rick meant it. Not the way Jeff would, but more like she looked happy. Last year, her hair had been in her face and her eyes were almost always focused on the ground. Now her reddish-brown hair was brushed back and her eyes were looking right at Rick.

"Thanks."

Rick's brain felt like a vacuum, and the next words that came to his mind popped right out of his mouth. "So you're ..."

"I'm a girl. A transgender girl. I wanted to come to school as myself last year, but my mom said I should wait for a fresh start in middle school."

"That makes sense, I guess."

Melissa shrugged. "It would have been nice to stop hiding sooner."

"That makes sense too." Rick gave a small, awkward smile. He would have thought it would be weird to meet a transgender girl, but it wasn't, really. At least, not if the girl was Melissa. He continued, "So I guess I know what you're excited about this year."

Melissa laughed. "Nervous too, but mostly excited. What about you?"

"I dunno. The regular stuff, I guess. Changing classes sounds

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When the bell rang, the room devolved into a whirl of chaos. Rick found himself right behind Melissa in the rush to the door, where the kid who had been next to Melissa in the yard waited, bouncing in place. From the front, her T-shirt read, WARNING: RUNS WITH SCISSORS.

"I missed you!" The kid practically pounced on Melissa.

"Kelly, homeroom was fifteen minutes long."

"A person could drown in fifteen minutes!"

And then they were gone, arm in arm, heading down the hallway and exclaiming over each other's schedules.

Rick wondered what it would be like to have a best friend you could throw your arm over the shoulder of without worrying that they might make fun of you. Jeff was great in a lot of ways, but their friendship wasn't like that. Nor was Jeff the kind of friend who wanted to hear that a person could, in fact, drown nearly four times in fifteen minutes, assuming a standard of four minutes from first struggle to death from lack of oxygen to the brain. When Rick corrected stuff like that, Jeff told him not to think so hard.

Rick didn't see Jeff again until lunch. In between, he had been to three different classes with three different teachers and been assigned four different seats to remember, including homeroom. His mind was swirling, and his backpack was heavy with textbooks. By then, the idea that George could be a girl seemed a bit less sensible, and the idea that it would freak Jeff out because he had talked about whether she was cute was a bit more appealing.

"Remember that girl in the blue skirt from this morning?" 
"You mean the hot one?"

"Yeah, well, she sits in front of me in homeroom, and I found something out ..."

"How was she close up?"

But then Melissa's smile from this morning passed across Rick's mind and his stomach burbled and it didn't feel at all exciting to tell Jeff that she was the same kid he had bullied for years.

"I dunno. Fine, I guess."

"You gotta pay more attention. I mean, you've gotta notice a good butt when it's sitting right in front of you. Sometimes, it's like I have to explain everything to you. So, what'd you find out?"

Rick hesitated. "Just that her name is Melissa."

"So?"

"I thought you might want to know."

"Dude, I don't need her name. I need info I can use. Does she have anything up here?" Jeff brought his hands up to his chest.

Rick shrugged. He didn't want to think about Melissa like that. "Her voice is nice."

Jeff eyed Rick with a note of disappointment. "Whatever. There are hotter girls around."

"But you were the one who said she ..." Rick was too flabbergasted to finish his sentence.

## **PAGE 32:**

"I know just the place!" said the girl with the braid. "Has anyone heard of the Rainbow Spectrum? It's an after-school club for LGBTQIAP+ rights. I know about it because my sister helped start it a couple of years ago, when she was in eighth grade."

Rick wondered what a meeting for gay kids was like and what they did together. Did they talk about how to be gay? Or how they

#### **PAGE 34:**

Rick was still thinking about the Rainbow Spectrum that evening. Sometimes Rick wondered whether he was gay because he had never had a crush on a girl. But he had never had a crush on a boy either, so how could he be gay? If Diane were there, he would have asked her what she thought. Diane was always happy to share her

## **PAGE 38:**

happen without a chance to do anything about it. It was a sign for the Rainbow Spectrum. There were rainbows at the top and bottom of the poster, and big, bold letters that read *All Are Welcome*.

Jeff hit Rick on the shoulder to get his attention. "Whoa, Rick. Check this out. A buncha gay kids are meeting up! Gross!"

"You're the one who's gross," said Kelly, with her hand on her hip.

"Whatever." Jeff snorted. "Let's get out of here, Rick. I'm hungry."

"Yeah," said Kelly. "Get out of here and take your hate with you."

"And then that lesbo tried to tell me that I was harassing her!"

"Whoa, dude!" said maybe-Matt. "What did you call her?"

"And before you answer that," said maybe-Mark, "you oughta know my aunt's a lesbian."

"And she could kick your butt!" added maybe-Matt. "She does

## **PAGE 39:**

aikido. She's scary!"

"So now you guys are gonna go all gay on me too?" Jeff's voice grew uncomfortably high-pitched as he tried to yell without being so loud that the lunch staff noticed him. "I'll tell ya this: There was a kid in my class in fourth grade, and he was gay, and I punched him in the stomach."

"Yeah." Maybe-Mark snorted. "And we heard he threw up all over you."

"What?" Jeff's eyes bore down on Rick. "Did you tell them?"

"Chill out, dude," said maybe-Matt. "We heard it from this kid in our English class. Wish I had been there to see it. Sounds hilarious."

Jeff stood, picked up his tray, and said to Rick, "C'mon, let's go find another table."

## **PAGE 48:**



The Rainbow Spectrum signs around school announced that the first meeting would be Tuesday at three o'clock. They also said things like *Your Story Matters* and *A Place to Be Yourself*. Rick wondered whether *being yourself* included having a possibly- a-jerk best friend.

## **PAGE 49:**

Roughly two thousand decision changes later, in last period, Rick was sure he wasn't going. How could he go if he didn't even know why he felt like going? What would he say? Was it enough to say that he'd never felt about a girl the way his best friend did? Was it enough to not know? Rick had already put on his jacket and was in the stairwell between the first and second floors when he saw a Spectrum sign that said *Because you have questions*.

And that's how Rick ended up turning around, climbing back up the flight, and walking toward the classroom with the brightly colored Rainbow Spectrum sign hanging from the doorknob. Closer. Closer. The door was open, but he couldn't see how many kids were inside. He wasn't sure whether it would be worse if it was empty, with just Kelly, Leila from science class, and the faculty adviser staring at him, or full of gay kids and lesbian kids and bisexual kids and transgender kids.

## PAGE 50:

"Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the Rainbow Spectrum. My name is Mr. Sydney, and I'll be your group adviser this semester. As some of the seventh and eighth graders know, Ms. Abrams, who usually runs this group, is on leave this semester. I'm happy to report that she had the baby three weeks ago." He waited for the wave of whoops, whispers, and awwwws to pass. "And that she, her wife, and little Max are all doing wonderfully. Ms. Abrams will be coming back to school in January.

"In the meantime, I am elated, enthralled, and exhilarated to be here. When I was a kid, groups like this were barely starting up at a lot of colleges, much less in middle schools. I can already tell this is going to be an exciting year. Before we do anything else, let's do a go-round, where we all introduce ourselves. In addition to sharing your name, grade, and preferred pronouns, I welcome you to tell us briefly what brought you here today. It's not required, but it would be nice to hear some of your thoughts. Zoe, I believe you were active in the group last year. Will you start us off?"

Zoe was the girl with the patched-up jean jacket. "Hi, I'm Zoe,

I'm in eighth grade, and I'm bisexual. My preferred pronouns are she and her. And I'm here because I think LGBTQIAP+ rights are really important."

"Thank you, Zoe. To be clear, you don't need to tell us your sexual orientation if you don't want to," said Mr. Sydney.

"Oh, but I want to!" said Zoe. "How is someone supposed to ask me out if they don't know I might be interested?"

The two kids wearing the spring musical T-shirts went next—Xavier, who shared that he had been coming to the group since he'd started sixth grade two years ago, and Yaya, who announced that he was "supergaaaaaaay" with a wave of his hand.

"I'm Ellie, lesbian, eighth grade. She, please," said the girl with the cupcake hat.

A soft-spoken kid with dark hair and bright red glasses said, "Hi, I'm Mika. And I guess I use *she* and *her*, but I never really thought about it before."

Then it was the kid who had rushed past Rick in the hallway's turn. "Hey, everybody. I'm Green."

"Like the color?" asked Ellie.

"Yep!" Green said with a wide smile. "You've heard of people with red hair being called Red? Well, I'm Green."

"Cool," said Ellie, with a toss of her purple-tipped hair.

