

Examples of Sexually Charged Teen and Young Adult Literature

Parents who opt their children (experimental subjects) out of “sex education” as such have to worry not only about their children being exposed to sexualized materials in “STD prevention” or “bully prevention” lessons, but throughout the school day as sexualized books are becoming increasingly prevalent in school and public libraries and on recommended reading lists. Subverting the “opt-out” parental protective provision is a strategy undertaken by the overwhelming GLBTQ novels awaiting the child in the school library and by the inclusion of GLBTQ messages thorough the entire school curriculum: math, English, history, geography, physical education, heath and AIDS prevention, anti-bullying education, etc.

Placing sexually explicit material in the context of literature is a particularly insidious assault on young brains, as researchers at Emory University have detected what may be biological traces that demonstrate what readers have long experienced, *i.e.*, that stories can help define a person, for good or ill.¹ The researchers found actual changes in the brain that linger, at least for a few days, after reading a novel.² Their findings, that reading a novel may cause persistent changes in resting-state connectivity of the brain, were published by the journal *Brain Connectivity*.³ We all “knew” this from our own lives. “Stories shape our lives and in some cases help define a person,” says neuroscientist Gregory Berns, lead author of the study and the director of Emory’s Center for Neuropolicy:

We want to understand how stories get into your brain, and what they do to it . . . The neural changes that we found associated with physical sensation and movement systems suggest that reading a novel can transport you into the body of the protagonist . . . We already knew that good stories can put you in someone else’s shoes in a figurative sense. Now we’re seeing that something may also be happening biologically . . . neural changes were not just immediate reactions . . . since they persisted the morning after the readings, and for the five days after the participants completed the novel . . . It remains an open question how long these neural changes might last . . . But the fact that we’re detecting them over a few days for a randomly assigned novel suggests that your favorite novels could certainly have a bigger and longer-lasting effect on the biology of your brain.⁴

As this research supports, reading sexually explicit novels or sex-education material can not only put youth “in someone else’s shoes . . . [but also] Now we’re seeing that something may also be happening biologically.” This confirms what we all know intuitively: A good book with good characters, or a story with gay and lesbian characters and sexual activities, both make distinct impressions. What are stories helping to define in children today? The answer can be found in the following examples of teen and young adult literature. The listings include the rating

¹ Carol Clark, *A Novel Look at How Stories May Change the Brain*, Emory University eScience Commons, December 17, 2013, http://news.emory.edu/stories/2013/12/esc_novels_change_brain/campus.html, citing Gregory S. Berns, et. al., *Short- and Long-Term Effects of a Novel on Connectivity in the Brain* 3 BRAIN CONNECTIVITY, 590-600 (2013).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

for interest and reading level according to Renaissance Learning's AR (Accelerated Reading) Bookfinder Website, relied upon by the education establishment as a major resource.

According to Renaissance Learning, "Interest level is based on a book's content including theme, characterization, and plot. The interest level attached to the book indicates age group appropriateness." The categories include: LG = Lower Grades (K–3); MG = Middle Grades (4–8); MG+ = Upper Middle Grades (6 and up); and UG = Upper Grades (9–12). The Book Levels (4.5, 5.2, etc.), independent of Interest Level, represent the likelihood that the book could be read independently by a student whose reading skills are at the numerically indicated grade level and month of school.

All of the books below, while perhaps labeled for middle or high school students, are in fact written at Grade 3–5 based on Accelerated Reading Levels.

***Forever*, by Judy Blume (1975).⁵ AR 4.1 (UG)**

An excerpt from the book:

In books penises are always described as hot and throbbing but Ralph felt like ordinary skin . . . He took my hand and led it back to Ralph, showing me how to hold him, moving my hand up and down according to his rhythm. Soon Michael moaned and I felt him come—a pulsating feeling, a throbbing, like the books said—then wetness. Some of it got on my hand but I didn't let go of Ralph . . . "I love you, Michael Wagner." "Forever?" he asked. "Forever," I said.

⁵ Judy Blume, *FOREVER*, 85-87(Pocket Books, 1975).

