

National Coalition Against Censorship 2013 “Banned Books Library” Catalog

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Sherman Alexie

Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian

In 2008, school officials in Crook County, OR, removed the book from ninth grade English classes at Crook County High School after one parent complained about a passage that discussed masturbation. In April 2010, the Stockton (MO) School District voted to ban the book after a parent protested its use in high school English classes. The District said it voted to ban the book due to violence, language and some sexual content.

Dorothy Allison

Bastard Out of Carolina

Three years ago, an English teacher in Fremont, CA proposed this modern classic as part of her Advanced Placement English reading list. The title drew the consternation of the school board, which picked out the book and banned it from being adopted. They also enacted a policy to block the teacher from resubmitting the book, stating she had to wait two years to resubmit a rejected text. The following year, she submitted Tony Kushner’s Pulitzer prize-winning play *Angels in America*, which was also picked out for rejection. Finally, this year she was able to resubmit *Bastard* and pass it through the curriculum committee. Unfortunately, when it got to the school board, it again was singled out for rejection, despite objections from educators, administrators and parents who felt the book should be taught.

Julia Alvarez

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

Challenged, in 2002, along with seventeen other titles in the Fairfax County, VA elementary and secondary school libraries, by a group called Parents Against Bad Books in Schools because it contains "profanity and descriptions of drug abuse. Sexually explicit conduct and torture." Removed, in 2007, from Johnston County, NC school libraries after a parent challenged its sexual content and profane language.

M.T. Anderson

Feed

Selected for supplemental reading in Greene County, VA, a formal challenge was lodged by a parent of a middle school student in response to profanity in the book. It should be noted – and fortunately it was noted by educators and the school board – that the plot centers around the breakdown in language and communication that occurs when society adopts and implants “feeds” into all our brains, ushering advertising and other spammy content directly into our psyche.

The book was not removed, though the district subsequently had a discussion about informing parents about reading lists.

Maya Angelou

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings

In 1983 four members of the Alabama State Textbook Committee called for the book’s rejection because it preaches "bitterness and hatred against whites." In 1995 removed from the curriculum pending content review at the Gilbert Unified School in AZ. Complaining parents said the book did not represent "traditional values." Removed, in 1998, from the ninth grade English curriculum in Anne Arundel County, MD after parents complained that the book "portrays white people as being horrible, nasty, stupid people" and that it is too sexually explicit. Removed in 2006 as required reading in Annapolis, MD freshman English curriculum because of the book's rape scenes and other mature content. Challenged in 2009 in Newman-Crows Landing School District, CA on a required reading list presented by the Orestimba English Department. A trustee questioned the qualifications of Orestimba staff to teach a novel depicting African-American culture.

Anonymous

Go Ask Alice

First removed from school libraries in 1974 for objectionable language and explicit sexual scenes. Challenged yearly, sometimes restricted to high school students and not available to younger students, for its explicit references to drugs and sex.

Margaret Atwood

Handmaid's Tale

Challenged first in California in 1990 and then in Iowa in 1992 for "profanity, lurid passages about sex, statements defamatory to minorities, God, women, and the disabled." In 2006, in Judson school district, Texas, the superintendent banned the book because of explicit sex and offensiveness to Christians. The School Board overruled the ban.

James Baldwin

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Challenged as required reading in the Hudson Falls, NY schools (1994) because the book has recurring themes of rape, masturbation, violence, and degrading treatment of women. Challenged as a ninth-grade summer reading option in Prince William County, VA (1988) because the book is "rife with profanity and explicit sex."

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Judy Blume

Are You There God, It's Me Margaret, Deeny, Then Again Maybe I Won't, Forever, Places I Never Meant To Be

Blume's books have been consistently challenged since 1980 for their sexual content, their use of "four-letter words," their talk of masturbation, of birth control, of drinking whiskey and vodka, and of disobedience to their parents. *Are You There God* has also been challenged for its discussion of "anti-Christian" behavior.