"Yeah, so I'm Green, and I'm in sixth grade and enby." Green saw some puzzled looks from around the room and clarified, "Enby from NB, or nonbinary."

Mr. Sydney addressed the class. "Nonbinary refers to people who do not identify as either male or female. Do I have that right,

#### **PAGE 53:**

Rick's head shot up from where he had been staring at the ground, listening to all these kids who sounded like they already knew everything about themselves. It was Ronnie, from homeroom and the Cafeteria Ketchup Kerfuffle.

"I'm in sixth grade, and my pronouns are he and his. I'm a straight guy, as far as I can tell, but my moms are queer."

Rick had known Leila and Kelly would be there, and he wasn't surprised to see Melissa. But he hadn't expected Ronnie. It made him worry who else could be hidden behind some other kid. For a moment, he even wondered whether Jeff could be out in the hall, overhearing everything that was being said. Meanwhile, the circle continued around him.

"I'm Leila. I'm in sixth grade and use *she* and *her*, and I don't really know yet, but I've been doing a lot of reading and thinking, and I might be bisexual."

Then it was Melissa's turn. Rick wondered if she would tell everyone. He decided that he wouldn't if it were him.

"Hi. My name is Melissa, and I use she and her. I'm in sixth

grade, I'm Kelly's BFF, and my connection to the community is that I'm a transgender girl."

"Aw, yeah!" said Green. Melissa gave Green a thumbs-up.

"And it's not a secret, but it's also my information to share. So I'm happy for all of you to know, but please don't tell people outside of this room."

"So, uh," asked Mika, "what was your name before?"

"That"—Melissa paused—"is nonov."

"Nonov?"

"Yeah. Nonov your business!"

Melissa shared a high five with Kelly. A few kids chuckled, and the theater kids laughed out loud.

"Good one, Melissa!" said Mika. "Sorry I asked."

Kelly went next. "Hi. I'm Kelly Arden. I'm straight, but I'm a proud ally."

"Not to be harsh," said Zoe, "but ally isn't really an identity to be proud of. And you're new, but we talked about this last year, and we don't use that word as a noun here anymore. Allying is something you do, not someone you are."

"Then what's the A for in LGBTQIAP+?" asked Kelly.

"Asexual," said Zoe. A few kids nodded, but others looked confused. "Asexuality is when you don't have any interest in, like, ever doing the deed with anyone."

The word asexual buzzed in Rick's head like a fly looking for a place to land as introductions continued around the room. His stomach felt tingly. Not nervous, exactly, but not calm either. More like drinking soda too fast and having the bubbles dance around inside his body. Rick's turn was only two kids away, and then one.

needed to say something and made it harder to talk. "I'm ... um ... just here to check things out."

"Welcome, Rick," said Mr. Sydney. "This is a great place to explore."

"Um, thanks."

After introductions had finished and Mr. Sydney had talked a little bit about how the group would be a "safe and affirming space," with the focus of the group driven by student interest, they brainstormed plans for the year.

Some students wanted a place to talk about the problems they were dealing with, especially at home. Others wanted to protest local businesses that didn't support LGBTQIAP+ rights. Pretty much everyone said they wanted a space to be themselves. No one said they wanted a space to figure out who that was. But then again, neither did Rick.

## PAGE 56:

The screen filled with links to essays, glossaries, and checklists. Asexual meant you weren't sexually attracted to people, or didn't want to do that kind of thing with them. You could want to have a boyfriend or a girlfriend, though. If you were aromantic, you weren't romantically attracted to anyone. There were other words too, like grayromantic and graysexual to describe people who were occasionally attracted to people romantically or sexually, and demiromantic and demisexual for people who only had those feelings after developing a deep connection. It was a little confusing, but also a relief to see so many possibilities.

Maybe there was a reason Rick didn't know who he *like* liked, and maybe it was that he didn't *like* like anyone. When Jeff, or someone else, said a girl was hot, Rick could sometimes name the reasons they said that—hair and face and bodies and all that. He could guess which boys Diane would say were cute too. But he

## PAGE 64:

"Oh," said Rick. Sometimes it was really hard to be Rick. Maybe that was because the Rick he was trying to be was someone else.

"Can I ask you a question?"

"It's your turn."

"Why did you come to Spectrum last week?"

Rick froze.

"I mean, whoever you are, that's your business, and that's cool and all. I just thought that you were ... Well, Kelly thinks you're a homophobe."

"Oh." Her words landed like a stone in Rick's stomach. A homophobe was someone who didn't believe in rights for LGBTQIAP+ people. Diane had called Thomas that when he used the word gay as an insult.

Melissa continued. "Mainly she thinks that Jeff is a homophobe and anyone who's willing to hang out with a homophobe is a homophobe too."

"What do you think?" asked Rick.

"I don't know." The bell rang before Melissa said anything else.

## PAGE 66:

gray knit vest over a bright pink collared shirt. "Welcome to the Rainbow Spectrum. I'm excited to see so many returning faces, plus some new ones."

He clapped his hands together and held them tight as he spoke. "I've been doing a lot of research, and I want to apologize for my ignorance last week. The singular they has a rich history in English, and as I learned on one blog, it is more important to be respectful than to be right. I was caught up in the rules of grammar instead of the function of language. Thank you for educating me, and I hope that you'll keep letting me know when I need to catch up to speed. And I'm going to do my best so that you won't have to."

Rick couldn't remember ever having heard a teacher apologize about not knowing something before. From the looks of pleasant surprise around the room, neither had anyone else.

## **PAGE 67:**

Rick's word was *Sunday*. Until last month, he would have said Saturday, since sometimes he played video games with Jeff and he never had school the next day, but now that Sundays were Grandpa Ray days, it had won out.

Mr. Sydney was the last to introduce himself. "My pronoun is he, and my favorite word is a new one for me this week." Next to the list of words, he wrote in giant capital letters: QUILTBAG.

"Well, it starts with a Q, like queer, so I like it," said Green.

"Good eye!" said Mr. Sydney as he wrote the word *queer* running down vertically, starting with the *Q* from *QUILTBAG*. "I came out at a time when we mostly talked about our community as *gay* or *gay* and *lesbian*." He wrote the words using the starting *G* and *L* on the board. "And I genuinely appreciate the inclusivity of LGBTQIAP+, but it was a little unwieldy on my tongue. So I did some sleuthing and found this gem that a feminist artist named Sadie Lee came up with. Any ideas what the other letters stand for?"

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"Bisexual!"
"Transgender!"
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"Intersex!"

The words flew at Mr. Sydney, and he wrote them down as fast as he could.

"Asexual!"

Rick didn't call it out loud, but in his mind, he added and aromantic.

"That just leaves the *U*," said Kelly, "and I'm *unsure* what that means." Kelly chuckled at her own joke, but Mr. Sydney wrote it in.

"You are exactly right, Kelly," he said. "Many, many people, especially your age, are unsure, and that's valid."

"Ohhhhhh," said Kelly, mirroring Rick's thought. "That's good."

"QUILTBAG," said Yaya. "I like it. It's super sayable."

"Way easier than LGBTQIAP+," Xavier agreed.

"It's not that much easier," said Zoe.

"One of my moms makes quilts," said Ronnie, "and I really like that word, because quilts are made up of all these different little bits. And each one of them is just a weird thing on their own—"

"Who are you calling a weird thing?" said Green.

"No, I mean—" Ronnie shook his head.

"Just kidding," said Green. "I'm pretty weird. But you're right. Each of the pieces of the quilt is unique, but it's when they come together that things get really good."

"But what about P, for pansexual?" said Leila, an eyebrow raised.

"Oh, right!" said Yaya.

"We can keep using the plus sign to say we know that we can't ever cover it all," said Ellie. She wore the same cupcake hat from last week, but now the tips of her hair were dyed blue. "Does that "And then I learned the words asexual and aromantic."

"Ahhhh." Grandpa Ray nodded slowly. "Sounds like what you're describing."

"That's what I thought. I'm not sure which one I am yet, though."

"And that's okay." Grandpa Ray gave a sharp nod of approval. "I'm glad you told me, and I hope you'll keep sharing as you know more. And, Rick?"

"Yeah?"

#### PAGE 84:

"It's a thing we learned at Baptiste," Xavier explained to the sixth graders who hadn't gone there. The seventh and eighth graders from other schools had seen it before, and some of them had even started to join in when they noticed kids doing it.

"Yeah, well, it works," said Zoe. "No one at Baptiste ever got pushed or shoved or yelled at because anyone thought they were gay. We even had a trans kid come out in third grade. I'll bet there are more now."