***One Teenager in Ten: Writings by Gay and Lesbian Youth*, by Ann Heron (1983).⁶ (Not rated by AR)**

Many school districts have this on their recommended reading lists. Thirty-eight percent of the allegedly teen writers included in this book reported that they had experienced sexual abuse as a child. Some excerpts:

I was twelve. . . [when] my dance teacher . . . brought me out . . .

I was in seventh grade when I moved in with my 32-year-old-lover . . .
I was in fourth grade and had sex with my uncle . . .

I'm fifteen [and had sex with] Reggie, who is 23 . . .⁷

This book is referenced in many GLBTQ expert psychology handbooks that acclaim Kinsey, such as *Homosexuality and Psychotherapy: A Practitioner's Handbook of Affirmative Models*, edited by John Gonsiorek,⁸ an expert witness in many homosexual court cases.

***Homosexuality: What Does It Mean?* by Julie Endersbe and LifeMatters (2000).⁹ Juvenile literature. (Not rated by AR)**

Some selected advice for minor subjects, including a recommendation that plastic wrap be used as a dental dam:

[People] kiss, lick, and suck the other person's penis or vagina . . . For example, about one in every three gay men prefer not to engage in anal sex. Similarly, some lesbian females prefer oral sex and mutual masturbation to being entered. Other gay and lesbian people use sex toys to satisfy each other. Some gay and lesbian teens try penile-vaginal sex, hoping to change their sexual orientation. This doesn't make them change."¹⁰

Dental Dams are made from a silky, thin latex material. They can be bought in most drugstores. A strong plastic kitchen wrap also can be used. During oral sex involving the vagina or rectum, the latex allows a person to lick and kiss through

⁶ Ann Heron, *ONE TEENAGER IN TEN: WRITINGS BY GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH*, (Alyson Publications, 1983).

⁷ *Id.* at pp. 33 -34, 48-49 60 and 67.

⁸ Kathleen Y. Ritter, Anthony I. Terndrup, *HANDBOOK OF AFFIRMATIVE PSYCHOTHERAPY WITH LESBIANS AND GAY MEN* 2002; John C. Gonsiorek, ed., *HOMOSEXUALITY & PSYCHOTHERAPY: A PRACTITIONER'S HANDBOOK OF AFFIRMATIVE MODELS*; Beverly Greene, Gladys L. Croom, eds. *EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND PRACTICE IN LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, ,* Chris Glaser (poem on the Kinsey scale) *Coming Out to God: Prayers for Lesbians and Gay Men, Their Families and Friends*; Richard A. Mackey, Bernard A. O'Brien, Eileen F. Mackey *GAY AND LESBIAN COUPLES: VOICES FROM LASTING RELATIONSHIPS*, Stephen E. Goldstone, *THE INS AND OUTS OF GAY SEX: A MEDICAL HANDBOOK FOR MEN* (1999); Sandra Lundy, Beth Leventhal, *WILD DESIRES AND MISTAKEN IDENTITIES: LESBIANISM AND SAME-SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE*; Susan B. Marine *Preview- More editions Stonewall's Legacy: Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian , and Transgender* 2011; Kath Weston, *FAMILIES WE CHOOSE: LESBIANS, GAYS, KINSHIP*, (Columbia University Press, 1997).

⁹ Julie Endersbe & LifeMatters, *HOMOSEXUALITY WHAT DOES IT MEAN?* (Capstone Press, 2000).

¹⁰ *Id.* at 16.

the dam. At the same time, it prevents the risk of exchanging infected body fluids.”¹¹

***Sloppy Firsts*, by Megan McCafferty (2001).¹² AR 5.2 (UG)**

“I’d also find girls to have sex with . . .” “. . . So sex and drugs are a way of living life?”
“Yeah,” he said. “Isn’t that what being young is all about? These are our prime years for experimentation, for exploration. I thought I’d experiment and explore to the extreme.”

***Rainbow Boys*, by Alex Sanchez (2001).¹³ AR 3.7 (UG)**

The young protagonist quotes Kinsey’s homosexual scale as fact:

When they were between math equations, he asked Kyle, “Did you ever have a girlfriend?”

“No.” Kyle gave him a bewildered stare. “Why?”

