

## **Kimball Library Policy on Labels and Rating Systems**

Labels typically used in public libraries are directional and view-point neutral. Examples include labels for genre, large print, series numbers, format labels such as DVD, Blu-ray or spoken, or reading level for children. All directional labelling is done to assist patrons in locating materials they are looking for.

The Kimball Library does not engage in labelling that is proscriptive. Such labels are designed to discourage access based on a value judgment that the content, language, themes, background or views of the author are inappropriate or offensive. Similarly, labels advising the public on the suitability or age appropriateness are necessarily subjective and will not be used at the Kimball Library.

It is a core tenant of public librarianship that only a family can decide what is appropriate for their own children and when it may be appropriate. We recognize and respect that families bring different goals and values to parenting. What is a good choice for one family's child is not necessarily correct for someone else's. Consequently, subjective, value-laden labelling is not appropriate in a collection for youth. Instead, the Kimball Library labels materials according to format and general reading level. This type of labelling is viewpoint neutral and meaningful to parents as children's reading skills vary within age and grade levels.

The Kimball Library makes every effort to encourage and honor parental involvement in the reading, listening and viewing lives of their children. Staff does not stand in place of a parent. Therefore, we will not interfere, proscribe or promote a particular title based on appropriateness.