

**CHECKLIST FOR FORMAL REVIEW OF LIBRARY MATERIAL  
FICTION AND OTHER LITERARY FORMS**

**Title:**

**Author:**

**A. PURPOSE**

1. What is the purpose, theme or message of the material?

How well does the author/producer/composer accomplish this purpose?

2. If the story is fantasy, is it the type that has imaginative appeal and is suitable for children?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No                                      For Adults? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_

If both are marked no, what age group would you recommend? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Will the reading and/or viewing and/or listening to material result in more compassionate understanding of human beings?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No      \_\_\_\_\_

4. Does it offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of various minority groups?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No      \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are any questions/elements of the story an integral part of a worthwhile theme or message?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**B. CONTENT**

1. Does a story about modern times give a realistic picture of life as it is now?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No      \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

2. Does the story avoid an oversimplified view of life, one which leaves the reader with the general fee that life is sweet and rosy or ugly and meaningless?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_

3. When factual information is part of the story, is it represented accurately?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No      \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

4. Is prejudicial appeal readily identifiable by the potential reader?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the potential reader?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

6. Do characters speak in a language true to the period and section of the country in which they live?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No      \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

- 7. Does the material offend in some special way the sensibilities of women or a minority group by the way it presents the chief character or any of the minor characters?  Yes
- 8. Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality and aberrant behavior that would make this material inappropriate for children?  Yes
- 9. If there is use of offensive language, is it appropriate to the purpose of the text for children?  
 Yes  No  N/A
- 10. Is the material free from derisive names or epithets that would offend minority groups?  
 Yes  No  Young Adults?  Yes
- 11. Is the material well written or produced?  Yes
- 12. Does the story give a clearer understanding of human behavior without stressing differences of class, race, color, education, religion or philosophy in any adverse way?  Yes
- 13. Does the material make a significant contribution to the history of literature or ideas?  
 Yes  No
- 14. Are the illustrations appropriate and in good taste?  Yes  No
- 15. Are the illustrations realistic in relation to the story?  Yes  No

**C. REVIEWS**

- 1. Source of reviews \_\_\_\_\_  
 Favorably reviewed  Unfavorably reviewed
- 2. Does the title appear in one or more reputable selection aids?  Yes   
If answer is yes, please list titles of selection aids. \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Recommendation by Advisory Review Committee for Treatment of Challenged materials  
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Signature(s) of Advisory Review Committee Member(s)  
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