

## IDIOMS

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words in the phrase might indicate. We also learned that different idioms mean different things and can't be understood by looking in a dictionary. Learning idioms can be done by paying attention to context clues where they occur and by learning what they mean.

"We are working to include idioms in our writing activities as a way to make our writing more interesting and entertaining. Idioms are part of a unit where we are learning about other forms of figurative language. "The students will also be challenged to find examples of figurative language in the books that they are reading."

Gingery praised students for their creative costuming and enthusiasm.

Fourth grader Khloe Schreck, who's idiom was "She's a Smarty Pants," wrote, "I thought that Idiom Day was great! It was interesting to see what everyone dressed up as. I thought it was a great opportunity for all the fourth graders."

Hadlie Hopkins ("Don't Let the Cat Out of the Bag") said, "I thought that Idiom Day was awesome! It was a perfect way to have an educational Halloween party and learn about idioms. I liked seeing everybody's costumes. A lot of people thought outside the box. The teachers had really good idi-



LARRY DEVINE | TIMES HERALD

**Fredis Mejia-Carranza puts on his "His eyes are bigger than his stomach" idiom costume. His idiom means he has more food than he can eat.**



**Hadlie Hopkins' idiom is "Don't let the cat out of the bag," meaning not allowing a secret to be known.**

oms too!"

And Mallory Milligan (When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Lemonade) commented, "I thought that Idiom Day was very fun. It was



**Harper Hempstead's idiom is "A fish out of water," meaning she is uncomfortable with a situation.**



**Kora Klocke's idiom is "Hold your horses," meaning to slow down and wait for something.**

interesting to see what everyone was wearing. Some were very hard to guess, and some were easy. Even the teachers dressed up, which I thought was pretty fun."

## BOOK

FROM PAGE 1

library book, therefore the reconsideration committee was able only to discuss the book's purpose as a library book and not on how the book is used in a class.

Committee member Thetia Polking said subject matter of "Sold" is very heavy, but the issue of sex trafficking is not a benign truth in today's world.

"With that being the subject matter of the book, they handled the scenes where there was intercourse appropriately," Polking said. "I don't think you can have a book about sex trafficking and not talk about sex."

"Sold" deals more with emotional trauma and disconnecting with oneself, with the scenes in the book containing intercourse were generalized and without explicit descriptions of genitalia, Polking said.

Committee member and CHS senior Joe Kimball agreed with Polking's assessment of "Sold" and said he felt the sexual scenes in the book described more of the character's thoughts and emotions during the experience as opposed to pornographic descriptions of the acts.

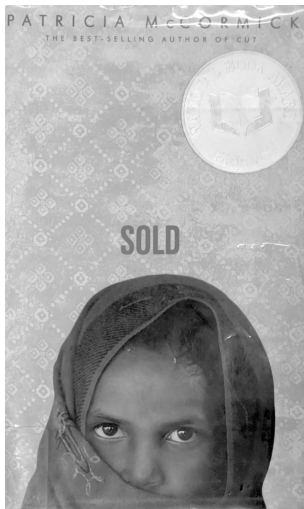
Kimball said the type of person he thinks would check out "Sold" from the library would also have the mind to comprehend the book and take the content seriously.

Committee member Dave Hagen said while he didn't feel that "Sold" is pornographic, he does feel the book is graphic. He believes his oldest son could read the book, but would want to guide him through the text and could see some valuable discussions coming out of it. For his eighth grade son, Hagen said, he personally would not want him to read the book.

One scene in the book contains the rape of a minor after she is drugged, a scene referenced in objections to the book.

Committee member and CHS Assistant Principal Amy Collison said the scene asks the reader to think abstractly about what is happening.

"There's a subtlety to it," Collison said. "It is about the fact she was drugged. It was about the fact that she was not in control of the situation, and in many ways you as the reader are hav-



TIMES HERALD FILE PHOTO

**Sold by Patricia McCormick**

ing to put together what's happening in the scene."

Committee member and CHS senior Ashlee Danner said anyone who would check out "Sold" from the library wouldn't be surprised by its content.

"Especially if they read the back, they would have a pretty good idea of what they're getting into," Danner said. "I don't think it would necessarily be a shocking thing that they would be reading about this content."

Danner said anyone reading the book isn't looking for a fun experience, but is looking to gain knowledge on a real-life subject. Reading "Sold" for her was humbling, she said, and believes it's important for young people to be reminded of the fortunes they have. While what the reader has to imagine while reading the book is graphic, Danner said, she feels that most CHS students she knows are mature enough to read the content.

Committee member and CHS social studies teacher Bob Pauk said the subject matter is important for kids to read about and said the book offers a soft way to gain knowledge of human sex trafficking.

Committee member and retired English teacher Jean Guy said someone who has been sexually abused, human trafficked or anyone who has been in a bad situation who can see that one should never give up, may benefit from "Sold" by finding hope in the story.

Committee members voted anonymously, with seven votes to take no removal action and one vote to limit use of the book.

The committee has three options for a recommendation: remove the challenged material, take no removal

action or limit the educational use of the material. The recommendation then goes to the school board, which will take the recommendation into account before making a final decision.

A teacher librarian consultant from Heartland Area Education Agency, Alicia Patten, also serves on the committee and voted in Monday's meeting.

A summary of concerns from BookLooks.org said of "Sold," "This contains explicit aberrant sexual activities including rape of a minor; prostitution; and explicit violence." The full list of concerns from the book along with excerpts and page numbers can be viewed at BookLooks.org, a website complainants have cited as evidence for objections to library books.

"Sold" was acquired by the CHS library in 2007 and has been checked out a total of 23 times.

