



**SUBMITTED OCTOBER 6, 2023**

## Request for School Board Reconsideration of Library Media Materials

Author: **Yaa Gyasi**

Title: **Homegoing**

Publisher (if known):

Request initiated by: **October 6, 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.)?**

*"For the entire week after, his body had taken over the excuse-making for him, **his penis lying limp between his legs each time he went to her**. Even on the nights she braided her hair the way he liked it and **rubbed coconut oil on her breasts and between her thighs**."*

*"Ohene had discovered that the **stick between his legs could perform tricks**, and while Abena's father and mother were out begging for a share of the elders' food, as they did every week, Ohene and showed Abena those tricks. ..."**See?**" he said as they watched it lift when she touched it."*

*"All children had heard the fables about people who lay together before they had their marriage ceremonies: the far-fetched one about **the men whose penises turned into trees while still inside the woman, growing branches into her stomach so that he could not exit her body**; the simpler, truer ones about banishment, fines, and shame."*

*"Finally that night, Abena had been able to convince Ohene, and he had fumbled around, thrusting at the entrance until he broke through and **she hurt, thrusting inside**: once, twice then nothing. There was no loud moan or whimper as they had heard escape their fathers' mouths."*

*... "Well, why don't you come over here and give her a kiss?" the gray suit asked. He had already unzipped his pants with his left hand. With his right hand, he stroked his penis. "don't worry, I won't touch her," he said. ...And he kept his word. Robert did all the work that night while the blue suit guarded the door. It wasn't more than a few tear-stained kisses and carefully placed hands. Before the gray suit could ask for Robert to enter her, he came, a shuddering, breathy thing. Then, immediately after, he grew bored with his game."*

**2. Where did you first learn of this item?**

On the Florida State list of books removed from Florida County School Districts.

3. **Have you read the book in its entirety?** *NO – Florida Statutes explains why these should be removed.*

Per Florida Statute:

847.0123 (b)

Any book, pamphlet, magazine, printed matter however reproduced, or sound recording that contains any matter defined in s. 847.001, explicit and detailed verbal descriptions or narrative accounts of sexual excitement, or sexual conduct and that is harmful to minors.

847.001 (6)

“Harmful to minors” means any reproduction, imitation, characterization, description, exhibition, presentation, or representation, of whatever kind or form, depicting nudity, sexual conduct, or sexual excitement when it:

(a) Predominantly appeals to a prurient, shameful, or morbid interest;

(b) Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material or conduct for minors; and

(c) Taken as a whole, is without serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

1006.34

4. Any instructional material containing pornography or otherwise prohibited by s. **847.012** may not be used or made available within any public school.

**In HB 1069 line item 313 it states:**

*Parents shall have the right to read passages from any material that is subject to an objection. If the school board denies a parent the right to read passages due to content that meets the requirements the school district shall discontinue the use of the material.*

The informational passages posted here from inside the book address these three points that they are NOT:

- *Free of Pornography and material prohibited under s. 847.012, F.S.*
- *Suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented.*
- *Appropriate for the grade level and age group for which the materials are used and made available.*

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

**According to:** <https://floridareprofreedom.org/compsexed/>

"Currently, however, comprehensive sex education is far from the norm in Florida public schools as the State does not require it. Generally, abstinence-only material is used in Florida classrooms, with the core focus being on not having sex outside heterosexual marriage and no inclusion of material on birth control or safer sex."

"According to Advocates for Youth, public opinion polls consistently show that more than 80 percent of Americans support teaching comprehensive sex education in high schools and in middle or junior high schools."

### **"Young People Need Sexual Health Education**

Over 1 million young people ages 15-19 live in Florida."

**"Many become sexually active as teens. It is important to provide information to protect their health and their futures before they need it."**

**According to the CDC 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, among 12th graders in Florida:**

- **52% report having had sexual intercourse**
- **17% have had 4 or more sexual partners (11% females, 21% males)**
- **44% did not use a condom the last time they had sex**
- **13% of females have been raped, 15% experienced sexual violence & 8% sexual dating violence**

*Do you want to play a part in these statistics? These people advocate for this, and big money is put behind pushing this through the publishers and authors to write it. We know it happens (children having sexual relations out of wedlock and during school age years) this cannot be stopped but the schools do not need to play a hand in giving out the instructions for it. No Pornography and sexual abstinence is the LAW in schools.*

### **Florida Statute [1003.46](#) in health education states:**

- (b) Teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age students while teaching the benefits of monogamous heterosexual marriage.
- (c) Emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity is a certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and other associated health problems.
- (d) Teach that each student has the power to control personal behavior and encourage students to base actions on reasoning, self-esteem, and respect for others.

