



**International School**  
A.S.K Beyond Academic Excellence

# What Your Child Sees Online

A Guide for Parents and Students on Content Safety

Booklet A

## Inappropriate Books & Media

# Why It Matters

## Protecting Children in the Digital Age

The digital landscape poses significant **risks to children**, exposing them to inappropriate content that can affect their development and wellbeing. It's crucial for parents and educators to remain vigilant.

Understanding the **impact of exposure** to such material can empower adults to guide children effectively, fostering a safe and nurturing environment that promotes healthy reading habits.

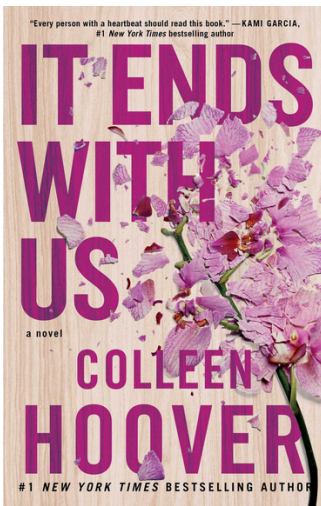


# Inappropriate Content

Understanding what's inappropriate for our students

*Disclaimer: Please note that this list is not exhaustive but works as a guide to be aware of the content that is available. These examples have been used as the most recent trends circulating on social media*

## Category: Romance / Sexual Themes



*It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover – Bestseller on BookTok involving domestic violence and explicit sexual content.

### Why caution:

Mature themes including abuse and trauma; not suitable for younger teens.



*A Court of Thorns and Roses* (series) by Sarah J. Maas – Fantasy romance often trending on TikTok.

### Why caution:

Contains explicit sexual scenes and violent imagery; best for adults..



*The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han – Commonly shown in TikTok clips and edits.

### Why caution:

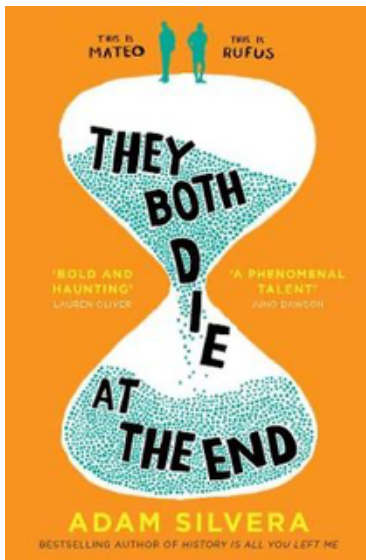
Focuses on teen romance, drinking, and emotional relationships; for older teens.

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## Category: Violent / Dark or Psychological Themes



*They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera – Frequently promoted in emotional TikTok montages.

**Why caution:** Centers on death and existential themes that can be heavy for preteens.



*We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart – Popular mystery on BookTok.

**Why caution:** Includes death, trauma, and family dysfunction; requires maturity to process.



*The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins – Still a TikTok trend with movie revivals.

**Why caution:** Intense violence and moral dilemmas; not suitable for younger readers.

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## Category: Sexual Identity / Mature Relationships



*Heartstopper (graphic novels) by Alice Oseman – Viral on BookTok and Netflix.*

**Why caution:**

Generally positive but includes mature relationship discussions; parental guidance recommended.



*Red, White & Royal Blue by Casey McQuiston – Often featured in romantic TikTok edits.*

**Why caution:**

Contains explicit sexual scenes and political themes; for mature audiences only.

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## Category: Mental Health / Trauma Themes



*Girl in Pieces* by Kathleen Glasgow – Popular in emotional or “healing” TikTok trends.

**Why caution:**  
Includes self-harm, trauma, and recovery; only appropriate for older teens.



*All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven – Commonly discussed in mental health BookTok.

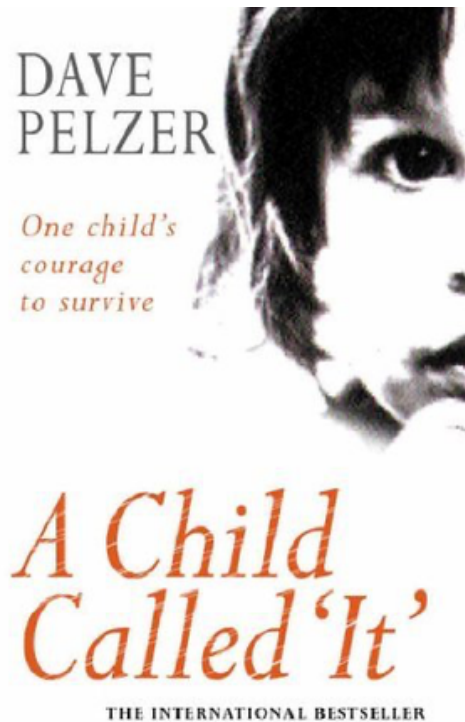
**Why caution:**  
Explores depression and suicide; needs adult discussion support.

