Karen Disharoon
April 24, 2022

Foul language alert.

Dunlap peeps.

Let me first say I don’t like foul language and would never normally post it. But I’m making an exception because I just wanted to make my Dunlap friends aware of the language being used in required reading in a class at Dunlap High School.

I cannot believe this is a required text. It’s awful. Kids hear enough bad language. They don’t need it in their school books. If you agree, please call the school and contact your school board members. Btw, the class is World Lit 2. I’d avoid it like the plague.
Ah, shit, Sbr-

Hey, freshman! Nice chest vagina.

Ow! Ow! Awww

Ah, shit, Shri

Ow, ow. Let me be. Sonofabitch.
71 Comments

Lana Frake
What???? Omg!

Jennifer Young Hutsell
Absolutely ridiculous! Phones should be ringing off the hook!

Lori Hutton Turk
I think another post stated the board has already gotten involved with this. From what I understand the assignment was given back in February and due next week. The students who picked this book but didn’t finish the assignment now have an extension to pick one of the other books that were available to pick from.

Karen Disharoon
Lori Hutton Turk but I think it’s still a choice.

Anita Larson Meeker
Lori Hutton Turk How disappointing that the decision to pick a different book was the solution. Our school board was elected to give our kids a good education and protect our kids. This book should be pulled from the list snd whoever allowed it in the first place should reprimanded!

Lori Hutton Turk
Karen Disharoon probably. I don’t understand why the parent brought this up now? Why not when the assignment was first given out.

Lori Hutton Turk
Anita Larson Meeker thankfully my girls are out of high school. So I don’t know much about this other than what I have heard. I guess my first question is still the same why bring it up now? The assignment was given in February. Did anyone talk to the teacher first before involving the board?

Anita Larson Meeker
Lori Hutton Turk all very good questions! I have grandchildren in Dunlap school system, so this is very disheartening to me

Karen Disharoon
Lori Hutton Turk I just learned the board is trying to get rid of the book but some teachers are accusing the board of banning books. I think it’s still an ongoing discussion. Parents need to weigh in not for this assignment but for future ones.

Karen Disharoon
Lori Hutton Turk I think some parents are afraid of approaching teachers for fear that their child will not be graded fairly.

Nancy Randol
I hope lots of people complain about this book. Surely there are others that are more appropriate.

Kim Bialka Ackerman
I have followed all the posts on this. I am baffled at the parents who say they already hear that language, who cares? I was also questioning the suggestion that the student’s parent who initially complained didn’t do the assignment and complained didn’t do the assignment and complained to get an extension with another book. The book does use graphic language. Maybe the parent just looked at the book so complaining at the beginning of the semester wasn’t an option? Full disclosure…..I work a full time job and help my husband run two businesses, I don’t have time to look at every assignment my children have. I will, however, make sure this book isn’t in her curriculum. As you said, they already are exposed to too much.

Karen Disharoon
Kim Bialka Ackerman I’m not on the other sites since my kids are graduated. I’m shocked there’s not been an outcry against this.

Daneen Watts Richardson
While not a parent at Dunlap, I do have a HS junior, my first thought is to look at the entire assignment. If it is a choice, it is NOT required reading. There are students that are mature enough to handle foul language, as parents have taught them there is a difference between using the language and understanding why someone else sometime does to get a point across. Just the few bits we are shown are not the whole piece of literature and just like in life as are we to judge others on a few moments or in entirety.

While, I am adult female with a graduate degree, much of my life I now know, I was sheltered. Until my current position as Librarian, I work within an Illinois state prison. There are youth today that grow up experiencing the hatred and language expressed in the text. I personally that is where our outrage should be. I feel we have to raise, especially our young adults that are of job age and getting ready to look at colleges that the world is a big scary place and prepare them the best way we can to handle life’s experiences. Just my opinion from a different perspective.

