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Thoughts on Poet X

1 message

Maria de los Angeles Corral <mariadlacorral@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 10:54 AM

To: Joe Negron <jnegron@kippnyc.org>

Cc: Bill Santiago <billsantiagocomedy@gmail.com>, Jamie Axelrod <JAxelrod@kippnyc.org>

Dear Mr. Negron and Ms. Axelrod,

I did not read reviews before reading Poet X as I did not want to be biased going into it. While there are some very positive themes, I do not think it's appropriate for Cielo or for kids in middle school. I find some sections similar to erotica narratives and now wonder why this school is pushing so much to sexually stimulate/awaken kids at this age. Even having taking sex ed, it's not developmentally appropriate. Just because kids now know what happens sexually, it's not OK to be pushing this kind of book on them. I find it very concerning that again there is mention of a young person consuming drugs (Aman) with no repercussions and knowing this, is acceptable as a boyfriend to Xiomara, and eventually, accepted by the family. The drug issue is never addressed.

I do not want to be in a session again with other parents going through what we went through last time to discuss concerns. I don't see this as productive given where we are now.

I ask that Cielo and other kids who opt out to have the same parallel experience as the kids who will read the book, no less. They should not be short-changed because of some misguided agenda around diversity.

I also want to say that I'm an avid reader and consume all genres of literature for adults and even in the most provocative stories I've read, sexually-laden passages aren't as erotic as what's in this book. It's not that the whole book is erotic in nature, but there is enough to cancel out the book for me. It's clear there is a trend in youth literature to be reinforcing what's being put out in popular culture in terms of oversexualization and overexpression of these themes. And I question why schools are buying into this.

I am very disappointed in the school's choices around what they are selecting as edifying literature for our children at this stage of their lives.

I look forward to hearing what you and the school are planning to address this.

Thank you,
Maria