

WHAT IF MY CHILD IS READING A BOOK I CONSIDER OBJECTIONABLE?

1. Remember that you are the parent. It is your right and your responsibility to be aware of – and to influence – what your child reads, what your child watches, and what your child accesses on the internet.
2. Remember that other parents may want their children to become aware of the information contained in the book you find objectionable. In seeking to protect your child, you do not need to deprive other people's children from access to the book.
3. If the book is NOT assigned reading, tell your child that you do not want him or her to read it at this age. Give your child a reason that he or she can respect.

Example: As a young adult, the Long Branch Free Public Library's Adult Services Librarian casually mentioned to her father that she thought she would go see the movie "Bonnie and Clyde." He responded firmly that he didn't want her to see that movie. Since he had never forbidden any book or movie before, she asked why. He answered: "Because it glorifies people who were evil." She was so impressed with that answer that, some 50 years later, she still has not seen the movie and doesn't feel like she missed anything.

4. If the book is assigned reading, talk to your child's teacher and/or the principal. If it is too late for the assignment to be changed, ask if your child could read another book on the same subject or theme instead.
5. If your child has already finished reading a book you find objectionable, talk to your child about what you find objectionable. If the book includes ideas with which you disagree, give your child other books that present a different viewpoint. Library staff can help you find books with differing viewpoints.