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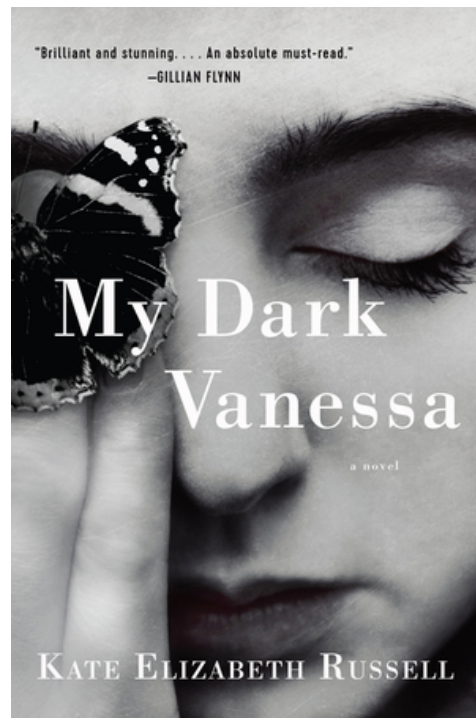
## Category: True Crime / Dark Nonfiction Trends



*A Child Called 'It'* by Dave Pelzer – Sometimes resurfaces in “books that broke me” TikToks.

**Why caution:**

Extremely graphic depictions of child abuse; not for minors.



*My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell – Trending in “disturbing book” challenges.

**Why caution:**

Depicts grooming and sexual abuse; intended for adults only.

# Finding Books Online

Navigating Apps and Social Media Platforms



Kids today have a plethora of **digital platforms** at their fingertips. Apps like Goodreads and Libby allow them to explore books, while **social media platforms** like BookTok introduce trending titles that can shape their reading preferences significantly.

Additionally, fanfiction sites provide an **interactive space** for young readers to engage with their favorite characters and stories. While these resources can foster creativity, they can also expose children to **inappropriate content** if not monitored.

# Red Flags

## Recognizing Grooming and Coded Messages

Recognizing **red flags** in children's media is crucial. Grooming can manifest through manipulative narratives, while coded messages may subtly endorse harmful behaviors or ideologies, necessitating parental vigilance.

Parents should be aware of potential **red flags** in books and media. By understanding these signs, adults can better protect their children from exposure to inappropriate content and ensure safe reading experiences.



# What Parents Can Do

Practical strategies to ensure safe media consumption



**Understanding parental controls** is essential for safeguarding children's media consumption. Parents should explore available tools on devices and apps to filter content and monitor usage effectively. These controls can help **set boundaries** that foster safe exploration of literature and media.

Open conversations between parents and children create a safe space for discussing media choices. Encourage kids to share their thoughts on what they read. This dialogue helps address concerns about inappropriate content or **potential red flags** while reinforcing trust and understanding in the parent-child relationship.

# Steps for Safe Reading

Practical advice for parents to support children



Parents play a crucial role in **guiding safe reading** choices for their children. Engaging in conversations about books helps children process themes and understand context. Regularly discussing the content fosters a supportive environment where kids feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and questions.

Establishing **reading guidelines** can empower children to make informed choices. Parents can encourage age-appropriate selections and utilize resources like curated book lists. Moreover, being proactive in monitoring children's reading habits ensures they encounter enriching material while avoiding potentially harmful content.

# When to Act

## Important Steps for Reporting and Support



Knowing **when to act** is crucial for ensuring children's safety. If any concerning content is discovered, it's essential to respond quickly. Parents should encourage open discussions, enabling children to share their experiences without fear of judgment, thus fostering a safe environment for dialogue.

Reporting steps can vary by location, but generally, parents should contact local authorities or child protection services. It's important to document any concerning material, including screenshots or URLs, to provide evidence. This proactive approach ensures children receive the necessary support and protection.

## Objective of the “What Your Child Sees Online” Series

The “What Your Child Sees Online” series helps parents stay informed and confident in guiding their children through today’s digital world. It raises awareness of current social media trends and online risks affecting students aged 7 to 17, while offering practical tips for family discussions and safety.

Parents are also encouraged to **share any new online trends** or **concerns they notice**, so the school can keep this series current and relevant. Together, we can create a safer online environment for every child.

**For more information  
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