Frequently Banned/Challenged Books

Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library
A Selective Annotated Selective Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexile Score</th>
<th>Title Information</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EASY</td>
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<td></td>
<td>In an attempt to avoid a visit from Uncle Carbuncle, the Stupids fly off in their airplane and visit several other relatives who are just as stupid as they are.</td>
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<td>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Negative behavior, objectionable language.</td>
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<td>A retelling of the well-known tale in which a little black boy finally outwits the succession of tigers that want to eat him.</td>
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<td>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Racism, objectionable themes.</td>
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<td>An artist’s drawing of a star begins the creation of an entire universe around him as each successive pictured object requests that he draw more.</td>
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<td>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, religious viewpoint.</td>
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Grandma Concetta heals everyone with her remedies and advice, and when she retires, she leaves Nona her magic pasta pot with its secret ingredient.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Witchcraft, magic.


When the queen insists that the prince get married and take over as king, the search for a suitable mate does not turn out as expected.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Homosexuality


The reader follows Waldo as he hikes around the world and must try to find him in the illustrations of some of the crowded places he visits.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, unsuited for age group.


Twenty-six poems—one for each letter of the alphabet—make up this playful, shivery collection by noted author Eve Merriam, while spooky illustrations capture perfectly the wit and beauty of the poetry—and the spirit of Halloween.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Supernatural themes, images of weapons, unsuited for age group.


Heather’s favorite number is two. She has two arms, two legs, and two pets. And she also has two mommies. When Heather goes to school for the first time, someone asks her about her daddy, but Heather doesn’t have a daddy. Then something interesting happens. When Heather and her classmates all draw pictures of their families, not one drawing is the same. It doesn’t matter who makes up a family, the teacher says, because "the most important thing about a family is that all the people in it love one another."

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Homosexuality.

At New York City’s Central Park Zoo, two male penguins fall in love and start a family by taking turns sitting on an abandoned egg until it hatches.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Anti-family, homosexuality, political viewpoint, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group.


A little boy’s dream-fantasy in which he helps three fat bakers get milk for their cake batter.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit.


A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Promotion of witchcraft and supernatural events.


On her way home from school, Pearl finds an unusual bone that has unexpected powers.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Violence, unsuited for age group.


A young boy discusses his divorced father’s new living situation, in which the father and his gay roommate share eating, doing chores, playing, loving, and living.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Homosexuality


Based on a true story. After her parents are taken away by the Taliban, young Nasreen stops speaking. But as she spends time in a secret school, she slowly breaks out of her shell.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Religious Viewpoint, unsuited for age group.
FICTION


Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Anti-family, cultural insensitivity, drugs/alcohol/smoking, gambling, offensive language, sex education, sexually explicit, unsuited for age group, violence.


Two high school seniors believe their love to be so strong that it will last forever.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language, sexual content.


A tale of adolescence whose hero is Charlie, a high school freshman in Pennsylvania. The novel follows Charlie as he is introduced to love, literature and pot.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Drugs/alcohol/smoking, homosexuality, offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited for age group.


While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Uns suited to age group, violence.


Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Drugs/alcohol/smoking, sexually explicit, offensive language, unsuited to age group.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Reason for Challenge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>800</td>
<td>Greene, Bette</td>
<td><em>Summer of My German Soldier</em></td>
<td>Dial Press, 1973</td>
<td>Offensive language, racism, sexually explicit.</td>
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<td>When German prisoners of war are brought to her Arkansas town during World War II, twelve-year-old Patty, a Jewish girl, befriends one of them and must deal with the consequences of that friendship.</td>
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<td>Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.</td>
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<td>On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.</td>
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<td>Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her packmates and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom.</td>
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<td>The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence, and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina and quiet heroism of one man's struggle for justice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>780</td>
<td>Leviathan, David</td>
<td><em>Two Boys Kissing</em></td>
<td>Alfred A. Knopf, 2013</td>
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<td>A chorus of men who died of AIDS observes and yearns to help a cross-section of today's gay teens who navigate new love, long-term relationships, coming out, self-</td>
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acceptance, and more in a society that has changed in many ways.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Homosexuality

Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe, its protagonist, was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: *Beloved*.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Sexually explicit, religious viewpoint, violence.

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language.

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Occult/Satanism, offensive language, violence.

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Occult/Satanism, violence.

Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.
REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit.


A black family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which its children do not understand.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language.

NONFICTION


Author and photographer Susan Kuklin met and interviewed six transgender or gender-neutral young adults and represents them before, during, and after their personal acknowledgment of gender preference.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Anti-family, offensive language, homosexuality, sex education, political viewpoint, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group.


Throughout history writers have rebelled against authority and the status quo real revolutionaries! They are the source of new ideas or old ideas expressed in new ways. But not everyone is happy with this freedom of expression, and some try to keep it from you. Could your favorite book be next?


Tapped from the oral traditions of American folklore, these ghost stories and tales of weird happenings, witches, and graveyards have startling, funny, or surprising endings.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Unsuited for age group, violence.


Providing accurate and up-to-date answers to nearly every imaginable question, from conception and puberty to birth control and STDs, *It’s Perfectly Normal* offers young people the information they need—now more than ever—to make responsible decisions.
and stay healthy.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, sex education, sexually explicit, unsuited to age.


A collection of humorous poems.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Promotes violence and disrespect.


Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Inappropriate sexual and homosexual themes.

BIOGRAPHY


Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right.

REASONS FOR CHALLENGE: Sexually explicit.


Presents the story of a transgender child who traces her early awareness that she is a girl in spite of male anatomy and the acceptance she finds through a wise doctor who explains her natural transgender status.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Inaccurate, homosexuality, sex education, religious viewpoint, and unsuited for age group.
REFERENCE


Provides a framework for understanding censorship and the protections guaranteed to us through the First Amendment. Interpretations of the uniquely American notion of freedom of expression - and our freedom to read what we choose - are supplemented by straightforward, easily accessible information that will inspire further exploration

*For a complete list, please visit: [http://www.ala.org/bbooks/banned](http://www.ala.org/bbooks/banned)*

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