

1999-2000

Books Challenged or Banned

Robert P. Doyle



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Books Challenged or Banned in 1999-2000

Banned Books Week 2000 is the nineteenth annual celebration of the freedom to read. This freedom, not only to choose what we read but also to be able to select from a full array of possibilities, is firmly rooted in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of press. Even as we revel in the increasing quantity and availability of information and reading material, we must maintain vigilance to assure that access to this material is preserved. Threats against the freedom to read still exist and come from all quarters and from all political persuasions. Quite simply, censors are those who try to limit the freedom of others to choose what they read, see, or hear, even if the motivation for the restriction is well intentioned.

Sex, profanity, and racism remain the primary categories of objections, and most incidents occur in schools and school libraries. Frequently, challenges are motivated by the desire to protect children. And, while this cause is noble and commendable, this method of protection contains hazards far greater than exposure to the "evil" against which the protection is leveled. Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, in *Texas v. Johnson*, said "If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the Government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable." Individuals may restrict what they themselves or their children read, but they must not call on governmental or public agencies to prevent others from reading or seeing that material.

The challenges documented in this list are not just someone expressing a point of view regarding these materials; rather, the challengers have asked that the material be removed from the school curriculum or library, thus restricting its access by others. Even when the eventual outcome allows the book to stay on the library shelves, and even when the incident is a lone protester, the censorship attempt is real. Someone has tried to restrict another person's ability to choose. These incidents are as important to document as actual bannings, where a book is removed from the shelves

of a library or bookstore or from the curriculum at a school. Attempts to censor lead to voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy, a situation far more critical than an actual banning, since in these cases the material may not be published or may not be purchased by a bookstore, library, or school district.

We have reason to be especially celebratory this year. Due to the commitment of parents, students, librarians, teachers, and other concerned citizens, more and more of the challenges are unsuccessful and the reading material remains available.

It should be noted that this bibliography is incomplete because many prohibitions against free speech and expression remain undocumented. Surveys indicate approximately 85 percent of the challenges to library materials receive no media attention and remain unreported. Moreover, this list is limited to books and does not include challenges to magazines, newspapers, films, broadcasts, plays, performances, electronic publications, or exhibits.

This bibliography represents books challenged, restricted, removed, or banned in 1999-2000 as reported in the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* from May 1999 through March 2000.

***Banned Books: 2000 Resource Book* has an entire section devoted to ideas, activities, and resources to help educate the public and protect our fragile First Amendment rights.**

See the back cover for details.

