

Think Like the Banned

Title: *My Mom's Having a Baby!*

Author: Dori Hillestad Butler

Publication Date: 2005

1. *What is the title, author, publication date, and plot (in 1-2 sentences) of this picture book.*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: The title of this book is *My Mom's Having A Baby!* It was written by Dori Hillestad Butler and was published on January 1st, 2005. This book delves into the process of pregnancy and how a baby is developed over time.

2. *Were you aware of the existence of this book prior to starting this project?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: No, I was not aware of this book prior to this project. However, it is interesting to see the topics discussed in this book as it is often swept under the rug.

3. *This book was challenged and/or banned in America frequently enough for it to be included in The Top 100 Challenged Books Lists (between 1990-2021) compiled by the American Library Association. Why do you think this book was targeted?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: I think this book was banned due to its graphic content about how a baby comes to be. This type of content, although important, may be inappropriate for its intended audience, which are small children. I believe this book was banned due to the reaction from parents, who would not want their kids to bring home a book filled with graphic images of a process they don't understand.

4. *Think like a Book Prosecution Lawyer: If you were arguing in favor of banning this book, what would your argument be?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: My argument for banning this book is that the images throughout the book are far too graphic for its intended audience, making it inappropriate for children to innocently stumble upon.

5. *Think like a Book Defense Lawyer: If you were arguing against banning this book, what would your argument be?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: If I was against banning this book, I would argue that people are inexplicably sexualizing a book that is meant to be educational and that children can benefit from the knowledge portrayed in the book.

6. *The contents of this book may be inflammatory to some people. Do you think the information/plot of the book is presented in an unbiased way, or do you feel like it is pushing an agenda (if so, is it a positive or negative agenda)?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: I think the overall agenda of this book is meant to be positive because it is aiming to teach children on how babies are made and how they develop over time in the womb. I think it is presented in an unbiased way because it describes the process in detail.

7. *This book presents information that may be useful and uplifting for some people. Can you cite any positive information or messages in the book?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: One positive message in this book is that pregnancy and the entire process of having a baby is normal and should be taught at an early age so children are more informed about the topic.

8. *Children's picture books are typically written for 2 to 8 year olds. One of the most frequent reasons children's picture books are challenged or banned in the United States is that they are considered to be "Unsuited for Age Group." What age group do you think this book is appropriate for?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: Due to its graphic and detailed content, I believe this picture-book is more suited for middle schoolers because they are mature enough to understand the process and its consequences. I also think it

would be helpful for them to read this book as they go through puberty so they are more informed about pregnancy and how it occurs.

9. Think about the picture books you read as a child: Would this book fit into the themes of what you read back then, or would it stand out as an anomaly?

Zahra V., 8th Grade: Based on my experiences, this book would definitely stand out as an anomaly because it raises awareness about topics I did not know of as a kid. Although this information is important, I think it is unsuitable for the younger age group it is intended for because children are simply unable to understand the complexities behind the topic.

10. Pretend you are a Parent: If you were in a library, would you pick out this book and read it to your child; why or why not? Explain your answer.

Zahra V., 8th Grade: If I were a parent, I probably would not read this to my young child because I believe it is too soon for young children to know of such processes and how a baby comes to be. I think such information should be partially shielded because the graphic content is unnecessarily included.

BONUS QUESTION: Can you think of another book that you have read (picture book or novel) that contains the same themes as this book?

Zahra V., 8th Grade: One picture-book that contains similar themes as this book is *Waiting for Baby* by Rachel Fuller. This book also talks about pregnancy and how a baby comes into the world, but on a tamer level.