

February 21, 2023

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for expressing your concern regarding the book *Grace for Gus* by Harry Bliss. It is gratifying to know that our customers care enough about the library to give us feedback about the materials in our collection.

Richland Library seeks to curate a collection of materials representing a broad spectrum of knowledge and diverse array of viewpoints. We strive to reflect the interests, aspirations, challenges, opinions and ideals of our community while encouraging self-awareness and growth. Our librarians and subject matter experts are professionally trained in the selection and acquisition of library materials, and we uphold the First Amendment, the freedom to read, and the right of parents to make decisions about their children's reading materials.

In accordance with Richland Library's collection development policy and process for requesting the reconsideration of materials, a panel of librarians carefully reviewed the book itself along with the concerns you shared, circulation statistics, and professional reviews of the book used in the selection process.

The seven copies of *Grace for Gus* acquired for the library's collection since 2017 have circulated a total of 85 times, demonstrating community interest, and six professional review sources have recommended the book for children ages four and up. For these reasons, after completing our review process, it has been determined that *Grace for Gus* was appropriately selected and cataloged, and that it will remain part of our children's collection.

Richland Library strongly supports parents' right to choose materials that are the best fit for their families, and our staff would love to help you find books that better suit your needs and preferences. We look forward to serving you and your family soon.

Sincerely,

Georgia Coleman
Chief Operating Officer