- Allende, Isabel. *The House of the Spirits*. Knopf; Bantam. Challenged on the tenth grade reading list at La Costa Canyon High School in Encinitas, Calif. (1999) because the work "defames" the Catholic faith and contains "pornographic passages." Source: Nov. 1999, p. 164.
- Anaya, Rudolfo A. *Bless Me, Ultima*. TQS Pubns. Removed from the Laton, Calif. Unified School District (1999) because it contains violence and profanity that might harm students. The novel is considered by many critics to be the finest work by the New Mexico writer, widely respected as one of the leading Hispanic writers in the U.S. It was chosen by teachers who thought it would be welcomed by the district's students, who are 80 percent Hispanic. Challenged at the John Jay High School in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. (2000) because the book is "full of sex and cursing." Source: Sept. 1999, pp. 120-21; Mar. 2000, p. 51.
- Anders, Jim. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Sex on the Net*. Que. Challenged, but retained at the Will Hampton Branch of the Austin, Tex. Public Library (1999) despite complaints from at least three parents that the book is "obscene." Source: Nov. 1999, p. 172.
- Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Bantam. Removed from the seventh- and eighth-grade reading list at the Unity, N.H. Elementary School (1999) because the "book is too sexually explicit." Source: May 1999, p. 69; July 1999, pp. 93-94.
- Anonymous. *Go Ask Alice*. Avon; Prentice-Hall. Removed from the Aledo, Tex. Middle School library (1999) and restricted at the high school library to students with parental permission. A parent complained about the references to drug use, vulgar language, and descriptions of sex. Source: Sept. 1999, pp. 119-20.
- Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. Fawcett; Houghton; Simon; Hall. Challenged because of graphic sex, but retained on the advanced placement English list at Chamberlain High School in Tampa, Fla. (1999). Source: Sept. 1999, p. 121; Nov. 1999, p. 173.
- Bauer, Marion Dane, ed. *Am I Blue?: Coming out from the Silence*. HarperCollins. Challenged at the Fairfield, Iowa Middle School and High School libraries (2000) because of a graphic description of a sexual act. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 62.
- Bennett, James. *Blue Star Rapture*. Simon. Challenged, but retained on the Downers Grove, Ill. High School reading lists (1999) despite parents' complaints that the book is "obscene" and "vulgar." Source: Jan. 2000, p. 28.
- Block, Francesca Lia. *Baby Be-Bop*. HarperCollins. Removed from the Barron, Wis. School District (1998) because of the book's use of vulgar language and sexually explicit passages. The ACLU of Wisconsin filed suit against the school district on Feb. 16, 1999. The books were then returned to the library while a federal court considered the lawsuit. On October 8, 1999, it was agreed that the novel will remain available to students as part of the school district's settlement of the federal lawsuit. Source: Jan. 1999, p. 9; Mar. 1999, p. 37; May 1999, p. 68; Jan. 2000, p. 28.
- Blume, Judy. *Blubber*. Bradbury Pr.; Dell; Dutton. Banned at Clements High School in Athens, Ala. (1998) because of objections to the use of the word "damn" and "bitch" in the novel. The decision was later reversed. Removed from an elementary school in Arlington, Tex. (1999) because educators objected to "verbal, physical, and sexual abuse of student upon student." Source: Mar. 1999, p. 35; May 1999, p. 83; Jan. 2000, p. 8.
- _____. *Forever*. Bradbury Pr. Banned from middle school libraries in the Elgin, Ill. School District U46 (1997) because of its sex scenes. The decision was upheld in June 1999 after an hour of emotional school board discussion. Source: May 1997, pp. 60-61; Sept. 1997, p. 125; Sept. 1999, p. 119.
- _____. *Here's to You, Rachel Robinson*. Orchard. Challenged, but retained at the Granville School library in Catskill, N.Y. (1999) despite a parent's objection to three words. Source: Sept. 1999, p. 131.
- _____. *Tiger Eyes*. Bradbury Pr. Pulled from the Many, La. Junior High library shelves (1999) because of descriptions of a girl's sexual encounters, getting drunk at school, and the use of profanities. Source: Jan. 2000, p. 11.
- Bode, Janet, and Stan Mack. *Heartbreak and Roses: Real Life Stories of Troubled Love*. Delacorte. Pulled from the Ouachita Parish school library in Monroe, La. (1996) because of sexual content. The Louisiana chapter of the ACLU filed a lawsuit in the federal courts on October 3, 1996, claiming that the principal and the school superintendent violated First Amendment free speech rights and also failed to follow established procedure when they removed the book. The three-year-old school library censorship case headed to court after the Ouachita Parish School Board made no decision to seek a settlement at a special meeting April 12, 1999. On August 17, 1999, the Ouachita Parish School Board agreed to return the book to the library and to develop a new book-selection policy that follows state guidelines for school media programs. Source: Sept. 1996, pp. 151-52; Jan. 1997, p. 7; July 1999, p. 93; Jan. 2000, p. 27.
- Bunch, Robert. *Invisible Marijuana and Psychedelic Mushroom Gardens*. Loompanics Unlimited. Challenged at the Warrenville, Ill. Public Library (2000) because "it provides a step-by-step manual for circumventing the law." Source: Mar. 2000, p. 48.
- Carle, Eric. *Draw Me a Star*. Philomel Bks. This children's book dealing with the creation story was challenged, but retained in the Dorothy B. Bunce Elementary School library in Pavilion, N.Y. (1999) despite a parent's objection to a collage picture of a naked man and woman representing Adam and Eve. Source: May 1999, pp. 83-84.
- Clerc, Charles, and Louis Leiter, comp. *Seven Contemporary Short Novels*. Scott, Foresman. Removed from the Baker City, Ohio High School language arts program (1999) because of two selections in the book. *The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison, includes a description of a father raping his eleven-year-old daughter. *Being There*, by Jerzy Kosinski, includes descriptions of sexual relations. Source: May 1999, p. 70.
- Cohen, Daniel. *Ghostly Warnings*. Cobblehill Books. Challenged, but retained at the Hastings, Nebr. Public Library (1999) along with forty other books on the topics of witches, magic, the zodiac, fortune telling, and ghost stories (most of the Dewey Decimal category 133.47). The books were called "demonic" and unsuitable for young children. Source: May 1999, p. 66; July 1999, p. 104.
- _____. *Phantom Animals*. Putnam. Challenged, but retained at the Hastings, Nebr. Public Library (1999) along with forty other books on the topics of witches, magic, the zodiac, fortune telling, and ghost stories (most of the Dewey Decimal category 133.47). The books were called "demonic" and unsuitable for young children. Source: May 1999, p. 66; July 1999, p. 104.
- Cohen, Susan, and Daniel Cohen. *When Someone You Know is Gay*. Evans.

