

## **Script: Book challenger & Library Trustee in local grocery store - BAD**

[Library Trustee (Trustee) is browsing shelves at the grocery store]

*[Book Challenger (Resident) walks up to Trustee and starts conversation]*

*RESIDENT: Hi! Good to see you!*

TRUSTEE: Hi! Nice to see you as well.

*RESIDENT: You are a library trustee now, right?*

TRUSTEE: Yes I am...

*RESIDENT: Well I want to make sure that we're protecting our kids in this town, so I'd like to have the book Lawn Boy removed from the library. My son tried to read it and it's not appropriate at all!*

TRUSTEE: Oh no! I'm not familiar with Lawn Boy – what is it about?

*RESIDENT: All I know is that it is about homosexuals, and I know you and I and many of our neighbors do not support having our kids read about that kind of thing. It also has a lot of graphic descriptions of S.E.X. and uses foul language. I'm surprised you allowed this kind of book on our library shelves!*

TRUSTEE: Well I didn't pick this book out for the library! I can check with our library director to get more information...

*RESIDENT: I want this removed! Can you ask the board to remove it?*

TRUSTEE: Well I guess I can bring it up at the next board meeting...

*RESIDENT: Great! I'm so glad you agree with me that this smut should not be on the library shelves. I also want to talk to you about the rudeness I experienced the other day from one of the library staff...*

TRUSTEE: [Interrupts, looks at watch] Oh I'm sorry I wish I could speak to you more, but I have to go now to pick Johnny up after soccer practice – he won't have his license until next month.

*RESIDENT: I'm so glad you're going to have that book removed. My Alfred got his license last month. Hopefully Johnny will pass his road test on his first try. See you soon!*

CLOSE SCENE

**Script: Book challenger & Library Trustee in local grocery store - BETTER**

[Library Trustee (Trustee) is browsing shelves at the grocery store]

*[Book Challenger (Resident) walks up to Trustee and starts conversation]*

*RESIDENT: Hi! Good to see you!*

TRUSTEE: Hi! Nice to see you as well.

*RESIDENT: You are a library trustee now, right?*

TRUSTEE: Yes I am...

*RESIDENT: Well I want to make sure that we're protecting our kids in this town, so I'd like to have the book Lawn Boy removed from the library. My son tried to read it and it's not appropriate at all!*

TRUSTEE: Have you filled out and submitted the Request for Reconsideration form on the library web site or available at the library in paper format?

*RESIDENT: Ummm...no. All I know is that this book promotes the gay lifestyle, and I know you and I and many of our neighbors do not support having our kids read about that kind of thing. It also has a lot of graphic descriptions of S.E.X and uses foul language. I'm surprised you allowed this kind of book on our library shelves!*

TRUSTEE: First, the only way to start the process to remove a book from the library is to fill out a formal complaint form and submit it. The first decision will come from the library director, and then the person making the complaint can appeal to the Board of Library Trustees if they do not like the director's decision

*RESIDENT: I want this removed! Can you ask the board to remove it?*

TRUSTEE: No I can't. There is a process for selecting materials for the library, outlined in the Collection Development policy, and there is a process for removing items, the Request for Reconsideration process. These policies have been approved by the Library Board of Trustees, so you need to follow these processes.

*RESIDENT: Well I don't want to have to go through all of that! Why can't you just talk to the board for me, since you are a trustee? I have three kids, you know, and am very busy.*

TRUSTEE: I am a member of the Board, but the Board sets the policy and acts as a unit. One board member like myself does not get to pick and choose which policies and processes to uphold. We have to uphold all of them. Go to the library's web site to get the Reconsideration form, and you can fill it out to start the process. [Looks at watch] Oh I'm sorry I wish I could speak to you more, but I have to go now to pick Johnny up after soccer practice – he won't have his license until next month. Good to see you!

*RESIDENT: Well! My Alfred got his license last month. Hopefully Johnny will pass his road test on his first try. See you soon!*