Karen Disharoon
Daneen Watts Richardson guess we’ll just have to agree to disagree. It’s stuff like this that is driving people to home schooling and out of our state. I could not in good faith recommend my kids send their kids to Illinois public schools. In fact I’d beg them not to. And that is so sad.

Lexy Marie
Karen Disharoon It’s also driving people to parochial schools.

Jim Wittmer
Daneen Watts Richardson I have no students in school at all now but to call this literature when it looks more like a comic book is ridiculous. My $.02 worth.
Deanna Phelps Shively
Karen Disharoon I rarely post on these types of topics, but I am here to say please do not lump all educators together. Your kids and mine received an excellent education in Dunlap. I will not, as a parent, take all the credit. Did I agree with every teacher? No, I did not. Would I read this book? No, I would not. As a Christian, I try, but sometimes fail, to not judge and lump people together - such as in business, education, politics, etc. As an educator, I have felt nothing but disrespected by many comments I read about teachers. It’s disheartening when the thing that matters most to me as a teacher is to see my students learn, thrive, and grow into adults who will do great things for this world. Why do I do it? It’s not about me. I don’t want awards and recognition. I just want respect and to be trusted. Do you and everyone else have a right to disapprove of this book? Absolutely. My ask is that we don’t throw all of us in the same boat.

Daneen Watts Richardson
Karen Disharoon I totally understand, my current position had opened my eyes to many injustices that occur. I feel I was placed in this position so I could have my eyes opened and honestly realize that though there have been difficult times, jobs lost, unemployment, health issues that I have been blessed to not have been hungry or homeless or treated differently due to my race or religion but that occurs everyday and the only way to make changes is by raising awareness and often it is done using a shock factor - thus the foul language. I would not want this reading to be required by all students because not everyone is mature enough to handle the content. Reminds me of your mom's class, many of us could sit through the human body discussions without jokes and laughter but there were always those that their maturity level was not ready and some never reach that level of maturity. Always wishing you and your family the utmost best!!

Karen Disharoon
Deanna Phelps Shively not doing that. It’s just that selections like this, the law that’s prohibits expulsions except in rare instances, the other. new law that requires a progressive approach in teaching all make illinois not a good place to send kids to public schools anymore.

Kelly Cochran Kerckhove
Just for a little added information - this book is called The Arab of the Future and is part of a trilogy about the author’s life. It spans his growing up years beginning in the 70s and living in the cross cultures of his parents in France, Libya and Syria. I think it’s important to bring context into the discussions about books that are in our schools. Learning about other people’s lives and experiences, even when they are harsh and especially when they are unlike our own, is vital to understanding our world and our place in it.

I would very much hate to see this wonderful school district rush to join the growing trend of simply banning books vs making accommodations for choices.

Kelly Cochran Kerckhove
Kris Madsen McClelland I think everything you mentioned is a problem, but less information and discussion is not the answer. Only reading shiny happy experiences about people who look and think like you creates a very limited view.

Karen Disharoon
Kelly Cochran Kerckhove it’s one thing to have it in the library. A whole other issue to have it as an option suggested by a teacher. There are many different better options. Kids are at their formative years. A teacher offering a student this book with this kind of language sends a message. You can teach history without vulgar language.

Kelly Cochran Kerckhove
Karen Disharoon Vulgar language and vulgar behavior are part of life and I believe teaching kids at this formative age the consequences of their words and deeds is vital. I’m not saying that books that contain these things need to be in every class and part of every bit of the curriculum. I’m comfortable with our district, and the certified teachers in it, in letting them make the choices for what is included in their curriculums. If I have a difference of opinion then that’s a conversation I have with my child.

Kelly Cochran Kerckhove
Kris Madsen McClelland I still have a daughter there and am very pleased with the education she’s getting. If moving to a different area and school district is what’s right for your family then I think that’s great and wish you well!

