

Think Like the Banned

Title: *The Family Book*

Author: Todd Parr

Publication Date: 2003

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

Sabrina P., 11th Grade: The Family Book by Todd Parr (2003). It's a book about all the different ways to be a family, and what families do.

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

Sabrina P., 11th Grade: No.

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?

Sabrina P., 11th Grade: It encourages several types of unconventional families such as single parents, interracial couples, gay couples, stepfamilies, and adoptive families.

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

Sabrina P., 11th Grade: "How dare you promote gay couples and mixing races? Having these unconventional families is damaging to children and you shouldn't promote that."

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

Sabrina P., 11th Grade: "Clearly, you're the kind of person who needs this book the most. As was the entire point of the book, there's more than one way to be a family and just because a family is different from the stereotypical idea of what family is doesn't make it any less valid."

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)?

Sabrina P., 11th Grade: The agenda is acceptance of different kinds of families. It's a positive agenda.

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?

Sabrina P., 11th Grade: It promotes having a supportive family and accepting all kinds of people.

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?

Sabrina P., 11th Grade: 2 and up.

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?

Sabrina P., 11th Grade: Yes, this fits in with themes I read about.

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

Sabrina P., 11th Grade: Yes, I thought it was a sweet book and I think we should be teaching our kids acceptance.