



***I Am a Feminist* by Monique Polak**

Orca Issues, Orca Book Publishers, 2019

9781459818927 (paperback)

\*Age Range: 12+

Grade Range: Gr. 9+

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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What is feminism? Why does it still matter? What exactly does intersectionality mean?

In order to answer these (and many other) questions, *I Am a Feminist* first examines the history of feminism and then addresses the issues girls and women continue to face today. The book also looks at the ways in which people, especially young people, are working together to create a world where gender equality is a reality, not a dream. The author shares stories about the courageous individuals who have made a difference in the lives of women and girls worldwide. From suffragists to the #MeToo movement, *I Am a Feminist* encourages readers to stand up and speak out for equality and justice.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ "Engaging and conversational...Not only fascinating and passionately written, but it would serve as an excellent tool for teachers who want to introduce feminism to their classes."

– *Canadian Children's Book News*, starred review

"A conversational and engaging style...The extensive back matter will please researchers...A first purchase for larger libraries."

– *School Library Journal*

"Polak's knowledgeable voice provides a simple yet comprehensive overview of key feminist issues, successfully highlighting the evolution of this social cause...This amply illustrated introduction will spark discussion among teens who wish to make a difference in their community."

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– *Kirkus Reviews*

"This nuanced book, which explores stories of real women working hard to change the world, will help passionate teenagers navigate life."

– *Booklist*

"[Polak's] candid ability to delve into the minds of young adults, engaging style, and conversational tone should spark further discussion without fear of reprisals...A must for all young people and teachers."

– *New York Journal of Books*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens, starred selection, **Commended, 2019**
- Quebec Writers' Federation (QWF) Literary Awards - Janet Savage Blachford Prize for Children's and Young Adult Literature, **Short-listed, 2019**
- Ontario Library association (OLA) Best Bets, **Commended, 2019**
- Children's Book Council & National Council for Social Studies Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, **Commended, 2020**
- Vancouver Children's Literature Roundtable Information Book Award - Honour Book, **Commended, 2020**

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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After Assistant Superintendent Kari Dendurent of Seward High School in Soldotna, Alaska, recalled 15 books including *I Am a Feminist*, the Soldotna High School Librarian Tamra Wear sent a letter to the District Superintendent condemning these actions to recall the books, and calling for "full disclosure" of the incident. Kenai Peninsula Education Association President Nathan Erfurth wrote that this fell into "a pattern of bullying and exclusion...developing in our school district." The books were returned to the school library two months later.

By recalling the books, Dendurent violated two district policies: the board's policy governing handling of "Public Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials" and their administrative rule regarding "Challenges to Instructional Materials."

See the full article [here](#).

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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