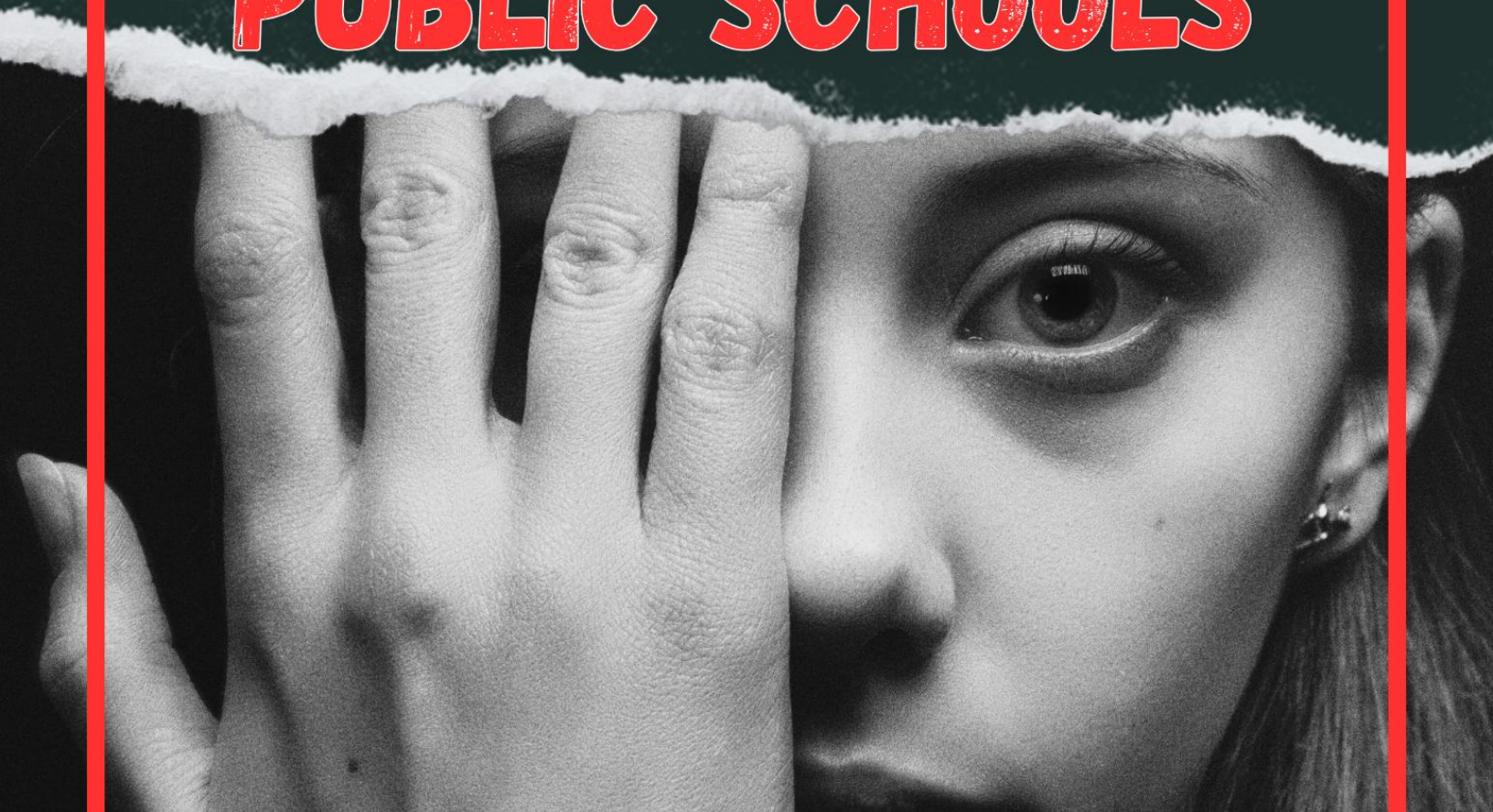


AGE-INAPPROPRIATE

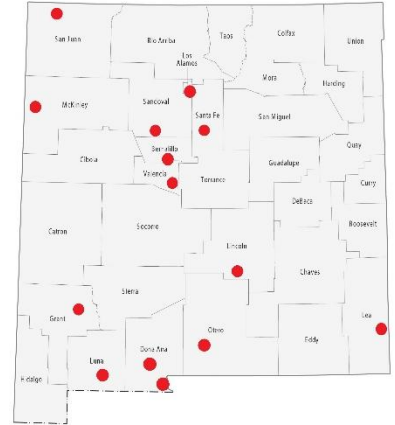
**VIOLENT AND
SEXUALLY-
EXPLICIT BOOKS
IN NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**CONTENT ADVISORY WARNING:
THIS BOOKLET CONTAINS EXAMPLES OF EXPLICIT
CONTENT THAT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN.**

Age-Inappropriate, Sexually Explicit and Violent Books Throughout New Mexico

Age-inappropriate sexually explicit and violent content is in school districts across New Mexico. This is because most school libraries rely on book lists from the American Library Association (ALA) and School Library Journal (SLJ). The ALA and SLJ are promoting age-inappropriate content for children and teens.



Many books promoted by the ALA and SLJ contain:

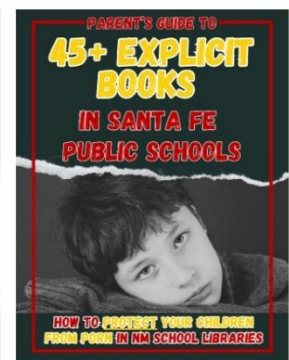
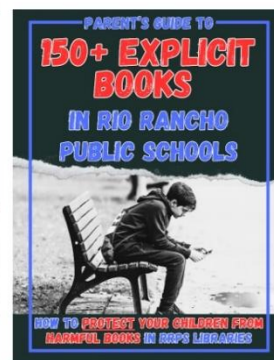
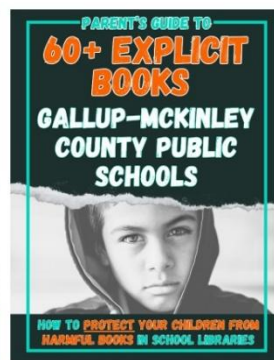
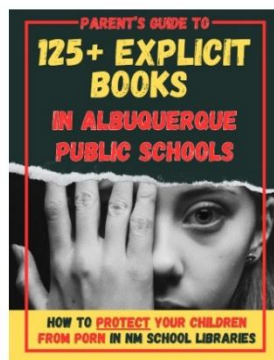
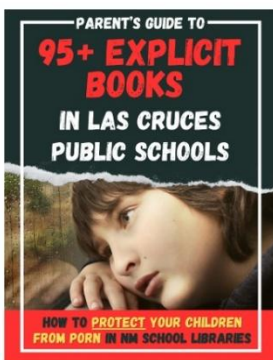
- **graphic sex scenes** that describe full penetration and bodily fluids,
- descriptions of **sex acts between teachers and students**,
- pornographic and **excessively violent imagery**,
- **glorification of children using hard drugs** and alcohol
- detailed passages of young **children being sexually assaulted**, molested, and raped,
- descriptions of the use of **sex toys** and teens posting nude photos of themselves online, and
- glorification of teens engaging in self-harm, cutting, and **suicidal behaviors**.

Real Examples of NM School Library Book Content

The following pages are just a small sample of some of the age-inappropriate content in NM school libraries. There are many dozens of other age-inappropriate books in **districts all across the state**. Concerned community members have found the following in NM school libraries:



- 95+ age-inappropriate books in Las Cruces Public Schools - <https://tinyurl.com/95LCPS>
- 125+ age-inappropriate books in Albuquerque Public Schools - <https://tinyurl.com/125Abqschools>
- 150+ age-inappropriate books in Rio Rancho Public Schools - <https://tinyurl.com/150RRPS>
- 60+ age-inappropriate books in Gallup-McKinley County Schools - <https://tinyurl.com/60GMCSchools>
- 45+ age-inappropriate book in Santa Fe Public Schools - <https://tinyurl.com/45SantaFePS>



There are comprehensive listings of the content in the books here:

<https://www.nmfa.us/booklooks-content>

For a shareable electronic version of this booklet, go here: <https://www.nmfa.us/schoolbooks>

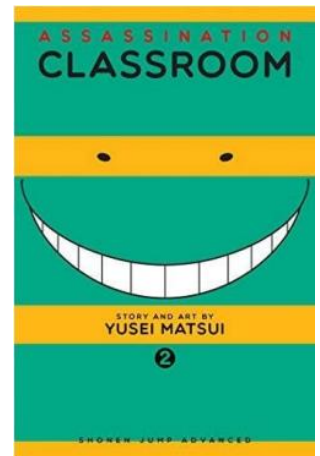
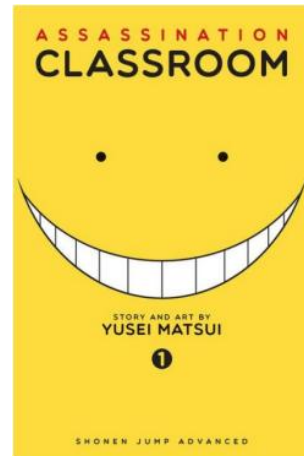
If you have any questions or want to get involved, please contact Sarah Smith at concernedform@gmail.com.

Assassination Classroom Series by Yusei Matsui

NOTE: There are over 20 volumes of this series in schools across NM.

In statewide school library catalogs, including (but not limited to):

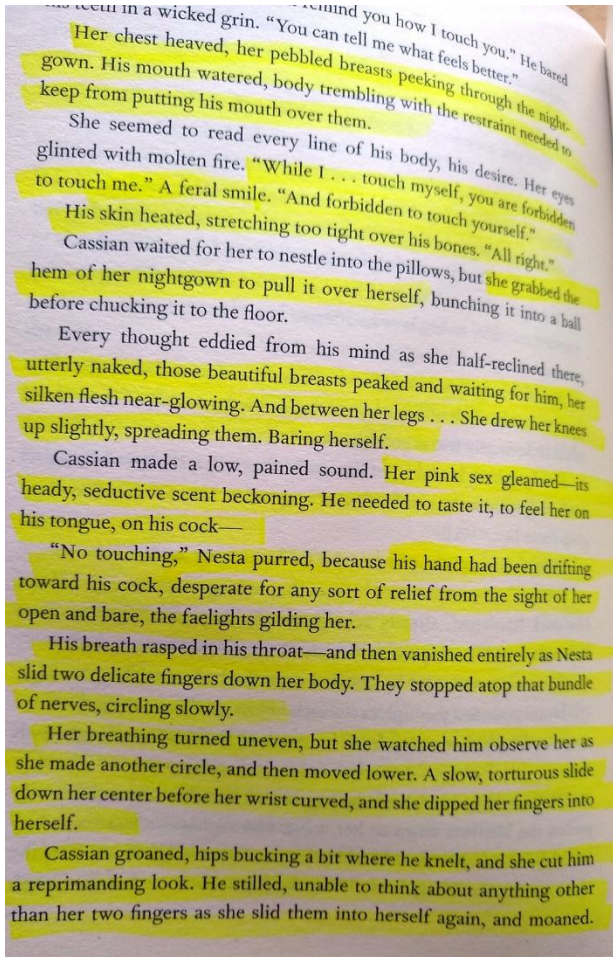
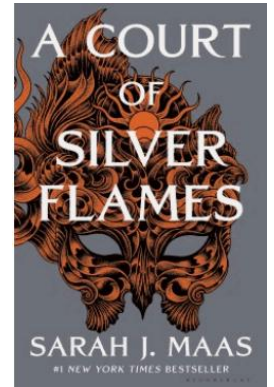
- Albuquerque: Atrisco Heritage Academy, Eldorado High School, La Cueva High School, Rio Grande High School, Early College Academy/CEC, Next + Gen, **Eisenhower Middle School, Polk Middle School, Truman Middle School**
- Gadsden: Gadsden High School, Santa Teresa High School
- Las Cruces: Centennial High School, Las Cruces High School, Mayfield High School
- Rio Rancho: Cleveland High School
- Santa Fe: Santa Fe High School



A Court of Silver Flames by Sarah J. Maas

In statewide school library catalogs, including (but not limited to):

- Albuquerque: Cibola High School, Eldorado High School, Manzano High School, Rio Grande High School, Valley High School, West Mesa High, Juvenile Detention Center, New Futures/eCademy/Freedom High, **Van Buren Middle School**
- Farmington: Piedra Vista High School
- Gadsden: Gadsden High School, Santa Teresa High School, **Santa Teresa Middle School**
- Hobbs: Hobbs High School
- Las Cruces: **Sierra Middle School**, Centennial High School, Las Cruces High School, Mayfield High School
- Los Lunas: Century High School, Los Lunas High School



Cassian slid his other hand into her hair, fingers twining into her braided coronet, and he thrust up into her mouth.

