

# REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS



Please provide information on the material for which you are requesting reconsideration:

Title:

IT FEELS GOOD TO BE YOURSELF

Author:

THERESA THORN

Copyright date:

2019

Publisher/Producer:

Henry Holt and Company New York

Format (e.g. Book, DVD, Magazine, Pamphlet, etc.):

BOOK - Juvenile Literature

What are you requesting the Library to do with this book? I don't want children to accidentally see or pick this book up and be blindsided by its theme and content. Since it was written as an aid for parents to have a discussion with their children on a sensitive topic, I recommend that it be moved to the adult nonfiction section of the library.

Please describe what content you find objectionable. Be specific, citing page numbers and text when possible.

I was stunned by the content of this book, even though the subtitle of it "A Book About Gender Identity" gave me fair warning. The star of the book is Ruthie, and on PAGE 3 readers learn that "Ruthie is a transgender girl. That means when she was born, everyone thought she was a boy. Until she grew a little older—old enough [at age five!] to tell everyone that she's actually a girl." Children between the ages of four and eight (the target audience of this book) have no capacity to make a decision of this type, which is based primarily on emotions. Any person that allowed Ruthie to live this lie should face consequences, because it's basically child endangerment. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 OF 3)

Have you read, viewed, or listened to the entire work?

Yes

No

If not, which parts have you read?

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Can you suggest other material to take its place?

*Not at this time.*

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What other comments would you like to make?

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If you would like a written response, please include your name and address below.

Name

yes

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 OF 3) An analysis of brain development found on the Healthline website shares insight on the development of a part of the brain called the prefrontal cortex. "When the prefrontal cortex is fully developed — which typically happens around age 25 — you're considered capable of discerning the relationship between your actions and potential short- or long-term consequences. Until then, adolescents and young adults rely on the amygdala to make decisions, says Igor Smelyansky, MD (a neurologist and pain management specialist in Knoxville, Tenn.). "The amygdala is where primitive emotions, urges, impulses, fears, aggression, and primitive desires are located," he says. In practice, this usually looks like acting before thinking things through or otherwise acting impulsively.

The article's author on Healthline is Gabrielle Kassel (she/her) a queer sex educator and wellness journalist who is committed to helping people feel the best they can in their bodies. *Even she/her* gives us insight into the frailness of a child's decision-making process, and that it is driven by emotion. When we allow emotions to guide our decisions, we often regret it. SUMMARY: Allowing children to make decisions rooted in emotions about their gender as easily as changing a Halloween costume is dangerous to their health.

After meeting Ruthie we learn about Xavier on PAGE 5, a cisgender (someone who feels like the gender they are) boy. Then we are happily told on PAGE 7 that "There are so many different ways to be boy or girl—too many to fit in a book!" With this statement the book presents the idea that kids can be any gender they want to be, whatever they can think of; real or imagined. It's pure fantasy. PAGE 8 continues the ruse by introducing the concept that "Non-Binary is helpful word that can describe a kid who doesn't feel exactly like a boy or girl. WELL THEN WHAT ARE THEY? Can you imagine the puzzled look on a child's face, and then their thoughts? *I imagine something like this:* "Hmm, let's see. I'm not a girl or a boy. That's weird but I like it. I am a jazabale," or some other made up word. Perhaps something from a Dr. Seuss book. OR worse. Why would we want to affirm or encourage this dangerous thought in the mind of a child? PAGE 9 introduces us to Alex, who "is both a boy and a girl." Then on PAGE 11 we meet JJ, who "is neither a boy nor a girl."

My concern is that if this book is shown or read to its intended audience (4 to 8 year olds) their mind will be filled with ideas and concepts that are not only inappropriate and predatory, but evil, because they will warp a child's mind that is so impressionable at this tender age. I compare this book to one (which I hope is not in print), where someone suggests to a child that masturbation and fornication is proper at any age, at any time, and with anyone. (This is just what sex trafficking is all about!)

This "juvenile literature" book is a time bomb because it promotes risky behavior that children could adopt BEFORE their primary teeth start to shed and the permanent teeth come in!

The COOLcat book description of this book: This sweet, straightforward exploration of gender identity will give children a fuller understanding of themselves and others. With child-friendly language and vibrant art, *It Feels Good to Be Yourself* provides young readers and parents alike with the vocabulary to discuss this important topic with sensitivity.

This book is anything but sweet. It promotes a confusing and damaging concept to children.

-----End of comments-----