“Just curious. You never wanted to, like, do it with a girl?”

“No, I guess I’m a Kinsey six.”

“A what?”

“A Kinsey six. In the fifties, Dr. Kinsey found that most people aren’t exclusively gay or straight. He came up with a scale, zero to six, from totally heterosexual to completely homosexual. I’m pretty sure I’m at the end of the scale. I’ve kissed girls, but . . .”

He made a face like he’d sucked a lemon.

Jason thought about what he said, wondering where he fell on the scale.

***The Geography Club*, by Brent Hartinger (2003).¹⁴ AR 4.5 (UG)**

My hometown is kind of smallish, and it had never occurred to me that there might actually be other gay people there. It made sense, of course—10 percent, gays are your friends and neighbors all that crap.

***The Realm of Possibility*, by David Levinthan (2004).¹⁵ AR 5.2 (UG)**

Although a person must be 18 years of age—and in some states, 21—to enter a sex shop, in this novel for teens, a heterosexual boy takes his female lesbian friend to a sex shop:

Last Thursday, I got carded at a sex shop. The guy behind the counter explained to me that I didn’t have to be 18 to buy flavored condoms, but I did need to be 18 to be in the store. Luckily, I had my fake Id. Last Thursday, I got carded at a sex shop.

¹¹ *Id.* at 51.

¹² Megan McCafferty, *SLOPPY FIRSTS*, 222 (Three Rivers Press), 2001.

¹³ Alex Sanchez, *RAINBOW BOYS*, 95-96 (Simon Pulse, 2001).

¹⁴ Brent Hartinger, *THE GEOGRAPHY CLUB*, 12 (Harper, 2003).

¹⁵ David Levinthan, *THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY*, 172-77 (Random House, 2004).

In another section, the teens secure fake IDs:¹⁶

If you're not able to laugh inside a sex shop, then you probably shouldn't be there. I mean, they don't call it fooling around for nothing . . . we found ourselves laughing at the first appliance we saw. Meg gravitated toward the costumes, openly wondering about the nursewear. . . we came to a huge display of edible underwear . . . As Meg checked out the body oils and incense, I headed over to the condom area . . . I was so confused by all the sizes and styles. . . I was here for some experimentation, so that was okay . . . Then it was my turn and I got carded. No big deal.

Levinthan graphically depicts anal same-sex sodomy (although he does not classify it as sex with the digestive system). Although the Accelerated Reader Website lists this for Upper Grades (9th–12th), any child who can read at a 5th grade, second-month level could add this book to his or her summer reading list, as the book reading level is only 5.2.

***Luna*, by Julie Ann Peters (2004).¹⁷ AR 3.5 (UG)**

Peters discusses the Harry Benjamin Standards for Sex Reassignment Surgery, a treatment protocol for people who want to “transition” from one sex to another established by Dr. Harry Benjamin, a Kinsey associate who touted the writings of early advocates of pedophilia.¹⁸ In an excerpt from the book, a transgendered boy character thinks he is a girl named Luna:

“You mean a sex change operation?” His smile extended across his face. Her face. Luna’s eyes grew dreamy. “Oh, Re. It’s all I’ve ever wanted my whole life. You know that.”

Luna’s readers are provided with a link to a “gender identity center” Website for sex-change operations based on the Harry Benjamin Standards. Children’s books such as these often suggest how to illegally purchase sex hormones years prior to actual surgery.¹⁹

¹⁶ December 12, 2012, “How Do Kids Get Fake Ids” brought 18,400,000 results.

¹⁷ Julie Ann Peters, *LUNA*, 70 (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers 2004).

¹⁸ See, Judith Reisman, *Stolen Honor, Stolen Innocence* (2013), on Benjamin working with the serial molester of children, reporting to Kinsey. Also see Leah Cahan Schaefer & Connie Christine Wheeler, Harry Benjamin’s First Ten Cases (1938-1953): A Clinical Historical Note, 24 *ARCHIVES OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOR* 83 (1995).

