



SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 SUBMISSION

Request for School Board Reconsideration of Library Media Materials

Author: Craig Thompson

Title: Blankets: An Illustrated Novel

Publisher: Drawn and Quarterly; Reprint edition (October 13, 2015)

Request initiated by: (September 22, 2023)

Telephone:

Address:

City:

Zip:

1. To what in the book/material do you object: (Please be specific; cite pages, frames of films, dialogues, etc.)?

See attached documentation including text and drawings as this is a graphic novel. The novel attacks Christianity mocking scripture and expressing derision toward the Bible, Churches, Sunday school and Bible camps. The attached list gives the specific and shots of the “artwork”.

2. Where did you first learn of this item?

I first heard about this book when I was doing research about issues in the Manatee County schools. I was looking for opportunities to help improve the school culture and academics. I reviewed a number of the books that were on the lists of books being banned by school districts throughout Florida and in other states. I was horrified to see the inappropriate materials that are being made available to students – **our** students.

I decided to become involved with the School Board Elections as a starting point. The candidates in the 2022 Manatee County School Board Elections had platforms that promised to address some of these shortcomings. I also attended some meetings with the Media Committee as they were grappling with the legislative changes that were being made in Florida, waiting for guidance on how to address challenges of some of the books that we had flagged. At these meetings I found out that materials in the Library are violating Florida Law with regard to the protection of the students from pornographic sexual materials. In addition, I take issue with books that promote immorality, drug abuse, sexual confusion, suicide, anti-America sentiments, racism, activism etc.

I am not challenging the freedom to read but wish to ensure that young people not be subject to topics that are not appropriate for their level of maturity or mental health. Public libraries and book stores are available for adults to access whatever materials that they may choose. Our schools should take the high road when it comes to our young people.

Oh -- Just a reminder, the district policy:

- Require book selections to be free of pornography and prohibited materials harmful to minors, suited to student needs, and appropriate for the grade level and age group;
- Require consultation of reputable, professionally recognized sources and school community stakeholders for each selection;
- Provide for library media center collections based on reader interest, support of state academic standards and aligned curriculum, and the academic needs of students and faculty; and
- Provide for the regular removal or discontinuance of books based on factors specified in the bill, including those removed because of an objection by a parent or resident of the county.

3. Have you read the book in its entirety?

I read the first half of the “book”

4. Is there any additional information you would like us to consider in our evaluation?

The book is listed as “adult” in the Manatee Public Library why is it then in the public schools when it clearly violates the state standards for pornography and should not be provided to minors?

5. What would you like the final outcome to be for this library media item or items?

1. Remove from the Southeast High School Media Center and disallow future purchases in the district
2. This book can may be found in the public library and has been coded for Adults so why do we need to make it available in the schools?

BLANKETS



Adult Graphic Novel

By Craig Thompson

ISBN: 1-891830-43-0

Book Summary:

A young man, raised in a strict religious home, struggles with temptation and sin throughout his young life.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains sexual activities; molestation; nudity; controversial political commentary; and alcohol and drug use.



4 /5

Not For Minors
BookLooks Review Rating

Generated by BookLooks.org 

Page 21

"Your dad looks like a MEXICAN--too poor to feed you, and your mom is so RELIGIOUS it makes everyone in town sick, and your BROTHER...your little brother with his messy hair and stupid voice must be RETARDED!"

Page 31

The illustration on the top of the page depicts a young boy in the foreground with a forlorn look on his face. His back is to another young boy and a man speaking. The man is saying, "Yup. It's your turn...but first we need to go to the other room."

Page 32

The illustration on the top of the page depicts the same man and young boy walking through a doorway as the man is closing the door behind him.

Page 33

"So you can suck MOMMY's TITS!"

Page 52

The illustrations on this page depict a nude man falling from the sky in various poses. In the illustration on the top of the page, the man's penis is shown. In the middle image the man's buttocks is shown.

Page 80

"Did you feel her TITTIES?"

Page 81

"So Paul, DID you feel up her tits?" ... "My dick is twice as big as..."

Page 117

"You know, Jake. CHURCH CAMP is the best place to SCORE PUSSY." ... "I was feeling up that one blonde girl last night; what's her..." "Cindy"

"Yeah, and I'm talkin' 34 DOUBLE-D. I swear it!"

Page 146

The illustration on the top of the page depicts a woman lying on her stomach with a shirt on nude from the waist downward. Her buttocks is show from a profile view.

The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts a young man without a shirt on. His left hand is reaching underneath the waistband of his pants.

Page 147

The illustration on the top of the page depicts a nude young man lying on his side with his legs bent. His left hand is on his groin. The text surrounding the image reads: You probably wouldn't believe me--if I told you this was the ONE and ONLY time I masturbated my senior year--

The illustration on the middle-right side of the page depicts the same man described above from a profile view.