She took him deep, and moaned so loudly it reverberated along his cock and straight into his balls. They tightened further, and release gathered in his spine, a scorching knot that had him arcing into her mouth again. He was utterly at her mercy.

Nesta moaned once more, a soft encouragement, and Cassian needed nothing else. Gripping her hair, her scalp, holding her in place, he thrust his hips. She met him with each stroke, mouth and hand working in unison, until the slick heat of her, the teeth that sometimes grazed him, teased him, the tightness of her fist—they were unbearable, were all he cared about.

Cassian fucked her mouth, and her moaning had him deciding he'd fuck the rest of her, too. Strip those pants off her and drive into her so hard she'd be screaming his name to the ceiling.

He made to pull out, but Nesta refused to move. He growled, his fingers clamping on her head to still her. "I want to be inside you," he managed to say, his voice like gravel.

But Nesta looked up at him again from under her lashes, and he watched his length disappear into her mouth. His tip bumped against the back of her throat.

Oh, gods. He clenched his teeth. "I want to finish inside you."

Nesta only huffed a laugh, and sucked him down so deep that he couldn't stop it. Couldn't stop the release as she slid her other hand into his pants and cupped his balls, squeezing softly.

Cassian came with a roar that shook the glasses on the table, arcing up into her as he spilled himself down her throat.

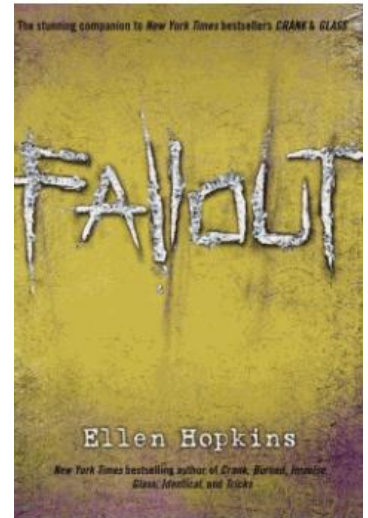
She weathered it, weathered him, and when he'd stopped shuddering, she smoothly, gracefully, slid her mouth off him.

Nesta held his stare while she swallowed. Swallowed down every ounce of what he'd spilled into her mouth. And then her lips curved upward, a queen triumphant.

Fallout by Ellen Hopkins

In statewide school library catalogs, including (but not limited to):

- Alamogordo: Alamogordo High School
- Albuquerque: Albuquerque High School, Del Norte High School, Eldorado High School, Highland High School, La Cueva High School, Manzano High School, Rio Grande High School, Sandia High School, Valley High School, Volcano Vista High School, West Mesa High School, Early College Academy/CEC, New Futures/eCademy/ Freedom High
- Deming: Deming High School
- Farmington: Farmington High School
- Gadsden: Gadsden High School, Santa Teresa High School, **Chaparral Middle School**
- Gallup/McKinley County: Gallup Central High, Gallup High School, **Ramah Mid/High School**, Thoreau High School
- Las Cruces: **Camino Real Middle School**, Las Cruces High School, Mayfield High School, Organ Mountain High School, Rio Grande Prep Institute
- Los Alamos: Los Alamos High School
- Los Lunas: Los Lunas High School, Valencia High School
- Rio Rancho: Cleveland High School
- Ruidoso: Ruidoso High School
- Santa Fe: Capital High School, Santa Fe High School
- Silver City: Silver High School



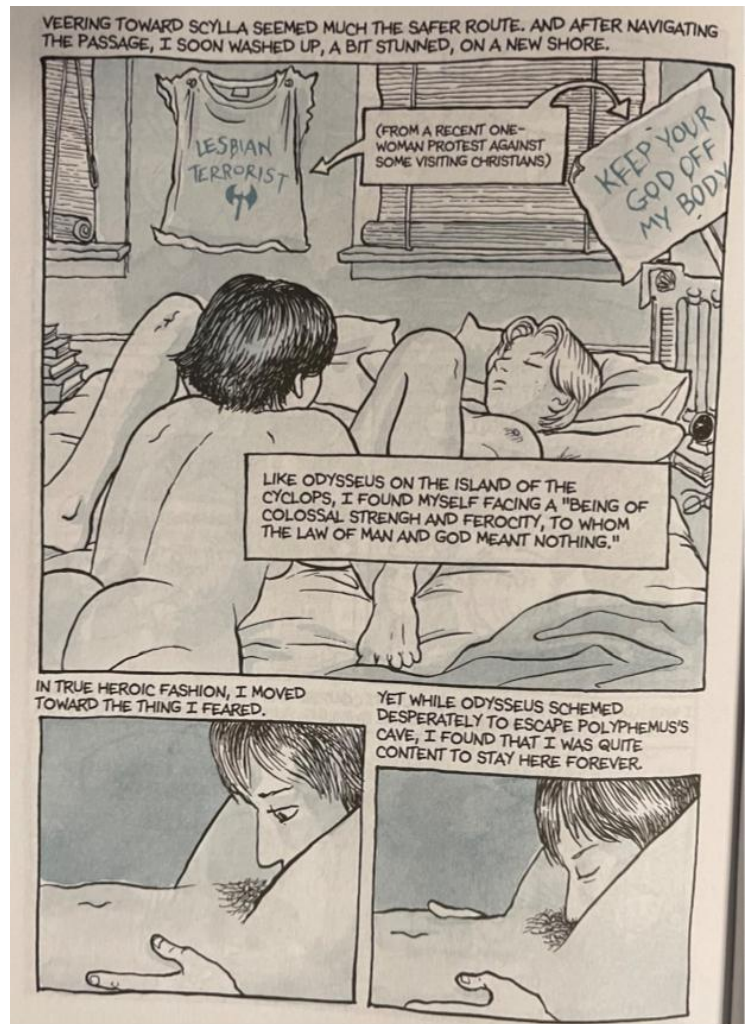
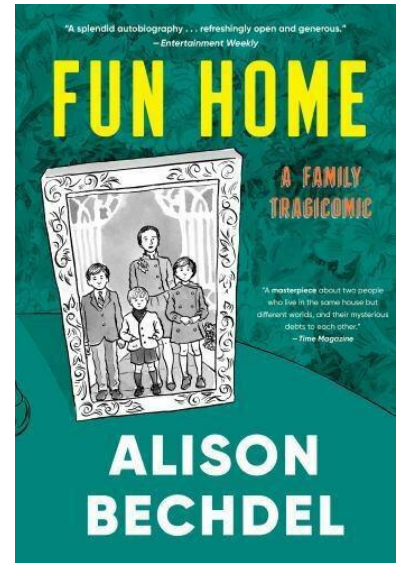
Examples of Content:

- Page 25 - *The scent fuels my hunger for her body. I want to own it, merge with it, become part of her. Hurry, she urges. But the tease is almost the best part of the game, so I bring her close and closer with my hands and mouth and finally I am inside her. I can't get enough, so we go and go until the only thing left is to finish. And still I want more.*
- Page 66 - *Maybe what I need to do is make us a threesome... Except don't all those weird religious sects expect two girls to a guy, instead of the obviously better way to go? What is wrong with women, anyway? Two dudes. One you. Yeah, baby. That's what I'm talking about.*
- Page 95 - *Job Title: Drug manufacturer and trafficker. Job Description: Make easy money cooking meth and moving it, Point A to Point B. (Caveat: Ingredients are volatile.) Job Title: Boy toy. Job Description: Low pay, but all the sex you can ask for. Just lay back and spread your legs.*
- Page 127 - *I'm well on my way to a major buzz... We're talking Jager, Heineken, and some fat blunts... in a big bowl on the coffee table, are assorted meds, confiscated from who-knows-where. It's a regular designer potpourri of sleep inducers, mood enhancers, pain reducers, and, for all I know, laxatives. Everyone is welcome to play the pharma game. Only one rule applies: You have to take three.*
- Page 302 - *And you know the crystal scene. Shit makes you horny as hell. Everyone screwing everyone. Only when me and Kristina hooked up, we had chemistry. Thought for sure it was love, but you think all kinds of crazy shit when you're tweaking. Trey came home from a score and found us mid-dirty.*

Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic by Alison Bechdel

In statewide school library catalogs, including (but not limited to):

- Albuquerque: Highland High School, Rio Grande High School, Sandia High School, **Ernie Pyle Middle School** (Spanish version)
- Deming: Deming High School
- Gadsden: Santa Teresa High School
- Farmington: Farmington High School
- Las Cruces: Centennial High School
- Santa Fe: Santa Fe High School

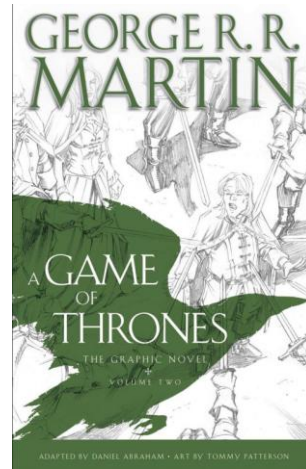
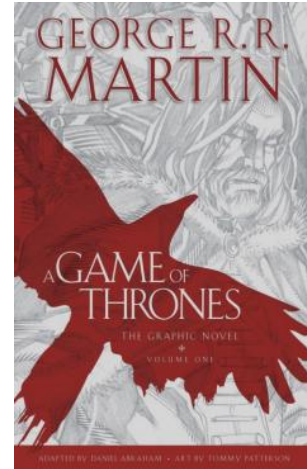


A Game of Thrones: The Graphic Novels by George R. R. Martin

NOTE: There are 4 volumes of this series in schools across NM.

In statewide school library catalogs, including (but not limited to):

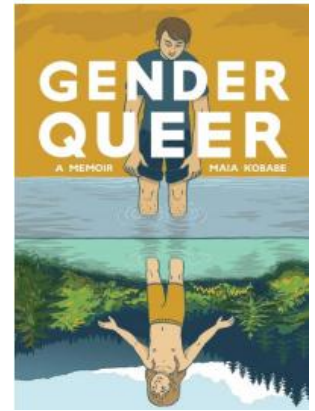
- Albuquerque: Atrisco Heritage Academy, Eldorado High School, Rio Grande High School, West Mesa High School, Next + Gen, **Washington Middle School**
- Farmington: Farmington High School
- Gallup/McKinley County: Crownpoint High School, Gallup Central High School
- Las Cruces: Las Cruces High School
- Santa Fe: Santa Fe High School



Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe

In statewide school library catalogs, including (but not limited to):

- Albuquerque: La Cueva High School, Manzano High School, Rio Grande High School, Early College Academy/CEC
- Las Cruces: Arrowhead Park Early College High School
- Los Alamos: Los Alamos High School



I DISCOVERED IT AT AROUND THE SAME AGE, FOLLOWED BY THE FURTHER REALIZATION THAT MY ABILITY TO BECOME AROUSED WAS GOVERNED BY A STRICT LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS.



THE MORE I HAD TO INTERACT WITH MY GENITALS THE LESS LIKELY I WAS TO REACH A POINT OF ANY SATISFACTION. THE BEST FANTASY WAS ONE THAT DIDN'T REQUIRE ANY PHYSICAL TOUCH AT ALL.