Kelly Cochran Kerckhove
Kris Madsen McClelland Okay. But who decides what “good literature” is? This is an award winning graphic novel. (I know there are strong opinions about graphic novels but it’s a fact that they speak to kids of this age and they respond to them.). I would encourage everyone to actually read this book and then perhaps the discussion could change to the issues that the book addresses.

Kelly Cochran Kerckhove
Kris Madsen McClelland This is absolutely untrue. Are audiobooks for lazy people? There are more ways of consuming literature than traditional printed materials. Different people learn in different manners. If a certain style of communication, writing, genre, etc. gets a person’s mind working then mission accomplished.

Karen Disharoon
Kelly Cochran Kerckhove just because vulgar behavior and language are a part of life doesn’t mean it should be used in schools. Schools are supposed to model good behavior and good language. The text can say “vulgar language was used.” It doesn’t have to be actually used in quotes. The more this type of language and the lack of respect for others is normalized, the more it is accepted.

Kelly Cochran Kerckhove
Do you think that this approach is preparing them for the world they enter when they leave Dunlap? If we haven’t given them the foundation for how to deal with and process
this sort of information how can we possibly expect them to do just that as adults. This book specifically, illustrates how that language and behavior can effect and harm a young person and, I think, does much more to teach the correct way to treat other people than simply saying, “Don’t do that.” The fact is that disrespectful behavior is more normalized in society than ever before and it didn’t come from a book that clearly SHOWS that behavior as wrong and hurtful. I’m not afraid of vulgar language and I don’t want my daughters to be either. I want them to have the knowledge and tools to deal with it. We can limit the “vulgar” material in every school across America and bad behavior is not going to go away. Reinforcement by parents and educators on WHY and/or WHEN certain language and behaviors are unacceptable is the key, not pretending that they don’t exist and that our kids aren’t already dealing with them.

Karen Disharoon
Yes. As evidence, Home schooled kids and those in parochial schools not using books with this kind of language seem to do just fine. And we haven’t had this in the past and kids have seemed to deal with the world. Not sure I understand how this particular type of graphic novel with bad language is needed. There are lots of ways to teach. And whether it’s good or bad, this type of content is what’s driving people away from public schools and out of illinois.

Kelly Cochran Kerckhove
Karen Disharoon I think you could argue that homeschool and parochial school children experience trouble moving into the world as much as public school kids. There are many ways to teach, I would agree that’s the point. And we could start a whole other thread on people moving from Illinois but given the choice between schools in other states, specifically TX, FL, and TN, I’ll take Dunlap every single time.

Linda Smith
Karen Disharoon I know a kid who was coded for using far less offensive language than is in this book. At the very least, there needs to be consistency. If you teach and accept that language in school, then it will be normalized.

Deanna Phelps Shively
Karen Disharoon everyone has a choice to where they choose to educate their child, which is good. Do you really think that homeschool and parochial students don’t falter? I personally know students in both those educational settings who show a side of them to the adults in their lives and then show a completely different side when they are not in their presence. Same happens in public school. MANY people wear masks. There are kids that parents and teachers think are so great, but if you’d hear them talk when they are not around you, you might be astonished. How do we stop the vaping, drugs, alcohol, bullying, unkindness, and violence? I don’t have the answer to that, but parents need to partner with teachers to start. There needs to be trust, on both sides. And for the record, I teach facts and teach my students to form their own opinions. I would never and neither would many of my colleagues try to “indoctrinate” our students. And to think that a law or a teacher can make a student “bad” is giving us way more credit than should be given. After all, kids live with their parents for 18 years and have the biggest role in shaping
them. Maybe we should start with looking at what happens in the home. I respect each and every one of my students, even if I don’t agree with them. I wish the world could do the same.

Karen Disharoon
Deanna Phelps Shively the bad is that you can’t expel a kid who has drugs or is violent. They now have to be like an imminent danger to others. Have you noticed there are virtually no expulsions anymore? There’s not a big deterrent to violent behavior and drugs. I’m not saying home schooled kids don’t falter but I have met so many incredible ones. But I’m saying that there are many families turned off completely by the content being taught in the schools, this book is one example. Supporting left leaning political beliefs is another. It’s driving more to home schooling.