Anthony Burgess

Clockwork Orange

In 1973 a bookseller in Orem, UT was arrested for selling the novel. Charges were later dropped, but the bookseller was forced to close the store and relocate to another city. Removed from Aurora, CO high school (1976) and from high school classrooms in Westport, MA (1977) because of "objectionable" language. Removed from two Anniston, AL High school libraries (1982), but later reinstated on a restricted basis.

William S. Burroughs

Naked Lunch

Found obscene in Boston by the MA Superior Court (1965). The finding was reversed by the State Supreme Court the following year.

John Cleland

Fanny Hill

In 1749 the author was imprisoned in Britain for "corrupting the King's subjects". Banned in Massachusetts in 1821 and in New Jersey in 1963 as obscene. Burned in Japan and England in 1965.

Suzanne Collins

Hunger Games

Ranked by the American Library Association as one of the top 10 challenged books of 2010, the book was challenged in New Hampshire where a parent asked the Goffstown School Board to remove the book from her daughter's class, claiming that it gave her 11-year-old nightmares and could numb other students to the effects of violence.

Robert Cormier

The Chocolate War, I am the Cheese, and First Death

Violence, offensive language and sexual situations are the themes that recur in the challenges to Cormier's books from 1981 to the present day. His books have been removed from reading lists and from libraries.

Chris Crutcher

Whale Talk

Whale Talk, a young adult novel was removed from library shelves and a district-wide school reading list in Athens, Alabama, despite the Superintendent of Schools' recommendation that it remain. Opponents of the book claimed it contained offensive language. Also banned from a district-wide reading list in Georgetown, South Carolina.

Charles Darwin

The Origin of Species

Banned from Trinity College, Cambridge, England in 1859. In 1925 the state of Tennessee passed a law prohibiting teachers from teaching the theory of evolution in state supported schools. Banned in Yugoslavia in 1935. Banned in Greece in 1937. In the 1980s both Louisiana and Arkansas boards of education required the teaching of creationism along with evolution. The US Supreme Court ruled this requirement was unconstitutional.

Barbara Ehrenreich

Nickel and Dimed

UPDATE 2012**Ranked by the American Library Association as one of the top 10 challenged books of 2010, the book was challenged by a parent in the 2010 Easton, Pennsylvania school district because it "promoted economic fallacies and socialist ideas, as well as advocating the use of illegal drugs and belittling Christians." Once again, this book came under challenge in Easton in 2012 and once again it was not removed.

William Faulkner

As I Lay Dying

As I Lay Dying has been challenged frequently. Banned in the Graves County School District in Mayfield, KY (1986) because it contains "offensive and obscene passages referring to abortion and use[s] God's name in vain." The decision was reversed a week later after intense pressure from the ACLU and considerable negative publicity. Other challenges have cited that the book includes "a segment about masturbation," profanity, coarse dialect, and that it questions the existence of God. In general these challenges have been rejected or reversed.

Anne Frank

The Diary of a Young Girl

In 1982 the book was challenged in schools in Wise County, Virginia as having sexually offensive passages. Alabama State Textbook Committee, in 1983, called the book "a real downer." In 2010 the book was again challenged in the Culpeper County schools, Virginia because of the sexual material and homosexual themes. International attention came to the school district and the superintendent said that the book would remain part of English classes.

Allen Ginsberg

Howl

Seized by US Customs officials in San Francisco in 1957 because it contains "homosexual acts." A subsequent obscenity trial was brought against Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who ran City Lights Bookstore, the poem's new domestic publisher. Ferlinghetti won the case when Judge Clayton Horn decided that the poem was of "redeeming social importance." In 2007, fearing fines from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Pacifica New York radio station WBAI opted not to broadcast the poem. In 2000 it was prohibited from Jacksonville Forrest High School reading lists.

William Golding

Lord of the Flies

Challenged on multiple occasions. Challengers have stated concerns about "demoralizing inasmuch as it implies that man is little more than an animal," "excessive violence and bad language," racism and lurid passages about sex.

