

Kindergarten –

Delete the title You Are Special by Max Lucado

It tells the story of Punchinello, one of a species of Wemmicks, who are small wooden people made by a woodworker named Eli. The Wemmicks spend their days putting gold stars or gray dots on each other based on behavior, looks, wood quality, etc. The moral of the story is that the gray dots and gold stars don't matter because Eli (God) loves his (His) people.

The problem, though, is that it teaches tiny kids that being mean to each other is fine and normal. The victims should just pray the pain away. This lesson perpetuates and strengthens bullying in later years and puts the emotional burden of that harm on the victims. This is a terrible lesson for 5-year olds.

Delete Anansi the Spider: a Tale from the Ashanti by Gerald McDermott

Introduces god children at this age do not know the difference between fantasy and reality. That is why developmentally we spend time teaching fiction and nonfiction.

Children listening to the story will be introduced **to the god Nyame**. In the story it says For the Ashanti people Nyame is the **“The God of All Things.” A picture representing the god is shown in the book**. The god is introduced when the main character Anansi seeks to solve a problem he cannot himself. In the end the god takes the white ball into the sky.

First Grade

Delete the Hare in the Moon by Angela McAllister

The Hare the main character, **sacrifices his life to be food for an old woman in need. They build a fire, and he jumps into it for her to eat**. For his sacrifice he is given the gift of forever remembered as a part of the full moon when you look at it.

The content of this tale is not developmentally appropriate for this grade. This book has many controversial content areas.

Fire, why are we considering this for young and impulsive children. It is also very harmful to introduce the concept of false realities of fire. This book places the teacher in a place of responsibility. In the fable when the hare jumps into the flames the hare does not burn. The flames are cool. Instead, he is lifted by a god like “great being with shining light all around him, and dressed in glowing saffron coloured robes”. Even without **introducing sacrifices, other religions, mindfulness practices**, this tale should not be included in required reading for first graders.

Delete Noah's Ark by Peter Spier

No instructional value – only one page of written words, mostly pictures. Part of the writing is to tell students after the flood subsides that the animals coming off the ark feel guilty about leaving the other animals behind to die.

Fourth Grade

Delete the Road not Taken by Robert Frost

Selection should be at middle school not elementary