- Removed from the Barron, Wis. School District (1998) because the 1992 data is outdated. The ACLU of Wisconsin filed suit against the school district on Feb. 16, 1999. The books were then returned to the library while a federal court considered the lawsuit. On October 8, 1999, it was agreed that the book will remain available to students as part of the school district's settlement of the federal lawsuit. Source: Jan. 1999, p. 9; Mar. 1999, p. 37; May 1999, p. 68; Jan. 2000, p. 28.
- Collier, James Lincoln, and Christopher Collier. *My Brother Sam Is Dead*. Scholastic. Challenged in the fifth-grade Oak Brook, Ill. Butler District 53 curriculum (2000) because of violence and inappropriate language. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 49.
- _____. *With Every Drop of Blood*. Delacorte. Challenged in the fifth-grade Oak Brook, Ill. Butler District 53 curriculum (2000) because the book contains racial slurs. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 49.
- Conroy, Pat. *The Lords of Discipline*. Bantam. Banned, but later reinstated after community protests at the Windsor Forest High School in Savannah, Ga. (2000). The controversy began in early 1999 when a parent complained about sex, violence, and profanity in the book that was part of an advanced placement English class. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 63.
- Cormier, Robert. *The Chocolate War*. Dell; Pantheon. Challenged on the required reading list for ninth graders at Colton, N.Y. schools (1999) due to references to masturbation, profanity, disrespect of women, and sexual innuendo. Challenged on the York County, Va. schools reading list and in classrooms (1999 and 2000) because the book contains profanity and violence. Challenged as part of the Silverheels Middle School's supplemental reading material in South Park, Colo. (2000) because parents objected to sexually suggestive language in the book. Challenged at the Maple Heights, Ohio School (2000) because "the book teaches immorality." Source: Sept. 1999, p. 122; Jan. 2000, p. 16; Mar. 2000, pp. 49, 51-52.
- Coupe, Peter. *The Beginner's Guide to Drawing Cartoons*. Arcturus Pub. Removed from the Meadow Ridge Elementary School library in Spokane, Wash. (1999) after a mother complained that nude cartoon characters of Adam and Eve were a bad influence on children. Source: May 1999, p. 68.
- Crumb, R. *The R. Crumb Coffee Table Art Book*. Little. Challenged at the Alexandrian Public Library in Mount Vernon, Ind. (1999). Source: Nov. 1999, p. 171.
- Crutcher, Chris. *Athletic Shorts*. Dell; Greenwillow; Thorndike Pr. Pulled from the elementary school collections, but retained at the middle school libraries in Anchorage, Alaska (1999). A parent challenged the book of short stories because of the book's lack of respect for parents and God, its treatment of homosexuality, and its bad language. Source: May 1999, p. 65.
- Dahl, Roald. *James and the Giant Peach*. ABC-CLIO; Knopf. Banned from an elementary school in Lufkin, Tex. (1999) because it contains the word "ass." Source: Jan. 2000, p. 8.
- DeMille, Nelson. *The Charm School*. Mass Market. Removed from the Waltham, Mass. High School summer reading list (1999) because of two sexually graphic passages. Source: Jan. 2000, p. 14.
- Deuker, Carl. *On the Devil's Court*. Joy Street Bks. Challenged, but retained at the Virginia Run Elementary School in Centreville, Va. (1999) despite a parent's claim that the book espouses "pro-Satanism." Source: Nov. 1999, pp. 172-73.
- Dorris, Michael. *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*. Holt; Thorndike Pr.; Warner. Challenged at the Pebblebrook High School in Marietta, Ga. (1999) because of the book's profanity and explicit sexual language. Source: May 1999, p. 66.
- Doyle, Robert P. *Banned Books*. American Library Association. Banned from a display at Spotswood High School in Harrisonburg, Va. (1999) after a parent determined that some materials listed in the publication were inappropriate for students. Students were not required to read or even look at the publication, nor were they required to read any of the books listed in the publication. Source: Jan. 2000, p. 16; Mar. 2000, p. 39.
- Elliot, David. *An Alphabet for Rotten Kids*. Philomel Bks. Pulled from the Spokane, Wash. School District libraries (1999) after a parent complained its depictions of children hitting animals and destroying property gave her second grader the wrong message. Source: May 1999, p. 68.
- Gaines, Ernest. *A Lesson Before Dying*. Knopf; Vintage. Banned, but later reinstated after community protests at the Windsor Forest High School in Savannah, Ga. (2000). The controversy began in early 1999 when a parent complained about sex, violence, and profanity in the book that was part of an advanced placement English class. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 63.
- Glenn, Mel. *Who Killed Mr. Chippendale?* Lodestar Bks. Removed from the Central School library in Huntsville, Ala. (1999) as inappropriate for fourth graders. After the book's removal, the complainant called for the formation of a group of parents to go through all the library's books, as well as monitor new books. The school's principal stated, "If a book is sexual, if it is racial, if it's violent, we'll pull it off the shelves." Source: July 1999, p. 93.
- Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*. Coward. Challenged, but retained on the ninth-grade accelerated English reading list in Bloomfield, N.Y. (2000). The board was still set to review *Catcher in the Rye*, by J. D. Salinger, and *A Death in the Family*, by James Agee. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 64.
- Greene, Bette. *The Drowning of Stephan Jones*. Bantam. Removed from the Barron, Wis. School District (1998) because of the book's homosexual theme. The ACLU of Wisconsin filed suit against the school district on Feb. 16, 1999. The books were then returned to the library while a federal court considered the lawsuit. On October 8, 1999, it was agreed that the book will remain available to students as part of the school district's settlement of the federal lawsuit. Source: Jan. 1999, p. 9; Mar. 1999, p. 37; May 1999, p. 68; Jan. 2000, p. 28.
- Groom, Winston. *Forrest Gump*. Doubleday; Pocket Bks. Challenged at the Bay Point School in South Dade County, Fla. (1999) because the novel "pokes fun at blacks, makes numerous references to sex, and uses foul language inappropriate for tenth-graders." First-year teacher Michael Weiss was fired over the incident and another instructor was placed on probation. Source: July 1999, p. 95.
- Guest, Judith. *Ordinary People*. Ballantine; Hall; Viking. Removed, but later returned to the English classrooms and library shelves at the Fostoria, Ohio High School (1999) despite complaints about the novel's obscene language and sexual innuendos. Source: July 1999, p. 104.
- Guterson, David. *Snow Falling on Cedars*. Harcourt; Thorndike Pr.; Vintage. Pulled from the Boerne, Tex. Independent High School library and barred from the curriculum (1999) after several parents and students

