The 3 Rs of Intellectual Freedom

**Rights**

Intellectual freedom supports teaching, learning and the free and open exchange of ideas and information essential to democracy. Too often there are misconceptions about how and why library and classroom materials are chosen. Librarians and teachers should be able to talk about the thoughtful selection of collection and curriculum resources as something that supports the needs, interests and rights of children and teens.

**Responsibilities**

Intellectual Freedom is about the RESPONSIBILITIES of librarians and teachers to choose materials for their libraries and classrooms using professional judgment and following criteria outlined in board-approved policies and procedures. Parents/guardians also have a responsibility to play an active role in guiding their own child’s reading.

**Rewards**

Intellectual Freedom is about the REWARDS of engagement and achievement that result from offering children and teens a wide range of materials that meet their many individual needs and interests, and provide opportunities to develop analysis and critical thinking skills.

Start Learning More!

Students’ Right to Read from the National Council of Teachers of English
http://www.ncte.org/positions/statements/righttoreadguideline

About Banned and Challenged Books
(American Library Association—ALA)
http://www.ala.org/ala/alahome/ala/aboutbannedandchallengedbooks

Kids: Know Your Rights!
(ALA Association for Library Service to Children)
http://www.ala.org/alsc/kidsask/kidsask

Thinking about Intellectual Freedom: Professional Statements, Policies & Procedures, Self-Censorship, and Recommended Reading (CCBC)
https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/freejen/content.aspx

Cooperative Children’s Book Center

Contact:
School of Education
University of Wisconsin-Madison
801 Highland Avenue, 223 N. Mills St.
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: (608) 263-3720
E-mail: ccbcinfo@education.wisc.edu

See also:

What is A Q & A forum for librarians, teachers, administration and others thinking through what the principles of intellectual freedom look like in practice.
http://go.wisc.edu/stfsl