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

Fairy Tales

Restricted from elementary students younger than 6th through 8th graders in Arizona in 1994 for excessive violence, negative portrayals of female characters, and anti Semitic references. The Little Red Riding Hood was banned by two CA school districts in 1990, because an illustration shows Little Red Riding Hood's basket with a bottle of wine. The wine could be seen as condoning the use of alcohol. The wine was also the reason behind other challenges. Hansel and Gretel was challenged in CA in 1992 because it teaches children that it is acceptable to kill witches and paints witches as child-eating monsters.

John Green

Looking for Alaska

This modern-day boarding school narrative has been compared to *A Separate Peace* and *Catcher in the Rye*. Students had voted to read the book as their end-of-term fun read in a high school in Sumner County, TN. A parent, concerned over profanity, drinking and a brief and inexplicitly described oral sex scene in the book, took their concerns directly to higher ups in the board of education. Within the span of four days and without any formal proceedings, the book was pulled from all county schools.

Robie Harris

It's Perfectly Normal

Challenged, restricted, removed, relocated in many US schools and libraries for encouraging "children to begin desiring sexual gratification... and is a clear example of child pornography," also because of frontal nudity, discussion of homosexual relationships, and abortion.

Joseph Heller

Catch-22

Banned in Strongsville, OH (1972), but the school board's action was overturned in 1976 by a U.S. District Court in *Minarcini v. Strongsville City School District*. Challenged at the Dallas, TX Independent School District high school libraries (1974); in Snoqualmie, WA (1979) because of its several references to women as "whores."

Ernest Hemingway

The Sun Also Rises, A Farewell to Arms

The Sun Also Rises has been banned in Boston, MA (1930), Ireland (1953), Riverside, CA (1960), San Jose, CA (1960). Burned in Nazi bonfires in Germany (1933).

A Farewell to Arms was banned in Italy because of its painfully accurate account of the Italian retreat from Caporetto, Italy (1929). Also banned in Boston (1929), by the Nazis (1933), in Ireland (1939), challenged in Dallas (1974), and in the Vernon-Verona-Sherill School District as a "sex novel" (1980).

Carolivia Herron

Nappy Hair

Challenged in Brooklyn schools in 1998 as being "racially insensitive."

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Khaled Hosseini

The Kite Runner

Challenged on reading lists for high school students in 2008 in Florida, North Carolina, and Illinois because of violence and sexual situations.

Aldous Huxley

Brave New World

Banned in Ireland (1932). Removed from classrooms in Miller, MO (1980), because it makes promiscuous sex "look like fun." Challenged as required reading at the Yukon, OK High School (1988) because of "the book's language and moral content." Challenged as required reading in the Corona-Norco, CA Unified School District (1993) because it is "centered around negative activity." Specifically, parents objected that the characters' sexual behavior directly opposed the health curriculum, which taught sexual abstinence until marriage. Removed from the Foley, AL High School Library (2000) because a parent complained that its characters showed contempt for religion, marriage, and family. Challenged, but retained in the South Texas Independent School District in Mercedes, TX (2003). Parents objected to the adult themes—sexuality, drugs, suicide—that appeared in the novel.

E..L. James

Fifty Shades of Grey

The smash-hit erotic romance stimulated conversations, imaginations and curiosities. It also brought public library policies about sexual content to the forefront, when many branches refused to purchase the book for eager patrons on the account that it was erotica or pornography. When one librarian in Brevard County, FL pulled its copies from circulation, NCAC spoke out strongly against keeping adults from reading popular and perfectly legal materials. While Brevard saw the light and restored the book, many libraries still have refused to purchase copies, despite sensational demand by patrons.

James Joyce

Ulysses

Burned in the U.S. (1918), Ireland (1922), Canada (1922), England (1923) and banned in England (1929).

Norton Juster

The Phantom Tollbooth

Locked away in the Boulder Colorado public library because the librarian considered it "poor fantasy".

