

## **Freedom To Read Policy**

The Valatie Free Library will avoid censorship in the collection and distribution of materials and uphold the Freedom To Read as follows:

The Valatie Free Library subscribes to the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association which affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas and that the following basic policy should guide their services:

- a. Books and other Library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the Library serves.
- b. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues.
- c. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- d. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting the abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

The Valatie Free Library will continually uphold the freedom to read as expressed in the following propositions in The Freedom To Read statement adopted by the American Library Association and the Association of American Publishers:

- a. It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.
- b. Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.
- c. It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.
- d. There's no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.
- e. It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept with any expression the prejudgment of a label characterizing it or its author subversive or dangerous.
- f. It is a responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's Freedom To Read, to contest encroachment upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at-large.
- g. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the Freedom To Read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they

can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.

**Review Of Questioned Materials:** The selection of materials, if questioned, shall be reviewed in the following manner:

Serious questions of the materials by any person or group in an effort to eliminate certain items must be submitted in writing to the Director using the Reconsideration Form in 7.7. The Director shall reply verbally or in writing to the persons or group, within 10 days, quoting or referring to our Policy. Persistent or repeated objections to Library materials from any person or group shall be referred to the Library Trustees. The Board and Director shall review the item. A conference will be held with the complainant, the Board and the Director. The decision concerning further use of the item will be made by the Board and Director by motion and majority vote of the members present.

A Patron's request for reconsideration of a book or other Library materials, shall be submitted on the Patron's Request for Reconsideration of an Item form attached to these Policies.

Approved by the Valatie Free Library Board on 8/7/17

Approved by the Valatie Free Library Board on: July 26, 2021

**Patron's Request for Reconsideration of an Item**

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Item: \_\_\_\_\_

Request initiated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant Represents: \_\_\_\_\_ (Self)

(Name of Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

(Identify other Group) \_\_\_\_\_

To what do you object? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you feel might be the result of using the item? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For what age would you recommend this item? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you review the entire item? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you aware of the judgment of this item by literary critics? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you believe is the theme of this item? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like your Library to do about this item? \_\_\_\_\_

What item of equal quality would you recommend be substituted in its place? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of complainant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit 1