¹⁹ The Gender Identity Center Resources page: <https://www.gic-colorado.org/resources>. One resource is The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), formerly known as the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA). It is a professional organization devoted to the understanding and treatment of gender identity disorders. Increasingly children receive hormones with the approval of their parents (usually mom). A recent hero[ine] (on video) gushingly sounds like Luna. One wonders if the boy subject identified with these books heart rending tales of salvation/stardom through sex change. E.g., see http://www.huffingtonpost.com/melissa-chapman/growth-hormone-injections_b_2781328.html.

***Rainbow Party*, by Paul Ruditis (2005).²⁰ (Not rated by AR)**

The adult author facilitates the arousal of the child subjects' mirror neurons by depicting both heterosexual and homosexual illegal promiscuity and prostitution. On page 50, he describes the party plan which is underage girls perform oral sex on underage boys. Girls complain the boys should give "blow jobs" also. Beginning in grade eight, one boy performs oral sex on another boy 47 times, often in the school bathroom.²¹

***Between Mom and Jo*, by Julie Ann Peters (2006).²² AR 3.2 (UG)**

This book was a LAMBDA Literary Award Winner and acclaimed by the American Library Association.

Nick asks his two lesbian moms: "Do you know who my father is? I know I have to have one..." One mother replies, "He's a syringe full of sperm."

Peters' young-adult books span 20 years. The 2008 edition of *Mom and Jo* added a Discussion Guide. Question 7 asks students about divorce. In essence, *Between Mom and Jo* is a story of divorce, of a family coming apart. Divorce is historically and legally applied only to a legal, natural marriage. The book-and teacher-led discussion however, advocates in vitro fertilization, "gay" adoption, and equal honor and legal acceptance for all relationships.

Question 3 asks, "In many states gay parents are not allowed to adopt children. Do you believe gay couples should be allowed to adopt *their* children? Why or why not?" The author plants the idea about gay adoption in the minds of child readers. She confuses these subjects, by stating why cannot couples adopt "their" children, not children created by another couple, a woman and a man. The Grade 3 child subjects doubtless did not know this of this complex problem prior to reading this book. They are subsequently led to the expected conclusion via the "discussion."

***The Heart Has Its Reasons: Young Adult Literature with Gay/Lesbian/Queer Content, 1969–2004*, by Michael Cart and Christine Jenkins.²³ (Not rated by AR)**

This book is a major push to create the child subject's affinity with heroic GLBTQ characters (books, films, and TV) to imprint, that is to rewire moral values and outcomes desired by the new authorities.

²⁰ Paul Ruditis, *RAINBOW PARTY* (Simon Pulse, 2005).

²¹ *Id.* at 40-41, 48, 53, 50, 132, 133, 145, 138, 237, 240, 244-45.

²² Julie Ann Peters, *MOM AND JO*, 81 (Little Brown & Co., 2006).

²³ Michael Cart & Christine Jenkins. *The Heart Has Its Reasons: Young Adult Literature with Gay/lesbian/queer Content, 1969-2004* (Scarecrow, 2006).

***grl2grl: Short Fictions*, by Julie Ann Peters (2007).²⁴ AR 3.0 (UG)**

Peters offers a collection of 10 LGBTQ-themed short stories. Here, Eva (a girl) shares:

I was four when my cousin Kevin, said, “You want to see my penis?” and I said, “Yeah,” and he let me touch it. It felt squishy at first, then hard in my hand. I wanted one. Every day after that, I wanted one. My own penis. Mine. The day I got it was the happiest day of my life . . . My packer was a strap-on . . . The shaft was big in size, six inches. Four bucks an inch. \$23.99

***Changing Jamie*, by Dakota Chase (2007).²⁵ (Unrated by AR; Barnes & Noble lists this for ages 8–12).**

The message by Chase is that homosexual acts will NOT lead to HIV if condoms are used.

The room was a wreck, littered with empty beer and booze bottles, half-eaten sub sandwiches, and broken poppers. I remember Billy telling me about them—small capsules of amyl nitrite, used to enhance sex and loosen up anal muscles. He made them sound great—I looked them up after he’d left and found out that, not only were they illegal, they could give you rashes, headaches, lower your immune system, and possibly cause fainting, strokes, or heart attacks . . . “He’ll accept me if I’m positive, too. He’ll want to be with me. Look, we’re gay. We’re going to get it eventually, and it’s not a big deal anymore, anyway. There are drugs for it now.” (Billy’s adult boyfriend).