"I remember that kid," said Xavier. "We were in fifth grade then. That means he must be in, like, sixth grade by now."

Green cleared their throat and gave a little wave.

Green cleared their throat again, louder this time. "Yup, that was me. And yeah, there were a couple of trans kids when I left. I was the only enby, though."

Sam raised their hand slowly.

## **PAGE 111:**

"I'm not worried," said Rick. "Have you ever heard of being asexual? Or aromantic?"

"I can take a guess what it means. But you're too young to be something like that."

"I'm almost twelve."

"Everyone has their own path."

"And right now, my path is that I'm not interested in anyone."

"That might change."

"It might. It also might not. Either way, it feels good to have a name for what I'm feeling. Or, um, not feeling."

#### **PAGE 120:**

The most common acronym these days to represent this range is LGBTQIAP+ (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex Asexual Pansexual and more). The plus sign acknowledges that our understanding of sexuality is growing, and that many people use other language to describe themselves. I've also used the term QUILTBAG+ (Queer Unsure Intersex Lesbian Transgender Bisexual Asexual Gay and more) in this book, as coined by feminist artist Sadie Lee in 2006. I appreciate how easy it is to say, as well as the quilt imagery. We are a community of disparate people who come together to create something beautiful, and the reference to the AIDS Quilt is worth noting. However, I don't think QUILTBAG+ is perfect—I wish it included pansexuality, and some people don't like the -bag ending. I hope that I have done justice to the real-life process of developing language in the way I represent the Rainbow Spectrum's conversations. And I look forward to what comes next as we continue to refine language to meet our needs.

If you've been thinking about your own gender and/or sexuality, you can research online for terms that might help you put a name to how you're feeling. And if you don't know how you're feeling, there's language for that too—questioning and

# Here are some screenshots of the book The Other Boy available at the following School:

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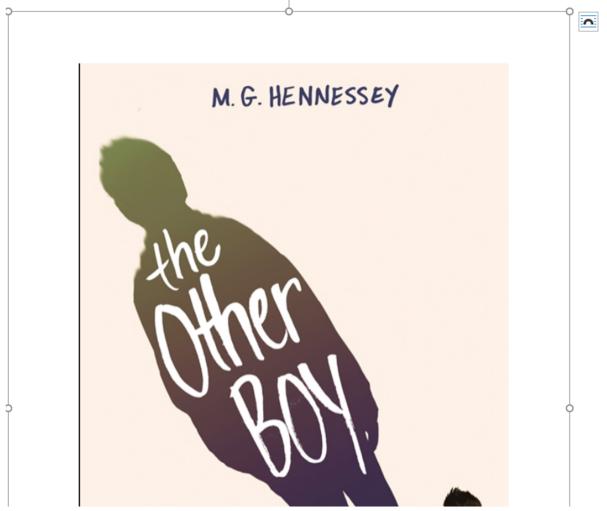
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# THE OTHER BOY BY MG HENNESSEY



## **PAGE 27:**

"All right." Briskly, she closed the folder, adjusted her glasses, and looked at my parents. "Why don't you two step out for a minute while I do a quick exam?"

Dad looked disgruntled, but Mom was already gathering up her purse. After they left, Dr. Anne did the normal routine: checking my eyes and ears, pressing her fingers along my stomach and back. The whole time, she asked questions. "Still no side effects from the blocker?"

"Not really," I said. When I was nine, I'd started getting implants of a hormone blocker in my arm.

'Just a headache every once in a while."

She nodded and flipped open the chart again. "And we put in the last one a year ago, so we'll switch that out for you today. So how have you been feeling lately?"

"Fine."

"No bad thoughts?" she asked, flipping over my arms to examine them.

"No, I'm good," I assured her. "Really."

## **PAGE 28:**

"Great." Dr. Anne gave me a real smile then, showing all her teeth. "I think maybe it's time to decide whether to start the testosterone."

"Okay," I said, experiencing a thrill of excitement. This was the main reason we were here. It was why I'd been willing to miss such an important baseball game.

She patted my leg. "All right. Let's call your parents back in."

I kind of tuned out while Dr. Anne ran through the medical stuff. Dad nodded along, while Mom just looked bored and a little annoyed; we'd talked about all this before.

But then Dr. Anne got to the part about starting testosterone shots. "Most of the other boys Shane's age will be kicking into puberty high gear over the next year," she explained. "Ideally, it would be great if he could develop along with them."

"Sure, sure," Dad said, but I wondered if any of this was registering. Dad had a bad habit of acting like he was listening when he really wasn't.

"There are drawbacks, of course." Dr. Anne's eyes slid across to my mother, who suddenly looked worried.

## **PAGE 29:**

Dad's forehead wrinkled. "What kind of drawbacks?"

Dr. Anne gave him a patient smile. "Basically, so far the hormone blockers have prevented Shane from going through female puberty. But once we add testosterone to the mix, he'll develop as a man. His voice will deepen, he'll get an Adam's apple and more body and facial hair, he'll be more muscular."

That all sounded great to me. I could hardly wait to start shaving; heck, I might even grow a mustache.

"Okay," Dad said slowly. "But if he stops taking the shots, that's reversible too, right?"

"Not entirely," Dr. Anne said. I could tell she was choosing her words carefully. "Some of the changes will be permanent. Others could be reversed surgically, or they'll just go away. But Shane will have skipped female puberty, which means he most likely won't be able to have children naturally."

There was a long moment of silence. I could see Dad processing this, and I didn't like the look on his face. "It's cool," I interjected. "Mom and me have already talked about it—"

"Wait," Dad said, holding up a hand. "You're telling me she'll never be able to have kids?"

"He," Mom growled. It drove her crazy when he used the wrong pronouns. Honestly, it drove me crazy, too, but in a different way. Kind of an all-the-air-sucked-out-of-the-room way.

"Not naturally, no," Dr. Anne said calmly. "And that's a serious decision."

"I'm fine with it," I said hurriedly. "Really, I-"

"You're twelve," Dad said. "You don't know what you want."

I stared at my sneakers, feeling sick. This all seemed to be spinning out of control, and there wasn't anything I could do to stop it.

"So we're supposed to decide this today?" Dad said incredulously. "It just seems really fast."

"We've been discussing it for a long time now," Mom said.

The way she said *long time* made it pretty clear what she meant, and she wasn't wrong. If Dad had ever come to a doctor's appointment before, this wouldn't be such a surprise.

Dr. Anne looked uncomfortable. "We don't have to decide anything today, of course. Shane can come back in six months, or a year."

"I think that would be best." Dad sat back, looking relieved.

"No!"

My parents looked at me with surprise, as if they'd forgotten I was in the room.

"Don't you get it? All the other boys in my class are going to be changing. The girls already have. And I'll still look like a little kid." Tears welled up in my eyes. "I don't want to be left behind."

"Shane, everyone develops at different rates. If we don't start today, it's not the end of the world," Dr. Anne said soothingly.

But it was. I'd been looking forward to this appointment for months. After brushing my teeth at night, I'd stand in front of the mirror and puff my chest out, imagining how it would look once I started testosterone. I'd flex my puny biceps and picture them doubling in size. I'd practice deepening my voice until it almost sounded like Dad's.

And now, it was a wasted trip. Even worse, my team was probably losing without me, which meant our season would be over. And it was all my fault.

I stared down at the floor. One of the tiles was chipped. I focused hard on that, trying not to cry.

"Can we have a minute?" Mom asked in a strained voice.

"Of course." Glancing at her watch, Dr. Anne said, "Why don't I come back after checking on another patient?"

## **PAGE 30:**

There was a heavy silence after the door closed behind her. Dad was looking everywhere but at us. Mom was glaring at him.

"I can't believe you," Mom finally said.

I stiffened. They had a rule about not fighting in front of me, but I got the sense that was about to be broken.

"This just caught me off guard." Dad ran a hand down his face. His eyes settled on me, and he tried to smile. "I guess I should've come to more appointments, huh?"

I shrugged. Probably. Too late now.

"This is the only reason we came up this weekend," Mom said, the anger plain in her voice.

"I don't see why waiting is such a big deal," Dad said defensively. "The doctor doesn't seem to think so."

"I do," I muttered.

"Shane, honey, I've been on board with all the rest of it. The blockers and . . . whatever." He waved his hand vaguely. "But this . . . I mean, it's so permanent."

Exactly, I thought. This would permanently make me who I was supposed to be all along.