The illustration on the bottom-right side of the page depicts a piece of paper with a wet glob on it.

See Figure 1.

Page 186

The illustration on the top of the page depicts a young woman sitting on a bed. A picture on the wall behind her is that of a nude woman standing up with her right breast exposed as she is holding a baby.

The illustration on the bottom-right side of the page depicts a pair of hands hanging up a picture on a wall that has a nude woman standing up with her right breast exposed as she is holding a baby.

Page 205

The illustration on this page depicts a cartoon drawing of a nude young woman in a full-frontal pose with her breasts and pubic hair drawn.

Page 208

The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts a cartoon-like woman drawn from the neck downward. Her breasts and pubic hair are drawn. She is standing in a room as a young boy looks back toward her with a frightened expression on his face.

Page 209

The illustration on the top of the page depicts the same cartoonish female in a progressive state of dress and detail.

Page 236

The illustration on the top of the page depicts a topless young woman being helped with changing her shirt.

Page 257

The illustrations on this page depict a young man and woman kissing from varying angles.

Page 289

"Hey retard!"

"Don't call him that, Mike. The proper term is MONGOLOID."

"Oh, yeah...MONGOLOID. You wanna play basketball with us, MONGOLOID?" "He's a DOWN-Y!"
..."Take the ball, you MONGOLOID."

Page 291

The illustration on the middle of the page depicts a young boy in the foreground looking back toward another little boy as he is walking with an older man into a dark room. The text above the boy in the foreground reads: But I'd been too weak to look out for my own little brother.

The man is telling the other young boy, "Yup. It's your turn...but first we need to go to the other room."

The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts a man with the same clothing as the one described above, from the neck downward as he kneels in front of a young boy. The man is pulling the young boy's underpants down to his ankles. The young boy's nude buttocks is exposed.

The text on this image reads: Since a child, I was always DISPLACED from my body.

See Figure 2.

Page 292

Older people were such foreign beasts--especially HIGH SCHOOLERS...

The illustration on the middle-left side of the page depicts a zoomed in view of a young child's nude buttocks being squeezed by two masculine hands. The text on this image reads: ...with their LUMBERING awkward FLESH, body odors and foul mouths, curdled ACNE, first sproutings of facial hair,...

The illustration on the bottom-right side of the page depicts a young boy looking downward toward a man's groin. The man's belt buckle is undone, and his shirt is pulled up. His left hand is holding something below his stomach outside of the frame. He is smiling down at the young boy who is blushing with several lines radiating out from his head.

See Figure 3.

Page 293

The illustration on this page depicts two angels surrounding a nude young man as he is angled downward looking at nude man's body being grabbed and pulled downward by demonic beings with fire in the background.

See Figure 4.

Page 325

The illustration on the middle of the page depicts two young boys lying in a bed. One of the boys has his pants pulled down with his penis exposed. He is saying, "See? I peed on you again." The other young boy is scrunched up on the other side of the bed covering up with a blanket as he looks toward the other little boy's penis.

The illustration on the bottom-right side of the page depicts a young boy standing up with his pants pulled down leaving his penis exposed. He has a strained expression on his face saying, "Two can play at that game!"

Page 326

The illustration on the top-left side of the page depicts a young boy with his pants pulled down, penis exposed, as he looks at another young boy who has grabbed his shirt saying, "If you peed on me, then I can pee on you."

The illustration on the top-right side of the page depicts the same young boys described above. The youngest boy is lying on his side with a look of terror on his face. His pants are pulled down leaving his penis exposed. The other young boy is standing near him bent over, reaching for the boy lying on the ground. His pants are pulled down exposing his penis.

Page 328

The illustration on the top-right side of the page depicts a young boy sitting with a hand shielding his face. His pants are pulled down to his ankles leaving his penis exposed.

The illustration on the middle of the page is two young boys. One of them is standing up with his hands stretched out toward the other young boy. They are both nude from the waist downward.

The illustrations on the bottom of the page depict the same young boy, nude from the waist downward, in various poses as he falls backward.

Page 329

The illustrations on the top of the page depict the same two young boys described above. One of them is standing on the edge of a bed urinating on the other one who has fallen onto his back on the floor. They are both shown nude from the waist downward.

The illustration on the bottom-left side of the page depicts a zoomed in view of a young boy's penis with his hands near the penis. A drip of urine is falling away from the penis.

The illustration on the bottom-right side of the page depicts the same two boys described above, one lying on the floor while the other one is standing on the edge of a bed.

Page 331

The illustration on the top-left of the page depicts a woman holding onto the two young boys described above. One of the boys has his hands over his penis while the other one's penis is exposed.