Since August, a group of parents and community members have attended school board meetings drawing attention to CHS library books they call, "sexually explicit" and "pervasively vulgar." Reconsideration request forms for 10 books have been submitted, prompting a reconsideration committee to be appointed by the school board to make recommendations on what actions to take on the challenged books after reviewing.

Nine more books are left to be reviewed by the committee. Committee members have agreed to attempt to read the entirety of each book before reaching a recommendation.

The reconsideration committee meets next on Nov. 21, and will review the book "Red Hood" by Elana Arnold.

## OBITUARIES

Read more online at [CarrollsPaper.com](http://CarrollsPaper.com)



DEDHAM  
**MARK WERNER**  
1962-2022

Mark Gerard "Bert" Werner, 60, of Dedham, passed away Monday, Nov. 7, 2022, on a beautiful still morning at home, surrounded by his family, following a hard-fought, 15-month battle with pancreatic cancer.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 11, at St. Joseph Catholic Church-St. John Paul II Parish in Dedham. The celebrant will be Father Kevin Richter, assisted by Deacon Louis Meiners. Lector will be Joe Behrens.

Gift bearers will be Will Behrens, Hailee Behrens, Isabella Bauer and Eliza Bauer. Honorary casket bearers will be current and former members of the Carroll Fire Department. Casket bearers will be Mark McCrea, Brian Hathcock, Marty Balukoff, Billy Schultes, Mike Pletchette, Tim Seidl, Neil Goetzinger and Joe Behrens. Private family burial will be at a later date.

Visitation without greeting the family will be from 9:30-10:15 a.m. Friday at the church. In lieu of flow-

ers, memorials may be left at the funeral home or the church for the Dedham American Legion or the Carroll Fire Department.

Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll, and online condolences may be left for Mark's family at [www.sharpfuneral.com](http://www.sharpfuneral.com).

Mark was born on Aug. 28, 1962, in Carroll, Iowa, a son of John "Butch" and Dardi (Bohnenkamp) Werner. He grew up in Dedham and attended Kuemper Catholic High School, graduating with the Class of 1981. After high school, he graduated from Hamilton Technical College in Davenport. He then went to work for Pella Rolscreen Corp. in Carroll in June 1983. He worked there for the next 39 years, retiring in June 2022.

On Oct. 6, 1984, he married Jackie "Jake" Handlos at Sacred Heart Church in Manning, Iowa. They made their home in Carroll for the next 35 years, before moving to Dedham in 2018. Bert and Jake were blessed with two sons, Dustin Michael in 1994 and Jarrett Mark in 1997, both now residing in Dedham. Mark's boys meant everything to him, and he spent countless hours supporting them in their activities.

Mark joined the Carroll Fire Department in January 2000, becoming a lieutenant in December 2010, and eventually a captain in 2012. During this time, he served on numerous committees with the CFD, until his retirement in June 2018. Mark cherished his time on the CFD and became lifelong friends with many of those he served with.

Mark was a 23-year charter member, former

commander, and huge advocate of the Sons of the American Legion, Post 20 in Dedham.

Mark officiated basketball for 17 seasons, 12 of which with his friend Dan Pomeroy. He was the line judge on a football officiating crew that included Dan Pomeroy, Jerry Fleschner and Rod Berg from 1989 to 2014 — 25 years, 30 playoff games and countless stories.

Growing up in Dedham, and even as an adult, Mark loved playing 16-inch softball. He played for various teams throughout the years, including the Dedham Rookies and Dedham Merchants. Mark never tired of sitting around and sharing old ball stories with his buddies.

Through the years, Mark was an avid Iowa Hawkeye and Cubs baseball fan, just like his old man, Butch Werner. One of his favorite hobbies was working in his yard (Augusta National), which he took great pride in. He loved a good road trip with Jake, his boys, or his buddies, and cheering on the Hawkeyes with a cold Busch Light in hand. Most of all, Mark cherished his family and his wide circle of great friends.

Mark is survived by his wife of 38 years, Jackie, and his boys, Dustin and Jarrett; his mother, Dardi Werner; his siblings, Lynda (Jim) Bohlander, Bob Werner and John Mike Werner; mother-in-law, Barb Handlos; sisters- and brothers-in-law, Patty and Skip Tanner and Joelle and Joe Behrens; many nieces and nephews; other relatives; and countless friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Butch Werner; his father-in-law, Larry Handlos; and nephew John Schreck.



AZLE, TEXAS  
**DENNIS RIES**  
1939-2022

Dennis D. Ries, 83, of Azle, Texas, passed away Friday, Oct. 14, 2022.

Dennis was born Feb. 10, 1939, in Watertown, South Dakota, but raised in Sterling, Illinois. Dennis moved to Carroll, Iowa, in 1972 while working for General Electric as a maintenance/tool supervisor. He retired from General Electric

after 37 years.

He is survived by his loving wife: Gloria (Winn) Ries; sons John Ries and wife Caroline, Brad Ries and wife Jamie; daughter Vicki Hoffman and husband Myron; grandchildren: Kip Hoffman and wife Rose, Keith Hoffman and wife Aubrey and Kayla Jacobo and husband Daniel; great-grandson Finnley Hoffman; stepchildren: Michael Morris and wife Helen, Jeff Morris and wife Kathy, Robert Morris; grandchildren: Erica Janes and Husband Kyle, Tanner Morris, Hayden Morris and wife Mary Catherine; great-grandchildren: Jude and Crew Janes; brother Jerome "Joe" Ries; and sisters Junette Pepper and Margaret "Tootsie" Humphrey.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Margaret and George

Ries; brothers Paul, Andy, Vern, George and Eugene Ries; and sisters; Evangeline (Vange) Sutton Benkofski and Eleanor Regan.

Services will be held at Church at Crossing, 128 Elm St., Aledo, Texas, at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 12.

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