

HAMILTON
COUNTY
SCHOOLS

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Form

Please complete this form in its entirety. This form is adopted from the Student's Right to Read, a leaflet published by the National Council of Teachers of English, 508 South 6th Street, Champaign, Illinois.

*Required

Material Questioned

1. Author: *Annie Thomas*
2. Title: *On the Come Up*
3. Publisher: *Balzer + Bray (Harper Collins)*

A-V Materials

4. Author:
5. Title:
6. Publisher:

Contact Information

7. Request Initiated by (Name) * *Brandy Howard*
8. Address* [REDACTED]
9. Phone Number [REDACTED]
10. City and State* *Chattanooga, TN 37363*
11. Complainant represents* (Mark only one.)

☒ Himself/Herself

☐ Organization or Group

12. If you selected Organization or Group, please list the title below.

Details and Supporting Evidence for the Materials in Question

Please complete the information below to adequately describe the complaint.



HAMILTON

COUNTY
SCHOOLS

13. To what in the material do you object? (Please be specific, cite passages, pages, etc.)*

See attached Review. Vulgar language, violence, anti-police, positive perspective of drug dealers

14. What do you feel might be the result of reading/viewing this material?*

Division, Violence, The book wrongly portrays black teens as angry and even violent, and while police officers are dangerous.

15. For what age group would you recommend this material?*

None

16. Is there anything good about this book?*

The main character has a good relationship with his family and his mother has successfully gotten away from drug addiction.

17. Did you read, see, or listen to the material in its entirety? (Mark only one.)

☒ Yes

☐ No

18. If no, what parts?

19. What reviews of the materials have you read? (Please include the sources.)*

Amazon

20. What do you believe is the main idea of this material?*

The main idea is that black teens are angry. They believe police officers shoot black people "for no reason".

21. What would you like your school to do about the material? (Check all that apply.)

☐ Do not assign it to my child.



HAMILTON
COUNTY
SCHOOLS

☒ Withdraw it from all students as well as my child.

☐ Send it back to the department concerned for re-evaluation.

22. In its place, what material of equal quality would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of our civilization?*

What is the goal of this book? To tell a Mockingbird is a clean-language book to open discussion of racism and injustice.



HAMILTON
COUNTY
SCHOOLS

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Form

Please complete this form in its entirety. This form is adopted from the Student's Right to Read, a leaflet published by the National Council of Teachers of English, 508 South 6th Street, Champaign, Illinois.

*Required

Material Questioned

1. Author: Robin Benway
2. Title: Far From the Tree
3. Publisher: Harper Collins

A-V Materials

4. Author:

5. Title:

6. Publisher:

Contact Information

7. Request Initiated by (Name) * Robyn Kremser

8. Address*

9. Phone Nu

10. City and State* Ooltewah, TN

11. Complainant represents* (Mark only one.)

☒ Himself/Herself

☐ Organization or Group

12. If you selected Organization or Group, please list the title below.



Details and Supporting Evidence for the Materials in Question

Please complete the information below to adequately describe the complaint.

13. To what in the material do you object? (Please be specific, cite passages, pages, etc.)*

Teen sex, pregnancy, drugs, drinking, and violence, LGBTQ heroes but anti-parents, Anti-catholic, Addiction, depression, tons of foul language, + CRT.

14. What do you feel might be the result of reading/viewing this material?*

This book glorifies cursing, rebelling against parents and teachers, and LGBTQ characters. It makes parents out to be idiots and glorifies teens having sex and doing drugs. This book is a garbage Netflix show in a book form.

15. For what age group would you recommend this material?*

None, it's garbage.

16. Is there anything good about this book?*

Yes, in the end the siblings became closer with one another and with their families.

17. Did you read, see, or listen to the material in its entirety?* (Mark only one.)

☒ Yes

☐ No

18. If no, what parts?

19. What reviews of the materials have you read? (Please include the sources.)*

Amazon

Common Sense Media → confirms the content includes sex, language, drugs, and violence

20. What do you believe is the main idea of this material?*

The main idea of this material is that parents and white people are ignorant idiots, and that teens know best. That drugs and cursing and gay girls are normal and fine. That adoption isn't the answer and neither is foster care. That Catholicism and Christianity are laughable. ~~and~~ I do not see how this book is challenging or benefiting students.



21. What would you like your school to do about the material?* (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Do not assign it to my child.
- ☒ Withdraw it from all students as well as my child.
- ☐ Send it back to the department concerned for re-evaluation.

22. In its place, what material of equal quality would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of our civilization?*

I do not know what the purpose or goal of this book would be in a classroom, and am therefore not able to accurately recommend a replacement. That is the job of the school system. But here are some suggestions:

Little Women
Lord of the Rings (series)
The Outsiders
Harry Potter (series)
1984

Parker Neelie

From: Parker Neelie
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 11:51 AM
To: PARRIS JAMIE
Subject: FW: [SPAM] Book Summary & HCDE Request for Reconsideration Form
Attachments: Ham Co R for R form.pdf; M4L Book Review Far From The Tree.pdf

Here is the book and concern....

