

press thank them? Surely not. Instead some of these concerned citizens were condemned for not having read the Harry Potter books they were burning, as if they should subject themselves to the evil inherent in those books when anyone can see by the titles and the drawings on the covers that the contents are rubbish.

Unfortunately, as a teacher of our young adults (and unlike many caring parents and religious leaders), I am not always allowed to remain ignorant of the content of some of our worst TV shows and movies. It is necessary for me, obviously, to know something about the culture that my students are so immersed in. For that reason, I have forced myself to view certain episodes of *Southpark*, to attend showings of films like *Shrek* and *The Fellowship of the Ring*, and to read these Harry Potter books. Let me here refute the liberal media's claim that the books are harmless.

First, merely look at the length of these books. I know first hand that most of my college-age students have never read a book longer than Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, and that reading didn't take place until high school. (If you have missed this book, Charlton Heston does an admirable job reading it to you on audiocassettes. This reading is available in our public library.) The shortest of these Harry Potter books is over twice the size of Hemingway's short masterpiece, and the longest is well over 700 pages. How pretentious of Scholastic Books to suggest that there isn't something inherently wrong with providing our young children books of such large size to read in the fifth grade or sometimes even earlier. How many of us have ever managed to read a 300-page book, let alone four books, the shortest of which is over 300 pages.

The question here is: do we want our children reading so much? Certainly it can't be good for them. Not only does focusing on the text harm their eyesight, but the sheer number of characters and events is bound to confuse their minds and crowd out all necessary moral education. And, of course, the sheer size of these books is one reason -- I would conjecture the main reason -- why most adults haven't read them. What adult has time to follow along in her children's lives when those lives involve 700-page books? No one can blame a mother or father for not knowing the contents of these over-long so-called "children's books."

But we do need to address the contents of the books, because herein lies the greatest evil. Did you know that in these books, the practice of magical arts is presented as good while living a normal, law-abiding life is looked upon as bad? The heroes of these books -- children, mind you -- are sent to a special school where their studies revolve solely around magic. They spend their impressionable years striving to become witches and wizards, for heaven's sake. The first climax of the book is

resolved, after a long fifty pages when it seems that a non-magical family might have some good influence against the magic with which the hero is cursed, when a mixed-breed giant attacks the loving family and Harry Potter is invited to attend this school. Here Harry is destined to virtually worship the magic of the school's principle, Dumbledore, and to befriend the giant who attacked his loving family.

As an example of the misleading nature of the books, this family is not presented as loving -- in order to win over small children who know no better, the discipline to which the family subjects Harry for his own good is portrayed as virtual torture stemming from ignorance. Again, the liberal media puts forth the idea that disciplining our children in the way we see fit -- such as having them live in a small drafty broom closet under the stairs and refusing to feed them well -- is not our God-given responsibility. In addition, the books promote the mixing of many different types of children without any concern for their racial, cultural, or religious heritage. Certainly any book that portrays children attending school should deal with the question of spiritual life and not simply with how children develop friendships. But here magic comes foremost. The books even suggest that children should sometimes ignore adult authority and learn right-and-wrong through their own choices and actions instead of being told by their parents or teachers. And this blasphemy is being sold to our children through t-shirts, fake wands and broomsticks, and movies, but most importantly, through the pages of these horrid books.

So, I beg you, for the sake of the children: If you see a child reading one of these books, take it from her; if a mother you know allows her children to read these books, enlighten her. And to the list of Harry Potter books, you should add other magical works such as the Oz books (promoting scarecrows, lions, tin men, and witches as good "people"), *The Chronicles of Narnia* (written by that liberal so-called Christian, C. S. Lewis), *The Adventures of Winnie-the-Pooh* (all about how a child's toys actually have lives of their own -- scary stuff), *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and the *Dr. Seuss* books (nothing but opium dreams full of sex and drugs), *The Wind in the Willows* (where animals are portrayed as having real feelings), and *Where the Wild Things Are* (where evil demon creatures become sympathetic to our children).

Feel free to use my expert opinions of these books rather than suffering through them yourselves. Because I am an educated teacher who believes in the Christian ideals of this great country, and because I have nothing to gain from my arguments against these evil works except an awakened society which seeks to take good care of the moral rightness of what our children read and learn, you can trust me.