

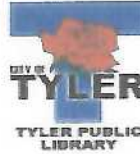
In January 2023, during an audit of the Tyler Library it was discovered that the Spanish version of the explicit book *Perks of Being a Wallflower* was located in the YA section on the first floor.

However, the English version of the same book was properly located in the Adult section.

A. Guana sent a book request in and this issue was resolved.

Jan 2023

10



Tyler Public Library Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Material

Thank you for bringing an item to our attention you feel may not have merit. The Collection Development Committee will examine the material in an attempt to be objective, but they need your help to determine specifically the objection. Your Help in this matter is appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the library in its efforts to bring a well-balanced and meaningful collection together for every citizen of Tyler.

Please complete the follow form. You may use the back of the form if you require more space.

Author: Stephen Chbosky

Title: Perks of Being A Wallflower

Publisher:

Format: Hardcover X Paperback Recording Other

Request Initiated by: Alejandro Guano

1) To what in the item do you object? Please be specific, citing pages:

SEE ATTACHED SPECIFIC PASSAGES FROM THIS BOOK AT THE END OF THIS FORM

This book contains numerous accounts of sexual activities between minors including sexual nudity, intercourse and sexual assault. **At the Tyler Public Library, the English version of this book is shelved in the Adult section while the Spanish version is shelved where it is readily accessible to minors.**

2) What do you feel might be the result of using this material?

The younger a child is the more important it is to shield them from sexually explicit, pervasively vulgar or violent books and other visual or audio materials. Of all institutions it would seem a library would want to entertain and educate children in a way that is age appropriate and enhances their life. Children who are exposed to such illicit material suffer a loss of innocence and are potentially left with psychological issues. Tyler Taxpayers have every right to expect the Tyler Library Collections Committee ensures illicit materials are not accessible to minors.

3) For what age group would you recommend this material?

This book should be not be accessible to minors at all. There should be no difference between whether minors are Spanish or English, both should be treated equally and both versions should be in the adult section.

4) Can you recommend anything good about this material?

Please read the excerpts from this book (the English Version) below. It is unacceptable reading material for minors. In the Tyler Catalog, the 'subject' of this book excludes any reference or warning as to the sexual nature of this book. This is misleading to parents who do not wish their children to check out such books.

5) Did you read, view or listen to this item in its entirety? No. I already know about this book. When I learned it was in the Spanish children's section I decided to file an official complaint.

6) Are you aware of the reviews received by this material? The librarian will be happy to help find them.
Yes, I am aware of and have read the reviews of this book including the Tyler Public Library's online catalog review. In your own review you refer to this book as being about teenagers and that it is a 'coming of age' book. I do not believe that 'coming of age' means a minor losing their virginity nor would I agree to allow my child to read this book. The catalog description is misleading and omits the sexually explicit nature of this book.

Signature of Complainant _____

Address _____ Tyler TX _____

Library Card Barcode # _____

Phone _____

EXCERPTS FROM THE ENGLISH VERSION OF PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER

