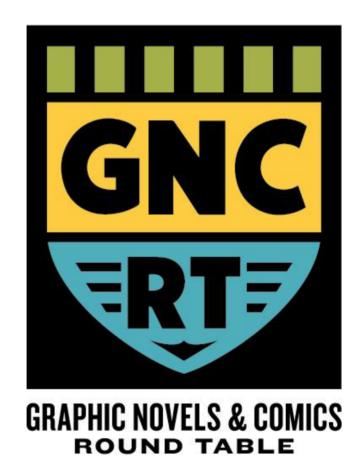# Be Prepared!

The GNCRT Guide to Addressing Comic Book Bans, Censorship, and Challenges in Libraries

Full 'Be Prepared!' Toolkit Available: www.ala.org/rt/gncrt/

Be Prepared! "What to do when a challenge comes" checklist:

BEFORE a challenge:
- ❏ Do you have a SELECTION POLICY? