



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF BOOKS TO BE USED IN THE CLASSROOM OR LIBRARY

Thunder Bay Christian School's mission is to serve God and assist Christian families by providing a quality Christ-centered education, explore and evaluate all of life under God, nurture students in the development of their abilities and encourage students to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The library, along with all other dimensions of the curriculum, reflects the unique Christian character of the teaching and learning that takes place at Thunder Bay Christian School.

An essential part of equipping students to live as responsible citizens and compassionate Christians involves nurturing children to maturity in Christ Jesus. Both sin and redemption are a real part of a child's life. It is important that each book or resource present an honest, penetrating and valid perception of human life. In judging the merits of the work, it is more important to look at its theme rather than at any one of its parts. For example, profanity and vulgarity in a book ought not, in themselves, disqualify a book. However, where these occur, they should be read as weaknesses, not as strengths or virtues; they should be read as a realistic characteristic of people who reject the Lord, not as an acceptable practice for Christians.

The moral and social significance of the work must decidedly exceed in value the possible offensiveness of any of its parts. In a similar way, fantasy books, adventure stories, and fairy tales have a real place in the Christian school library, for they not only speak to the creative imaginative aspect of the child, but are also part of the light side of childhood.

The Board delegates the selection of library materials through the Education Committee and the administrator to the classroom teachers and the librarians. Through a consultation process, where teachers make suggestions to the librarians, books are acquired according to interests, reading levels and resources recommended in curriculum guides.

As a child matures, he/she should become more and more aware of the joys and struggles of the Christian life. At all times this must be carefully geared to a child's emotional and spiritual maturity. The listed criteria works to achieve these objectives.

Materials should be selected on the basis that they:

1. Enrich and support the school curriculum and meet the educational and recreational needs of both student and faculty served:
 - a. Appropriateness for age, reading and maturity level, subject area.
 - b. Validity, currency, and permanence of material appropriate for intended use.
 - c. Physical format, appearance, user appeal and cost should be suited to the intended use of the resource.
2. Include literature of all genres: traditional "classics", modern fantasy, fairy tales, historical fiction, science fiction, contemporary realism, poetry, and biographies.
3. Have the ability to stimulate curiosity and promote the intellectual, spiritual, and social development of each individual student.
4. Represent many religious, ethnic and cultural groups and their contributions to our national heritage and world community.



5. Contribute to the breadth of representative viewpoints on controversial issues:
 - a. Include materials that develop a distinctively Christian perspective and Christian discernment on these issues and/or are not openly or covertly hostile to a Christian perspective.
6. Are noted for strengths rather than rejected for weaknesses:
 - a. They may have words or ideas that deal with issues or human qualities not recommended as ways for a Christian to speak or act but which are important for them to understand.
7. Meet high aesthetic and literary standards for fiction:
 - a. Style should reflect a keen awareness of the subtleties of thought and language and promote the students' creative use of language.
 - b. Characters and plot should be convincing. There should be growth and character development.
 - c. Content promotes the development of sensitivity to others and their needs and will give insight to personal relationships and feelings.
 - d. Content should be wholesome; praiseworthy attitudes, actions and habits should predominate.
8. Consider the reputation and significance of author and publisher.

For supporting documentation, refer to 'A Biblical Approach to Objectionable Elements', an excerpt from Christian Education: Its Mandate and Mission.

www.bjup.com/resources/articles/white_papers/objectionable_elements.html