Books Challenged or Banned in 2004–2005

This bibliography represents books challenged, restricted, removed, or banned in 2004–2005 as reported in the Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom from May 2004 through May 2005.


“Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un–American act that could most easily defeat us.”

William O. Douglas

because the short fictional story explores a boy’s confusion with his sexual identity and the gay fairy godfather who helps him overcome homophobia at school. The short story, published in Am I Blue?: Coming out from Silence by
Marion Dane Bauer, ed., was eventually retained. Source: Jan. 2005, p. 8.

**Cruse, Howard.** *Stuck Rubber Baby.* Paradox Pr. Challenged at the Montgomery County, Tex. Memorial Library System (2004) along with fifteen other young-adult books with gay-positive themes. The objections were posted at the Library Patrons of Texas Web site. The language describing the books is similar to that posted at the Web site of the Fairfax County, Virginia-based Parents Against Bad Books in Schools, to which Library Patrons of Texas links. Source: Nov. 2004, pp. 231–32.

**Crutcher, Chris.** *In the Time I Get.* Dell; Greenwillow; Throndike Pr. Challenged in the Solon, Iowa eighth-grade language arts class (2004) because the short story is about a man who befriends a young man dying of AIDS. The short story, published in *Athletic Shorts* by Chris Crutcher, was eventually retained. Source: Jan. 2005, p. 8.


**Davis, Deborah.** *My Brother Has AIDS.* Athenaeum. Challenged at the Montgomery County, Tex. Memorial Library System (2004) along with fifteen other young-adult books with gay-positive themes. The objections were posted at the Library Patrons of Texas Web site. The language describing the books is similar to that posted at the Web site of the Fairfax County, Virginia-based Parents Against Bad Books in Schools, to which Library Patrons of Texas links. Source: Nov. 2004, pp. 231–32.

**de Haan, Linda and Stern Nijland.** *King & King.* Tricycle Pr. Restricted to adults at the Freeman Elementary School in Wilmington, N.C. (2004) because the children’s book is about a prince whose true love turns out to be another prince. Moved from the children’s section to the adult section at the Shelbyville–Shelby County, Ind. Public Library (2004) because the book’s homosexual story was considered inappropriate by a parent. Challenged by seventy Okla-


**Ferris, Jean.** *Eight Seconds.* Harcourt. Challenged at the Montgomery County, Tex. Memorial Library System (2004) along with fifteen other young-adult books with gay-positive themes. The objections to the books were posted at the Library Patrons of Texas Web site. The language describing the books is similar to that posted at the Web site of the Fairfax County, Virginia-based Parents Against Bad Books in Schools, to which Library Patrons of Texas links. Source: Nov. 2004, pp. 231–32.

**Fierstein, Harvey.** *The Sissy Duckling.* Simon. Challenged at the Montgomery County, Tex. Memorial Library System

“Censorship is crippling, negating, stifling. It should be unthinkable in a country like ours.”

– Norma Fox Mazer

(2004) along with fifteen other young-adult books with gay-positive themes. The objections to the books were posted at the Library Patrons of Texas Web site. The language describing the books is similar to that posted at the Web site of the Fairfax County, Virginia-based Parents Against Bad Books in Schools, to which Library Patrons of Texas links. Source: Nov. 2004, pp. 231–32.


_____. *Holly’s Secret*. Farrar. Challenged at the Montgomery County, Tex. Memorial Library System (2004) along with fifteen other young-adult books with gay-positive themes. The objections to the books were posted at the Library Patrons of Texas Web site. The language describing the books is similar to that posted at the Web site of the Fairfax County, Virginia-based Parents Against Bad Books in Schools, to which Library Patrons of Texas links. Source: Nov. 2004, pp. 231–32.


Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Don’t You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey*. Simon. Banned from the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District classrooms in Sacramento, Calif. (2003) and restricted to students with parental permission in the middle school libraries. The novel discusses parental
neglect, sexual harassment at an after-school job, and other stresses experienced by the young-adult fictional character. The novel is on the ALA Best Books for Young Adults list. Source: Mar. 2004, p. 52; May 2004, p. 98.


Jaivin, Linda. *Eat Me*. Broadway Bks. Removed from the Marion County Public Library in Ocala, Fla. (2003). The library director noted that the Australian best-seller was removed because the library lacks a designated erotica collection, and the novel met only three of seventeen criteria used to evaluate books for acquisition. The Marion County Public Library Advisory Board recommended that the library director retain the novel. The board's vote was only a suggestion and the final decision went back to the library director. In Feb. 2004, the director reversed her earlier decision, reinstated the novel, and stated that her personal dislike for the book overshadowed her objectivity and adherence to policy. Source: Jan. 2004, pp. 7–8; Mar. 2004, pp. 47–48; May 2004, pp. 115–16; Sept. 2004, pp. 175–76.


“If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.”

– Robert H. Jackson


Lipsyte, Robert. *One Fat Summer*. Harper. Pulled from the Ansonia, Conn. Public Library local schools’ display (2004) following a parental complaint about a paragraph describ-
“They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

– Benjamin Franklin


Lowry, Lois. Anastasia Again! ABC–Clio. Removed from the Lake Wales, Fla. elementary school library (2005) because of a complaint that the book’s references to beer, Playboy magazine, and Anastasia making light of wanting to kill herself were inappropriate for children. Source: May 2005, p. 107.


Sanchez, Alex. Rainbow Boys. Simon. Challenged at the Montgomery County, Tex. Memorial Library System (2004) along with fifteen other young-adult books with gay-positive themes. The objections to the books were posted at the Library Patrons of Texas Web site. The language describing the books is similar to that posted at the Web site of the Fairfax County, Virginia-based Parents Against Bad Books in Schools, to which Library Patrons of Texas links. Source: Nov. 2004, pp. 231–32.


Guide to Fellatio, by Violet Blue; and The Illustrated Guide to Extended Massive Orgasm, by Steve Bodansky because the books are "seriously objectionable in text and pictures due to the sexually explicit material." Source: Mar. 2004, p. 50; May 2004, p. 117.


Twain, Mark [Samuel L. Clemens]. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Bantam; Bobbs-Merrill; Grosset; Harper; Holt; Houghton; Longman; Macmillan; NAL; Norton; Penguin; Pocket Bks. Challenged in the Normal, Ill. Community High School sophomore literature class (2004) as being degrading to African Americans. The Chosen was offered as an alternative to Twain’s novel. Pulled from the reading lists at the three Renton, Wash. high schools (2004) after an African American student said the book degraded her and her culture. The novel, which is not required reading in Renton schools but is on a supplemental list of approved books, was eventually retained for classroom usage. Source: Jan. 2004, p. 11; May 2004, p. 91.


Waugh, Evelyn. Brideshead Revisited. Chapman & Hall Ltd. Alabama Representative Gerald Allen (R-Cotterdale) proposed legislation (2005) that would prohibit the use of public funds for the “purchase of textbooks or library materials that recognize or promote homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle.” The bill also proposed that novels with gay protagonists and college textbooks that suggest homosexuality is natural would have to be removed from library shelves and destroyed. The bill would impact all Alabama school, public, and university libraries. While it would ban books like Heather Has Two Mommies, it could also include classic and popular novels with gay characters such as Evelyn Waugh’s Brideshead Revisited, The Color Purple or The Picture of Dorian Gray. Source: Jan. 2005, p. 5.
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