These stories glorify or make abortion and out of wedlock sexual actives to be normal. They promote this kind of behavior instead of counteracting it at the end of a story "IF" it was to be an education lesson. These are not educational. I understand that it is just supplemental reading, but it is instilling ideas of worthlessness and lack of self-esteem.

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

1. Remove from all Manatee School District Media Centers

**Remove from: Southeast High – Braden River High – King Middle**

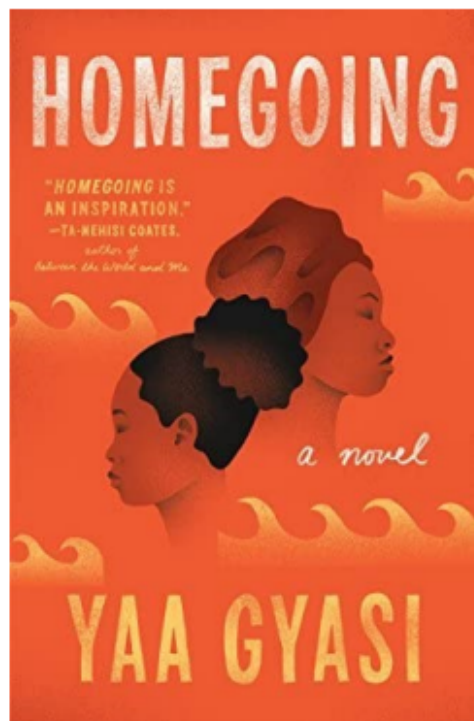
2. Remove from certain grade levels? If yes, enter grade levels: **No Copies**

3. Allow in Manatee School District Media Centers with a Parent Consent Requirement? **No Copies**

**To see more pages inside this book click here:**

<http://booklooks.org/data/files/Book%20Looks%20Reports/H/Homegoing.pdf>

# HOMEGOING



## Summary of Concerns:

This book contains sexual activities; sexual assault; and nudity.

*Adult*

**By Yaa Gyasi**

ISBN: 9781101947142

## CONTENT WARNING

You are about to access material that may contain content of an ADULT nature. These files may include pictures and materials that some viewers may find offensive. If you are under the age of 18, or if such material offends you or if it is illegal for you to view these materials, please exit now.

**4**  
/5

**Not For Minors**  
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
22	<p>He was still in his uniform, and Effia could tell that he'd had a long day by the way his lapel drooped. She helped him pull off his cap and shirt and she pressed her body against his, as Adowa had taught her. Before he could register his surprise, she grabbed his arms and pushed him to the bed. Not since their first night together had he been this timid, afraid of her unfamiliar body, the full-figured flesh, so different from how he had described his wife. Excited now, he pushed into her, and she squeezed her eyes as tightly as she could, her tongue circling her lips. He pushed harder, his breathing heavy and labored. She scratched his back, and he cried out. She bit his ear and pulled his hair. He pushed against her as though he were trying to move through her. And when she opened her eyes to look at him, she saw something like pain written across his face and the ugliness of the act, the sweat and blood and wetness they produced became illuminated, and she knew that if she was an animal tonight, then he was too.</p>
41	<p>When she heard the soft moaning, the quickened breath, she turned to face the wall of the hut. Once, just once, she had watched them where they lay, the darkness helping to cover her curiosity. Her father was hovering over her mother's body, mobbing softly at first, and then with more force. She couldn't see much, but it was the sounds that had interested her. The sounds her parents made together, sounds that walked a thin line between pleasure and pain. Esi both wanted and was afraid to want. So she never watched again.</p>
47	<p>One of them grabbed a woman on the far end and pushed her against the wall. His hands found her breasts and then began to move down the length of her body, lower and lower still, until the sound that escaped her lips was a scream</p>
48	<p>He put her on a folded tarp, spread her legs, and entered her. She screamed, but he placed his hand over her lips, then put his fingers in her mouth.</p>
101	<p>For the entire week after, his body had taken over the excuse-making for him, his penis lying limp between his legs each time he went to her. Even on the nights she braided her hair the way he liked it and rubbed coconut oil on her breasts and between her thighs.</p>
116	<p>They kissed, and whatever clothes Anna hadn't gotten to, Jo made quick work of removing. He tasted her and could feel more than hear the pleasure it sent through her body like a current, the way she stifled her moans so the kids wouldn't wake up, and expert at that after many nights and seven children. They worked quickly and quietly together, hoping the dark would mask their motions if one of the children happened to be peering through the curtain, unable to sleep. Jo grabbed onto Anna's butt with both of his hungry hands. As long as she lived, it would always be a pleasure and a gift to fill his hands with the weight of her flesh.</p>
136	<p>Ohene had discovered that the stick between his legs could perform tricks, and while Abena's father and mother were out begging for a share of the elders' food, as they did every week, Ohene and showed Abena those tricks.      ... "See?" he said as they watched it lift when she touched it. They had both seen their fathers' this way. Ohene on those days his father went from on wife's hut to the next, and Abena in the days before she got her own hut. But they had never known Ohene's to do the same.      ... "What does it feel like?" she had asked.      ... He shrugged, smiled, and she knew what he felt was a good thing.</p>