"Well, we both have to agree," Mom said, "since we share legal custody."

Dad exhaled hard. He looked old, and tired, and in spite of everything I felt a pang of sympathy. He was trying, but this was all just too complicated for him sometimes.

Still, when he said, "I can't decide this today. Sorry," something withered inside me. Without looking at us he left, shutting the door behind him.

#### PAGE 34:

promised to try and convince Dad, but I didn't hold out much hope. I'd probably be on blockers until I was eighteen and legally old enough to decide for myself. Imagining six more years of this made me want to scream.

Afternoon sunlight flooded in, casting everything in a bright yellow glow. Stella's cat was asleep on a perch in the window. I rubbed his head while I stared out across the rooftops. A fog bank was descending from Twin Peaks, like an ominous cloud of white gas out of a horror movie, creeping across the city and smothering it block by block. Soon the house would be enveloped, and I'd barely be able to see across the street.

Which would match my mood, anyway. My phone buzzed and I dug it out of my pocket. There were two texts from Josh. The first read, **Dude**, we won!!! 4-2.

I should've been stoked about that—winning meant we'd go to regionals in a couple of weeks. But instead, I felt resentful that they'd been able to win without me. The next text said, Call me. It wuz totally awesome.

I tossed the phone on the dresser, not in the mood to talk to anyone. Instead, I lay down on the bed and glared at the ceiling. I'd never been so angry with my dad before. First, he surprised me with his new fiancée, then he completely destroyed something I'd been looking forward to for months.

I punched the pillow hard. If he didn't want a son, fine. Turned out I didn't really want a dad anymore, either.

## **PAGE 47:**

I was pretty bleary at school the next day, because Dad and I stayed up late eating junk food and watching a movie about alien robots. But I felt about a million times better. On the phone last night, Mom promised to talk to Dr. Anne about the testosterone. She said we might even be able to get it in a day or so.

I couldn't stop thinking about it. Dr. Anne had said the changes might take time: it would be just like regular puberty, and everyone went through it at different rates. But I was kind of hoping I'd at least start growing chest hair, like Dad.

## **PAGE 54:**

The next morning I examined myself in the mirror, lifting my arms and flexing my biceps. Then I leaned in to check if I'd sprouted a mustache yet.

Nothing, which was a little disappointing. Mom had given me the first shot as soon as we got back from the drugstore. I'd never liked needles, but this one was pretty small and hadn't hurt much. And heck, I'd do pretty much anything for chest hair.

When Dr. Anne had explained over Skype how testosterone worked, she'd warned that it would take time to notice any changes. I'd jokingly asked if doubling up on the shots would make it go faster; she'd laughed, but then got really serious about how bad things could happen. "Just stick to the dosage, Shane," she'd said. "Trust me, it'll all come in time."

Easy for her to say-she wasn't in junior high.

At least something was happening, even if I couldn't see it yet. I pulled on a shirt and took the stairs two at a time. Mom was in the kitchen, holding her head in both hands. When she saw me, she smiled weakly. "How are you feeling, honey?"

"Fine, Mom. Normal."
"Good."

#### **PAGE 74:**

But Dad explained that we don't all have the same dream."

"That was cool of him," I offered.

"Oh, my parents are great," Madeline said. "Even though they don't totally get me, they're always on my side." She laughed and added, "You should see my mom's face when we go shopping. She hates all the clothes I like. But she never says anything."

"Cool," I said again, thinking about my dad. Even though he'd agreed to the testosterone, it was pretty obvious he still hoped that one day I'd wake up and want to be a girl. Most people weren't lucky enough to have both parents on their side all the time. It explained why Madeline never seemed to care what people thought about her. I wished I could feel that way.

Halfway through the movie, there was a knock at the door. Madeline's dad stuck his head in and said, "Shane's mom is here."

In the hallway, I made a point of shaking both their hands and thanking them for having me over. Her parents seemed a lot more relaxed. I said, "Bye, Madeline. See you."

"Bye." Her cheeks were flushed again, and she looked happy; she bounced a little on the balls of her feet and waved as we drove away.

## **PAGE 77:**

"Definitely." Alejandra was a few inches taller than me now. Her hair was longer, and her face had thinned out. She was also more . . . developed.

Catching me looking at her chest, she laughed and said, "Yup, these are new too. Thanks, estrogen!"

"Um . . . congratulations?" I muttered, slumping down in the chair and secretly wishing the floor would swallow me up. I felt a sudden pang for the elementary group. Playing tag and swinging across monkey bars sounded pretty good right about now.

"Thanks." Alejandra laughed again, but not unkindly. Sizing me up, she asked, "So which grade are you in now?"

"Sixth."

"Yeah? Are you on the T yet?"

"Just started," I confessed.

She nodded her head approvingly. "You'll see. Big changes coming soon."

"I hope so," I muttered.

#### **PAGE 97:**

mom agreed to let me transition in fifth grade. So I came back from Christmas break wearing the skirt uniform to school instead of the pants. People I thought were my friends called me names. I got beat up every day, and when I told the teachers, they said that was God's way of punishing me."

"Seriously?" I said, dumbfounded. "How is that legal?"

She shrugged. "Catholic school. But you said your principal was cool?"

"Yeah, pretty much. Except he didn't know what to say, really."

She nodded knowingly. "People bend over backward to be nice, acting like you're all fragile or something. They don't realize it makes you feel like more of a freak."

"Totally," I said. "You should've heard my coach today. He actually compared me to a kangaroo."

"What?" Alejandra burst out laughing. "You're kidding!"

"Nope." I shook my head, unable to suppress a grin. "He said he didn't care if I was a girl, a boy, or a kangaroo."

Alejandra leaned in again. "You should show up tomorrow in a kangaroo costume!"

I laughed. "Yeah, that would be hilarious."

## Here are some screenshots of the book The Hate U Give Me available at the following School:

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   OGive

"Yes," I say, for the hundredth time. "You're violent, Hails."

"When it comes to my friends, possibly. Seriously though, why would he even? God, boys and their fucking sex drive."

I snort. "Is that why you and Luke haven't gotten together?"

She lightly elbows me. "Shut up."

I laugh. "Why won't you admit you like him?"

"What makes you think I like him?"

"Really, Hailey?"

"Whatever, Starr. This isn't about me. This is about you and your sex-driven boyfriend."

"He's not sex-driven," I say.

"Then what do you call it?"

"He was horny at that moment."

"Same thing!"

"I ain't scared of that nigga!" Mr. Lewis says real loud, for everybody to hear. "You scared of him?"

"Nah, but I know how the game work."

"I'm too old for games! You oughta be too!"

People say misery loves company, but I think it's like that with anger too. I'm not the only one pissed—everyone around me is. They didn't have to be sitting in the passenger's seat when it happened. My anger is theirs, and theirs is mine.

A car stereo loudly plays a record-scratching sound, then Ice Cube says, "Fuck the police, coming straight from the underground. A young nigga got it bad 'cause I'm brown."

You'd think it was a concert the way people react, rapping along and jumping to the beat. DeVante and Seven yell out the lyrics. Chris nods along and mumbles the words. He goes silent every time Cube says "nigga." As he should.

# THE BLACK WIDOWS

To anyone passing, they were just a pair of black high-tops that dangled by their laces on the utility line over Carcel Avenue. But to those who could decipher the code of the streets, the shoes told that crack cocaine was sold only a few feet away.

Khalil hated those damn shoes. They always seemed to come back, no matter how many drug busts the police made. As long as there was a demand, someone would eventually supply. He hated how, even with the wear and tear from Mother Nature, those shoes still looked better than the hand-me-downs on his feet.

"Your shoes may not be new baby, but at least you don't have to look over your shoulder every second, not knowing if the police or death coming for you," his grandmama once said to raise his spirits. But it was a temporary fix as the reminder of his reality hung above him when he walked home from his job as a grocery bagger.

