Message to coaches, librarians and parents of Page One Level III:

The challenges of choosing new literature for our Level III list have increased over the last several years. Book reviews often yield conflicting opinions and much of the literature intended for our junior high aged children is simply not appropriate. Our intent is to produce a dynamic list of books which includes both new and classic literature of varying genres and perspectives. However, even the classics can produce issues making them inappropriate for our list; and new literature is, more often than not, fraught with reasons to exclude.

We make great efforts to exercise a critical eye for gratuitous sex and violence, lewd language etc., while keeping an open mind for new presentations of classic themes. Our first goal is to respect a child’s innocence while attempting to guide that innocence into Catholic maturity. The direction of this delicate process belongs first and foremost to the parents. Out of respect for this position, we attempt to provide reviews for our Level III books to aid parents in choosing which books will be the best fit for their children and what age.

Some concern has been raised concerning the book, The Ruby in the Smoke, both for it authorship and also for its use of the word “bitch” (one time) as well as some issues raised in the story. The author is Philip Pullman, of the Golden Compass. Please read our review of this book to learn more.

We attempt to limit the amount of communication we give before the Page One season kicks into high gear and send this message with reserve. However, we felt it an important message to reiterate. We considered taking this book off of the list, but decided against it. While there are legitimate concerns, we feel there are also redeeming factors that merit leaving the book on for this year. Generally speaking, once we have published the lists, we are reluctant to remove, though willing to do so in certain cases.

We are grateful for your participation in our program. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to provide quality reading lists for our children. We pray your summer is blessed and filled with good reading!

Thank you!

The Page One Book Selection Committee