

Group Reconsideration Recommendation

Book Information

Title	<i>Me and Earl and the Dying Girl</i>
Author	Jesse Andrews
Publication Year	2012

ALA's [Library Bill of Rights](#) and the [Freedom to Read Statement](#)

Controversial Materials

- Serve every single student; does not promote one point of view over another
- Cannot reject and remove a resource because an individual or a group has found the material objectionable
- Provide access to material that may be controversial to some patrons, while also providing a process to request reconsideration

Resources consulted (include policies, articles, reviews etc.)

<p>Selection Quality Criteria</p> <p>This book meets these criteria from the Selection Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and enrich the curriculum and/or students' personal interests, extracurricular activities, and learning • Be appropriate for the subject area and for the age, emotional development, ability level, learning styles, and social, emotional, and intellectual development of the students for whom the materials are selected • Exhibit a high degree of potential user appeal and interest • Demonstrate physical format, appearance, and durability suitable to their intended use • Balance gaps in the collection utilizing collection analysis data • Balance cost with need
<p>Awards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults
<p>Reviews</p>	<p>Horn Book Guide, 04/01/2013 "For me personally, things are in no way more meaningful because I got to know Rachel before she died. If anything, things are [cf2]less[cf1] meaningful." Self-deprecating and cynical in the extreme, high school senior Greg says he's writing the opposite of a "sappy tear-jerking" cancer story and offers up a funny, profane, and, despite his supposed best efforts, poignant narrative.</p> <p>Library Media Connection, 08/01/2012 Greg Gaines is a self-described Jewish, overweight outcast in his senior year of high school. He and his friend Earl are amateur filmmakers. The story is written after the death of female classmate. Most of the story is written by Greg, as he continually tells the reader why he or she should not be reading it. It is sometimes written in a format that resembles a movie script. Adults will recognize Greg's self-realization over the course of the novel. Reluctant high school males may find it appealing. Profanity is used throughout the novel. Laura McConnell, Library Media</p>

	<p>Specialist, Brush (Colorado) Middle School. ADDITIONAL SELECTION</p> <p>School Library Journal, 07/01/2012 Gr 9 Up—This debut novel is told from the point of view of intensely self-critical Greg S. Gaines, an aspiring filmmaker. A self-described pasty-faced failure with girls, the 17-year-old spends most of his time with his friend Earl, a foul-mouthed kid from the wrong side of town, watching classic movies and attempting to create their own cinematic masterpieces. When Greg’s mother learns that Rachel, one of his classmates, has been diagnosed with leukemia, she encourages him to rekindle the friendship that started and ended in Hebrew school. While Greg promises that his story will contain “zero Important Life Lessons,” his involvement with Rachel as her condition worsens nonetheless has an impact. In a moment of profundity, however, Greg also argues, “things are in no way more meaningful because I got to know Rachel before she died. If anything, things are less meaningful.” Andrews makes use of a variety of narrative techniques to relate the story: scenes are presented in screenplay format and facts are related as numbered and elaborated-upon lists that are tied together by a first-person narrative divided into chapters indicated with self-deprecating titles (e.g., “I put the ‘Ass’ in ‘Casanova’”). While the literary conceit—that the protagonist could be placed in a traditionally meaningful situation and not grow—is irreverent and introduced with a lot of smart-alecky humor, the length of the novel (overly long) and overuse of technique end up detracting from rather than adding to the story.—Amy S. Pattee, Simmons College, Boston Copyright 2012 Reed Business Information.</p> <p>Publishers Weekly, 02/06/2012 In his debut novel, Andrews tackles some heavy subjects with irreverence and insouciance. Senior Greg Gaines has drifted through high school trying to be friendly with everyone but friends with no one, moving between cliques without committing. His only hobby is making awful movies with his foul-mouthed pal Earl. Greg’s carefully maintained routine is upset when his mother encourages him to spend time with Rachel, a classmate suffering from leukemia. Greg begrudgingly rekindles his friendship with Rachel, before being conned into making a movie about her. Narrated by Greg, who brings self-deprecation to new heights (or maybe depths), this tale tries a little too hard to be both funny and tragic, mixing crude humor and painful self-awareness. Readers may be either entertained or exhausted by the grab bag of narrative devices Andrews employs (screenplay-style passages, bulleted lists, movie reviews, fake newspaper headlines, outlines). In trying to defy the usual tearjerker tropes, Andrews ends up with an oddly unaffected story. Ages 14-up. Agent: Matt Hudson, William Morris Endeavor. (Mar.)</p> <p>Booklist, 03/01/2012 Kirkus Review, 02/15/2012</p>
<p>Additional Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Common Sense Media rates 4/5 stars, ages 14+ ● 2015 Film adaptation (2015) ● Published in 2012 ● Recommended grades 9+ grade (<i>SLJ</i>) ● High interest/low level (RL 5.2IL 9-12)

Group Recommendation

Date of Review: 11/15/2021

Have all members of the committee read the material entirely? If not, why?

Yes, all members read the book in its entirety.

Recommend for Following Collections:

K-5: No
6-7: No
8-9: YES
10-12: YES

Justification and comments (include majority and minority positions):

After careful and thoughtful review and discussion of this title in its entirety, the committee decided to retain the book in the collections at the 8-12 grade level.

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl deals with cancer, loss, and grief in a manner distinct from other books. The unique format of the multi-genre writing mirrors the main character's personality and interests. The novel portrays both realistic and dysfunctional family relationships and shows how teenagers do not always know how to handle their emotions, and, in fact, that they do not have the maturity and/or skill set to handle difficult emotions like grief.

According to the American Library Association's "**Diverse Collections: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights**," a diverse collection should contain "content by and about a wide array of people and cultures to authentically reflect a variety of ideas, information, stories, and experiences." In *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*, diverse characters from different backgrounds clash and find a commonality. The city school setting and dynamic also provides a different perspective from a suburban school community.

The American Library Association states in "**Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights**" that *...children and young adults unquestionably possess First Amendment rights, including the right to receive information through the library in print, sound, images, data, social media, online applications, games, technologies, programming, and other formats.*

While sex is discussed in the novel, it is not explicitly described and is easily skippable. Profanity is found throughout the novel and was primarily used in dialogue between two friends, which can be authentic for age and situation. While not a primary selection for a secondary collection, this book is a good fit for needed areas and the cost-need/benefit makes it a solid purchase for the collection. This book fulfills a need in the collection as it appeals to reluctant readers.

Reviewing Committee: A District Administrator and District Certified Teacher Librarians

Note: This document is forwarded to