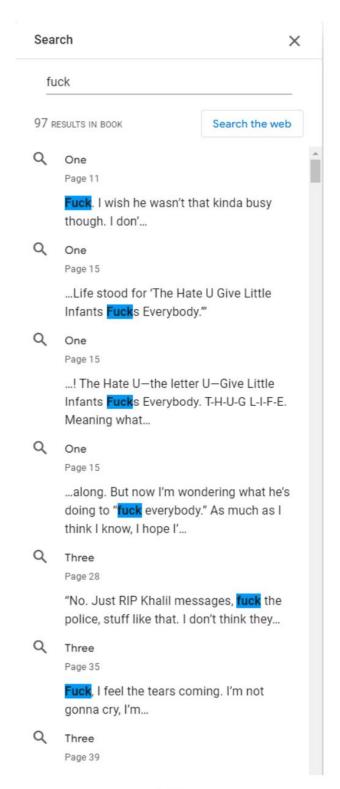
Those shoes had done plenty. They stole his mother and replaced her with a shell enslaved to cocaine. They were the reason his little brother was afraid to walk to school any more. And those damn shoes were slowly sucking the life out of the neighborhood he called home.

```
Fuckity fuck, fuck, ...
Q
    Five
      Page 65
      ...fuck. I'm crumbling. "Chris . . ."
Q
     Five
      Page 67
      ...though, why would he even? God, boys
      and their fucking sex drive."
Q
     Six
      Page 79
      Shit. Your fucking big mouth.
Q
     Six
      Page 80
      What the fuck?
       "Whatever, Starr. This isn't about me. This is about you and your sex-driven
    boyfriend."
       "He's not sex-driven," I say.
       "Then what do you call it?"
       "He was horny at that moment."
       "Same thing!"
   "I ain't scared of that nigga!" Mr. Lewis says real loud, for everybody to hear. "You
scared of him?"
   "Nah, but I know how the game work."
   "I'm too old for games! You oughta be too!"
```

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A car stereo loudly plays a record-scratching sound, then Ice Cube says, "Fuck the police, coming straight from the underground. A young nigga got it bad 'cause I'm brown."

You'd think it was a concert the way people react, rapping along and jumping to the beat. DeVante and Seven yell out the lyrics. Chris nods along and mumbles the words. He goes silent every time Cube says "nigga." As he should.



```
...I heard what happened to her li'l homie.
     That's fucked up."
Q Five
     Page 61
     "Sounds like my parents," says Britt. "Took
     us to fucking Harry Potter World for the
     third year in a...
Q Five
     Page 61
     Holy shit. Who the fuck complains about
     going to Harry Potter World? Or...
Q Five
     Page 63
     ...I'm more like a Taylor Swift song. (No
     shade, I fucks with Tay-Tay, but she
     doesn't serve like...
Q Five
     ...m willing to forget what he did. That's
     scary as fuck too. Someone I've only been
     with for a year...
Q Five
     Page 65
     Fuckity fuck, fuck, ...
Q Five
     Page 65
     ...fuck. I'm crumbling. "Chris . . ."
Q Five
     Page 67
     ...though, why would he even? God, boys
     and their fucking sex drive."
```

Q Six

Page 79

Shit. Your fucking big mouth.

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Q Six

Page 80

What the fuck?

Q Seven

Page 84

...every other black guy in my life a big, loud "fuck you" by having a white boyfriend.

Q Seven

Page 88

Fuck?

Q Seven

Page 89

That sort of thing? What the **fuck** is "that sort of thing"?

Q Seven

Page 90

...teachers think about me? My friends? The whole **fuck**ing world, possibly?

Q Seven

Page 90

It's a betrayal worse than dating a white boy. I **fuck**ing deny him, damn near erasing every laugh we...

Q Eight

Page 100

...the front row on the friends' side. I'm such a **fuck**ing phony.

Q Eight

Page 102

...would come along looking exactly like Daddy. Fucked up, I know.

Q Eight

Page 103

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...him out of it, I know it, but I abandoned him. Fuck the friends' side. I shouldn't even be at his...

# Q Eight

Page 104

But **fuck** the crush, he was one of the best friends I ever...

## Q Nine

Page 125

...just hearing that for the first time. "What the **fuck**'s that got to do with anything?"

# Q Ten

Page 132

...still giving hate, and everybody's still getting fucked?"

## Q Ten

Page 132

..., that's about right. And we won't stop getting **fuck**ed till it changes. That's the key. It's gotta...

## Q Eleven

Page 141

...Starr from Garden Heights shows up.
"What the **fuck** that got to do with it?"

# Q Eleven

Page 142

...all of my Williamson Starr rules with zero **fucks** to give.

# Q Eleven

Page 151

He pounds the desk. "Fuck!"

# Q Eleven

Page 151

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"Fuck them pigs, man," Tim says. "They only did that...

#### Q Eleven

Page 153

Kenya shakes her head. "Fucked-up part about this? The Khalil I know would've...

#### Q Twelve

Page 159

...said he did—The Hate U Give Little Infants Fucks Everybody. 'Pac spells out "Fucks" because that kid is looking dead in his face...

#### Q Twelve

Page 163

...boys the mayor and the police chief to get them **fuck**ing tanks out my neighborhood," Daddy says loudly...

## Q Twelve

Page 168

Khalil died over a fucking hairbrush.

#### Q Thirteen

Page 174

DeVante stops dead. He turns on Daddy. "What the **fuck**, man? You brought me to a cop?"

#### Q Fourteen

Page 194

...better though. It's not like that's the first fucked-up thing she's said."

#### Q Seventeen

Page 224

...the interview. It's not like I was on some NWA "Fuck the Police" type shit. I simply said I'd ask the...

#### Q Seventeen

Page 229

"Dammit, Starr! Do you wanna take a fucking picture or not?"

#### Q Seventeen

Page 232

I feel the tears coming. Fuck, I'm sick of this. "We were real close back then...

## Q Twenty-One

Page 278

"You're fucking right I'm ashamed of you!"

## Q Twenty-One

Page 278

...me," he mocks. "Hell no, I didn't. And why the **fuck** should I?"

## Q Twenty-One

Page 279

...turned my son against me. Can't wait till King **fuck** y'all up for letting that girl snitch on him on...

## Q Twenty-One

Page 279

...one thing to hear gossip that somebody plans to "fuck you up," but it's a whole different thing to...

## Q Twenty-Two

Page 286

"Who gives a fuck?"

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 295

...everything I was supposed to do, and it wasn't **fuck**ing good enough. Khalil's death wasn't horrible...

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 295

.... He had friends. He had dreams. None 11 / 28 of it **fuck**ing mattered. He was just a thug who deserved to...

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 295

...first. Suddenly he punches the steering wheel. "Fuck!"

#### Q Twenty-Three

Page 295

"Fuck!" Seven croaks. He covers his eyes and rocks...

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 295

.... He covers his eyes and rocks back and forth. "Fuck, fuck, fuck!"

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 295

Seven hastily wipes his face. "Fuck this. Starr, whatever you wanna do, I'm down...

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 295

They gave me the hate, and now I wanna fuck everybody, even if I'm not sure how.

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 296

.... "I did everything right, and it didn't make a **fuck**ing difference. I've gotten death threats, cops...

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 296

...? Justice Khalil won't get? They don't give a **fuck** about us, so fine. I no longer give a **fuck**."

#### Q Twenty-Three

Page 298

"Fuck that cop, bruh," a guy says, gripping a baseball...

#### Q Twenty-Three

Page 298

...window. Then somebody yells, "Flip that mothafucka!"

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 299

...a record-scratching sound, then Ice Cube says, "Fuck the police, coming straight from the underground...

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 299

When that hook hits, a collective "Fuck the police" thunders off Magnolia Avenue...

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 299

...and those cops who made Daddy lie on the ground. Fuck them.

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 300

...on fire! We don't need no water, let that mothafuck a burn!

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 300

The original battle cry starts up again: "Fuck the police! Fuck the police!"

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 301

"Fuck the police! Fuck the police!"
DeVante continues to shout.

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 301

"I ain't scared of them! Fuck the police!"

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 301

...breaths. "Like Starr said, they don't give a **fuck** about us, so we don't give a **fuck**. Burn this bitch down."

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 302

...a hell of a lot of times. Nah, I don't give a fuck about neither one of them bitches."

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 303

"Fucking breadcrumbs." DeVante still can't get over it...

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 304

"Fuck," Chris mutters. "That's what my mom calls it."

## Q Twenty-Four

Page 307

His baby basically says "fuck it" and stops.

## Q Twenty-Four

Page 308

...his hands and rests them on top of his dreads. "Fuck, fuck, fuck. We gotta leave it."

#### Q Twenty-Four

Page 313

You know what? Fuck it.

## Q Twenty-Four

Page 315

"Fuck!" Goon hisses. "Hold on, Vante."

## Q Twenty-Five

Page 320

"Fuck!" Seven screams.

## Q Twenty-Five

Page 322

lesha said King was gonna fuck us up because I dry snitched. That meant my...

## Q Twenty-Five

Page 322

...be scared of! Trying to burn up some kids, you **fuck**ing coward!"