- 1) And I opened the door to the basement, and my sister and this boy were naked. He was on top of her, and her legs were draped over either side of the couch. And she screamed at me in a whisper. "Get out. You pervert."
- 2) I had a weird dream. I was with Sam. And we were both naked. And her legs were spread over the sides of the couch. And I woke up. And I had never felt that good in my life. But I also felt bad because I saw her naked without her permission. ...Do you know what "masturbation" is? I think you probably do because you are older than me. But just in case, I will tell you. Masturbation is when you rub your genitals until you have an orgasm. Wow! I thought that in those movies and television shows when they talk about having a coffee break that they should have a masturbation break. ...I told Sam that I dreamt that she and I were naked on the sofa, and I started crying because I felt bad, and do you what she did? She laughed.
- 3) This one couple, whom I was told later were very popular and in love, stumbled into my room and asked if I minded them using it. I told them that my brother and sister said I had to stay here, and they asked if they could use the room anyway with me still in it. I didn't see why not, so they closed the door and started kissing. Kissing very hard. After a few minutes, the boy's hand went up the girl's shirt, and she started protesting. "C'mon, Dave." "What?" "The kid's in here." "It's okay." And the boy kept working up the girl's shirt, and as much as she said no, he kept working it. After a few minutes, she stopped protesting, and he pulled her shirt off, and she had a white bra on with lace. I honestly didn't know what to do by this point. Pretty soon, he took off her bra and started to kiss her breasts. And then he put his hand down her pants, and she started moaning. I think they were both very drunk. He reached to take off her pants, but she started crying really hard, so he reached for his own. He pulled his pants and underwear down to his knees. "Please. Dave. No." But the boy just talked soft to her about how good she looked and things like that, and she grabbed his penis with her hands and started moving it. I wish I could describe this a little more nicely without using words like penis, but that was the way it was. After a few minutes, the boy pushed the girl's head down, and she started to kiss his penis. She was still crying. Finally, she stopped crying because he put his penis in her mouth, and I don't think you can cry in that position. I had to stop watching at that point because I started to feel sick, but it kept going on, and they kept doing other things, and she kept saying "no." Even when I covered my ears, I could still hear her say that. ... "Did they know you were

in there?" "Yes. They asked if they could use the room." "Why didn't you stop them?" "I didn't know what they were doing." "You pervert," ...

- 4) Sam told me as we were hanging up our coats that Bob was "baked like a fucking cake."
- 5) When most people left, Brad and Patrick went into Patrick's room. They had sex for the first time that night. I don't want to go into detail about it because it's pretty private stuff, but I will say that Brad assumed the role of the girl in terms of where you put things. I think that's pretty important to tell you. When they were finished, Brad started to cry really hard. He had been drinking a lot. And getting really, really stoned.
- 6) According to my sister, Sam used to be a "blow queen." I hope you know what that means because I really can't think about Sam and describe it to you.
- 7) She told me about the first time she was kissed. She told me that it was with one of her dad's friends. She was seven.
- 8) Everyone else is either asleep or having sex.
- 9) But the thing is that I can hear Sam and Craig having sex, and for the first time in my life, I understand the end of that poem. And I never wanted to.
- 10) Patrick kept making jokes that I would get an "erection." I really hoped this wouldn't happen. Once, I got an erection in class and had to go to the blackboard.
- 11) And then she leaned down and started kissing my neck and ears. Then my cheeks. Then my lips. And everything kind of melted away. She took my hand and slid it up her sweater, and I couldn't believe what was happening to me. Or what breasts felt like. Or later, what they looked like. Or how difficult bras are. After we had done everything you can do from the stomach up, I lay on the floor, and Mary Elizabeth put her head on my chest.
- 12) "So, they've been going out for a long time, and I think they've even had sex before, but this was going to be a special night..." "...They start to make out. The stereo's playing, and they're just about to 'do it' when Parker realizes he forgot the condoms. They're both naked on this putting green. They both want each other. There's no condom. So, what do you think happened?" "I don't know." "They did it **doggie-style with one of the sandwich bags!**"
- 13) It was fun watching my sister dance the Time Warp on stage, but I don't think I could have handled her pretending to have sex with a large stuffed Gumby.
- 14) "Don't blame me that you fucked around on her since the beginning!..."
- 15) "...And we lay down on the floor and kept kissing. And it was soft. And we made quiet noises. And kept silent. And still. We went over to the bed and lay down on all the things that weren't put in suitcases. And we touched each other from the waist up over our clothes. And then under our clothes. And then without clothes. And it was so beautiful. She was so beautiful. She took my hand and slid it under her pants. And I touched her. And I just couldn't believe it. ...Until she moved her hand under my pants, and she touched me.

Fwd: Perks of Being a Wallflower book

From Alejandro Gauna <alejandrogtxas@gmail.com>
To Dee <NativeTexanDee@gmail.com>, nativetexandee@protonmail.com
Date Monday, January 9th, 2023 at 5:41 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alejandro Gauna** <alejandrogtxas@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 9, 2023 at 5:38 PM
Subject: Perks of Being a Wallflower book
To: <shene@tylertexas.com>

Please see attachment and when you have time can you please respond.