The illustrations on this page depict a large group of people drinking beer and smoking cigarettes and putting their mouths on a bong.

Page 334

The illustrations on this page depict several people drinking beer.

Page 350

"Ben..."

"You treat me like a RETARD. I'm not retarded."

Page 361

The illustration on the left side of the page depicts a young couple kissing. The young woman is nude from the waist downward shown in a profile view. She has her right leg bent around the man's legs.

Page 388

The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts a young couple kissing while sitting on the floor.

Page 392

"It feels---lustful."

"Well, which is scarier---LUST or TEMPTATION?" "LUST: that you might want me against my will..."

Page 395

The illustration on the middle of the page depicts a young couple kissing

Page 396

The illustration on the middle of the page depicts a young woman biting the bottom lip of a young man.

Page 418

The illustrations on this page depict a young couple kissing from various angles.

Page 419

The illustrations on this page depict a young couple kissing while lying next to each other on a bed. The words on the page read: I tried to hide my erection, arching my mid-section away from hers, but then she slid her torso in my direction--flattening her tummy tight against my abdomen.

Swarms of electrons swam back and forth between our bodies as if contained within the same cage.

Page 420

The illustration on the top of the page depicts the same young couple described above. The woman is lying back against pillows while the man is lying with his pelvis against hers. The woman is pulling up his shirt as they kiss.

The illustration on the middle of the page depicts the same couple. The woman is straddling the man's lap while helping him remove his shirt.

The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts the same couple lying on their sides on a bed as they are kissing. The woman is shown from a posterior view with her left leg being pulled over the man's legs. He is pulling up her shirt.

Page 421

The illustration on the top of the page depicts the same couple described above. The woman is lying on the bed with her right arm up by her ear. Her shirt is pushed up exposing her breasts as the man is pinching her right nipple.

The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts the woman taking off her shirt with her breasts exposed. *See Figure 5.*

Page 422

The illustrations on the top of the page depict the same couple described above. The man is standing up bending over the woman who is lying on the bed as they kiss.

The illustration in the middle of the page depicts the man sitting up with the woman sitting on his lap as her mouth is on his neck.

The next illustration depicts the woman curled up with just her panties on. She is depicted from the posterior view. The words on the page read: She bit--and her skin yielded a palette of TASTES: milky, salty

Page 423

The illustration on the top of the page depicts the same couple described above. The man is lying next to the woman who is lying on her back with her breasts exposed. The man's mouth is open moving toward the woman's right breast. The illustration on the middle of the page depicts the woman lying on top of the man as they kiss.

The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts a zoomed in view of the couple's faces as they kiss.

See Figure 6.

Page 424

The illustration on this page depicts the same couple described above. They are lying on their sides looking at each other. Their legs are entangled. The woman is topless with a portion of her left breast and nipple exposed.

Page 426

The illustration on the top-right side of the page depicts a young couple lying in bed. The man is lying on his side looking at the woman who is lying on her back with her breasts exposed.

Page 427

The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts the same young couple described above. The woman is lying on her side facing the young man with her exposed left breast shown in a profile view.

Page 428

The illustration on the middle of the page depicts the same young woman described above, lying on her side and on her back with her breasts exposed.

Page 429

The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts the same young woman described above lying on her side with her left breast exposed.

Page 515

"...didn't have any clothes on. It was like running right into the arms of TEMPTATION. Soon he couldn't get enough NAKED people, so he got addicted to PORNOGRAPHY--And then, that wasn't enough either...which led--uh...I'm sorry.- which led to the next logical step."

"k-k-killing people?"

"HOMOSEXUALITY."

"Oh...how tragic."

Page 517

"In one of my classes, a student made a ceramic sculpture of a NAKED female torso."

"OH MY."

"No, I haven't got to the WORST part yet. The worst part is that during the critique, he proceeded to stroke and lick the NIPPLES on the sculpture."

Page 558

It was late December, and the snow still hadn't fallen--exceedingly rare in central Wisconsin.

"Maybe it's GLOBAL WARMING."

"Bah! That's just LIBERAL PROPOGANDA, so that people get more caught up in the state of the environment than the state of their souls!"

Page 568

The illustration on the page depicts a young couple falling. The woman's breasts are exposed.

Page 570

The illustration on this page depicts a young couple kissing as the woman sits on the man's lap topless. There are two angels surrounding them with demonic beings looking and reaching upward toward them.

Page 571

The illustration on this page depicts a young couple in an embrace kissing each other while topless.

Profanity/Derogatory Term Count

Ass 4 Dick 3 Faggot 2 Fuck 4 Mongoloid 4 Piss 1 Shit 4



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



421



Figure 5



Figure 6