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# The Maziarkas Complaint, as I understand it

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# West Bend Parents For Free Speech

## **The Maziarkas Complaint, as I understand it**

The basic components of the complaint (as I understand them from Ginny Maziarka's own blog) are this:

The Maziarkas believe some of the fictional and non-fictional titles within the "Out of the Closet" sub-category of subjects listed in the library's Young Adult Zone of their website are explicit, inappropriate, and pornographic. The Maziarkas also believe these titles to be "pro-homosexual."

The Maziarkas have suggested that the "Out of the Closet" category is out of balance, in that all of the titles are "pro-homosexual" (their term.) They call for the inclusion of titles that are "ex-gay" (or, I would imagine, "anti-homosexual", although they have not used this term. But isn't the opposite of "pro" "anti"?) Ginny says that she has recommended specific titles and even offered to purchase them or raise money for them to be included.

The Maziarkas have complained that two particular titles are "explicit" or "pornographic." I have yet to see anything that illustrates why the Maziarkas are able to make this judgment. Are they librarians? I think not. Are they experts in the field of children's or young adult literature? Not to my knowledge. It is my understanding that the US courts have not even come up with a clear-cut definition of "pornography," but looking the term up in various dictionaries finds varied results. Often the term is defined as being "obscene writings, drawings, photographs, or the like, esp. those having little or no artistic merit" or "books, photographs, magazines, art, or music designed to excite sexual impulses." I am not sure what gives the Maziarkas the right to decide what does and what doesn't have artistic merit, or what does and doesn't excite sexual impulses. I also do not believe Mr. and Mrs. Maziarka have read the books in question in their entirety, although they often cite passages from the two works of fiction that they have big issues with. The Maziarkas have suggested that these two titles be moved to the adult section of the library or be available on a restricted basis.

The Maziarkas have also suggested that the "Out of the Closet" sub-category of the Young Adult Zone part of the website should be restricted or password-protected.

You can find Ginny Maziarka's blog on [blogspot.com](http://blogspot.com). Her profile/user name is West Bend Citizen Advocate/"WISSUP" (for "Wisconsin Speaks Up" )

If you, like me, are also a citizen and advocate for West Bend and would like to share and discuss alternate opinions and ideas than the Maziarkas view, this website is the place for you. Please sign the Guestbook!