- complained about its racial epithets and sexually graphic passages. The book was later returned to the library. Source: Nov. 1999, p. 163; Jan. 2000, pp. 8, 12.
- Harris, Robie H. *It's Perfectly Normal: A Book about Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health*. Candlewick Pr. Challenged, but retained at the Auburn-Placer County, Calif. Library (1999) because of sexually explicit material. Source: Nov. 1999, p. 171.
- Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*. Bantam; Dell; Dodd; Holt; Houghton; Modern Library; NAL; Norton. Challenged, but retained in the sophomore curriculum at West Middlesex, Pa. High School (1999). Source: July 1999, p. 105.
- Hegi, Ursula. *Stones from the River*. Scribner; Simon. Banned, but later reinstated after community protests at the Windsor Forest High School in Savannah, Ga. (2000). The controversy began in early 1999 when a parent complained about sex, violence, and profanity in the book that was part of an advanced placement English class. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 63.
- Heron, Ann. *Two Teenagers in Twenty*. Alyson Pubns. Removed from the Barron, Wis. School District (1998) because of the book's homosexual theme and because it contains outdated information about AIDS. The ACLU of Wisconsin filed suit against the school district on Feb. 16, 1999. The book was then returned to the library while a federal court considered the lawsuit. On October 8, 1999, it was agreed that the book will remain available to students as part of the school district's settlement of the federal lawsuit. Source: Jan. 1999, p. 9; Mar. 1999, p. 37; May 1999, p. 68; Jan. 2000, p. 28.
- Hill, Douglas Arthur. *Witches and Magic-Makers*. Knopf. Challenged, but retained at the Hastings, Nebr. Public Library (1999) along with forty other books on the topics of witches, magic, the zodiac, fortune telling, and ghost stories (most of the Dewey Decimal category 133.47). The books were called "demonic" and unsuitable for young children. Source: May 1999, p. 66; July 1999, p. 104.
- Holliday, Laurel. *Children in the Holocaust and World War II: Their Secret Diaries*. Pocket Bks. Limited to students in the seventh grade or higher at the Canal Winchester Middle School in Columbus, Ohio (1999) because of references to sex, a self-induced abortion, and drug use. Source: July 1999, p. 94; Nov. 1999, pp. 171-72.
- Jukes, Mavis. *It's a Girl Thing: How to Stay Healthy, Safe and in Charge*. Knopf. Written parental permission is required to see the book at the Palm Beach, Fla. elementary and middle schools (1999) because of concerns that the book — written for preteen girls — is more explicit than some parents would find acceptable. Source: May 1999, p. 66.
- Klein, Norma. *Beginners' Love*. Hillside Bks. Challenged, but retained in the Chester, S.C. High School library (1999) with the provision that parents can instruct the school not to let their own children borrow it. The book's graphic description of sex, discussions of abortion, and the character's use of marijuana were considered objectionable by some parents. South Carolina Attorney General Charlie Condon ruled that the school board could reasonably conclude that the novel was "pervasively vulgar" and "educationally unsuitable" and, thus, removal by the board would not violate the First Amendment. Source: Mar. 1999, p. 36; May 1999, p. 84; Nov. 1999, p. 163.
- Koontz, Dean R. *The Voice of the Night*. Doubleday; Thorndike Pr. Challenged as extra reading material at Westcott Junior High School in Westbrook, Maine (2000) because the novel describes people having sex and the mutilation of animals and people. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 50.
- Lewis, Richard, comp. *There Are Two Lives: Poems by Children of Japan*. Simon & Schuster. Despite being on the library's open shelves for 25 years, this book is now restricted to students with parental permission at the Annville-Cleona, Pa. Elementary School library (1999) because an anonymous parent "objected to the entire book." Source: May 1999, pp. 66-67.
- Lindgren, Astrid. *The Runaway Sleigh Ride*. Viking. Removed, but later returned to the Enfield, Conn. elementary school libraries (1999) despite a parent's objection to passages in which characters sing songs praising drinking. Source: May 1999, pp. 65-66; July 1999, p. 104.
- Lipsyte, Robert. *One Fat Summer*. Harper. Pulled from Rock Crusher Elementary School in Crystal River, Fla. (1999) after a parent complained that it contains derogatory terms for African-Americans, Jews, and Italians and describes a male character masturbating. Source: Jan. 2000, p. 11.
- Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*. Dell; Houghton. Challenged at the Troy Intermediate School in Avon Lake, Ohio (1999) as an "optional" reading choice for sixth-grade students. A pastor objected to the book's "mature themes"—suicide, sexuality, and euthanasia. Challenged, but retained at a Lake Butler, Fla. public middle school (1999). A parent complained because the issues of infanticide and sexual awakening are discussed in the book. Source: May 1999, p. 70; Jan. 2000, p. 13.
- Lynch, Chris. *The Iceman*. Harper. Removed from the Medford, Wis. Middle School library (1999) because of foul language and the opinion that it was not "inspiring." Source: May 1999, p. 69.
- Mathabane, Mark. *Kaffir Boy*. NAL. Removed from a Federal Hocking High School English class in Athens, Ohio (1999) because it contains a sexually graphic passage that some have deemed offensive. Kearsley, Mich. school officials (2000) deleted six sentences describing a homosexual molestation scene in the book after some parents found it offensive. Source: May 1999, p. 70; Mar. 2000, p. 50.
- Mazer, Harry. *The Last Mission*. Dell. Challenged, but retained at the Auburn Placer County, Calif. Library (1999) because of sexually explicit material. Source: Nov. 1999, p. 171.
- McMillan, Rosalyn. *Knowing*. Warner. Challenged, but retained at the Cumberland County Library in Fayetteville, N.C. (1999) despite a complaint that the book contains profanity. In addition, the complainant suggested that the library move sexually explicit materials, as well as ones about homosexuality, into an adult section and establish a review committee to screen materials. Source: July 1999, p. 94; Jan. 2000, pp. 27-28.
- Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible*. Penguin. Challenged, but retained in the sophomore curriculum at West Middlesex, Pa. High School (1999). Source: July 1999, p. 105.
- Moe, Barbara A. *Everything You Need to Know About Sexual Abstinence*. Rosen. Pulled from the Ouachita Parish School library in Monroe, La. (1996) because of sexual content. The Louisiana chapter of the ACLU filed a lawsuit in the federal courts on October 3, 1996, claiming that the principal and the school superintendent violated First Amendment free speech rights and also failed to follow established procedure when they removed the book. The three-year-old school library censorship case headed to court after the Ouachita Parish School

