

Wit and Wisdom Curriculum Modifications

The following are the recommended modifications to the Wit and Wisdom curriculum. I would like to thank Andy Larson and our twenty-one teachers on the Review Team who took time this summer to read the texts, meet, and provide their expertise and recommendations regarding our new literacy curriculum for Hastings Public Schools.

During the review teachers from each grade level read the designated books for each of the modules that are to be taught throughout the year. While reading, teachers reviewed the books and answered the following questions:

1. **Does the material present any inaccurate content?**
 - a. False or misleading information
 - b. Stereotypes of different racial, cultural, or religious groups?
2. **Is the material appropriate for the age level that you teach?**
 - a. Content that could be too scary for your students
 - b. Inappropriate language
 - c. Subject matter that would not be understood
3. **Are there any other concerns you have about the literary content?**

Based upon the work of the Review Team, the Department of Teaching and Learning has the following recommendations:

Grade	Text	Issue	Recommendation
K	<i>My Five Senses</i>	Image of a child in a bathtub with upper body exposed	It is a book used as a whole group and in pairs. The recommendation is to cover the exposed image.
4	<i>Walk Two Moons</i>	Previously Recommended Change	Adoption of <i>The Invention of Hugo Cabret</i>
4	<i>George vs. George</i>	In a section of the book that is not covered in the curriculum or read by students there is reference to sexual violence that is perpetrated by the British soldiers.	Censor the section to remove the reference to sexual violence.
5	<i>Thunder Rolling in the Mountains</i>	Previously Recommended Change	Adoption of <i>The Birchbark House</i>
5	<i>Woods Runner</i>	Violent imagery in the first three chapters of the text.	Alternative text, <i>Toliver's Secret</i> will be reviewed for this module (module 3).

In addition to the changes above, we have identified the texts that will require pre-teaching. As teachers it is our job to teach context, to teach appropriateness of terminology and the use of words. In historical fiction, or nonfiction, there are terms used that are no longer acceptable to be used. We will ensure teachers have access to materials to use to pre-teach accordingly when terms such as these come up in the curriculum. Similarly, when there are mentions of death, violence, or other sensitive topics it is our job as educators to pay attention to the reception of the students and provide any additional context, follow-up, or necessary teaching.