Thank You,
Alejandro Gauna

36.75 KB 1 file attached

Reconsideration Form Tyler Public Library PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER 01072023.docx 36.75 KB

Stuart R. Hene
Council Member, District 1
212 N. Bonner
Tyler, Texas 75702
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710
[REDACTED] (cell)
shene@tylertexas.com

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On Jan 11, 2023, at 1:26 PM, Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com> wrote:

Thank you, Mr. Gauna sent this to me as well. We are working to rectify the issue and are working on a response to Mr. Gauna. We received some other requests as well for different items over the last few days as well.

Its apparent to me that there is an inconsistency in our cataloging processes over time and the Library will be working to further assess the Young Adult collection overall this year. YA can be a trickier area as the target audience for materials such as these can range from 13 to 24.

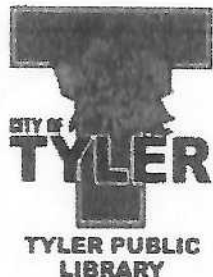
Fw: Reconsideration Updates and Assessment of Young Adult Collections

Ashley Taylor <ataylor@tylertexas.com>

Thu 1/12/2023 11:43 AM

To: Public Relations <PublicRelations@tylertexas.com>

I'm sharing this information with you all as well in the case that something comes up. Hopefully not 😊



Ashley Taylor

City Librarian / Library Director
City of Tyler

Tyler Public Library
201 S. College Ave.

Tyler, TX 75702
903-593-READ (7323)

ataylor@tylertexas.com | www.TylerLibrary.com

From: Ashley Taylor

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 11:42 AM

To: Stephanie Franklin <sfranklin@tylertexas.com>; Edward Broussard <ebroussard@tylertexas.com>

Subject: Reconsideration Updates and Assessment of Young Adult Collections

Stephanie and Ed,

The below is an updated message for all who may have inquiries into the status of the Library and it's material requests for reconsideration. I have responded to Mr. Gauna, which I did copy both of you on. I will do my best to keep you updated on how things move forward. Feel free to forward this message to our Council-people and Mayo Warren as you see fit.

In an effort to keep you all informed. We have had 4 items requested for reconsideration from 3 persons since Friday evening of January 6, 2023. Two of the requested items are checked out and we are awaiting their return. All materials being requested for reconsideration are classified as Young Adult. We will proceed with assessing each item individually per Library Policy. Each item will be reviewed by a diverse committee of staff who will report their findings to me.

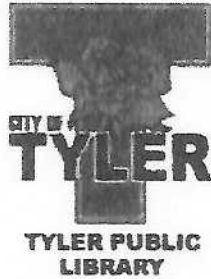
There have been some noted discrepancies in cataloging over the last several years with each director and each cataloging librarian. **It is my goal in the coming months to have a full assessment of our Young Adult collections, which can range in interest age of 13 to 24.** I will be meeting with staff and reaching out to other local librarians in the east Texas area to formulate a more thorough definition of what our YA section is, what the content should be, and what steps we can take to ensure an improved transparency to content.

In my research, and reading of youth reviews vs. adult reviews of materials marketed to young adult I find that adults, especially older adults, give little credit to our youth and their capabilities to understand tough subjects. With this project, I do plan to find a way to work with our local youth (possibly through student councils or our own teen volunteers) to see what materials they feel are suitable for teens and/or YA. It is most certainly a discussion parents and teens should have with one

another to find what materials are acceptable to them and their family. The Library is working to rebuild our own Teen Council to better assist us in serving our local youth through activities, programming, and material for checkout.

Jacqueline Salter is our new Resource Librarian who is beginning her role next week in place of Elizabeth Bradshaw. I will be briefing her on the Library's situation (she is already aware that we have faced some challenges) and plans for assessing the collection. I feel that this will be a good initial project for her and assist her in getting very familiar with our collection.

Best,



Ashley Taylor

City Librarian / Library Director
City of Tyler

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