Books unite us. They reach across boundaries and build connections between readers. Censorship, on the other hand, divides us and creates barriers. In 2021, 1,597 books were affected by censorship attempts. Learn more at ala.org/bbooks.

**WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES?**
- 39% Parents
- 24% Patrons
- 18% Board/administration
- 10% Political/religious groups
- 6% Librarians/teachers
- 2% Elected officials
- 1% Students

**WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?**
- 44% School libraries
- 37% Public libraries
- 18% Schools
- 1% Academic/Other

**REASONS FOR CHALLENGES**
- 82% Books, graphic novels and textbooks
- 5% Programs, meeting rooms
- 4% Displays, exhibits
- 2% Films
- 7% Other (includes filtering, access, databases, magazines, online resources, artwork, social media, music, pamphlets, student publications, reading lists)

**BOOKS AND BEYOND**
- The ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 729 challenges in 2021. Here’s the breakdown:
- 37% Public libraries
- 18% Schools
- 1% Academic/Other

Statistics based on 715 responses

**CENSORSHIP STATISTICS COMPILED BY:**
Office for Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association

Each word and phrase in this graphic is cited from 2021 censorship reports.