

My Objections to Monster per R7-05-008 GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION AND REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Monster is in conflict with numerous Guidelines For Selection. They are: A.1-maturity level of the pupils being served, A.2-provide materials that stimulate growth in ethical standards, A.6-select materials of high quality, A.7-each student can study issues appropriate to his or her knowledge and maturity, A.8-provide instruction free from bias,prejudice,or coercion, D.3-developmental appropriateness, D.4.c-ideologies, D.4.d-sex education, D.4.e-sex, D.4.f-profanity, D.4.h-suicide prevention, D.4.b-factual unbiased information used to portray ethnic groups or cultures.

A.1 and A.7: pg. 37 “Some guys were sexually harassing me, sir.....They wanted to have sex with me. So to save yourself from being gang raped - Is that what they wanted to do to you?” Because there are so many mature moments in the book, it, as a whole, is mature content for adults and therefore inappropriate for the maturity level of a 13 year old. Pgs: 1, 2, 37, 43 “I’ll get an Uzi and blow his brains out”, 57, 66, 68, 73, 80, 81, 135, 136, 139, 143-144, 203, 252 (2)

A.2 and D.4.f: pg. 80 and 81 “He goes to that faggot school downtown. All they learn is how to be a faggot.....ain’t that right faggot”. The repeated use of “faggot” is derogatory and unethical. Pgs: 1, 2, 7, 14, 37, 43, 57, 66, 68, 73, 169, 211

A.6: For the long list of complaints with Monster I would consider it the opposite of “high quality”. Pgs: 1, 2, 7, 14, 37, 43, 50, 57, 66, 68, 71, 72, 73, 76, 80, 81, 82, 108, 109, 120, 122, 123, 132, 135, 136, 139 “I was scared of being hit or raped”, 141, 143-144 “There was a fight before lunch and a guy was stabbed in the eye. The guy who was stabbed was screaming, but that didn’t stop the other guy from hitting him more.”, 145-146, 169, 182, 183 (3), 203, 206, 211, 244-245, 248, 252 (2), 258

A.8: Monster is filled with examples of bias, prejudice, coercion, and racially motivated statements. For the sake of time I have bookmarked, highlighted, and designated every instance of these on a hard copy I will be submitting with this form. I will however cite the page numbers here. 7, 14, 48, 50, 66, 71, 72, 79, 80, 81, 85, 99 (2), 117 “...camera comes up on two dark, somewhat heavy and middle-aged women”, 118, 120 “he is a handsome, light-skinned Black”, 122, 123, 131, 132, 141, 145-146, 169, 182, 183 (3), 206, 211, 244-245, 248, 258

D.3: pg. 73 “Open your legs; we have to plug up your butt so you don’t mess yourself as you die. Steve’s face grimaces with pain as they put in the plug”. 9th graders do not and should not have the developmental appropriateness to envision this graphic scene. High quality books don’t expose minors to anal pain, human feces, and a man plugging another man’s butt with his legs open! Pgs: 37, 43, 57, 66, 80, 81, 108, 109, 135, 136, 139, 143-144, 252 (2)

D.4.c: The author inserts his personal ideologies here and there. Pgs: 50, 51, 66, 71, 72, 79, 117 “...and shot the poor man. Oh, these guns!”, 122-123 “Mayor Rudy Giuliani says that he is

determined to stop crime in all areas of the city. Cut to. Press conference with Mayor Giuliani and police brass. Mayor Giuliani The idea that we're just trying to stop crime in white or middle class areas is nonsense. Everyone living in the city deserves the same protection.", 131 "It was a registered gun. Our records show that Mr. Nesbitt applied for a license to have a gun on the premises in August of 1989. That permit was still in effect. The gun was licensed to him from that time.", 145-146, 169, 211, 244-245, 258

D.4.d and D.4.e: Numerous mentions of sexual assaults and rape. Pg. 37 "Some guys were sexually harassing me, sir.....They wanted to have sex with me. So to save yourself from being gang raped - Is that what they wanted to do to you?"

Pgs: 37, 57 "then we see him close his eyes as the sounds of the beating stop and the sounds become those of a sexual attack against the inmate who was beaten", 139, 252 (2)

D.4.h: Quite a few references to suicidal ideations which are opposite of prevention. Kids don't need tips or ideas. Pgs: 59 "They take away your shoelaces and your belt so you can't kill yourself no matter how bad it is", 144 "maybe I would think about killing myself so I wouldn't have to live that long in here", 203

D.4.b: pg. 210 and 211 "Should I take that to mean you no longer have the lamp? They don't make things to last anymore. I think it was made in Korea or some place like that". Is it factual that all products made in Korea don't last? Is it factual that all Koreans make shotty products? The author is unethically misrepresenting Koreans. Pgs: 51, 80, 81, 123, 145-146, 258 "Here is a Black woman, uneasy about her role in identifying a young Black man"