#### Q Twenty-Five

Page 323

.... I mean, everybody's snitching. The rules no **fuck**ing longer apply.

## Q Twenty-Five

Page 324

...because he was here—frankly this has been one **fuck**ed-up night, nothing could make it better—but it...

#### Q Twenty-Six

Page 328

...Life stood for "The Hate U Give Little Infants Fucks Everybody." We did all that stuff last night...

## Q Twenty-Six

Page 328

...stuff last night because we were pissed, and it **fuck**ed all of us. Now we have to somehow un-**fuck** everybody.

## Q Twenty-Six

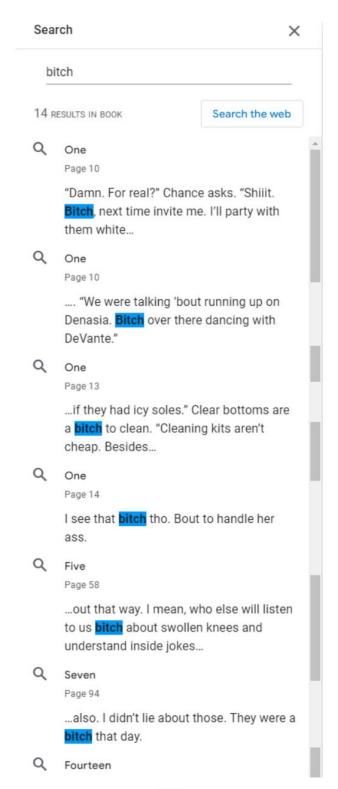
Page 336

Nah. Fuck that.

#### Q Chapter 1

Page 372

Sonny turns to me. You're fucked. Q Chapter 2 Page 385 ...to men in hip-hop, which is total misogynistic fuckery, but anyway . . .). There are kids who look... Q Chapter 3 Page 391 Fuck? Q Chapter 3 Page 393 I fucking blanked. Q Chapter 3 Page 396 Ready for war, Milez? Nah, you fucked up this time.



Page 192

"Thank you!" Hailey says. "She's been in bitch mode for weeks but wants to blame me."

## Q Twenty

Page 261

"Bitch—" I take a deep breath. Way too many people are...

## Q Twenty

Page 262

"Bitch!" she shrieks. She goes straight for my hair...

## Q Twenty

Page 262

Before he can finish "bitch," a blur of dreadlocks charges at us and pushes...

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 300

"Hell yeah!" says DeVante. "Burn that bitch down!"

## Q Twenty-Three

Page 301

...about us, so we don't give a fuck. Burn this bitch down."

#### Q Twenty-Three

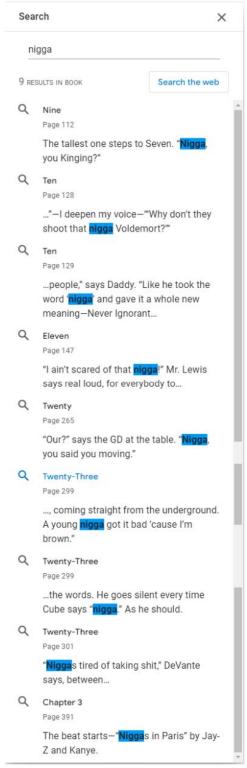
Page 302

..., I don't give a fuck about neither one of them **bitch**es."

#### Q Twenty-Five

Page 322

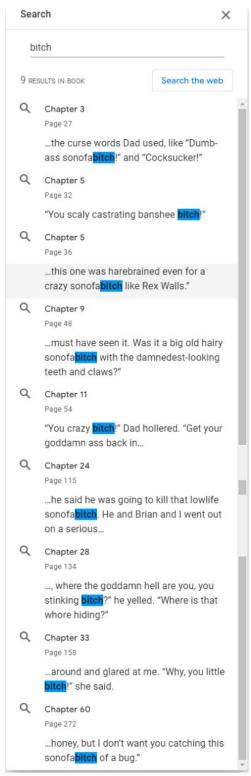
"You son of a bitch!" Daddy marches toward King, and King's boys...

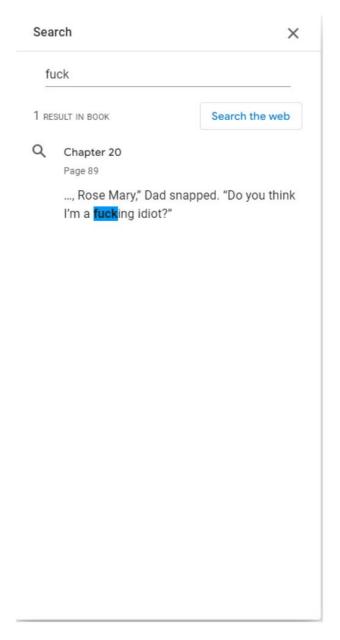


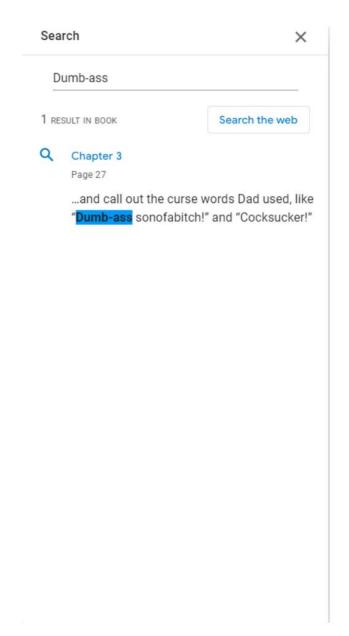
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Search × nigg Search the web 6 RESULTS IN BOOK Q Chapter 32 Page 154 ...told him where I was headed, he frowned. "That's Niggerville," he said. "What you going there for?" Q Chapter 32 Page 154 "So, how was Niggerville?" she asked. Q Chapter 32 Page 154 Erma was always going on about "the niggers." Her and Grandpa's house was on Court Street... Q Chapter 32 niggers." Her and Grandpa's house was on Court Street... Q Chapter 32 Page 155 Erma was always going on about "the "So, how was Niggerville?" she asked. Q Chapter 32 Page 154 Erma was always going on about "the niggers." Her and Grandpa's house was on Court Street... Q Chapter 32 Page 155 ...into town, talking and laughing. "Goddamn niggers," Erma always muttered. "The reason I have... Q Chapter 32 Page 155 ...is because I do not want to see or be seen by a nigger." Mom and Dad had always forbidden us to use... Q Chapter 32 Page 155 ...this up and people are going to think you're a nigger lover," she said.

Search X suck 11 RESULTS IN BOOK Search the web Q Chapter 3 Page 27 ...Dad used, like "Dumb-ass sonofabitch!" and "Cocksucker!" Q Chapter 5 Page 31 ...were after us. Dad called them henchmen, bloodsuckers, and the gestapo. Sometimes he would make... Q Chapter 5 Page 32 "You no-good two-bit pud-sucking bastard!" Q Chapter 12 Page 61 ...compartment. We were afraid we were going to get sucked out, and we all shrank back against the... Q Chapter 14 Page 67 ...Never play the slots," Dad told us. "They're for suckers who rely on luck." Dad knew all about... Q Chapter 25 Page 118 Dad stewed for a while, sucking on a beer, and then he told us all to get in... Q Chapter 36 Page 173

...youngest, crawled along the living room floor, **suck**ing on a fat dill pickle. Ginnie Sue Pastor sat...

## Q Chapter 36

Page 174

...crying, and Ginnie Sue picked him up and let him **suck** some mayonnaise off her finger. "You did good on...

#### Q Chapter 39

Page 183

...'t interested in work for hire, in saluting and **suck**ing up and brownnosing and taking orders. "You'll...

#### Q Chapter 55

Page 251

...had bloomed, and the fragrance of honey suck le drifted down the hillside and into the house...

#### Q 'Half Broke Horses' Teaser

Page 301

...our joints could scarcely move, and the mud kept **suck**ing at our shoes, but we got to dry land as the...



Search X

crazy

12 RESULTS IN BOOK

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#### Q Chapter 5

Page 36

...done, but this one was harebrained even for a **crazy** sonofabitch like Rex Walls."

## Q Chapter 11

Page 54

...said one got caught in her hair once and went **crazy** clawing at her scalp. But I loved those ugly...

## Q Chapter 11

Page 54

"You **crazy** bitch!" Dad hollered. "Get your goddamn ass back...

## Q Chapter 11

Page 56

Mom and Dad weren't exactly **crazy** about Blythe. Too civilized, they said, and...