From: COVINGTON BECKY <COVINGTON_BECKY@HCDE.ORG>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 2:48 PM
To: Parker Neelie <parker_n@HCDE.ORG>; HARPER ELAINE <HARPER_ELAINE@HCDE.ORG>
Subject: Fw: [SPAM] Book Summary & HCDE Request for Reconsideration Form

Becky W. Covington
Hamilton County Schools
Director of Early Learning
423-498-7131

From: Robyn Kremser <robyn22084@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 7:36 PM
To: district1@hamiltontn.gov <district1@hamiltontn.gov>; district2@hamiltontn.gov <district2@hamiltontn.gov>;
district3@hamiltontn.gov <district3@hamiltontn.gov>; district4@hamiltontn.gov <district4@hamiltontn.gov>;
district5@hamiltontn.gov <district5@hamiltontn.gov>; district6@hamiltontn.gov <district6@hamiltontn.gov>;
district7@hamiltontn.gov <district7@hamiltontn.gov>; district8@hamiltontn.gov <district8@hamiltontn.gov>;
district9@hamiltontn.gov <district9@hamiltontn.gov>
Cc: MOCHEL JEANNE <MOCHEL_J@HCDE.ORG>; Parker Neelie <parker_n@HCDE.ORG>
Subject: [SPAM] Book Summary & HCDE Request for Reconsideration Form

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Hamilton County Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Hamilton County School Board Members -

I am a concerned parent and tax-payer currently living in District 9 of Hamilton County. I am part of a local grass roots group called Moms for Liberty, focused on getting involved in our local community for the benefit of our children. We have been reading, reviewing, and summarizing every book on your public school recommended and required reading lists.

The Chairs and Co-Chairs of our group have been reaching out to you all publicly, privately, as a group, and individually, to see what can be done about the concerns we're finding in these books. Every person we speak to continues to pass us along to another person, another form, another hoop.

So I am including in this email all of the individuals we have been advised to talk to about pulling these inappropriate reading materials from the shelves of our public schools.

Attached you will find a completed request for reconsideration form, as well as a detailed summary of the first book I was handed from your list recommended for 8th-12th grade students. Keep in mind, advanced middle school students often are included in these lists as well. Roughly kids as young as ten or eleven years old could also be advised to read this material, in your schools.

After you have reviewed the attached, I would like you to ask the following questions of yourselves, and/or of your librarians and committees who have hand-picked books such as this one:

- Is this the *best* we can do for our students?
- Is this the kind of material that fosters, challenges, encourages, and produces brilliant young minds?
- If the phrase "garbage in, garbage out" is true, is this the kind of material we want the students representing our school district consuming?
- If I were reading this out loud to a room of students and parents, how would I feel? How would *they* feel?
- Is this reading material helpful, encouraging, true, or necessary?
- If raising the literacy rates among Hamilton County students is our goal, is this the most effective way to get there?
- If our job is to pick food from the curriculum "buffet," is this nourishing? Is this how low we view our own students?
- Is there anything in this book that could contribute to depression, anger, or violence among adolescents?
- Who chose this book for our students? Did they themselves read it before recommending it?

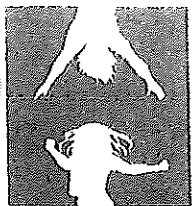
I am asking you to remove this book, and others like it, immediately from your lists and libraries. I am requesting that you replace them with books that are edifying, encouraging, challenging, and engaging. Because you have the power to do so! It is your job. I know you already have lists of previous choices on hand. The switch should not be difficult.

The problem is grave. The solution is simple. The impact will be profound. The choice is yours.

I look forward to your response.

Thank you!

Robyn Kremser
720-626-0388
robyn22084@yahoo.com



HAMILTON
COUNTY
SCHOOLS

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Form

Please complete this form in its entirety. This form is adopted from the Student's Right to Read, a leaflet published by the National Council of Teachers of English, 508 South 6th Street, Champaign, Illinois.

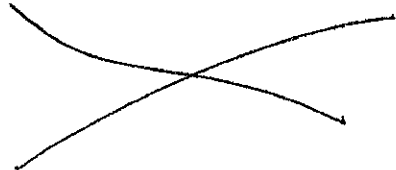
*Required

Material Questioned

1. Author: *Angie Thomas*
2. Title: *On the Come Up*
3. Publisher: *Balzer + Bray (Harper Collins)*

A-V Materials

4. Author:
5. Title:
6. Publisher:



Contact Information

7. Request Initiated by (Name) * *Brandy Howard*
8. Address* [REDACTED]
9. Phone Number [REDACTED]
10. City and State* *Dalhousie, TN 37363*
11. Complainant represents* (Mark only one.)

