Katy Independent School District

Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Resources

Library Materials

Type of Resource

Library Materials

Title of Resource

The Young Elites

Author, Editor, or Compiler, if Appropriate

Marie Lu

Publisher (if applicable).	**ISBN (if known).**

First & Last Name of Person requesting a Reconsideration of an Instructional Resource.

[redacted]

Telephone	**Address**	
[redacted]	[redacted]	
City	**State**	**Zip**
Katy	TX	[redacted]

Complainant Represents:

- [X] **Himself/Herself**
- [ ] **Organization -- Name of Organization** _____
- [ ] **Other Group --- Identify other group** _____

Section A.

1. Did you read/review the entirety of the library material that is requested for reconsideration?

- [X] **Entire material reviewed**
- [ ] **Reviewed only part(s)**

2. Please explain the reason for the committee to reconsider the library material. You may cite pages, chapters, etc.

1. Graphic violence - the main character's father is emotionally and physically abusive. He purposely breaks her finger to draw out potential "powers" and agrees to sell her as a mistress to a wealthy client when she is 16. She runs away and he runs her down on a horse before she brutally murders him with her new-found powers. (pp. 16-19) The rest of the book includes further detailed descriptions of violence, often including teenagers committing the violence.
2. Sexual materials - one of the main characters is a whore in a brothel. The brothel serves as a main setting in the story. He serves male and female clients. One encounter, on pp. 194-95 is extremely sexually charged between the main character (16F) and the older leader of her group. A few pages later, pp. 235-238, depicts the leader using his power (fire) to burn her clothing away in a nearly sexual encounter before she says stop because she isn't 17 yet.
Much of the magic system in the book seems to be based on "energy" and some of the energy is based on sexual attraction.

3. Please explain why this libary material may be harmful for student access.

The graphic descriptions of sex and violence, coupled with the young age of the protagonist (a villianess in the making according to the author), left me extremely uncomfortable and confused as to why the librarian would recommend this book to 12-year-olds. The yearnings and sexual desires expressed in the book, as well as the overly descriptive passages of violence, seems to make this book inappropriate for at least jr. high students and probably high school students.

4. What would you like your school or District to do about this libary material?

Removal from the library, at least restricted from jr. high students.

Section B. Selection Criteria Review

Please check any selection criteria below that the library material meets.

1. **Enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration students' varied interests, abilities, learning styles, and maturity levels.**

   ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

2. **Stimulate growth in factual knowledge, enjoyment of reading, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and societal standards.**

   ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

3. **Develop a balanced collection presenting multiple viewpoints related to controversial issues to foster critical thinking skills and encourage discussion based on rational analysis [see EMB regarding instruction about controversial issues].**

   ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

4. **Be appropriate for the subject area and for the age, intellectual development, and ability level of the students for whom the materials are selected.**

   ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

5. **Represent many ethnic, religious, and cultural groups and their contributions to the national heritage and world community.**

   ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

6. **Demonstrate literary merit, quality, value, and significance.**

   ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

7. **For non-fiction resources, include accurate and authentic factual content from authoritative sources.**

   ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

8. **Balance cost with need.**

   ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

Section C. Elementary School Library Material

No instructional materials in elementary schools shall contain depictions of sexual acts or simulations of such acts, implied or otherwise. This includes explicit or non-explicit written descriptions, depictions, or illustrations of sexual acts, except for the purposes of teaching students (as may be approved by parents) to avoid and report molestation. See Texas Education Code 33.021. No instructional materials shall include visual depictions or illustrations of explicit frontal nudity.

Is the library material at an elementary school?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Does the library material contain any of the above items?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Section D. Harmful Material

Please check the box if the library material is in violation of a section of the Penal Code 43.23(a)(2).

Does the library material include "harmful" material as defined by Penal Code 43.24(a)(2)?

Penal Code 43.24(a)(2)

(2) "Harmful material" means material whose dominant theme taken as a whole:

(A) appeals to the prurient interest of a minor, in sex, nudity, or excretion;

(B) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and

(C) is utterly without redeeming social value for minors.

Is the library material "harmful"?

[X] **Yes**

[ ] **No**

Section E. Obscene Material

Does the library material include "obscene" material as defined by Penal Code 43.21(a)(1)?

Penal Code 43.21(a)(1)

a) In this subchapter:

(1) "Obscene" means material or a performance that:

(A) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex;

(B) depicts or describes:

(i) patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, and sexual bestiality; or

(ii) patently offensive representations or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism, lewd exhibition of the genitals, the male or female genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state or a device designed and marketed as useful primarily for stimulation of the human genital organs; and

(C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, and scientific value.

Is the library material "obscene"?

[ ] **Yes**

[X] **No**

Section F. Sexually Explicit Materials

Does the library material include "sexually explicit" material as defined by Texas Education Code 33.021(a)?

"In this section, "sexually explicit material" means any communication, language, or material, including a written description, illustration, photographic image, video image, or audio file, other than library material directly related to the curriculum required under Section 28.002(a), that describes, depicts, or portrays sexual conduct, as defined by Section 43.25, Penal Code, in a way that is patently offensive, as defined by Section 43.21, Penal Code.

TX Penal Code 43.21 (See Section D.)

TX Penal Code 43.25 (2)

"Sexual conduct" means sexual contact, actual or simulated sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse, sexual bestiality, masturbation, sado-masochistic abuse, or lewd exhibition of the genitals, the anus, or any portion of the female breast below the top of the areola.

Is the library material "sexually explicit"?

[X] **Yes**

[ ] **No**