“. . . Becoming infected with HIV isn’t inevitable. It’s preventable, for God’s sake!”

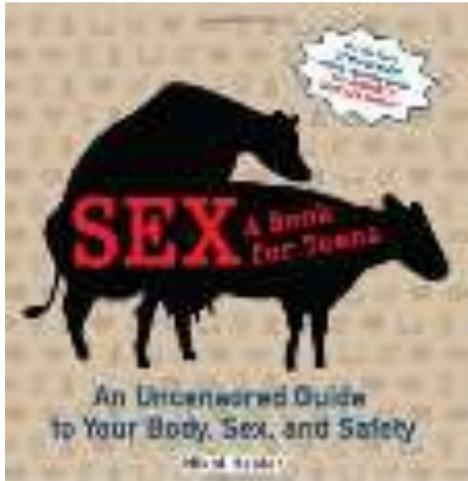
Chase has Jamie’s mom fully accept her son’s homosexuality. She offers to buy him condoms to keep him from getting HIV—the fact that there is NO approved condom for anal sex is excluded from Chase’s message. The boy “loves him” and “there are drugs for [AIDS] now.” Anal sodomy (which is still illegal for children) is demonstrated (no mention of the false use of the digestive anatomy). The book discusses amyl nitrate as being used to “enhance sex and loosen up anal muscles.”²⁶

²⁴ Julie Ann Peters, *GRL2GRL: SHORT FICTIONS*, 41-42 (Little Brown, 2007).

²⁵ Dakota Chase & Stella Price, *CHANGING JAMIE*, 68-69, 79 (Prizm, 2007).

²⁶ *Id.* at 79.

***SEX: A Book for Teens*, by Nikol Hasler (2010)²⁷. (Not rated by AR)**



The back cover of this book states: “Teen Nonfiction/Dating/Sex for ages 15 & up.” Written by a mother of three and host of the 2007–2009 Web comedy series *The Midwest Teenage Sex Show*, this book is endorsed by Joycelyn Elders, M.D., former U.S. surgeon general and professor emeritus, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine, as well as other leading organizations and “authorities.” Elders praises the book on the back cover:

What a clever, well-written and creatively illustrated book that speaks to teens and their parents about teenage sexuality! This book should be on all library shelves and makes an excellent birthday present from parents to adolescents. Both the content and form are superb.

A question-and-answer page normalizing the use of sex “toys” (implements) for the millions of child subjects reads:

Q: What’s the difference between a dildo and a vibrator? They look . . . the same.

A. A dildo is a penis-shaped sex toy meant for insertion into the butt or the vagina . . . For people who enjoy penetration, this is the sex toy for them. A vibrator is any sex toy that hums, shakes, and buzzes when you use it . . . Vibrators are great for stimulating the clitoris, the penis, or the testicles.

Q. How could I go about getting a vibrator? I don’t have a credit card, so I cannot buy one online and I don’t have anyone to get me one.

A. You can get a vibrator in a sex shop, though you have to be 18 to enter. A gift card for one such shop might top your 18th birthday wish list. You could also try buying a vibrator from an online drugstore. They often have a sex toy area of their site and accept PayPal. However, if you have a less than open-minded parent, having such a thing arrive in the mail may make for a tense environment at dinner time . . .”

Ms. Hasler explains the proper use of dildos and vibrators, inaccurately dubbing these tools “toys”—in order to bestow upon these *devices* the innocence of child’s play—harmless, naive fun. Hasler’s glowing marketing of the sex devices (“toys”) does not warn that these robotic substitutes for human affection are potentially noxious disease carriers—the reason they commonly come with caveats and directions for sterilization (more on this later). Hasler asserts

²⁷ Nikol Hasler, *SEX: A BOOK FOR TEENS, AN UNCENSORED GUIDE TO YOUR BODY, SEX AND SAFETY*,

that parents are unreliable; now therefore, she offers graphic, what she claims are “evidence-based,” answers about sex. The following sexually graphic narrative appears in this “non-fiction” children’s manual.

