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Read Banned Books
They’re Your Ticket to Freedom
Books Challenged or Banned in 2005–2006

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Bantam. Removed as required reading in Annapolis, Md. freshman English curriculum (2006) because the book's rape scenes and other mature content are too advanced for ninth-graders. The freshman English class syllabus is sent home to parents to read at the beginning of each year. It warns them of the book's mature themes and allows parents to ask to have their children read another book instead. Source: May 2006, pp. 132–33.


Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. Fawcett; Houghton; Simon; Hall. The Judson, Tex. school district board overruled (2006) Superintendent Ed Lyman's ban of the novel from an advanced placement English curriculum. Lyman had banned the book after a parent complained it was sexually explicit and offensive to Christians. In doing so, he overruled the recommendation of a committee of teachers, students, and parents. The committee appealed the decision to the school board. Source: May 2006, pp. 154–55.


Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. Pocket Bks. Retained in the Arrowhead High School curriculum in Merton, Wis. (2005). Reading the book was optional and parents could choose to have their children read something else. Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction sent a letter (2005) to charter schools and public school principals and district superintendents asking them to make sure that the book is no longer available to minors or any other students. The book contains numerous sexual references, including a scene where a girl is forced to have oral sex with a boy during a party. Source: May 2005, pp. 111–12; Jan. 2006, p. 9.

Cormier, Robert. *We All Fall Down*. Dell. Challenged at the Cherry Hill, N.J. Public Library's
young adult section (2005) by a parent claiming its “deplorable” content was unfit for young minds. The book was retained. Source: Nov. 2005, p. 296.


Daldry, Jeremy. *The Teenage Guy’s Survival Guide.* Little. Restricted, but later returned to general circulation shelves with some limits on student access, based on a review committee’s recommendations, at the Holt Middle School parent library in Fayetteville, Ark. (2005) despite a parent’s complaint that it was sexually explicit. Source: Nov. 2005, pp. 295–96.


Harris, Robie H. *It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health.* Candlewick Press. Restricted, but later returned to general circulation shelves with some limits on student access, based on a review committee’s recommendations, at the Holt Middle School parent library in Fayetteville, Ark. (2005) despite a parent’s complaint that it was sexually explicit.

_____. *It’s So Amazing!: A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families.* Candlewick Press. Restricted, but later returned to general circulation shelves with some limits on student access, based on a review committee’s recommendations, at the Holt Middle School parent library in Fayetteville, Ark. (2005) despite a parent’s complaint that it was sexually explicit. Relocated to the reference section of the Northern Hills Elementary school media center in Onalaska, Wis. (2005) because a parent complained about its frank yet kid-friendly discussion of reproduction topics, including sexual intercourse, masturbation, abortion, and homosexuality. Source: May 2005, p. 131; Nov. 2005, pp. 281–82, 295–96.

**Hartinger, Brent.** *Geography Club.* HarperTempest. Withdrawn from Curtis Junior High and Curtis Senior High school libraries (2005) after a University Place, Wash. couple with children in both schools filed a written complaint. They wrote that the book could result in a “casual and loose approach to sex,” encourage use of Internet porn, and the physical meeting of people through chatrooms. Source: Jan. 2006, pp. 12–13; March 2006, p. 73.


**Lee, Harper.** *To Kill a Mockingbird.* Lippincott/Harper; Popular Library. Challenged at the Brentwood, Tenn. Middle School (2006) because the book contains “profanity” and “contains adult themes such as sexual intercourse, rape, and incest.” The complainants also contend that the book’s use of racial slurs promotes “racial hatred, racial division, racial separation, and promotes white supremacy.” Source: March 2006, p. 74.

**Mackler, Carolyn.** *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things.* Candlewick Press. Banned by the Carroll County Superintendent in Westminster, Md. (2006), but after protests from students, librarians, national organizations, and the publisher, the book was returned to the high school libraries, but not middle schools. The superintendent objected to the book’s use of profanity and its sexual references. The book was named the 2004 Michael L. Printz Honor Book, the American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults, and the International Reading Association’s 2005 Young Adults’ Choice, among other accolades. Source: March 2006, pp. 69–70.


**Nabokov, Vladimir.** *Lolita.* Berkley; Mc-Graw–Hill; Putnam. Challenged at the Marion Levy Public Library System in Ocala, Fla. (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.” Source: March 2006, pp. 69–70.


Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read is observed during the last week of September each year. Observed since 1982, the annual event reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted.


**Rowling, J. K.** *Harry Potter and the Half–Blood Prince.* Scholastic. Removed by the Wilsona School District trustees from a list recommended by a parent–teacher committee for the Vista San Gabriel, Calif. Elementary School library (2006) along with twenty-three other books. Trustees said one rejected book contained an unsavory hero who made a bad role model for children; another was about a warlock, which they said was inappropriate; and others were books with which they were unfamiliar and didn’t know whether they promoted good character or conflicted with textbooks. Rejected titles included three bilingual Clifford the Big Red Dog books, Disney’s Christmas Storybook, two books from the Artemis Fowl series, Beauty is a Beast, Welcome to the USA California, and The Eye of the Warlock. Source: May 2006, p. 127.


**Sidhwa, Bapsi.** *Cracking India.* Milkweed Eds. Challenged at Deland High School, near Daytona Beach, Fla. (2005) as part of the school’s International Baccalaureate Program, whose curriculum is college-evel. In a letter sent home, parents were offered the option of having their children assigned an alternate book. A parent objected to a
Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one’s opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those viewpoints to all who wish to read them. After all, intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met.

two-page scene in which the narrator brushes off an older cousin’s attempt to trick her into performing oral sex. Source: Jan. 2006, pp. 13–14.

**Touchette, Charleen.** *It Stops With Me: Memoir of a Canuck Girl.* Touch Arts Bks. Removed from the Woonsocket Harris, R.I. Public Library shelves (2005) after the book was challenged by the author’s father. He wrote, “If members of a family wish to harm one another, those actions should be kept private and should not draw in others by involving matters of public policy.” The book was later returned to the shelves. Source: March 2006, p. 91.

**Wersba, Barbara.** *Whistle Me Home.* Holt.


Celebrate Banned Books Week with a Carnival of Books!
Make tickets payable to the American Library Association and designate that the ticket is in payment for Banned Books Week materials.

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AL Discount (10%) $ |

Subtotal $ |

Shipping & Handling (see chart) $ |

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