Kris Madsen McClelland
What the heck

Tracey Ansteth Albert
I think this was possibly used to illustrate the way Jewish people were routinely portrayed and treated during this time in history. However, maybe a field trip to a local Holocaust Museum or invite a Holocaust survivor to visit the school might be a better way to make an impact.
I am curious why this would be allowed, but other classics (Catcher in the Rye, Huck Finn, etc..) are continually banned and removed from school libraries (for the way these books refer to black people,) but these comic book forms of “literature” are allowed!? We take down statues of Lee, Jefferson, etc.. because they make people uncomfortable, yet we let this remain?? We can only learn from history if we are allowed to see it from a non-biased, factual point of view.
As a former teacher, I am truly sadden by what has happened to our school systems. I have a small tutoring business and when I see the homework from my elementary students I am so disappointed. Parents need to be involved and aware!

Karen Disharoon
Tracey Ansteth Albert yes I agree. A bazillion better ways of teaching and informing.

Kevin N O'Brien
Um what??

Liz Scoville
If this was being offered at the elementary or even junior high level, I’d be concerned. But high school is formative just like you said—which makes it the perfect time to show soon to be young adults how words like these have been historically used to dehumanize others for their skin color, beliefs, etc., just like this book does. Context is key. Posting these pages without the context in which the lesson is being given is a logical fallacy at best.
Teachers have it hard enough right now. Maybe open up a discussion about why this literature was picked and find a compromise, instead of taking up torches and pitchforks.
And as a side note, saying kids are exposed to too much doesn’t give them enough credit for knowing how to be good people. Nor do I think it gives parents enough credit for teaching their kids how to navigate the good and bad in an ever-changing society.

**Paul D. Wilkinson**
And the socialist soccer moms rush in to indoctrinate children.

**Karen Disharoon**
**Paul D. Wilkinson** I don’t think that’s the case.

**Paul D. Wilkinson**
It’s the impression I got from reading the comments.

**Karen Disharoon**
**Paul D. Wilkinson** yes I can totally see where you’d make that assumption. The people who are against the book or a teachers or admins decision are often afraid to speak out and go against the school for fear of retaliation in grading. But there are many that are very upset about this.

**Myrna Ghantous-Badawi**
**Karen Disharoon** completely agree

**Susan Yoder Portscheller**
FYI **Randi Jean**. Maybe mention this to Patrick, so he knows what's going on in Dunlap.

**Barb Rafool Patterson**
OMG, I don't have kids today in school.. Please take that crap out of schools. Enough crap in the world without having it in schools too. READING, WRITING and ARITHMETIC. This is getting out of hand with the school systems.

**Deanna Phelps Shively**
**Barb Rafool Patterson** barb, just so you know, I am one of those “crap” teachers you are spewing hate about.

**Karen Disharoon**
**Deanna Phelps Shively** I don’t think she said crap teachers. She was I believe referring to the content.

**Myrna Ghantous-Badawi**
**Deanna Phelps Shively** I think she was speaking of the literary choice, not the teachers. I strongly agree that we need to go back focusing on traditional education. I believe there are better ways to teach this message. In my line of work, I see people let go from their jobs daily because things we are allowing students to get away with in schools/Universities will not fly in the work place. Language is one of them.