In Chapter Six: “Oral, Vaginal, and Anal Sex: You’re Going to Put That Where?” Ms. Hasler guides children to “fisting,” anal sex, and sex tools, “toys.”:

Fisting is not necessarily something to try right off the bat . . . not for everyone . . . [needs] gentleness . . . putting a whole hand in a vagina (or anus) . . . anal sex: this involves putting a penis (or something like a penis) into a butt . . . [In heterosexual sex and for lesbians who] may do this using a toy (p. 96). Two girls can have vaginal sex [via] . . . penetration or stimulation with a toy (p. 94).

Certainly it is more reassuring, although disingenuous, and dangerously inaccurate for child subjects to believe the above euphemistic rhetoric instead of the accurate, evidence-based “penetration or stimulation with a tool” or “with a device”.

Ms. Hasler’s now-defunct *Midwest Teen Sex Show* videos targets minors to “backdoor business” (anal sodomy); orgasms, porn, oral sex, fetishes, and more. An episode on masturbation suggests an adult male may help. Approximately 250,000 minor subjects viewed her obscene videos monthly. A disclaimer on the former Web site for the show site stated that “all advice given is simply opinion and should not be taken as fact.” Despite this, Hasler is training minors in outcome education. Illegal “sexual paraphernalia” is as noted, relabeled by the sex industry with a child’s word—“toys”—to normalize harmful abuse. Such “toys” are now allegedly one of Planned Parenthood’s most requested college program topics.²⁸

Hasler’s directs child subjects to “Websites You Should Know,” including “Planned Parenthood” and “Kinsey Confidential” where more explicit, inaccurate data is available. The back cover titillates young readers with the comment; “*What other book has humping cows on the [front] cover?*” Hasler is endorsed by Betty Dodson, masturbation advocate/coach, author of *Sex for One* and pornography producer.²⁹ Dobson advocates for the Free Speech Coalition,³⁰ and encourages minors to try various abnormal, dangerous acts using their genitalia.

***Lush*, by Natasha Friend (2006).³¹ AR 3.2 (UG)**

The teen protagonist has a conversation with her friend, Jesse, who reinforces Kinsey’s oft-quoted estimate of the gay population to tell her he is gay. ““Okay. I’m just telling you, ten percent of the population is gay. I’m not the only freak in this town.”

²⁸ “Positive Sexuality and Sex Toys 101,” at <http://plannedparenthood.org>.

²⁹ <http://www.imagekind.com/Bettys-Porn-art?IMID=7c60e44e-5ab5-4e30-9948-ba106038fe22>.

³⁰ <https://schoollovingofarts.wordpress.com/2013/06/06/sexual-educational-or-pornography-why-they-shouldnt-have-the-same-laws> and <http://www2.ca3.uscourts.gov/opinarch/104085p.pdf> etc.

³¹ Natasha Friend, *LUSH*, 141 (Scholastic, 2006).

***Freak Show*, by James St. James (2007).³² AR 4.2 (UG)**

Dutton Children's Books solicited St. James, the founder of *Club Kids*, a subculture of drag queens from the 1980s and 1990s, which he chronicled in his 1999 book *Disco Bloodbath*,³³ to write a children's book. Why would a publisher solicit a very public deviant to author a children's book? He was interviewed on *Gay Action News* about his book:

It's the first drag queen character in young adult history . . . so when Dutton approached me about doing something for teens I thought well, this was a chance for me to celebrate . . . *Disco Bloodbath* and all that stuff . . . personal empowerment, radical style and breaking boundaries . . . being subversive and being rebellious . . . it was a chance for me to do something for the children.³⁴

***21 Proms*, edited by David Levithan (2007).³⁵ AR 5.1 (UG, 9th and up)**

This book is a collection of 21 prom stories by various authors. Levithan's chapter, "Lost Sometimes," includes explicit gay sex, which trains boys and girls who are capable of reading at the 5th grade level to neuronally mirror, mimic, sexual arousal to a narrative of young boys sodomizing each other.