Board made no decision to seek a settlement at a special meeting April 12, 1999. On August 17, 1999, the Ouachita Parish School Board agreed to return the book to the library and to develop a new book-selection policy that follows state guidelines for school media programs. Source: Sept. 1996, pp. 151-52; Jan. 1997, p. 7; July 1999, p. 93; Jan. 2000, p. 27.

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*. NAL. Removed from the reading list for ninth- and tenth-graders at Stevens High School in Claremont, N.H. (1999) because of a parent's complaint about the book's sexual content. Source: Sept. 1999, pp. 121-22.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels*. Scholastic. Removed from the Laton, Calif. Unified School District (1999) because the novel about the Vietnam War contains violence and profanity. Removed as required reading in the Livonia, Mich. public schools (1999) because it contains "too many swear words." Source: Sept. 1999, pp. 120-21; Nov. 1999, pp. 164-65.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *The Agony of Alice*. Atheneum. Challenged, but retained at the Franklin Sherman Elementary School library and on the Fairfax County, Va. approved reading list (2000). The book, however, is limited in its classroom use to small discussion groups for girls only. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 62.

Newman, Leslea. *Heather Has Two Mommies*. Alyson Pubns. Challenged at the Wichita Falls, Tex. Public Library (1998). The deacon body of the First Baptist Church requested that any literature that promotes or sanctions a homosexual lifestyle be removed. The Wichita Falls City Council established a policy that allows library card holders who collect 300 signatures to have children's books moved to an adult portion of the library. U.S. District Court Judge Jerry Buchmeyer ordered attorneys to agree to a restraining order, which put the books back. Challenged, but retained in the juvenile non-fiction section of the Nampa, Idaho Public Library (1999). Source: July 1998, pp. 106-07; Jan. 1999, pp. 8-9; Mar. 1999, p. 36; May 1999, p. 67; Sept. 1999, p. 131; Nov. 1999, p. 172.

Nichols, John. *The Milagro Beanfield War*. Holt. Pulled from a junior English class at the Shawnee High School in Lima, Ohio (1999) because it contained offensive material, including sex and violence. Source: July 1999, p. 97.

Orgel, Doris. *The Devil in Vienna*. Dial; Puffin. Challenged, but retained at the Grant Wood Elementary School media center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa (2000) despite objections to the book's inclusion of a brief incident of an old man exposing himself to a six-year-old girl. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 61.

Pike, Christopher. *Die Softly*. Archway. Removed from Escondido, Calif. middle school libraries (1999) along with 24 other novels by the best-selling author. Passages deemed offensive made references to whiskey drinking, bribery, sex, and a nightmare about dismemberment. Source: July 1998, p. 104; Nov. 1999, p. 161.

Pilkey, Dav. *Captain Underpants and the Invasion of the Incredibly Naughty Cafeteria Ladies from Outer Space (and the Subsequent Assault of Equally Evil Lunchroom Zombie Nerds)*. Blue Sky Press. Challenged, but retained at the Orfordville, Wis. Elementary School library (2000). A parent charged that the book taught students to be disrespectful, not to obey authority, not to obey the law, including God's law, improper spelling, to make excuses and lie to escape responsibility, to make fun of what people wear, and poor nutrition. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 62.

Quinlan, Patricia. *Tiger Flowers*. Dial. Challenged, but retained on the library shelves of a Dallas-Fort Worth-area elementary school (1999). The children's book is about a boy whose uncle dies from AIDS. Source: Nov. 1999, p. 172.

Ray, Ron. *Gays in or out of the Military*. Brassey's. Pulled from the Ouachita Parish School library in Monroe, La. (1996) because of sexual content. The Louisiana chapter of the ACLU filed a lawsuit in the federal courts on October 3, 1996, claiming that the principal and the school superintendent violated First Amendment free speech rights and also failed to follow established procedure when they removed the book. The three-year-old school library censorship case headed to court after the Ouachita Parish School Board made no decision to seek a settlement at a special meeting April 12, 1999. On August 17, 1999, the Ouachita Parish School Board agreed to return the book to the library and to develop a new book-selection policy that follows state guidelines for school media programs. Source: Sept. 1996, pp. 151-52; Jan. 1997, p. 7; July 1999, p. 93; Jan. 2000, p. 27.

Reavin, Sam. *The Hunters Are Coming*. Putnam. Challenged at the Cousens Memorial School library in Lyman, Maine (1999) because the book portrays hunters in a negative light. Source: May 1999, p. 83.

Rowling, J. K. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Scholastic. Challenged in South Carolina schools (1999) because "the book has a serious tone of death, hate, lack of respect, and sheer evil." Parents have also objected to the book's use in the Douglas County, Colo. schools (1999); two Moorpark, Calif. elementary schools (1999); and in suburban Buffalo, N.Y. (1999), among other districts. Restricted to fifth- through eighth-graders who have written parental permission in the Zeeland, Mich. schools (2000). No future installments can be purchased and teachers are prohibited from reading the books aloud in class. The book was considered objectionable because of the intense story line, the violence, the wizardry, and the sucking of animal blood. Challenged, but retained in Frankfort, Ill. School District 157-C (2000). Parents were concerned that the book contains lying and smart-aleck retorts to adults. Source: Jan. 2000, pp. 1, 26; Mar. 2000, pp. 46, 48, 50, 63.

