

**Won't somebody  
think of the children?  
avoiding the trap of self-censoring  
materials and services for youth**

Julie Jurgens  
@himissjulie  
[himissjulie.com](http://himissjulie.com)

ARE YOU

READY





# Protection vs Access



**Not so easy**



# History of Children's Rights





# Every Child is Different





A top-down view of a cobblestone path. The path is composed of many rectangular, greyish-brown stones. In the center of the path, there is a single, circular stone of the same material and color, which stands out from the surrounding rectangular stones. The text "Not all materials are suited to all children" is overlaid in the center of the image.

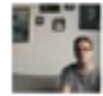
**Not all materials are suited to all children**





# Labels & Formats





**Cory Greenwood**

April 30 at 4:16am

A young (13 or 14 year old) student has asked for material on child mortality rates in Great Britain during the industrial revolution. A colleague has sourced some information which is graphic (children telling of how they witnessed their friends fall to their death from chimneys, or were subject to all kinds of physical abuse) and is not sure how to proceed. This raised a lot of heated conversation in our work room and would appreciate any ALA-endorsed guidelines on ethics and dealing with tough situations such as this.

Like · Comment · Share

👍 Sophie Brookover and 2 others like this.



**Alida Welzer Hanson** I would give the student the info. There isn't an age limit on intellectual freedom.

April 30 at 4:58am · Like · 👍 41



**Felicia Nigro Ballard** <http://www.ifmanual.org/codeethics>

April 30 at 5:40am · Like · 👍 3



**Felicia Nigro Ballard** There is tension between giving information that has potentially dire circumstances, but even that is up for discussion. This is an interesting article.

[https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/.../592/Bunge\\_Ethics.pdf](https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/.../592/Bunge_Ethics.pdf)

April 30 at 5:43am · Edited · Like



**Lauren Patricia Bartell** Following

April 30 at 6:01am · Like



**Becky Richardson** Being the parent of a gifted child in that age range, I would have been disappointed if the information had not been shared.

“There isn’t  
an age  
limit on  
Intellectual  
Freedom”



# Ethical Courage



**Deb Beasley** This was a quarter century ago but my supervisor refused to buy books on sex-ed books unless they were religious in nature. These are, of course, not sex-ed at all but books on morality. My director knew he had a problem, let me order and I earned the reputation as the library sex-pervert. The books I ordered were age-appropriate and our community had a huge teenage-pregnancy problem. I felt I had landed in hell and the only support I got was from my director and adult reference. it was lonely and horrible but I never forgot and when I became supervisor everything changed.





**Jennifer Wharton** ▶ Storytime Underground

April 3 · 🌐

I've been interviewing people for the past couple weeks and I have a question...this question I thought was a pretty basic, simple one but I have gotten answers all over the board on it. So, I was just curious to see how you all would respond.

You are working at the children's desk. A girl, 11ish, comes up and asks you to put Judy Blume's Forever on hold (no copy at your library). What do you do?

Like · Comment · Share · 💬 91



**Julie Jurgens** you put it on hold!

April 3 at 9:49am · Like · 👍 39



**Kate Aaronson** put it on hold. freedom to read what they want. or am I missing something?

April 3 at 9:51am · Like · 👍 6



**Rebecca Brooks** Since you don't have a copy at your library, then you offer to ILL it or put in a request to order it. I have a feeling I know why you're asking, but we're librarians, therefore we don't censor or make it difficult for anyone (or shame someone) (regardless of age) to have access to a resource.

April 3 at 9:52am · Edited · Like · 👍 11



**Julie Jurgens** all right, I might have a casual conversation about it while I look it up to ILL it-- Have you read other Judy Blume books that you liked? I might let her know that it's a little different than Blume's other books, but ultimately it's her choice and not my business. because if it turns out she really wants books like Superfudge, rather than Forever, I'll have want to have done my due diligence as a reader's advisor.

April 3 at 9:52am · Edited · Like · 👍 14



**Kimberly Patton** Yep. By all means put it on hold. No questions. No comments. Nothing. She is a patron requesting a book. You don't know why, you don't know who it is really for. It is her choice and her parent's choice. We. are. not. their. parents.

April 3 at 9:52am · Like · 👍 15



**Kate Aaronson** I read Flowers in the Attic at 8 and I got my copy from the library. No one questioned it.

April 3 at 9:52am · Like · 👍 9



**Sophie Brookover** You put it on hold! Maybe you ask her to let you know what she thinks of it, too.

April 3 at 9:53am · Like · 👍 4

# In Loco Parentis



“Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that only **parents and guardians** have the right and the responsibility to determine their children’s—**and only their children’s**—access to library resources. Parents and guardians who do not want their children to have access to specific library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their children.”

