



January 9, 2025

We received your Request for Reconsideration regarding the book *Worm Loves Worm* by J.J. Austrian. We have owned this title since July 2018, and it has been checked out 60+ times. Your request was to implement subject headings or visible content advisories and not to remove or relocate the item. We reviewed it and we have added the subject heading of "Same-sex marriage—Juvenile fiction" to the catalog record. We do not currently label materials with content advisories.

We reviewed this item physically, read reviews, online information, and third party review sites, including information from the author. This information indicates this book can be a resource for introducing children in an age appropriate way to simple concepts of same sex marriage. While that seems to be the intention, it is not overt and may only be inferred by some readers. The back cover and inside flaps clearly convey the content of the book.

"You are cordially invited to celebrate the wedding of a worm...and a worm." -Back cover

"When a worm meets a special worm and they fall in love, you know what happens next. They get married! But their friends want to know—who will wear the dress? And who will wear the tux? The answer is: It doesn't matter. Because Worm loves Worm. This irresistible picture book is a celebration of love in all its splendid forms." –Inside front cover flap

To respond to your specific comments regarding parental guidance solutions:

1. Catalog searching: The mobile version of the catalog is minimal by nature. It is designed to help find the location of and place holds on materials. You can easily access the full content of the catalog, even on a mobile device, by clicking on "main site."
2. Subject headings: Homosexuality – or sexuality in general – is not discussed. While the subject heading of "Weddings – Juvenile fiction" is in the catalog and most clearly conveys the topic of this book, we have added a subject heading of "Same-sex marriage – Juvenile fiction" as that does seem to be an intended purpose of the work.
3. Physical location: As outlined above, the back cover and inside front cover flap provide clear information regarding the content of this book. It is located in the Children's picture book section as it is designed for young children, with simple text and engaging illustrations. Picture books introduce topics in a developmentally appropriate way that caregivers can use to provide more or less details as they feel is appropriate for their family.
4. Parent resource tools: Using recommended resources like NoveList and Common Sense Media do not require extensive reading to discover this book's themes:



"It's an excellent book to start a conversation about same-sex marriage but it works just as well as an introduction to wedding celebrations..." -first page of results, Common Sense Media

"This title is a warm and easy way to introduce the idea of same-sex marriage to children..." – first page of results, NovelList

"Many children will grasp the larger message—marriage is about love—while others may simply enjoy the warm characters and comical story." -first page of results, NovelList

Thank you for the suggested alternative. We do have several of the *Ladybug Girl* books in the collection. They appeal to a wide group of people and circulate well but cover different topics. We make every effort to provide a broad selection of materials to meet the needs of diverse audiences. Some individuals may find the content of this book sensitive or inappropriate for their children, but there are others who are interested in the topic or find it relevant. Children's books provide an opportunity for parents to discuss ideas and society in the way that works best for their families.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Renee Brumett, MLIS
Executive Director
Christian County Library