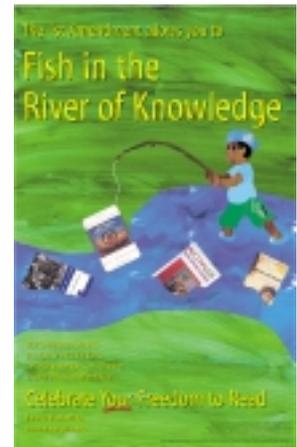
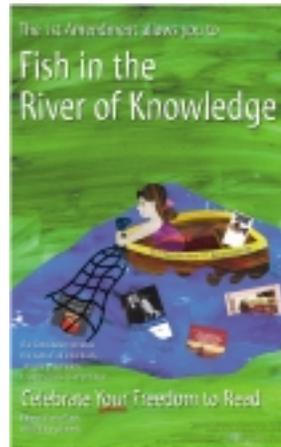
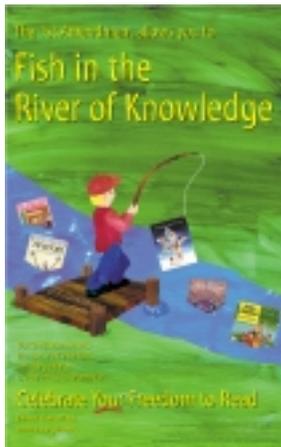
_____. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Scholastic. Challenged in South Carolina schools (1999) because "the book has a serious tone of death, hate, lack of respect, and sheer evil." Parents have also objected to the book's use in the Douglas County, Colo. schools (1999); two Moorpark, Calif. elementary schools (1999); and in suburban Buffalo, N.Y. (1999), among other districts. Restricted to fifth- through eighth-graders who have written parental permission in the Zeeland, Mich. schools (2000). No future installments can be purchased and teachers are prohibited from reading the books aloud in class. The book was considered objectionable because of the intense story line, the violence, the wizardry, and the sucking of animal blood. Challenged, but retained in Frankfort, Ill. School District 157-C (2000). Parents were concerned that the book contains lying and smart-aleck retorts to adults. Source: Jan. 2000, pp. 1, 26; Mar. 2000, pp. 46, 48, 50, 63.

_____. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Scholastic. Challenged in South Carolina schools (1999) because "the book has a serious tone of death, hate, lack of respect, and sheer evil." Parents have also objected to the book's use in the Douglas County, Colo. schools (1999); two Moorpark, Calif. elementary schools (1999);