**<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/freeaccesslibraries>**



# Tools & Required Reading





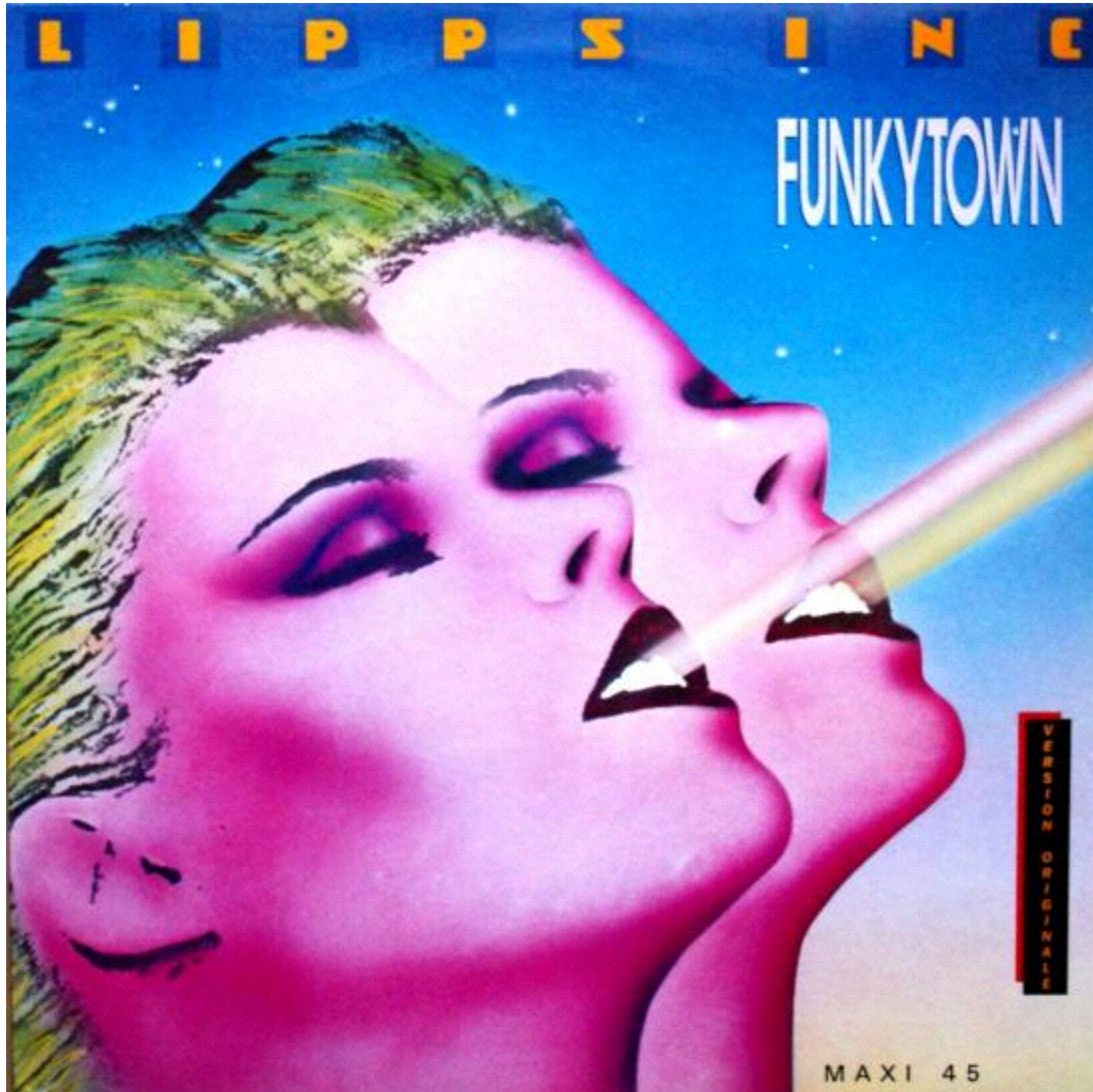
HOW DO  
**YOU**  
MEASURE UP?



**“If you can’t be a good example,  
then you’ll just have to serve as a  
horrible warning.” —Catherine Aird**

**HORROR STORIES**





talk about it  
talk about it  
talk about it  
talk about it

# Contact

@himissjulie

[juliejurgens@gmail.com](mailto:juliejurgens@gmail.com)

[himissjulie.com](http://himissjulie.com)