Page	Content
143	<p>...All children had heard the fables about people who lay together before they had their marriage ceremonies: the far-fetched one about the men whose penises turned into trees while still inside the woman, growing branches into her stomach so that he could not exit her body; the simpler, truer ones about banishment, fines, and shame.</p> <p>...Finally that night, Abena had been able to convince Ohene, and he had fumbled around, thrusting at the entrance until he broke through and she hurt, thrusting inside: once, twice then nothing. There was no loud moan or whimper as they had heard escape their fathers' mouths. He simply left the same way he had arrived.</p> <p>Soon her lips were meeting lips. They were not the lips she remembered from their childhood, the ones that were thin and always dry because he refused to oil them. They were thicker, a trap for her own lips, her own tongue.</p> <p>...Soon they were lying down in the shadow of the cave. Abena took off her wrapper and heard Ohene Nyarko suck in his breath, removing his own. At first they just stared at each other, taking their bodies in, comparing them with what they'd know before.</p> <p>...He reached for her, and she flinched, remembering the last time he had touched her. How she had lain on the floor of her parent's hut, staring up at the straw roof and wondering if there was more to it than that, the pain of it so outweighing the pleasure that she could not understand why it happened in huts across her village, the Asante, the world.</p> <p>...Now Ohene Nyarko pinned her arms down to the hard red clay. She bit his arm and he growled, letting go, until she hugged him back toward her. He moved like the knew the scenes that were playing inside her head. And she let him inside her. And she let herself forget everything but him.</p> <p>...When they had finished, when they were sweaty and spent and catching their breath, Abena laid her head against his chest, that panting pillow, his heart drumming into her ear.</p>
192	<p>That night, Crippled Man turned Crazy Woman onto her back and entered her, forcefully at first, and then more timidly. She opened her eyes to see him working more slowly than he used to, using his arms to push off, push in, his sweat dripping slowly off the bridge of his nose to land on her forehead and trickle down to meet the floor.</p>
210	<p>Robert was cautious, but she was wild. It had always been that way. The first night he had lain with her, he'd been so nervous that his penis had rested against his left leg, a log on the river of his quivering thigh.</p> <p>..."Your daddy's gon' kill me," he said. They were sixteen, their parents at a union meeting.</p> <p>..."I'm not thinkin' 'bout my daddy right now, Robert," she'd said, trying to stand the log. She's put each of his fingers into her mouth one by one and had bitten the tips, watching him all the while. She'd eased him into her and moved on top of him until he was begging her to stop, to not stop, to quicken, to slow. When he closed his eyes, she'd bidden him to open them, to look at her. She liked to be the star of the show.</p>
214	<p>The gray suit eased the mop away. "You still have cleaning to do," he said. He caressed her face. His hands started to move down her body, but before it could</p>