

The Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes is a novel that was provided by Forest Creek Middle School to 8th graders to read is included in this textbook. This book has been banned from many libraries and school systems due to lack of confidence, usage of drugs and alcohol, domestic violence, sexual immorality, teen pregnancies, racism, language, negativity, and it mentions guns, AK47s to be specific. Why would we want to encourage our students to use guns, drink alcohol, use drugs, have identity problems, jealousy towards others, and normalize lashing out at others physically and verbally? Below are quotes and comments on this book.

First page in the book (Tyrone Bittings) - "White folk! Who they think they are kidding? They might as well go blow smoke up someone else's you-know-what, cause a Black man's got no chance in this country. I be lucky if I make it to twenty-one with all these fools running around with AK 47s."

Page 13 - The character discussed her sexual and domestic violence encounter with a boy.

Page 19 - "Money is the alpha and omega."

Page 21 - "sipping beer through chipped teeth"

Page 23 - "Forget who white folks think you are, cause they ain't got a clue." "Matter of fact I didn't know he knew that much English."

Page 31 - "so what if she is a little plump"

Page 36 - This story is glorifying teenage pregnancy.

Page 45 - "She's fine, so I can see why a guy would want to give her a child."

Page 46 - This character is putting herself down and wishing to be like other people so a boy will like her.

Page 52 - This character has a panic attack and refers to acting like her drunk uncle. It then says, "Porscha

Johnson has the reputation of being touched in the head. In her freshman year, she'd beaten the snot out of a girl who'd pushed her too far."

Page 57 - "that little white girl"

Page 58 - "Too bad we can't all have good hair and light skin." "But my body's good. Nothing wrong with me in that department. That's why I got to show it off, wear clothes that accentuate the positive. The shorter the better." "You should see Raul and some other guys - Black and white - sniffing around her. And she doesn't notice?" "Mr. Latin Loveboy"

Page 60 - the character is talking about cutting her stepdad's tongue out.

Page 71 - "In case you haven't noticed, you're fat and I'm not."

Page 78 - "They only know the difference between my color and theirs is that the slave master who owned my family raped my great-great-grandma instead of theirs."

Page 89 - "Either they're trying to draw me into an infantile game of The Dozens so we can trade insults left and right, or they're slapping porno pictures inside my locker hoping to set me off. "

Page 121 - "We can peacefully coexist, but I don't have no white boys in my crew."

Page 128 - "I ain't never seen no white boy do no free-style poem.

Page 157 & 158 - "Then there are those oily, leering, dirty old men on my block who drool or wink at me when I pass by on my way home, asking if they can take me for a test drive."

Page 158 - "I could kill somebody. I know it's in me."

Page 160 - "The first time he got up there, I rolled my eyes like half of the sisters in that class, certain he was going to spout something lame or nasty about girls and sex, or gangsters."