

Honorable Highland and Education Committee Members,

I greatly regret that I must read this to you all.

The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy call for a radical switch from classical literature to “informational texts.” By the 3rd year of high school, CCSS call for our kids to be reading 70% informational texts. I remember reading “The Metamorphosis”, “War and Peace”, “The Scarlet Letter” and plenty of mythology. No longer. Don’t be fooled by merely browsing through Common Core’s reading list. When you see a classic listed, just know that the standards very often require only *excerpts* to be read.

I am here to expose what many are afraid to expose: the pornography. I apologize ahead of time, but I am not the author, the promoter, nor the distributor of this filth. We are all adults here and we MUST expose and discuss this part of Common Core. If you feel you must leave the room, please do so now.

I take no sick pleasure in this exercise, but if this vile material is being given to our children (usually without parental permission), YOU must know about it too, because YOU have the obligation to stop this by voting to pass HB 2292 without amendments.

I will read the exact words from 3 books that are listed in Appendix B, Text Exemplars for the Common Core. **“Dreaming in Cuban”**, by Cristina Garcia is on that list on page 152. A 10<sup>th</sup> grade class in Sierra Vista, Arizona even read this book aloud and all students had a copy.

Page 80: “Hugo and Felicia stripped in their room, dissolving easily into one another, and made love against the whitewashed walls. Hugo bit Felicia’s breast and left purplish bands of bruises on her upper thighs. He knelt before her in the tub and massaged black Spanish soap between her legs. He entered her repeatedly from behind.” . . . “Felicia learned what pleased him. She tied his arms above his head with her underclothing and slapped him sharply when he asked. “You’re my bitch,” Hugo said, groaning. “In the morning he left, promising to return in the summer.”

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**“Black Swan Green”** is also listed in Appendix B.

The words “dick”, “cock” or “erect penis” appear on at least 11 separate pages. At one point, the young narrator vividly describes his father’s penis. At another point, he voyeuristically watches a couple having sex and details the sounds made by the woman involved.

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“The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison is listed in the Common Core Appendix B also on page 152. This book tells the story of an 8-year old black girl. The book is about rape, incest and pedophilia. One of the

characters is a priest who likes having sex with little girls and the scenes are graphically described. The depictions are from the perpetrators point of view. The author wanted the reader to feel as though they were a “co-conspirator” with the rapist. The describes the pedophilia, rape and incest as “friendly”, “innocent” and “tender”, but never as wrong. Here are just 6 sentences from this book, which is recommended for 16-17 year olds.

Pages 162-163: “A bolt of desire ran down his genitals...and softening the lips of his anus. . . He wanted to f\*\*\* her—tenderly. But the tenderness would not hold. The tightness of her vagina was more than he could bear. His soul seemed to slip down his guts and fly out into her, and the gigantic thrust hemade into her ten provoked the only sound she made. Removing himself from her was so painful to him he cut it short and snatched his genitals out of the dry harbor of her vagina. She appeared to have fainted.”

Have you heard enough? Listen to parents, not to paid lobbyists for the NEA and the book publishers and the software companies and the Chamber of Commerce and on and on.

You now know about Common Core and we know you know. Pass HB 2292 without amendments.