Ken Kesey

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

In 1974, five residents of Strongsville, OH, sued the board of education to remove the novel. Labeling it "pornographic," they charged the novel "glorifies criminal activity, has a tendency to corrupt juveniles and contains descriptions of bestiality, bizarre violence, and torture, dismemberment, death, and human elimination." Removed from public school libraries in Randolph, NY, and Alton, OK (1975). Removed from the required reading list in Westport, MA (1977). Banned from the St. Anthony, ID Freemont High School classrooms (1978) and the instructor fired. The teacher sued. A decision in the case—Fogarty v. Atchley—was never published.

D.H. Lawrence

Women in Love, Lady Chatterley's Lover

Women in Love was seized by John Summers of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice and declared obscene (1922). *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was banned by U.S. Customs (1929).

Harper Lee

To Kill A Mockingbird

An eighth grader from Stanford Middle School in California spearheaded a campaign to remove Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel from his classroom. He was uncomfortable with the use of racial slurs. In protest, he wore a shirt to school emblazoned with some of the racial epithets from the book. He was asked to cover his shirt. The book was taken under review of the school district and was kept in the classroom. A high school principal in Anchorage, Alaska decided that his students would not be allowed to perform a stage adaptation of the novel. He, too, was troubled by the use of racial slurs and depiction of an attempted rape. In 2010 a Flagler Palm Coast High School production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* was cancelled because of concerns about the "offensive language" in the play.

Lois Lowry

The Giver

Blue Valley School District in Kansas reviewed this futuristic novel about a young man's growing disillusionment with an outwardly utopian society, following parent complaints that it was "lewd" and "twisted." Parents also claimed it is "unfit for analysis by students because it is violent, sexually explicit and portrays infanticide

and euthanasia.” One parent said, “This book is negative. I read it. I don't see the academic value in it. Everything presented to the kids should be positive or historical, not negative.” The novel, which has been compared to *Brave New World* (also frequently banned and challenged), won the Newbery Medal in 1994.

Carolyn Mackler

The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things

The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things was banned in Westminster, Maryland in 2006. Protests from students, librarians, national organizations, and the publisher helped return the book to high school libraries but not to middle school libraries.

Haruki Murakami

Norwegian Wood

In 2011 A New Jersey school district pulled the novel from its required reading list after a few parents complained about some sexual content. The book, which was released in Japan in 1987 and translated to English in 2000, has sold millions of copies, and made Murakami a superstar among Japanese youth.

Alan Moore

Neonomicon

A fourteen-year-old girl pulled this graphic novel inspired by H.P. Lovecraft's works, off the adult shelves in Greenville Public Library in South Carolina. Her mother gave it the flip test, thinking that because it was a graphic novel it was for kids, but evidently noticing none of the adult content inside. When the violence and graphic sexual content of the book came to her attention, she issued a formal complaint about the book, asking that it be taken out of the library entirely. The challenge is still under consideration.

Toni Morrison

Beloved

Challenged on numerous occasions but always retained. Generally challenged due to sexual content. Retained on the Northwest Suburban High School District 214 reading listing in Arlington Heights, IL (2006), along with eight other challenged titles. A board member, elected amid promises to bring her Christian beliefs into all board decision-making, raised the controversy based on excerpts from the books she'd found on the Internet. Pulled from the senior Advanced Placement (AP) English class at Eastern High School in Louisville, KY (2007) because two parents

complained that the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about antebellum slavery depicted the inappropriate topics of bestiality, racism, and sex.

Vladimir Nabokov

Lolita

Banned as obscene in France (1956-1959), in England (1955-59), in Argentina (1959), and in New Zealand (1960). The South African Directorate of Publications announced on November 27, 1982, that *Lolita* has been taken off the banned list, eight years after a request for permission to market the novel in paperback had been refused. Challenged at the Marion-Levy Public Library System in Ocala, FL (2006). The Marion County commissioners voted to have the county attorney review the novel that addresses the themes of pedophilia and incest, to determine if it meets the state law's definition of “unsuitable for minors.”

Lesléa Newman

Heather Has Two Mommies

First challenged in 1992 in Cumberland, North Carolina as promoting "a dangerous and ungodly lifestyle from which children must be protected." In 1993 the Mesa Public Library (Arizona) said the book was "vile, sick, and goes against every law and constitution."

