

**5.20F4 -- CHECKLIST FOR BUILDING MATERIALS EVALUATION COMMITTEE'S
RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL -- FICTION AND OTHER LITERARY FORMS**

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 a fantasy, is it the type that has imaginative appeal and is suitable for children? Yes No; for young adults? Yes No
If both are marked "No", for what age group would you recommend the book? _____
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 there any questionable 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
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
3. When factual information is part of the story, is it presented accurately?
 Yes No
4. Is prejudicial appeal readily identifiable by the potential reader? Yes No
5. Are concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the potential readers?
 Yes No
6. Do characters speak in a language true to the period and section of the country in which they live? Yes No

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

Approved by Board: May 20, 2008