[They are] screwing all over the place . . . with each other . . . the gym. Burger King. His grandmother's house . . . [They go to the prom and] screw there, too . . . make a statement."

This book facilitates, encourages, and provokes homosexual sex (which is comorbid with AIDS and illegal for minors) as well as public sex (also a crime).³⁶ Material that stimulates adrenalin, testosterone, cortisol³⁷ and myriad other confusing arousal stimuli brutally exploits adolescents' vulnerability to same-sex sodomy. Dr. Keith McBurnett led a four-year study of violent boys and found low-cortisol boys matched what is know about adults with anti-social disorder "they are fearless and guilt-free." Just as addicts to pornography must have more violent and dehumanizing imagery to reach the same arousal level, normal cortisol stress levels (often due to early exposure to sexually arousing imagery) deadens normal cortisol responses, requiring more stimuli to reach a higher status quo.

***The God Box*, by Alex Sanchez (2007). AR 5.2 (UG)**

In this book for middle school youth, a student named Paul begins to question his sexuality after becoming friends with Manual, an openly gay teen. Manual suggests:

³² James St. James, *FREAK SHOW*. (Dutton Children's Books, 2007).

³³ Urban Dictionary. "Club Kid." <http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Club+Kid>

³⁴ Gay Action News. "Gay Action News 6D James St. James." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=>

³⁵ David Levithan, & Daniel Ehrenhaft. *21 PROMS*, 21 (Scholastic, 2007).

³⁶ *Id.* at 242.

³⁷ <http://stress.about.com/od/stresshealth/a/cortisol.htm>.

“Have you ever checked out porn sites? . . . Well, maybe you should . . . Both gay and straight sites. See which turn you on more. That’ll help you . . .”³⁸

***Almost Perfect*, by Brian Katcher (2007). AR 4.5 (UG)**

A boy (Sage) illegally takes female hormones, beginning at age 14, in order to “transition.” An excerpt from the book:

I’d never been so turned on in all my life . . . Please be gentle. It’s my first time . . . I kissed her. But not on the mouth . . . Mine too . . . Sage and I had done something that could never be undone . . . How long could I date a girl who didn’t have a vagina . . . We’d both lost our virginity the night before.³⁹

***Boys Lie: How Not to Get Played*, by Belisa Vranich and Holly Eagleson (2010). (AR unlisted)**

This nonfiction tome offers helpful sex instruction for girls. The author discusses methods of masturbation, explaining:

The self-stimulation . . . can involve fondling your breasts, thighs, clitoris, vulva, or vagina, sometimes with a toy like a dildo or vibrator in addition to your hands.⁴⁰

The authors in this book, like others, use the term “toy” to discuss the sexual objects promoted, essentially marketed, in the stories. Teens are *not* legally able to purchase the sexual objects described in these “young lit” books. In addition they pose dangers, including injury, diseases, tears and breakage to the young developing bodies if they are inserted into the vagina or anus as mentioned earlier. A recent Greenpeace-TNO report:

[R]evealed that seven out of the eight sex toys analyzed contained one or more phthalates in concentrations varying from 24 to 49 percent...three main phthalates, including DEHP, were used in concentrations up to half the weight of the sex toy itself...No government agency regulates *the billion-dollar sex toy industry*...labelled as "novelties." *This leaves the...industry free to regulate itself, which means users remain in the dark about the ingredients in and possible dangers*....It's not just what [it's] made of that may harm your health--it's how you use it. Your sex toy may come into contact with vaginal fluids or sperm, feces, saliva and bacteria. They can cause infections, or, if shared, spread sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and the human papillomavirus (HPV).⁴¹

³⁸ Alex Sanchez, *THE GOD BOX*, 112 (2007).

³⁹ Brian Katcher, *ALMOST PERFECT*, 250-251, 254, 262 (2007).

⁴⁰ Belisa Vranich & Holly Eagleson, *BOYS LIE: HOW NOT TO GET PLAYED*, 70 (2010), p. 70.

⁴¹ Andrea Neblett, *Are Sex Toys Dangerous*, QUALITYHEALTH, August 11, 2009, <http://www.qualityhealth.com/sexual-health-articles/sex-toys-dangerous>.