George Orwell

1984

Challenged in 1981 in Jackson County, Florida because it was "pro-communist and contained explicit sexual matter."

Chuck Palahniuk

Choke

One of 55 books that parents in Fayetteville, Arkansas petitioned to have removed from school libraries. The parents, who formed Parents Protecting the Minds of Children, objected to the profane language and depictions of sexuality in many of the books and accused the librarians and other opponents of their efforts of promoting a "homosexual agenda". PPMC objects to this novel because of its depictions of sex addiction and irreverence towards religion.

Todd Parr

The Family Book

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A simple story book which talks about a number of different types of families, this book was at the center of a firestorm over non-traditional families in Erie, IL after a school counselor was told he could no longer use the book in the school's anti-bullying curriculum. The superintendent went on to effectively ban any reference to or discussion of not only of families with “two moms or two dads” but of homosexuality and gender non-conformity as well. Efforts to have the book and other gay-friendly anti-bullying materials reinstated have been rebuffed by the school board. Further legal action may be pending.

Phillip Pullman

The Golden Compass

In 2007 the book was pulled from library shelves in Ortega Middle School in Alamosa, CO and schools in Oshkosh, WI because of what critics claim is an "anti-Christian message."

Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson

And Tango Makes Three

And Tango Makes Three, a children's book based on the true story of two male penguins who adopted a chick in New York's Central Park Zoo, sits among the most frequently challenged books of 2008 and 2009. In Loudon County, Virginia, the book was challenged by a parent who saw it as an attack on families headed by heterosexuals.

Katherine Paterson

Bridge to Terabithia

A Newbery award winning book, *The Bridge* was first challenged in 1986 in Lincoln, Nebraska for containing profanity. "Lord" was used as an expletive. Since then, it has been challenged continuously for offensive language. In 2002 it was challenged in Cromwell, Connecticut due to the concern that it promotes witchcraft and violence.

Patricia Placco

In Our Mothers' House

This book was placed behind school library counters and can only be accessed with a parental permission slip, after ideologically-motivated complaints were raised about the book's content. The picture book tells the story of a diverse and adoptive family with two mothers in Berkeley, CA. It was first housed on the 1st-3rd grade shelves, was moved to 3rd-5th grade shelves after initial complaints, but parents continued their objections until the book was removed from shelves altogether.

J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter

The *Harry Potter* books were number 7 on the American Library Association's list of the 100 most frequently challenged books of 1990-2000. They are number 1 on the ALA's Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books: 2000-2009. In a number of states, there have been attempts, some successful, some unsuccessful, to have the *Harry Potter* books banned in classrooms, and banned or under severe restrictions, in school libraries. In Gwinnett County, Georgia, a parent challenged the Harry Potter books on the grounds that they promoted witchcraft. When school officials ruled against her, she went to the State Board of Education. When the BOE confirmed the right of local school officials to make such decision, she took her battle against the books to court. Although the judge ruled against her in the spring of 2007, she indicated she might continue her fight against the series.

J.D. Salinger

Catcher in the Rye, Nine Stories

A teacher in Tulsa, OK was fired for assigning *The Catcher In The Rye* to an 11th grade English class (1960). Since then the book has been challenged and removed from school libraries repeatedly. In 2001 it was removed by a school board member because it was a "filthy, filthy book." The latest challenge comes from Missoula, MT, in 2009.

Nine Stories was removed from a reading list at Franklin High School because a parent objected to the language used (1987).

Dr. Seuss

The Lorax

Challenged in 1989 in Laytonville School District in California because it "criminalized the foresting industry."

William Shakespeare

The Merchant of Venice; Twelfth Night

The Merchant of Venice was first banned in Manchester, New York in 1931. It was deemed anti-Semitic. It was most recently banned in Ontario, Canada in 1986. *Twelfth Night* was removed from a Merrimack, NH English class because of a policy banning instruction that has "the effect of encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative."

