

# Reading Center

Take a look at one to two of the books (or book pamphlets) at the table. Read the title, book summary, any other relevant information that could help you get a clue as to what the story may be about.

Then, pick one book to focus on in particular.

## Questions:

- a. (If the information is available) Why was it challenged?
- b. Based on what you know about the book, do you think it should be available in a school or classroom library for students in your grade? Why or why not?
- c. Do you think some students may like the book or find it useful? Why or why not?

# Video Center

**Go to:** <https://bit.ly/interviewwithMaia>

Watch from 8:30 to 10:50 to hear from Gender Queer author Maia Kobabe about what it was like to have their book banned.

## **Questions:**

1. Why might graphic novels be more vulnerable to book bans?
2. What is the author's reasoning for saying that book bans are a bad idea?
3. Do you agree with this author's perspective? Why or why not?

# Paired Text Center

Read the following two articles. Pay close attention to the main idea of each article and think about what these articles might have in common.

## **Article 1:**

[Teens Fight For the Right to Read With 'Banned Book Clubs' and Lawsuits](#)

## **Article 2:**

[Feels Like a Slippery Slope: York Mulls Over Pulling Sex Ed Book From Middle School Library](#)

Questions:

1. What is the main idea of each article?
2. Compare and contrast: How do the stakeholders in these articles address the book challenges in their community?

# Database Center

Go to: <https://ncac.org/youth-censorship-database>

This map displays student censorship incidents including book challenges in schools and libraries, as well as censorship of student art, journalism, and other types of student expression in schools.

**Directions:** Using the filters located above the map, click on **type** and select **book challenge**.

Then, find your **state** and click **search**. How many instances of censorship do you see? Below the map, a list of book challenges in your state will come up. Click around and answer the following **questions**:

1. How many book challenges are listed in your state? Does this amount surprise you? Why or why not?
2. What are some of the reasons these books were challenged in your state?
3. Looking at the map as a whole, which states seem to have the most book challenges? Why might that be?

# Podcast Center

Go to: <https://bit.ly/BannedBooksPodcast>

Next, start the podcast at **1:30** and click play. Listen until **10:35**.

## Questions:

1. The podcast starts by mentioning book burnings in the past. What were some of the reasons books were burned in the past?
2. What is the difference between a book challenge and a book ban?
3. What percentage of book bans go unnoticed by the media?
4. What do you think the speaker means at the end of the podcast when she says, “As long as free speech remains, so will challenges to it”?

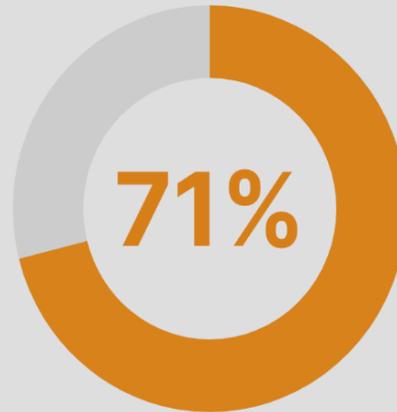
# Statistics Center

Browse through the statistical information and answer the following questions in your notebook:

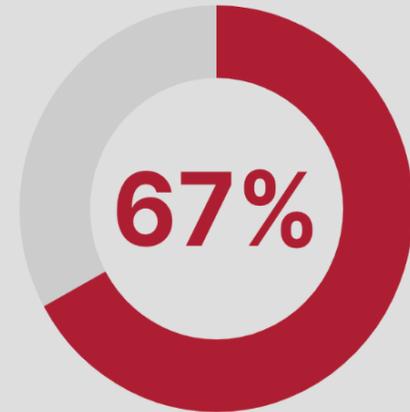
1. Write down the statistic you found most surprising? Why did this surprise you?
2. Which statistic was least surprising? Why?
3. Who is most likely to initiate a book ban?
4. Who (students, teachers, school administrators, librarians, parents, ect.) might find this information interesting/insightful? Why?



**We are not alone.** On both sides of the aisle, large majorities of voters and parents oppose book bans.



**of voters oppose efforts to remove books from public libraries.**



**of voters oppose efforts to remove books from school libraries.**

Full poll results and key findings available via the [American Library Association](#).

# Did you know?

There were 1,597 book bans in 2021 and 2022 is on track to beat this record.

33% percent of the banned books, included LGBTQ themes, protagonists, or strong secondary characters.