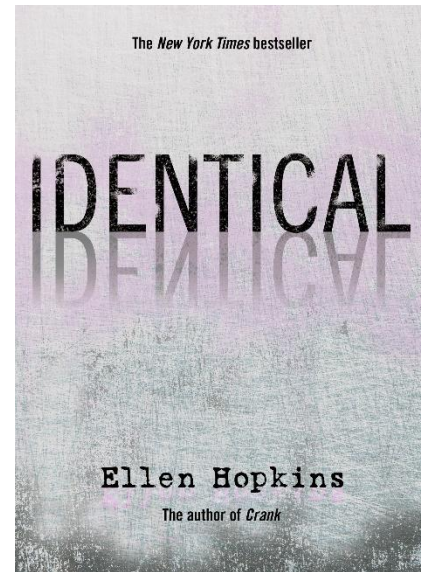
135



Identical by Ellen Hopkins

In statewide school library catalogs, including (but not limited to):

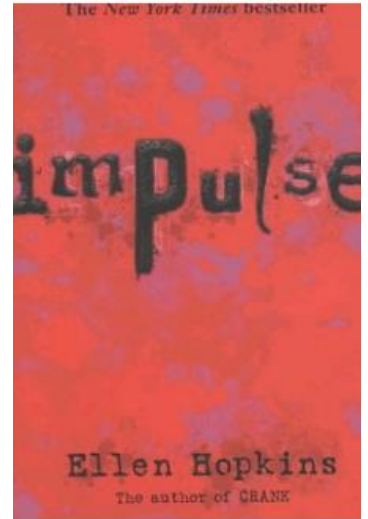
- Alamogordo: Alamogordo High School
- Albuquerque: Albuquerque High School, Atrisco Heritage Academy, Del Norte High School, Eldorado High School, Highland High School, La Cueva High School, Rio Grande High School, Volcano Vista High School, Juvenile Detention Center, New Futures/eCademy/Freedom High, **Hayes Middle School, Jackson Middle School, John Adams Middle School**
- Farmington: Farmington High School, Piedra Vista High School
- Gadsden: Gadsden High School, Santa Teresa High School
- Gallup/McKinley County: Gallup Central High School, Navajo Pine High School, **Ramah Mid/High School**, Thoreau High School
- Las Cruces: Camino Real Middle School, Centennial High School, Las Cruces High School, Organ Mountain High School, Mayfield High School, Rio Grande Preparatory Institute
- Los Alamos: Los Alamos High School
- Los Lunas: Valencia High School
- Ruidoso: Ruidoso High School
- Santa Fe: Capital High School, Santa Fe High School
- Silver City: Silver High School



Examples of Content:

- Page 158 - *I always thought cutters were sick. Sicker than me, even. But with a single swipe I understand why they do it. Why they like it, even though they hate it. I let the water run over the cut, ratchet it hotter, watch the blood slow, stutter, almost halt. I like the way the exposed flesh looks, all pinkish white. It looks new, although I know that isn't right.*
- Page 238 - *"Daddy had been back to Kaeleigh for "lollipop licking" (my term) a few times. She had a vague notion that it was "wrong," but she wasn't sure why, and didn't know who to ask. ...She tried to sit up, but Daddy pushed her gently back down against the mattress. Stay just like that for Daddy. I want to teach you something new. He lifted her nightgown, rolled it up over her belly, coaxed her Thoroughbred legs apart. She squirmed, a paltry protest."*
- Page 336 - *I'm kind of liking this blood thing. Fetish? Fixation? Not quite an obsession yet, but I can see it growing into that. Drip. Drip. Steady. Slow. Drip-drip. Quicker yet...Drip-drip-drip... Drip. I'd probably just let myself drip, but I did promise to show up at work and help out with the Halloween decorations.*
- Page 393 - *Kaeleigh was used to Daddy's visits, but that night she, too, felt something different in the air. Rage. Lust. Sorrow. Perversion. All mingled in Daddy's sweat. There was nothing gentle about how he threw back the covers... she was afraid. This wasn't her Daddy. This was a demon... His attack was brutal, bloody, wordless except for vicious Shut the fuck up at her pitiful scream, a plea to please, please no, Daddy, no. It hurts... I felt Kaeleigh's pain. And when Daddy was done and she cried, I cried too.*
- Page 471 - *More drugs. Better drugs. Maybe it's time to graduate from pot, hash, and pills to something stronger. That opiated stuff was great. Wonder what heroin is like. I hear it drops you way down, where pain can't find you. Any Drugs would be good right this moment. Heroin. Cocaine. Maybe ecstasy. Not too sure about psychedelics. They say acid and 'shrooms make you look inside your own head, help you learn about yourself.*

Impulse by Ellen Hopkins



In statewide school library catalogs, including (but not limited to):

- Albuquerque: Albuquerque High School, Atrisco Heritage Academy, Cibola High School, Del Norte High School, Eldorado High School, Highland High School, La Cueva High School, Rio Grande High School, Volcano Vista High School, West Mesa High School, Juvenile Detention Center, Jackson Middle School, John Adams Middle School, Polk Middle School, Tony Hillerman Middle School
- Farmington: Mesa View Middle School, Farmington High School, Piedra Vista High School
- Gadsden: Gadsden High School, Desert Pride Academy, Gadsden Middle School
- Gallup/McKinley County: Gallup Central High School, Ramah Mid/High School, Thoreau High School
- Las Cruces: Camino Real Middle School, Sierra Middle School, Centennial High School, Las Cruces High School, Mayfield High School, Organ Mountain High School
- Los Lunas: Los Lunas High School, Valencia High School
- Rio Rancho: Lincoln Middle School
- Ruidoso: Ruidoso High School
- Santa Fe: Capital High School, Santa Fe High School
- Silver City: Silver High School