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Shel Silverstein

A Light in the Attic

First challenged in 1985 in Beloit, Wisconsin, because it "encourages children to break dishes so they won't have to dry them." In 1986 the book is challenged at the West Allies-West Milwaukee school libraries because it "suggests drug use, the occult, suicide, death, violence, disrespect for truth, disrespect for legitimate authority, rebellion against parents" and because it inspires young people to commit "acts of violence, disbelief and disrespect." In 1989 it is challenged at the South Adams, IN school libraries because it is "very vile" and "contains subliminal or underlying messages and anti-parent material."

John Steinbeck

The Grapes of Wrath

Banned in Kern County, California, the setting of the novel, in 1939. Burned in East St. Louis, Missouri in 1939. Banned in the 1970s and 80s and 90s for "profane language" and for "inappropriate sexual references."

John Steinbeck

Of Mice and Men

Frequently challenged and banned. Explanations for the challenges have included profanity, blasphemy, "anti business attitudes," "questionable patriotism," "morbid and depressing themes," and racism.

R.L. Stine

Goosebumps

First challenged in 1996 in Bay County, Florida for "satanic symbolism and disturbing scenes and dialogue", including demonic possession, descriptions of dogs as menacing, and promoting mischief.

Amy Timberlake

The Dirty Cowboy

Removed from a school library in Annville-Cleona School District in south-central PA after two parents of a kindergarten student complained that the book's playful depiction of a cowboy bathing would lead their child to think that looking at nudity and pornography are okay. This despite the fact that the drawings of the cowboy never show him fully in the nude but cleverly cover his sensitive areas.

J.R.R. Tolkien

Lord of the Rings Trilogy

Burned in Alamogordo, NM (2001) outside Christ Community Church along with other Tolkien novels as satanic.

Terry Trueman

Stuck in Neutral

A complaint was submitted to this book in Humble, TX in response to the profane language and the discussion of euthanasia. The award-winning young adult book is told from the point of view of a teen with cerebral palsy, who cannot move or speak and who suspects that his father wants to euthanize him, unaware of his rich inner life. The book was retained.

Kurt Vonnegut

Slaughterhouse 5

A complaint initiated the review process that ultimately resulted in the removal of *Slaughterhouse 5* from the curriculum and library in Republic, Missouri in 2011. The objections were to "vulgar language," violence, and sexual content, particularly "sex outside of marriage and homosexuality." Challenged in many communities, but burned in Drake, ND (1973). Banned in Rochester, MI because the novel "contains and makes references to religious matters" and thus fell within the ban of the establishment clause. An appellate court upheld its usage in the school in *Todd v Rochester Community Schools*, 41 Mich. App. 320, 200 N. W 2d 90 (1972). Banned in Levittown, NY (1975), North Jackson, OH (1979), and Lakeland, FL (1982) because of the "book's explicit sexual scenes, violence, and obscene language."

Alice Walker

The Color Purple

Challenged as appropriate reading for Oakland, CA High School honors class (1984) due to the work's "sexual and social explicitness" and its "troubling ideas about race relations, man's relationship to God, African history, and human sexuality." Banned in the Souderton, PA Area School District (1992) as appropriate reading for 10th graders because it is "smut." Challenged, but retained as part of a supplemental reading list at the Shawnee School in Lima, OH (1999). Several parents described its content as vulgar and "X-rated."

Walt Whitman

Leaves of Grass

Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* created an uproar from the moment it was first published in 1855 and all through its subsequent nine editions. This classic work of poetry was deemed "obscene," "too sensual," and "shocking" because of its frank portrayal of sexuality and its homoerotic overtones. In 1865, Whitman lost his job as a clerk with the Department of the Interior, when his supervisor found the annotated copy, on display, among Whitman's possessions at work. In 1870, Yale University President Noah Porter compared Whitman's offense in writing *Leaves of Grass* to that of "walking naked through the streets." With the single known exception of the Library Company of Philadelphia, libraries refused to buy the book, and the poem was legally banned in Boston in the 1880s and informally banned elsewhere. Most booksellers agreed to neither publicize nor recommend *Leaves of Grass* to customers, and in 1881, the Boston District Attorney threatened Whitman's publisher with criminal prosecution, at the urging of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, causing a proposed new edition to be withdrawn from publication.