## Q Chapter 15

Page 71

...garnets and granite and obsidian and Mexican **crazy** lace, and more and more turquoise. Dad made...

## Q Chapter 22

Page 103

...punishments for breaking the rules. It drove Mom **crazy**, and it was the reason she never set rules for...

## Q Chapter 25

Page 121

...could hear people around us whispering about the **crazy** drunk man and his dirty little urchin children...

## Q Chapter 26

Page 127

...to be the best we'd ever had. When Dad went crazy, we all had our own ways of shutting down and...

## Q Chapter 33

Page 160

...things like that," Lori told me. "It'll make you crazy."

## Q Chapter 57

Page 266

"It doesn't matter. She's driving you crazy."

## Q Chapter 61

Page 274

...and a pint bottle in his hand. He laughed. "This **crazy**-ass mother of yours, can't live with her, can't...

## Q Chapter 68

Page 292

...and coyotes tear his body apart. I had this **crazy** urge to scoop him up in my arms and charge...

Search X stinking 4 RESULTS IN BOOK Search the web Q Chapter 11 Page 55 ...at Mom, calling her a "stupid whore" and a "stinking cunt" and ordering her to get back into the car... Q Chapter 28 Page 134 ...Rose Mary, where the goddamn hell are you, you stinking bitch?" he yelled. "Where is that whore hiding?" Q Chapter 28 Page 134 ...of a woman," Dad said. Mom told him he was a stinking rotten drunk. "Yeah, but you love this old drunk... Q Chapter 37 Page 177 ... Wallses should all leave Welch because we were stinking it up so bad.

#### 2022-06-07 2:32 PM (reply from Darrell Furgason)

Thank you Pierre,

I appreciate the solid research you have done regarding these inappropriate books depicting explicit sex acts. I will do all I can to protect children from these type of "resources" being brought into our schools by rogue/activist teachers, librarians or staff. The Board is charged with reviewing learning resources, and this task must not be done by others, whether teachers or not.

I am sorry for the insulting, unprofessional and totally unnecessary response from Trustee Willow Reichelt. With her demeaning comment about you as a human being, she has shown her complete lack of decorum and inability to fulfill her role as a Trustee, which is to listen to the public with genuine interest and concern.

Regards,

#### **Darrell Furgason PhD**

School Trustee SD33

#### **2022-06-07 3:07 PM (reply from Jared Mumford)**

Hello Pierre,

Thank you for your email. Our district relies on education professionals to choose the 1000's of resources in our schools, and, if a resource is in question by either a staff member, student or parent, there is a process with which it can be challenged. The overarching guide to resource inventory is outlined by the Ministry of Education and you can find that criteria online.

If you are pursuing a formal complaint regarding a trustee, you can email me or the Secretary Treasurer directly.

Trustee Furgason, I will remind you of your role as a Trustee in bringing dignity of office and specifically your adherence to our code of conduct which clearly outlines civic behavior and decorum.

Respectfully, Jared

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Jared Mumford Board Chair Ph: 604 845 4162

#### Twitter:@jaredmumford Pronouns: he, him, his



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#### 2022-06-07 3:30 PM (reply from Darrell Furgason)

Trustee Mumford,

I would like to remind YOU, as Chair that you have deliberately ignored a RUDE, UNPROFESSIONAL, DEMEANING remark by the Vice Chair towards a member of the public.... a remark that has gone out to a wide audience. Since you have selectively chosen to ignore that total lack of decorum, I want to encourage the public that Trustee Reichelt's behavior isn't right, normal, or appropriate as a Trustee. It is disheartening to have to point that out to a member of the public who has been called a "ridiculous human being" by the Vice Chair of a Board of Education.

So please, open your eyes, and act with consistency in your role as Chair. Your moral "outrage" at my accurate comment about Trustee Reichelt's behavior only reveals your own bias, and blindness.

Regards,

#### **Darrell Furgason PhD**

School Trustee SD33

**2022-06-07 3:41 PM (reply from Jared Mumford)** 

Thanks Trustee Furgason,

As Chair I have iterated to Pierre the process for submitting a formal complaint against a Trustee.

Please do your part by adhering to our code of conduct.

Respectfully, Jared

Jared Mumford

**Board Chair** 

Ph: **604 845 4162** Twitter:**@jaredmumford** Pronouns: **he, him, his** 

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



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#### 2022-06-07 4:12 PM (reply from Darrell Furgason)

Jared,

Once again you have missed the point. It is Trustee Rechelt that has failed to address the public with appropriate respect and decorum. I have merely pointed that out. I am here for public education, not to promote the philosophical and political ideology of a Trustee who feels free to insult a member of the public. I do not see your correction nor admonition to Trustee Reichelt, so I am free to conclude that your leadership as Chair is blind.....and willfully so.

Regards.

**Darrell Furgason PhD** 

School Trustee SD33

#### 2022-06-10 8:14 AM (reply from Pierre Barns)

Thank you Mr. Furgason, for your comments.

I posted the following on Facebook regarding the Book "The Hate U Give":

"Another inclusive popular book in our BC School Library.

Available in Elementary schools in Surrey, Langley, Burnaby, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and many other locations.

The book uses the following words (with the number of occurrences)

Fuck (97 times)

Cocaine (2 times)

Bitch (14 times)

Drug (60 times)

Shit (239 times)

Damn (121 times)

*N\*\*\*\** (9 times)

Do I really need to say more about it???"

Ms. Reichelt responded with "The book was fantastic, and you are a ridiculous human being."

First of all, " ... you are a ridiculous human being" is a childish ad hominem attack that doesn't address any comment I made. Secondly, for her to attack a concerned parent who raises issues about the book and then insult me is reprehensible and totally unprofessional and for that, she needs to be censured. Thirdly, her endorsement of this book as Vice-chair also reflects badly on her personally and on the board as a whole.

Using the word "fantastic" to describe a book that contains sexually explicit material and profane language and is readily available in our schools indicates clearly that Ms. Reichelt is not guided by any universal standards of right and wrong. This foul language lifts the boundaries most parents have set for their children and presents a malevolent dimension that must be curtailed and eliminated. She is blinded by her emotions about the subject and does not understand that books like these are used to desensitize children and make them easy prey for predators.

Rather than guiding and protecting our children, she offers up our defenseless children to the degradation of an immoral author and others of their ilk. It makes it easier for potential abusers to target our children. This is a clear example of endorsing a book that may be used by evil people to groom children. Her lack of awareness of this possibility indicates clearly that she has few moral principles and is comfortable with discarding virtuous principles.

I call the board to take seriously their role to guide and PROTECT our children rather than offering opportunities for abusers to use these books to capture the hearts and minds of our children.

In regards to the report, thank you for your courage to tell the truth. You are bringing dignity to the board by putting children's safety before politics.

Jared should know that there is a duty to report medical, mental, physical, and sexual abuse done to children, and these matters must be put above politics. Child safeguarding concerns us all. Jared is not above the supremacy of God and the rules of law. By acknowledging my email but refusing to address the issue, bullying you, and directing me to a circle of useless bureaucratic actions, he is refusing to address the concern raised regarding child abuse.

My conclusion is that for the safety of children and the community, he should step down. Community concern about child abuse should always be taken seriously. Jared has the power to protect potential victims but nevertheless chooses not to act on their behalf. Any rational person would wish to prevent sexual abuse. But not ideologically driven individuals who are more loyal to their ideology than to their duty and responsibilities...

Kind Regards.

Pierre Barns 236-458-7269

**2022-06-10 4:34 PM (reply from Jared Mumford)** 

Hello Darrell,

I invite you to give me a phone call and we can refresh together the procedure for dealing with Trustee conduct. It is not something a board chair 'airs' over email with numerous unverified recipients. Please review our policy manual for more information if necessary.

Pierre, I trust you have already started appeals in these various districts regarding the multiple resources you have cited. It may or may not comfort you to know that the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care is also performing a review of resource selection policy, where their final report and recommendations should be submitted to BC Boards of Education in mid-Fall 2022.

Thank you for your interest in our schools.

Cheers Jared

Jared Mumford Board Chair

Ph: **604 845 4162** Twitter:**@jaredmumford** Pronouns: **he, him, his** 

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#### 2022-06-11 9:14 AM (reply from Darrell Furgason)

Hi Jared,

I do not do phone calls, as there is the danger of misquoting or misinterpreting statements. I prefer email.