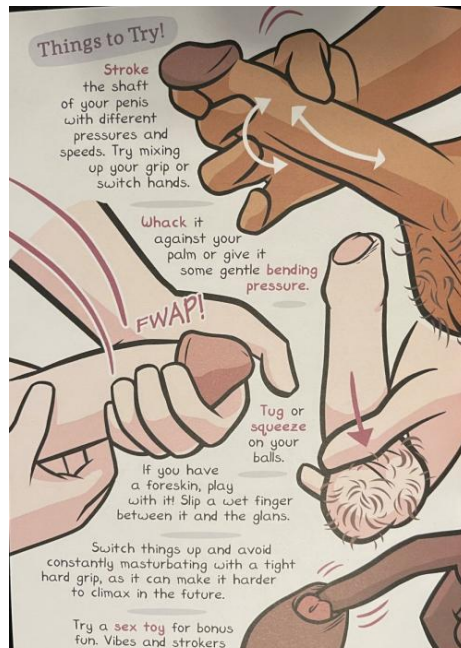
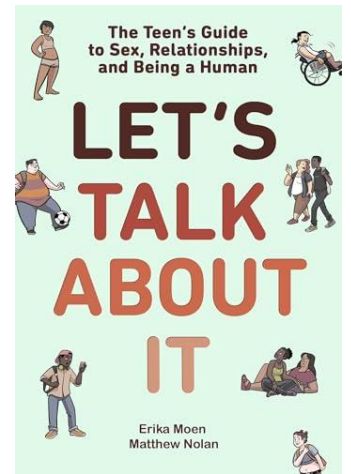
Examples of Content:

- Page 13 - *I won't tell you I never tried crystal, but it really wasn't my thing. ...I diddled with pot first, but that tasty green weed couldn't drag me low enough. Which mostly left downers, "borrowed" from medicine cabinets and kitchen cabinets and nightstands. Wherever I could find them. And once in a while—not often, because it was pricey and tough to score—once in a while, I tumbled way low, took a ride on the H train. Oh yeah, that's what I'm talking about. A hot shot clear to hell. I Wasn't Worried About getting hooked, though I knew plenty of heroin addicts...*
- Page 18 - *The First Cut Wasn't the deepest. No, not at all. It was like the others, a subtle rend of anxious skin, a gentle pulse of crimson, just enough to hush the demons shrieking inside my brain... I gave myself to the knife, asked it to bite a little harder, chew a little deeper. The hot, scarlet rush felt so delicious I couldn't stop there. The blade might have reached bone, but my little brother, Bryan, barged into the bathroom... You should have heard him scream.*
- Page 71 - *"When I was younger than you, but old enough to know right from wrong, I had sex with a teacher too."*
- Page 218 - *My trusty razor blade is in its cubby, calling out to me. Just a little slice, for old time's sake. I go into the bedroom close the door, remove my steel lover from its place of honor on the closet shelf. I touch its stainless tip to my index finger. Sharp! Without pressure, it draws a crimson bead. Peel back my sleeve---- the one that covers the barbed-wire scar, affectionately place the blade beneath my left thumb. This is the best rush of all--the moment right before the cut. It's my decision now, I'm in charge.*
- Page 238 - *Stanley stands, smiling as his right hand falls toward his zipper. That's right. And this right here is my weapon of choice. Damn if he doesn't yank his ugly little thing right out of his pants.*
- Page 268 - *I've always wanted to try a threesome. Hetero only, though. You up for that, Tony?" I'll try anything once. And you know, I just might like it.*

Let's Talk About It by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan

In statewide school library catalogs, including (but not limited to):

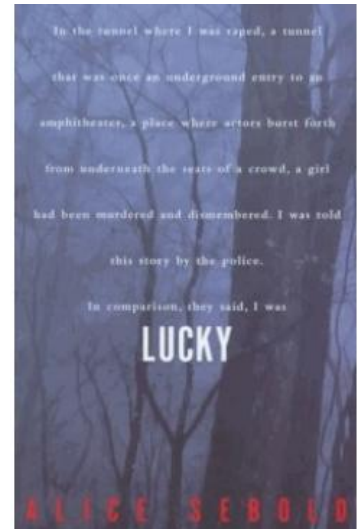
- Alamogordo: Alamogordo High School
- Albuquerque: Rio Grande High School, Volcano Vista High School, West Mesa High School
- Las Cruces: Centennial High School, Mayfield High School
- Los Alamos: Los Alamos High School
- Santa Fe: Mandela International Magnet School



Lucky by Alice Sebold

In statewide school library catalogs, including (but not limited to):

- Alamogordo: Alamogordo High School
- Albuquerque: Albuquerque High School, Atrisco Heritage Academy, Del Norte High School, Del Norte High School, La Cueva High School, Rio Grande High School, Volcano Vista High School, West Mesa High School, New Futures/eCademy/Freedom High, **Jackson Middle School**
- Deming: Deming High School
- Gadsden: Gadsden High School, Santa Teresa High School
- Las Cruces: Mayfield High School, Organ Mountain High School, Rio Grande Preparatory Institute
- Los Lunas: Los Lunas High School
- Ruidoso: Ruidoso High School



