

A CHALLENGE

BEFORE

- DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATED SELECTION POLICY?
- DOES IT INCLUDE COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS?
- DO YOU HAVE A CHALLENGE POLICY IN PLACE? IF NOT, CREATE ONE ASAP!
- IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS - WHO ARE THE DECIDERS ON BOOK CHALLENGES AND WHAT IS THE PROCESS?
- PAY ATTENTION TO BOOKS BEING CHALLENGED - BUILD ADVOCACY & BE PREPARED!

SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT

ABOUT THE COMICS ARE STILL BASED ON FALSITIES PERPETUATED BY

THE 1950S. A LOT OF MODERN MISPERCEPTIONS

SPARKED THE LAST MAJOR CENSORSHIP CRISIS IN

ALSO, MANY HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT COMICS



“WHY ARE COMICS OFTEN TARGETED?”

IMAGES ARE POWERFUL. IN A LOT OF COMIC CHALLENGES, IMAGES ARE TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT - ESPECIALLY WITH PEOPLE STILL ASSUMING ‘ALL COMICS ARE FOR KIDS’

DURING

- WHAT ARE REVIEWS OF THE BOOK? IS IT AN AWARD WINNER? DOES IT FILL A COLLECTIONS NEED?
- IS YOUR CHALLENGE PROCESS BEING FOLLOWED?
- WHAT COMMUNITY SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE?
- IMPORTANTLY - REPORT THE CHALLENGE TO THE AIA OFFICE OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM: WWW.AIA.ORG/TOOLS/CHALLENGESUPPORT/REPORT (ALL REPORTING IS ANONYMOUS)

A CHALLENGE

- UPDATE YOUR POLICIES FOR THE FUTURE
 - EX. IMPLEMENT A ‘COOLING OFF’ PERIOD WHERE THE SAME BOOK CANNOT BE CHALLENGED AGAIN FOR # TIME AND/OR BY THE SAME PERSON
 - EX. ENSURE YOUR CHALLENGE POLICY IS BASED ON A FULL READING OF THE TEXT - NOT A SINGLE IMAGE OR TWO TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT
 - IMPORTANTLY - LIVE TO LIBRARY ANOTHER DAY.
- REMEMBER: YOU ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS.

A CHALLENGE

AFTER

THANK YOU!

To everyone who filled out the GNCRT survey on comic book bans and challenges in 2022-2023 to help us understand what frontline library workers were experiencing with comic bans & challenges - and how we could help!

With a special shout out to our inspirations in crafting this zine:

Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol

DON'T PANIC

STEP #1

HERE'S SOME SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT TO DO BEFORE A CHALLENGE OCCURS - AND DURING AND AFTER A CHALLENGE HAPPENS

STEP #2 - BE PREPARED!

BE PREPARED

THE GNCRT GUIDE TO ADDRESSING COMIC BOOK BANS AND CHALLENGES

REPORT CHALLENGES!

CONTACT US!

WWW.AIA.ORG/KI/GNCRT @LIBOMIX TWITTER / INSTA

NEED MORE INFO? FULL GNCRT ADDRESSING CHALLENGES TOOLKIT >>>

ZINE CREATED BY THE ADDRESSING CHALLENGES COMMITTEE OF THE GRAPHIC NOVELS & COMICS ROUND TABLE (GNCRT)

WHY ARE BOOKS CHALLENGED?

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS ARE MORE OFTEN CHALLENGED AS WELL AS TITLES BY BIPOC & QUEER CREATORS, AND/OR TITLES WITH CONTENT PERCEIVED TO ‘AGE UNSUITABLE’ OR OTHER WISE ‘INAPPROPRIATE’

[Over the years, titles such as Beloved, Captain Underpants, The Catcher in the Rye, and To Kill a Mockingbird have been banned / challenged for such reasons.]

BAN = WHEN A BOOK IS REMOVED IN RESPONSE TO A FORMAL OR INFORMAL CHALLENGE.

CHALLENGE = AN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE OR RESTRICT ACCESS TO MATERIALS OR SERVICES BASED UPON THE OBJECTIONS OF A PERSON OR GROUP.

LEARN MORE >>> WWW.AIA.ORG/ADVOCACY/88BOOKS/BOOK-BAN-DATA

WOW, THIS IS A LOT..... WHAT CAN I DO?

FIGHT CENSORSHIP!

BE PREPARED

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BANNED AND CHALLENGED BOOKS

IN PAST FEW YEARS MORE BOOK BANS & CHALLENGES HAVE HAPPENED THAN IN THE DECADES BEFORE.

MANY OF THE CHALLENGED TITLES ARE COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS INCLUDING...

- 01 Maus by Art Spiegelman
- 02 New Kid by Jerry Craft
- 03 Genderqueer by Maia Kobabe
- 04 Drama by Raina Telgemeier
- 05 Flamer by Mike Curato