- and in suburban Buffalo, N.Y. (1999), among other districts. Restricted to fifth- through eighth-graders who have written parental permission in the Zeeland, Mich. schools (2000). No future installments can be purchased and teachers are prohibited from reading the books aloud in class. The book was considered objectionable because of the intense story line, the violence, the wizardry, and the sucking of animal blood. Removed from the Bridgeport Township, Mich. public school (2000) because it promotes witchcraft. Challenged, but retained in the Simi Valley, Calif. School District (2000). A parent complained that the book was violent, anti-family, had a religious theme, and lacked educational value. Challenged, but retained in Frankfort, Ill. School District 157-C (2000). Parents were concerned that the book contains lying and smart-aleck retorts to adults. Source: Jan. 2000, pp. 1, 26; Mar. 2000, pp. 46, 48, 50, 63.
- Sachar, Louis. *Marvin Redpost: Is He a Girl?* Random. Challenged in Chapman Elementary School libraries in Huntsville, Ala. (2000) because it contains a fantasy about kissing your elbow and changing sexes. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 47.
- Schwartz, Alvin. *Ghosts! Ghost Stories in Folklore.* HarperCollins. Challenged, but retained in the Campbell County, Wyo. School District (1998) despite claims that "the book misleads the reader — that ghosts are actually possible. . . This book blurs the line between fantasy and reality for younger children." Source: Mar. 1999, p. 38; May 1999, p. 84.
- Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr Isayevich. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich.* Dutton; Farrar; NAL. Retained at the Storm Lake, Iowa High School (1999) despite objections to the novel's profanity. Source: July 1999, p. 105.
- Spies, Karen Bornemann. *Everything You Need to Know About Incest.* Rosen. Pulled from the Ouachita Parish School library in Monroe, La. (1996) because of sexual content. The Louisiana chapter of the ACLU filed a lawsuit in the federal courts on October 3, 1996, claiming that the principal and the school superintendent violated First Amendment free speech rights and also failed to follow established procedure when they removed the book. The three-year-old school library censorship case headed to court after the Ouachita Parish School Board made no decision to seek a settlement at a special meeting April 12, 1999. On August 17, 1999, the Ouachita Parish School Board agreed to return the book to the library and to develop a new book-selection policy that follows state guidelines for school media programs. Source: Sept. 1996, pp. 151-52; Jan. 1997, p. 7; July 1999, p. 93; Jan. 2000, p. 27.
- Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men.* Bantam; Penguin; Viking. Challenged, but retained in the sophomore curriculum at West Middlesex, Pa. High School (1999) despite objections to the novel's profanity. Challenged in the Tomah, Wis. School District (1999) because the novel is violent and contains obscenities. Source: July 1999, p. 105; Jan. 2000, p. 16; Mar. 2000, p. 52.
- Stoppard, Miriam. *The Magic of Sex.* Newspaper Guild. Challenged, but retained at the Auburn-Placer County, Calif. Library (1999) because of sexually explicit material. Source: Nov. 1999, p. 171.
- Taylor, Mildred D. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.* Bantam; Dell. Challenged in Chapman Elementary School libraries in Huntsville, Ala. (2000) because it uses racial slurs in dialogue to make points about racism. Source: Mar. 2000, p. 47.