**Barb Rafool Patterson**
Karen Disharoon I was referring to what was being said. Not about you Deanna or the teachers.. They will see and hear all that dirty talk when they get out in the world. No need to have it in grade or high school..Love you Deanna Phelps Shively and your family

Ginger Kruiswyk
This is an award-winning book that is based on the actual life of the author. I think it is wonderful for our kids to see that so many people's experiences growing up is far different from their own. This is real life for a lot of kids. I am not a huge fan of the language, but that is what the author lived through. So even though I would not want my child using that language, it is the reality for some youth. In many ways a lot of the students in Dunlap live in a bubble - they have more than enough of just about everything (not all students, but many students). Reading hard books like this is a way for them to see how blessed they truly are. I applaud the department for giving the students the OPTION of choosing a book outside of their comfort zone. I am all for letting my children see the harsh reality other people face, especially at the high school level. I can imagine the critical thinking that can occur as they digest the words and feelings in the book. If you do not want your student to read it, they can pick another book. For me the bigger problem is two fold - why did they wait to question this book at the end of April when the assignment was given and the book was bought in February? And, why was the decision on how to handle this done behind closed doors at a board meeting when it was not on the agenda and when, as I understand the law, it was not legal to vote on the action to take unless it was in open session? And, I guess one other question - why was teacher not consulted on this issue? He did not even get to come before the board to discuss how this book came to be on the curriculum.

Linda Smith
“Award winning” is subjective and should not be considered for educational selections. The topics can be covered with selections that are better written, not written as a comic book, without profanity or anti-Semitic comments.

Karen Disharoon
Ginger Kruiswyk has it been addressed by the board? Has the book been removed?

Ginger Kruiswyk
Karen Disharoon No, it has not been banned or removed. The board took action regarding the class assignment as it relates to students who have not completed it.

Ginger Kruiswyk
Linda Smith Just curious - have you read the entire book or just the pieces that were screenshot?

Linda Smith
Ginger Kruiswyk I didn’t read the book but I flipped through it while I was at Barnes and Noble. I’m sure the comic book format was easier to get kids to read. Did you read it?

Ginger Kruiswyk
Linda Smith nope, but I ordered it today on Amazon. I’ve read several summaries of it online and think it sounds like an excellent book that will increase my understanding of what...
growing up surrounded by addiction looks and feels like, something I am very blessed to not have experienced.

**Celeste Restrepo**
It seems as the experts weighing in on this post, those with advanced degrees in library science and teaching have actually READ the book and given us not only a synopsis but pointed out where this book falls in line with diversity of thought and cultural experience. If this book is banned without reading it and talking to the experts by those making decisions, then that’s a problem. On the other hand, maybe our district’s ban would get national attention and do great things for the author just like the Holocaust book with language banned by another board of education. Of course I can see where people would be concerned since our young adults have never before heard such language in music, as part of video games, in the locker room, or as part of a movie. [https://www.nytimes.com/.../maus-banned-holocaust...](https://www.nytimes.com/.../maus-banned-holocaust...)

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**NYTIMES.COM**
**School Board in Tennessee Bans Teaching of Holocaust Novel ‘Maus’**

**Laura McCarthy**
I wouldn’t consider reading it to be a sign of maturity!

**Diana Thornton**
This should not be allowed. Pick a better way to teach our youth about these subjects.

**Karen McClatchey Duncan**
Please correct me if I am wrong, but I doubt that it was required reading… Probably just on a list of books students could choose from. Welcome to the world of free speech! Pretty sure High schoolers are old enough to sort through it. Guessing that’s kind of what the assignment was about…

It’ll be ok

**Virg Cihla**
Civics 101 everyone. This book is precisely the kind of decision that members of the Dunlap School Board should make. Voters elected them to make decisions. If voters disapprove of their decisions, vote them out in the next election. More posts like this one help shine light on what government employees are doing. BTW, well mannered people argue issues without insulting individuals.

**Karen Disharoon**
**Virg Cihla** amen.

**Sarah Beddingfield**
**Virg Cihla** Great perspective
Jenny Bridenbaugh
Oh my goodness!

Rachel Leigh
Thanks for posting this Karen

Ruby Brodbeck Arms
I second your opinion what is it teaching them and no need to rush n it gets u no where

David Taylor
Agreed. Karen. This kind of language is everywhere. Do we really need to be reading this in our text books? Sad. I would drive me to private school for sure.