Daniel Wilson

Robopocalypse

Students in the Knox County STEM program were assigned this New York Times bestseller as a program-wide summer reading selection, designed to keep students interested in the STEM field over the summer. An informal challenge was lodged by a parent of an incoming freshman who objected to language and themes in the book, which describes an epic battle between self-aware artificial intelligence and native humans. A substitute assignment was offered to concerned parents and the book remained the summer reading selection.

Richard Wright

Native Son and *Black Boy*

Both novels have been repeatedly challenged and banned for their sexual content, language and, in the case of *Native Son*, violence. *Black Boy* was restricted to students with parental approval at the Island Trees, NY School District High School Library in 1976. The restriction was lifted after the 1982 US Supreme Court ruling in Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v Pico et al. In 2007, in response to a request from LOVE (the Livingston Organization for Values in Education), the top law enforcement official in Howell, MI reviewed the book to see whether laws against distribution of sexually explicit material to minors had been broken. They were not. *Native Son* was challenged at the Berrien Springs, MI High School in classrooms and libraries (1988) because the novel is "vulgar, profane, and sexually explicit." Removed from Irvington High School in Fremont, CA (1998) after

a few parents complained the book was unnecessarily violent and sexually explicit. Challenged in the Hamilton High School curriculum in Fort Wayne, IN (1998) because of the novel's graphic language and sexual content.

Nancy Garden

Annie on My Mind

Annie on My Mind has been frequently challenged due to its depiction of a homosexual relationship. The American Library Association's list of the most challenged books between the years 1990 and 2000 ranks it forty-eighth. In 1993 superintendent Ron Wimmer, of the Olathe School District, ordered the book removed from the high school library. In response, the American Civil Liberties Union joined several families and a teacher and sued the school district. When the case went to trial the removal of the book was deemed unconstitutional and *Annie on My Mind* was returned to library shelves.

Stephen King

Apt Pupil

Stephen King's books have been challenged frequently and for a wide array of reasons including sexual explicitness, graphic depictions of violence, darkness, and horror.

In 2012 Rocklin High School, in Sacramento, California, sparked a controversy by stating that it was considering banning *Different Seasons*, a collection of King's stories, due to a rape scene in *Apt Pupil*.

Marcus Ewert

10,000 Dresses

10,000 Dresses has been challenged by some socially conservative organizations for its depiction of a male-bodied child who wears dresses and who the narrative refers to with female pronouns. In 2011 the book was banned in Texas schools. In 2013 Focus on the Family released a video in which they used *10,000 Dresses* as a reason to be "concerned about homosexual advocacy in your child's school."

F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Great Gatsby

The Great Gatsby was challenged at the Baptist College in Charleston because of "language and sexual references in the book."

Stephen Chbosky

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky was banned from ninth grade classrooms at Portage High School in Portage, IN, in late November 2008. The book was challenged by one parent who objected to sexual content in the novel, and the school board decided to remove the book from the curriculum. In response to an article published in the school newspaper, the Pow Wow, which reported on the review process for *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, school administrators imposed a new policy requiring that all future newspaper content be subject to prior review. In December 2008, the Kids' Right to Read Project sent a letter to the school board and superintendent opposing the banning of the book and the new prior review policy for the newspaper. Following a second letter from the Kids' Right to Read Project and a little help from Judy Blume, the school board of Glen Ellyn School District 41 in Illinois voted to restore access to *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* in middle school classroom libraries. KRRP has been a major mover in the enthusiastic grassroots campaign to bring the book back.

Augusten Burroughs

Running With Scissors

In 2007 *Running with scissors* was challenged in the Howell High School because of the book's strong sexual content. At the request of the president of the Livingston Organization for Values the county's top law enforcement official reviewed the book to see whether laws against distribution of sexually explicit materials to minors had been broken. After reading the book the official stated that the sexual content in the book was artistic not pornographic and that no laws had been broken.