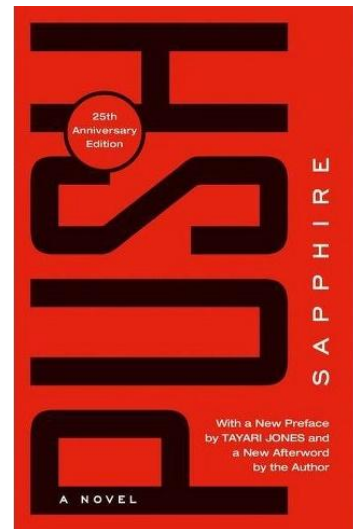
Examples of Content

- Page 5 - He stood up and began dragging me over the grass by my hair... "Please don't rape me," I said. "Take off your clothes." "I'm a virgin," I said. He didn't believe me. Repeated his command. "Take off your clothes."... "Please don't," I said... He pulled my underpants off me roughly and bundled them into his hand. He threw them away from me... I watched him as he unzipped his pants and let them fall around his ankles. He lay down on top of me and started humping... He kneeled back. "Raise your legs," he said. "Spread them." ... He put a hand on each calf and pressed them out farther than I could hold... Blood was everywhere and so I thought he'd done what he'd come for. "Give me a blow job,"... He kicked me and I curled into a ball. "I want a blow job." He held his dick in his hand.
- Page 20 - ...individual pressure points of his fingertips on my throat- a butterfly of the rapist's two thumbs interlocking in the center and his fingers fluttering out and around my neck. "I'm gonna kill you, bitch. Shut up. Shut up. Shut up." Each repetition punctuated by the smash of my skull against brick, each repetition cutting off, tighter and tighter, the airflow to my brain.
- Page 55 - A girl had been gang-raped at a fraternity that year... [there] was a crude ballpoint drawing of her with her legs spread open. A group of male figures were waiting in line beside her.
- Page 99 - I have already planned what I would do for a pleasurable kill, a slow, soft, ending. First, I would kick hard and straight with a boot, into you, stare while you shot quick and loose, contents a blood pink hue. Next, I would slice out your tongue, You couldn't curse, or scream. Only a face of pain would speak for you... Thirdly, Should I hack away those sweet cow eyes with the glass blades you made me lie down on? Or should I shoot, with a gun, close into the knee; where they say the cap shatters immediately?... I need the blood of your hide on my hands... I want to fuck you with knives.
- Page 171 - No father wanted to hear the story of how a stranger shoved his whole hand up his daughter's vagina.
- Page 235 - I loved heroin. Drinking had drawbacks- namely, the volume needed to reach oblivion... Cocaine made me sick... Who wanted to enhance mood? My goal was to destroy it.

Push: A Novel by Sapphire

In statewide school library catalogs, including (but not limited to):

- Albuquerque: Albuquerque High School, Atrisco Heritage Academy, Eldorado High School, Highland High School, Manzano High School, Rio Grande High School, Volcano Vista High School, New Futures/eCademy/Freedom High, **Tony Hillerman Middle School**
- Las Cruces: Organ Mountain High School
- Los Alamos: Los Alamos High School
- Santa Fe: Capital High School



How much I want to know? And for what? I tell counselor I can't talk about Daddy now. My clit swell up I think Daddy. Daddy sick me, *disgust* me, but still he sex me up. I nawshus in my stomach but hot tight in my twat and I think I want it back, the smell of the bedroom, the hurt—he slap my face till it sting and my ears sing separate songs from each other, call me names, pump my pussy in out in out in out awww I come. He bite me *hard*. A hump! He slam his hips into me HARD. I scream pain he come. He slap my thighs like cowboys do horses on TV. Shiver. Orgasm in me, his body shaking, grab me, call me Fat Mama, Big Hole! You LOVE it! Say you love it! I wanna say I DON'T. I wanna say I'm a chile. But my pussy popping like grease in frying pan. He slam in me again. His dick soft. He start sucking my tittie.

I wait for him get off me. Lay there stare at wall till wall is a movie, *Wizard of Oz*, I can make that one play anytime. Michael Jackson, scarecrow. Then my body take me over again, like shocks after earthquake, shiver me, I come again. My body not mine, I hate it coming.

Afterward I go bafroom. I smear shit on my face. Feel good. Don't know why but it do. I never tell nobody about that before. But I would do that. If I go

Tricks by Ellen Hopkins

In statewide school library catalogs, including (but not limited to):

- Alamogordo: Alamogordo High School
- Albuquerque: Albuquerque High School, Eldorado High School, Highland High School, La Cueva High School, Rio Grande High School, Sandia High School, Valley High School, Volcano Vista High School, Juvenile Detention Center, New Futures/eCademy/Freedom High, **Harrison Middle School**
- Farmington: Farmington High School, Piedra Vista High School
- Gadsden: Gadsden High School
- Gallup/McKinley County: Gallup Central High School
- Las Cruces: Centennial High School, Las Cruces High School, Mayfield High School, Organ Mountain High School, Rio Grande Preparatory Institute
- Los Alamos: Los Alamos High School
- Los Lunas: Los Lunas High School, Valencia High School
- Santa Fe: Capital High School, Santa Fe High School



Examples of Content:

- Page 206 - *You've done coke before, right? No? Oh, baby, you're gonna love it... I Watch Lucas Suck two long, thin, sparkly yellowish lines up his nose. Then he hands the picture to me. Not too hard or you'll sneeze... Immediately, both sides of my nose go cold and numb. Now, just like that, my heart is racing and the hairs on my arms rise, sending little chills throughout my entire body. OMG. No wonder people like this drug... parts of my body are begging to be touched. Lucas indulges them, too, with his hands and his mouth... I've never felt so alive. Never felt so in love... You don't want me to stop, do you? Because I don't think I can. I need you. See? He lowers my hand to feel his need...*
- Page 216 - *I was almost ten... he had an appetite for younger meat... He was already out of his jeans... He grabbed my hand, jerked me hard against him. Let me show you something. I tried to run, but he was faster. Tried to fight. He was stronger. Tried to scream. He choked my cries. When He Finished (Thank God it didn't take long), he rolled off me with a grunt... he followed me, stood in the doorway, watchin me, finally said, Tell a soul, I'll do your sister too... She was only eight.*
- Page 299 - *He's on me, yanking my hair, pushing me to my knees. He flips me over. You're even prettier from behind, know that? I hear his zipper lower. It is the loudest sound ever. ...He yanks down my shorts in a single swift motion. He is on me. In me humiliating me in every possible way, right here on the kitchen floor As promised, he is rough. Biting. Pounding. Shredding. Ripping...I've been sold. And just who would sell me? The answer is all too obvious: Iris. My mother.*
- Page 445 - *I can't believe I'm saying okay to heroin... I watch him drop a pinhead of H into the makeshift bowl... Bryn has finished setting up the second surprise-- a webcam, hooked up to his laptop... America's Sexiest Home Videos. Come here. Let's get nasty. The tone of his voice lets me know disagreeing is not an option... A Week After My first sweet-bitter taste of smack, Bryn has talked me into indulging again four or five times. I don't want to get hooked, and I'm sure I won't, as long as all I do is smoke a little every now and again... I like the way it makes me feel--like I'm on top of the world.*

Harmful Effects of Exposure to Sexually Explicit and Violent Materials on Children

Most parents intuitively know that exposing their children to age-inappropriate explicit content can be harmful. Researchers have also investigated this. Studies have found connections between children being exposed to sexually explicit materials and potential harms.