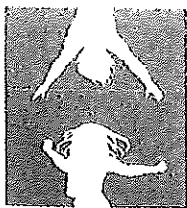
☒ Himself/Herself

☐ Organization or Group

12. If you selected Organization or Group, please list the title below.

Details and Supporting Evidence for the Materials in Question

Please complete the information below to adequately describe the complaint.



HAMILTON
COUNTY
SCHOOLS

Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Form

Please complete this form in its entirety. This form is adopted from the Student's Right to Read, a leaflet published by the National Council of Teachers of English, 508 South 6th Street, Champaign, Illinois.

*Required

Material Questioned

1. Author: *Angie Thomas*
2. Title: *The Hate U Give*
3. Publisher: *Harper Collins*

A-V Materials

4. Author:
5. Title:
6. Publisher:

Contact Information

7. Request Initiated by (Name) * *Brandy Howard*
8. Address* [REDACTED]
9. Phone Number [REDACTED]
10. City and State* *Cottwold TN 37363*
11. Complainant represents* (Mark only one.)

☒ Himself/Herself

☐ Organization or Group

12. If you selected Organization or Group, please list the title below.

Details and Supporting Evidence for the Materials in Question

Please complete the information below to adequately describe the complaint.



HAMILTON

COUNTY
SCHOOLS

13. To what in the material do you object? (Please be specific, cite passages, pages, etc.)*

See attached Review

14. What do you feel might be the result of reading/viewing this material?*

Violence, anger, division, anti-police, inappropriate language

15. For what age group would you recommend this material?*

None

16. Is there anything good about this book?*

Other than participating in riots, the main character generally makes good behavior choices.

17. Did you read, see, or listen to the material in its entirety? (Mark only one.)

☒ Yes

☐ No

18. If no, what parts?

19. What reviews of the materials have you read? (Please include the sources.)*

Amazon

20. What do you believe is the main idea of this material?*

The main idea is that police officers randomly shoot black children. and therefore, black children should be scared of police. The book teaches that it's acceptable to participate in violent activities as a form of "protest"

21. What would you like your school to do about the material? (Check all that apply.)

Remove

☐ Do not assign it to my child.



HAMILTON

COUNTY
SCHOOLS

☒ Withdraw it from all students as well as my child.

☒ Send it back to the department concerned for re-evaluation.

22. In its place, what material of equal quality would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of our civilization?*

Since I'm not a professional educator,
nor do I understand the goal of
this assignment, I believe the school
should make a better choice. Some
options may include So Tell a Mockingbird,
Black Star by Carl Jenkins & Elizabeth Gardner
Hines, Gifted Hands.

Parker Neelie

From: Brandy Howard <brandy@brandyhoward.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 4:26 PM
To: HCDE BOARD MEMBERS; Parker Neelie; ELLER BRENT
Subject: Request for Reconsideration - The Hate U Give
Attachments: Request for Reconsideration The Hate U Give.pdf; The Hate U Give Detailed Summary.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Hamilton County Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find attached the 4.403 Request for Reconsideration form and review document for The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. This book was used for 10th Grade ELA at East Hamilton High School last year and remains on the recommended reading list today.

I understand this recommended reading list is used as a source for assigning summer reading assignments, purchasing books for the school libraries as well as sets for classroom libraries in addition to being used as a reference tool for parents and students. It is disappointing and concerning that books with this violence and language are considered acceptable by the Hamilton County School District. Parents trust that district employees have reviewed materials on this list and deemed them safe and of good quality for students. If this language was in a movie, it would be R rated and not acceptable for a 14 year old child, yet this book is recommended by HCSD for grades 8 thru 12. This book includes language like:

Page 44 - "I clocked her aXX. It was so funny! You should've seen it!"

Page 48 - "I heard what happened to her li'l homie. That's fXXXX up." "No doubt. They [cops] worse than us sometimes."

Page 51 - "You mean y'all wanna justify what that pig did," Daddy says. "Investigate my aXX." "A sixteen-year-old black boy is dead because a white cop killed him."

Page 82 - **Xuckity FXXX, fXXX, fXXX**

Page 85 - "God, boys and their f-ing sex drive."

I am part of the Moms for Liberty group in Hamilton County. Parents are disappointed to find this is the type of material the school district believes to be valuable and of good quality for our students. We have shared this information and our concerns with the board publicly and privately. We have attempted to reach out to the district to better understand how these books are selected and what was the rationale for deciding to present material like this to our children. We have been directed to the policy of submitting these 4.403 forms. *Per the 4.403 policy, item C1 - the final decision regarding material lies with the School Board. I want to express to you that parents have been hesitant to invest time in completing these forms or this process, because they have no faith that the SAME district that chose these materials will also choose to remove/replace them. I hope you will prove us all wrong.

****My first attempt at sending this email to you bounced back as undeliverable due to "banned content", because of the language I quoted from this book.**



Regards,

Trandy Howard