- Twain, Mark [Samuel L. Clemens]. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.* Bantam; Bobbs-Merrill; Grosset; Harper; Holt; Houghton; Longman; Macmillan; NAL; Norton; Penguin; Pocket Bks. Recommended for removal from the Fairbanks, Alaska North Star Borough School District's required reading lists (1999) because of its frequent use of the word "nigger." Challenged, but retained in the Enid, Okla. schools (2000). The novel was previously removed from the curriculum in Enid in 1977 after similar protests. It was returned to the required reading list in 1991. Source: July 1999, pp. 94-95; Mar. 2000, p. 52.
- Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple.* Harcourt. Challenged, but retained as part of a supplemental reading list at the Shawnee School in Lima, Ohio (1999). Several parents described its content as vulgar and "X-rated." Removed from the Ferguson High School library in Newport News, Va. (1999). Students may request and borrow the book with parental approval. Source: Sept. 1999, pp. 131-32; Nov. 1999, p. 163.
- Welch, James. *Fools Crow.* Doubleday; Viking; Penguin. Banned from Laurel, Mont. High School classrooms (1999) because the contents are "objectionable, inappropriate, disgusting, and repulsive." Two copies remain in the library. Challenged, but retained at the Bozeman, Mont. High School (2000) despite objections to its descriptions of rape, mutilation, sex, and violence. Source: July 1999, p. 96; Mar. 2000, p. 51.
- Willhoite, Michael. *Daddy's Roommate.* Alyson Pubns. Challenged at the Wichita Falls, Tex. Public Library (1998). The deacon body of the First Baptist Church requested that any literature that promotes or sanctions a homosexual lifestyle be removed. The Wichita Falls City Council established a policy that allows library card holders who collect 300 signatures to have children's books moved to an adult portion of the library. U.S. District Court Judge Jerry Buchmeyer ordered attorneys to agree to a restraining order which put the books back. Challenged, but retained in the juvenile non-fiction section of the Nampa, Idaho Public Library (1999). Challenged, but retained at the Ada, Idaho Community Library (2000). Source: July 1998, pp. 105-07; Jan. 1999, pp. 8-9; Mar. 1999, p. 36; May 1999, p. 67; Sept. 1999, p. 131; Nov. 1999, p. 172; Mar. 2000, pp. 44, 61.
- Yep, Laurence. *Dragonwings.* Harper. Challenged at the Henryville, Ind. schools (1999) because of graphic violence, profanity, references to demons and prostitution, and alcohol and drug use depicted in a positive light. Source: Nov. 1999, p. 164.
- Zacks, Richard. *History Laid Bare.* HarperCollins. Challenged, but retained at the Cumberland County Library in Fayetteville, N.C. (1999) despite a complaint that the book deals with sexual history and customs. In addition, the complainant suggested that the library move sexually explicit materials, as well as ones about homosexuality, into an adult section and establish a review committee to screen materials. Source: July 1999, p. 94; Jan. 2000, pp. 27-28.
- _____. *An Underground Education.* Doubleday. Challenged, but retained at the Cumberland County Library in Fayetteville, N.C. (1999) despite a complaint that the book deals with sexual history and customs. In addition, the complainant suggested that the library move sexually explicit materials, as well as ones about homosexuality, into an adult section and establish a review committee to screen materials. Source: July 1999, p. 94; Jan. 2000, pp. 27-28.

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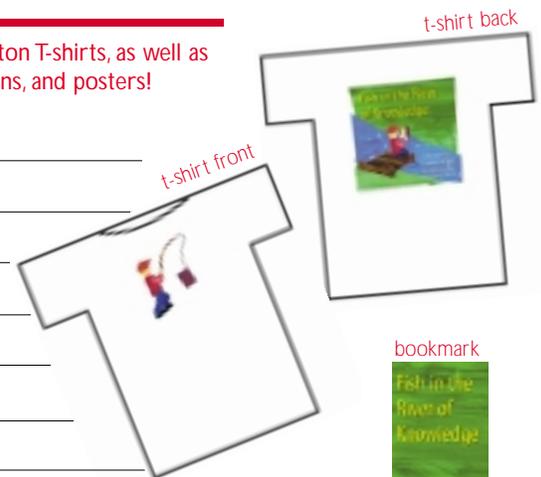
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