

From: [Vanhemert Ashley](#)
To: [Dearmoun Bonnie](#)
Subject: Re: Books in your mailbox
Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 9:45:42 AM

Thanks, that's awesome. These are option books for the censorship class I'm teaching now and we'll start reading next week at the earliest. If we don't have them, they won't be on the kids' radar so not a big deal. Out of Darkness is a pretty intriguing but heavy historical fiction. I have a copy. All boys aren't blue and Beyond Magenta would be great pics if other high schools have them. Maybe we have the bluest eye in the book room, I'll check.

Ashley Van Hemert

(she, her, hers)

English Language Arts Teacher

Steller Secondary

From: Dearmoun_Bonnie <Dearmoun_Bonnie@asdk12.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 9:27 AM
To: Vanhemert_Ashley <vanhemert_ashley@asdk12.org>
Subject: Books in your mailbox

Hi Ash,

The books we have are in your mailbox.

We don't have:
Out of Darkness
All Boys Aren't Blue
Lawn Boy
The Bluest Eye
This Book is Gay
Beyond Magenta

I need to do some research and buy a few of these, Beyond Magenta looks like a good fit for our readers, let me know if you have some recommendations for our school and I'll buy them. When do you teach this class? If I act fast you could use them.

Bonnie DeArmoun
Steller Secondary- Library Assistant
Dearmoun_Bonnie@asdk12.org
907-742-9733

Hi Carol,

Here are the bullet points- I really tried to keep it simple, but it isn't.

*This Book is Gay, by Juno Dawson, is an award winning text with high reviews from multiple sources including the American Library Association.

*TBIG was purchased for Polaris November, 2020. It was brought to our attention that our LGBTYQ section was lacking- we looked to expand it. We pulled from a variety of lists- American Library Association-World Cat, Barnes and Noble, etc.

*Due to the topic, we kept it behind the counter so Elementary students would not have access to it (as we do with some others). We now have a teen section that we are expanding, in view of the circulation desk to further monitor age appropriate material. In short, an Elementary student is not going to walk out with this book (unless it is a sneak issue- there is not always someone at the desk). Students of any age are not allowed behind the counter, unless we are there.

*It was checked out in December of 2021, lost and not recovered- standard library procedure is to mark it as lost after a year- and reorder. We have no plans to reorder it now as it we do not have students asking for it. ALL ASD teen students have access to this book through the Loussac Library (if their parent has linked their ASD library card). A hard copy might only be in 3-4 schools, but students can get ahold of this text. (A note- at this second- all digital copies from the Loussaac are checked out- we have no way of knowing if they are checked out by Polaris students or not.)

*I was professionally advised that this text- due to reviews, subject matter, population and information- makes sense in a young adult

collection- and is a thoughtful choice- provided in our K-12 library it is not accessible to Elementary readers.

Not bullet points- perspective-

I am reading it now- it is graphic and blunt in a cartoony, keep it light way- but there is a tremendous amount of good information for a lost student in this situation- no one to talk to or ask questions of. This is a book of information for the LGBTQ community. The reading level is 14+ and the author constantly discussing safety, safety, safety. He touches on STDs, condoms- gay terms, graphic pictures (in cartoon image) but no where does he encourage unsafe behavior (this will be argued, I am sure). This book has no business in an Elementary setting- but we try to maintain access to as much information as possible for teen readers. I fear it will be pulled off the shelves in our ASD libraries. There is a process for this, and I have the link if needed with this parent.

On another note- I have the Bible on the shelf, 12 verses refer to Sodomy and sexual behavior, selling your daughter into slavery.... This is such a slippery slope. Let me know what else you need.

From: [Gregory Rachel](#)
To: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Subject: Re: This book is gay
Date: Monday, October 24, 2022 10:51:41 AM

Good Morning Pete,

The hard cover books are titles in our Polaris collection however, items are only available to students IF the material is age appropriate. In addition, certain titles are kept behind the counter.

The e-books are available to all ASD students. These digital items are chosen by ASD library services. Parents can restrict checkout of specific items at their discretion.

Please let me know if there is anything else you need,
Rachel

From: Pete Adams <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2022 3:29 PM
To: Bartholomew_Carol <Bartholomew_Carol@asdk12.org>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gmail.com [REDACTED]@gmail.com; Gregory_Rachel <gregory_rachel@asdk12.org>
Subject: Re: This book is gay

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Are these available to all ages? It's quite a collection.

[http://asd.tlcdelivers.com/?config=ysm#section=search&term=gender&page=0&sortKey=Relevancy&db=ls2pac&branchFilters=\[%22450%22\]&facetFilters=\[\]&audience=\[\]](http://asd.tlcdelivers.com/?config=ysm#section=search&term=gender&page=0&sortKey=Relevancy&db=ls2pac&branchFilters=[%22450%22]&facetFilters=[]&audience=[])

There are several titles in other search results that don't really seem to be appropriate for young kids or support a core learning curriculum.

On Fri, Oct 21, 2022, 10:34 AM Bartholomew_Carol <Bartholomew_Carol@asdk12.org> wrote:

Pete,

The book you are referencing has not been in circulation at Polaris for a year. We do not plan to add it back to our library collection.

If you would like to visit the library, please reach out directly to Rachel to make an appointment.
Carol

From: Pete Adams <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 3:06 PM
To: Bartholomew_Carol <Bartholomew_Carol@asdk12.org>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gmail.com <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Subject: This book is gay

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