For instance, a 17-year-study of children, beginning when the children were in 7th or 9th grade, found that exposure to sexually explicit media, including books and graphic novels, is [associated with three risky sexual behaviors](#): early sexual debut, unsafe sex, and multiple sexual partners, thereby increasing the risk of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. In that study, comic books were found to be the most common sexually explicit media that children had been exposed to, followed by videos. 22.5% of girls and 13.7% of boys had been exposed to sexually explicit novels. This study can be viewed here: Lin, W. H., Liu, C. H., & Yi, C. C. (2020). Exposure to sexually explicit media in early adolescence is related to risky sexual behavior in emerging adulthood. *PloS one*, 15(4), e0230242. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7147756/>

Other studies have found that kids who are exposed to sexually explicit and sexually violent media are more likely to be involved in [dating violence](#) and [sexual violence](#). A study of boys and girls aged from 14 to 19 years old found “reading pornographic comics and magazines significantly increased the likelihood of having sexually harassed a peer or having forced somebody to have sex.” This study can be viewed here: Bonino, S., Ciairano, S., Rabaglietti, E., & Cattelino, E. (2006). Use of pornography and self-reported engagement in sexual violence among adolescents. *European Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 3(3), 265–288. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17405620600562359>

A review paper that analyzed 43 studies of adolescents and emerging adults found that children who had been exposed to sexually explicit media and sexually violent media were correlated with being victims or perpetrators of sexual violence. This study can be viewed here: Rodenhizer KAE, Edwards KM. The Impacts of Sexual Media Exposure on Adolescent and Emerging Adults' Dating and Sexual Violence Attitudes and Behaviors: A Critical Review of the Literature. *Trauma Violence Abuse*. 2019;20(4):439-452. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29333966/>

Sexually explicit books can also be used to de-sensitize children such that they are more vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation. According to the US Department of Justice, “It is common for producers of child pornography to groom victims, or cultivate a relationship with a child and gradually sexualize the contact over time. The grooming process fosters a false sense of trust and authority over a child in order to desensitize or break down a child’s resistance to sexual abuse.” <https://www.justice.gov/criminal/criminal-ceos/child-pornography>

Harmful Effects of Exposure to Materials that Glorify Alcohol and Drug Usage

Exposure to content that promotes, glamorizes, or normalizes drug/alcohol use during childhood and adolescence increases the risk of imitation, desensitization, and early initiation into harmful behaviors.

A study of substance usage in adolescent books found that “Almost all substance use was portrayed as having no consequences... Our results suggest that the manner in which substance use is generally portrayed may encourage use among adolescents.” <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21469003/>

Another study looking at how media influences adolescents found that, “There is consistent evidence that adolescents and young adults are highly exposed to substance use portrayals and that these portrayals are associated with subsequent substance use. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6208350/>

Harmful Effects of Exposure to Suicide- and Self Harm-Related Content on Children

Materials that include references to suicide, self-harm, or related mental health breakdowns are known to trigger imitation, emotional deterioration, and increased risk among minors, especially those facing instability or trauma.

A study of youths aged 12-17 years found that “exposure to suicide predicts suicide ideation and attempts.” <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3707992/> A meta-analysis (assessing the results of a large body of studies) found that, “Portrayals of suicide in entertainment media may increase suicides and attempted suicide in the population.” <https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370%2821%2900202-9/fulltext>

A Solution: Book Standards

It is time for New Mexico to stop relying on the ALA and SLJ as the “experts” and instead take full ownership to ensure that the books being placed in our school libraries are age-appropriate. A solution is for local districts to implement a book standards policy. There is a sample policy that can be used here: <https://www.nmfa.us/standards-for-age-appropriate-books>



Standards for Age-Appropriate Instructional and Library Materials



This proposal establishes clear standards for age appropriate instructional & library materials, protecting minors from sexually explicit content, graphic violence, self-harm, substance abuse, and other harmful themes proven to impact development and behavior. It includes a content rating system, enforcement procedures, and parental rights protections aligned with state and federal guidelines

Example Rating System for Ensuring Age-Appropriateness of School Library Books

Content Standards Rating System: To ensure appropriate access by grade level, all materials will be evaluated according to the following age-alignment tiers. (For more details see: Section III - Definitions of Age-Inappropriate Material)

| Rating | Grades | Risk Level | Use Guidelines | Content Guidelines |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|---|---|
| G | Elementary School | Low Risk | Freely available in all classrooms and libraries. | Fully age-appropriate content. No profanity, no sexual content or innuendo, no violence, gore, drug or substance use, self-harm, or suicide references. |
| PG | Middle School | Moderate Risk | May be used in Middle and High School. May require parental notice. | May include mild violence, mild language, and discussion of serious topics. No graphic depictions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • violence, • gore, • sexually explicit content, • suicide/self-harm, or • depictions of drug use by minors. |
| PG-13 | High School | Higher Risk | May be used for High School grades only. Cannot be placed in general middle school library or classroom circulation. May require warnings and parent permission. | May include complex or mature themes with strong cautionary and/or historical framing (e.g., mental health, violence, historical trauma) with appropriate context. No explicit sexual content or acts, no glorified violence, no detailed suicide or self-harm, no glorification of drug use, and no pervasively obscene language. |
| R | None | Extreme Risk | Not permitted in General school libraries or classrooms. Potential Exceptions for ages 16 -18: Any material containing this content, even if intended for educational use, must be submitted for district-level review and approval. Parental notification and written consent shall be required prior to student access. | Prohibited content includes: Sexually explicit acts or descriptions Sexual fetishes or eroticized material Graphic sexual or erotic language Glorified violence, excessive gore, or torture Graphic depictions of self-harm or suicide without clear warning or prevention framing Promotion of drug use, substance abuse, or other illegal behavior |

DO YOU KNOW THE RATING OF THE BOOKS YOUR KIDS READ?



**THE SCHOOL SHOULD TELL YOU.
WE NEED TO FIX THE SYSTEM.**

| CONTENT | MEANING | ACCESS |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| G | Suitable for all grades | No restrictions |
| PG | May include light mature themes | Available with review |
| PG-13 | Contains sensitive or mature themes | Parental opt-in required |
| R | Includes graphic sexual content, violence, drug use, or other harmful content | Not permitted |