As for your statement "we can refresh together the procedure for dealing with Trustee conduct", I find it astounding that you have never yet in 4 years addressed the disgraceful conduct of Willow Reichelt, whether in public Board meetings, online and media posts denigrating Barry or myself, her emotionally dysfunctional outbursts in staff meetings or in Board meetings, and most recently her totally unacceptable demeaning of Pierre Barns, calling him a "ridiculous human being".

As Chair, you have a responsibility to maintain integrity, and public confidence in SD33. But you have deliberately allowed Willow to denigrate a member of the public who has raised some legitimate concerns about learning resources in our District. Where is your response to Willow? And further, you have refused another Trustee, Heather, her right to put a motion on the Board agenda to question these learning resources.

Until such time as you correct your behavior and adopt the leadership role of what a proper Chair should demonstrate, I have no desire to pander to your harassment to accept any form of "correction" or "guidance".

Regards,

#### **Darrell Furgason PhD**

School Trustee SD33

#### **2022-08-18 9:21 AM (reply from Pierre Barns)**

Good morning Jared,
What is the process for submitting a formal complaint against a Trustee?
Regards,
Pierre Barns

#### **2022-08-19 8:00 AM (reply from Pierre Barns)**

Good morning Jared,

Precisely I want to make a sexual misconduct complaint regarding Willow. Perhaps I should make a sexual misconduct complaint against you since Willow claims to represent the view of the Board.

A least three Trustees in the Chilliwack School Board agree that the books mentioned below contain sexually explicit material. Nevertheless, Willow chooses to promote those books on social media and encourage everyone to "read banned books."

She also undermined the integrity of the teaching profession and teachers in your district by stating that "no one advocating book banning in 2022 has any business being involved in public education," or maybe it is a direct threat to teachers and Trustees who think that those books should be banned.

I am requesting that this email be forwarded to the Chilliwack police liaison officer and the head of the Chilliwack RCMP, as I do not trust that you are taking this issue seriously.

For that reason, I have attached all board members. I expect some of them will forward this email and previous communications related to this issue to the authorities mentioned above.

Regards,

Pierre Barns

Reference here and examples of sexual misconduct cases are attached to this email:

https://www.canlii.org/en/on/onoct/doc/2022/2022onoct65/2022onoct65.html https://www.canlii.org/en/on/onoct/doc/2022/2022onoct68/2022onoct68.html https://www.canlii.org/en/on/onoct/doc/1998/1998onoct4/1998onoct4.html





No one advocating book banning in 2022 has any business being involved in public education. We are supposed to be teaching students to think critically and preparing them for the adult world. Our trained educators are skilled at choosing resources that address relevant topics and that cover the wide range of life experiences that make up our community. The Board trusts our staff to make these decisions, which is why our policy on resources delegates resource selection to these educators.

There is a movement afoot in the USA to ban books with LGBTQ+ and anti-racist content from schools. There are people in Chilliwack who would like to see this regressive, anti-intellectual movement spread to Canada. Of the top ten most challenged books in the USA, nine cover LGBTQ+ or BIPOC content. The book banners claim to be about protecting children, but make no mistake: This is an explicitly racist and anti-LGBTQ+ agenda.

I encourage everyone to read banned books. Think about what's in the books and why someone might not want you to read them. Do they actually have your best interests at heart, or are they trying to



These are the top ten most challenged books of 2022:

- Gender Queer: a Memoir, by Maia Kobabe
- Lawn Boy, by Jonathan Evison
- All Boys Aren't Blue, by George M. Johnson
- Out of Darkness, by Ashley Hope Pérez
- The Hate U Give, by Angie Thomas
- The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, by Sherman Alexie
- Me and Earl and the Dying Girl, by Jesse Andrews
- The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison
- This Book Is Gay, by James Dawson
- Beyond Magenta, by Susan Kuklin

NOTE: Any comments that attempt to discredit any books on this list by quoting passages out of context will be immediately deleted. Anyone with any understanding of literature is aware that context is everything.



Willow Reichelt, SD33 School Trustee · Follow This book is fantastic. You are a ridiculous human being.

Like Reply 30m



Pierre Barns

Willow Reichelt, SD33 School Trustee Did you read the book?

Like Reply 16m



Pierre Barns

Willow Reichelt, SD33 School Trustee You think that parents who have concerns about books containing sexually explicit material and talking about an affair between two adults are ridiculous. In this book children engage in heavy talk about having sex. The book is loaded with swearing by both adults and children throughout the novel, including "shit," "fuck," "ass," "bitch," "damn," and other variants, and "n\*\*\*\*." This book content mentions children drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana at a party. Talk about cocaine, selling drugs, and unarmed children being shot and killed with blood everywhere. A young girl dies in a drive-by shooting, and her blood is described as mingling with the fire hydrant water. If you like that type of book and think concerned parents like myself are ridiculous, you should resign from your position and stay away from our children, you are morally depraved.

Like Reply 1m



Write a reply...









Protecting Your Child | Reduce the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse

The following are examples of non-contact and contact sexual abuse offences. These are not meant to be exhaustive.

#### Non-Contact Sexual Abuse:

- . Encouraging a child to masturbate or watch others masturbate
- Secretly recording or observing a child in a private situation for a sexual purpose (voyeurism)
- Exposing a child to individuals engaging in sexually explicit acts (including exposure to adult pornography)
- · Exposing a child to child sexual abuse material\*
- · "Flashing" or exposing genitals to a child
- Communicating over technology to make it easier to commit a specific sexual offence against a child (luring a child)\*\*
- Taking a picture or recording a video of a child's sexual organs for a sexual purpose.

# An offender who is $\underline{known}$ to the child and/or family (is in a position of trust or is in the family's circle of trust) may:

- Establish trust with the adults around the child
- Manipulate the child by distorting their thinking and creating a dependency on the offender (grooming the child)
- Manipulate adults around the child to reduce any suspicion (grooming the adults)
- . Find ways to spend ongoing time with the child to extend their access
- Misuse the child's trust and the trust of their family
- · Normalize boundary crossing with the child
- Start making casual sexualized comments and/or jokes around the child

#### An offender who is a family member may:

- Use their authority/role in the family and private access to control the child
- Take advantage of the child's dependency on them for survival®
- Assert their authority and domination in the home!









#### All Boys Aren't Blu

#### Page 167

He reached his hand down and pulled out my dick. He quickly went to giving me head. I just sat...

Page 13

...what was about to happen, and then it did. You ejaculated into the toilet in front of me. I was very...

Page 131

Watching you ejaculate was shocking. I remember you telling me, "It'...



#### What is SOGI -123?

SOGI-123 is an optional free resource, available online with ready to use, grade-level appropriate lesson plans, online learning modules, and customizable templates and tools that align with B.C.'s new curriculum. The ARC foundation developed SOGI-123 in collaboration with the B.C. Ministry of Education, B.C. Teachers' Federation, The University of British Columbia's Faculty of Education, nine school districts throughout B.C., and local, national and international LGBTQ community organizations.

# Are discussions about sexual practices taking place in elementary classrooms?

No, sexuality as a concept is discussed starting in grade 4 (with the onset of puberty) but does not include discussions about sexual acts or practices. Secondary students need accurate information about relationships and safe sex. Lack of information can have significant consequences for youth.

Are school aged children too young to be learning about gender? When discussing gender, the conversations are largely about what people like to wear, the activities they engage in and how they feel about themselves. Gender is about self-identity. When students learn about the diversity found in gender, they have an opportunity to explore a greater range of interests, ideas and activities.



# **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

# FOR BC EDUCATORS

Educators value the success of all students. Educators care for students and act in their best interests.

Educators have a privileged position of power and trust. Educators are responsible for the physical and emotional safety of students. Educators respect and value the diversity in their classrooms, schools and communities, inclusive of First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and other worldviews and perspectives. Educators foster students' positive personal identity, mental and physical well-being, social and personal responsibility, and intellectual development. Educators engage students in meaningful participation in their own learning. Educators treat students equitably with acceptance, dignity and respect. Educators understand the importance of confidentiality, and protect student privacy, unless disclosure is required by law. Educators do not abuse or exploit students or minors for personal, sexual, ideological, material or other advantage.



When a person with a female body and a person with a male body are having vaginal intercourse, the erect penis goes into and inside the vagina, which stretches in a way that fits around the penis. The wetness from the vagina makes it easier for the penis to go into the vagina.

Vaginal intercourse is also called vaginal sex. As the two people move back and forth in rhythm, the movement of the penis inside the vagina soon feels very good. They may hug and kiss and touch each other