In 2010 the book was challenged as suggested reading for an English class in some Florida high schools. Four schools kept the book with a “mature reader” sticker. Three moved to require parental consent. Two schools banned the book completely citing “explicit homosexual and heterosexual situations, profanity, underage drinking and smoking, extreme moral shortcomings, child molesters, graphic pedophile situations and total lack of negative consequences throughout the book.”

Laurie Halse Anderson

Speak

Speak is ranked 60th on the ALA's list of Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books for 2000-2009. In September 2010, Wesley Scroggins, a professor at Missouri State University, claimed that *Speak* should be “classified as soft pornography” and,

therefore, removed from high school English curriculum. In its 2010-2011 bibliography, “Books Challenged or Banned”, the Newsletter of Intellectual Freedom lists *Speak* as having been challenged in Missouri schools because of its “soft-pornography” and “glorification of drinking, cursing, and premarital sex.”

Walter Dean Myers

Fallen Angels, Monster

Fallen Angels is listed as number 16 in the American Library Association's list of 100 most frequently challenged books of 1990–2000 due to its use of profanity and realistic depiction of the war.

In 2013 a group of parents in Illinois filed a request with their school district to have *Monster* removed from the middle school curriculum citing objections to the book's references to violence, drug use, sex among minors and racially-offensive language. A committee of teachers and administrators reviewed *Monster* and decided to keep the novel in the curriculum but offer parents the option to have their children read an alternative.

Tomás Rivera

...And the Earth Did Not Devour Him

In 2010 the governor of Arizona signed into law a bill that imposes a set of limitations on what can be included in the Arizona public school curriculum. The bill prohibits, among other things, any program of instruction that “advocates ethnic solidarity instead of being individuals” or that is “designed for a certain ethnicity.” *...And the Earth Did Not Devour Him* has been included in the group of books removed from public schools in Arizona in accord with the bill.

In 2013 two parents in Clark County requested that *...And the Earth Did Not Devour Him* be removed from the 7th grade curriculum on the grounds that they did not want their children exposed to expletives in the book. The superintendent told them that their children, and any others whose parents objected, would be exempt from reading the book. The parents filed an appeal and the Board of Education agreed to urge the superintendent to reconsider his decision.

Zora Neale Hurston

Their Eyes Were Watching God

In 1997 the inclusion of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* on the Stonewall Jackson High School's academically advanced reading list was challenged for sexual explicitness. The book was retained.

National Coalition Against Censorship 2013 “Banned Books Library” Catalog

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Jean Craighead George

Julie of the Wolves, Julie

Challenged numerous times citing concerns like “socialist, communist, evolutionary, and anti-family themes” and depictions of rape.

S.E. Hinton

The Outsiders

Challenged several times for glamorizing drug and alcohol abuse, gangs, gang violence, and because “virtually all of the characters were from broken homes.”

Dav Pilkey

Captain Underpants

Many of the volumes in Dav Pilkey's *Captain Underpants* series have been challenged and banned. The challenges cite inappropriateness, rudeness, or meanness.

Curtis Sittenfeld

Prep

In 2008 *Prep* was pulled from the accelerated reading program in the Heritage Oak Private School in Yorba Linda. A parent complained that the book was pornographic.

Marjane Satrapi

The Complete Persepolis

In 2013 the Chicago Public School Board apparently mandated that *Persepolis* be pulled from all libraries and classrooms by March 15. The school board stated concerns about the book's depiction of torture. In response to an escalating backlash the school board softened the mandate, informing schools that they did not have to remove the book from their libraries but that they should not teach it to 7th graders.

Laura Esquirel

Like Water for Chocolate

In 2004 the inclusion of *Like Water for Chocolate* as an elective reading list assigned was challenged at the Arrowhead High School in Merton. A parent complained that the book contained “sexually explicit and inappropriate material.”