Checklist for Formal Review of Challenged Library or Classroom Reading Materials

Title: ____________________________________________

Author: __________________________________________

**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 the imaginative appeal and suitability for...

   children? _____ yes _____ no adults? _____ yes _____ no

   If both are marked “no”, what age group would you recommend? __________________

3. Will the reading, viewing, or listening to this material result in a more compassionate understanding of human beings?

   _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

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

   _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

**Content**

1. If the story is about modern times, does it 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 feeling that life is sweet and rosy or ugly and meaningless?

   _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

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

   _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

4. If the story contains examples of prejudice, is it easily identifiable by the reader?

   _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

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

   _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

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 the characters are presented?
   _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

8. Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality or aberrant behavior that would make the material inappropriate for children?
   _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

9. If there is use of offensive language, is it appropriate to the purpose of the story for children?
   _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

10. Is the material free from derisive names or epithets that would offend minority groups?
    _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

11. Is the material well written or produced?
    _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

12. Does the story give a clear understanding of human behavior without stressing differences of class, race, education, religion or philosophy in an adverse way?
    _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

13. Does the material make a significant contribution to the understanding of history or the development of ideas?
    _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

14. Are the illustrations appropriate and in good taste? _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

15. Are the illustrations realistic in relation to the story? _____ yes _____ no _____ n/a

**Reviews**

1. Source of reviews: ___________________________________________________________
   Favorably reviewed _____ Unfavorably reviewed _____

2. Does the title appear in one or more reputable sources of review? _____ yes _____ no

Additional comments:
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Recommendation by Advisory Review Committee for Treatment of Challenged Materials:
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Signatures of Advisory Review Committee Members:
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________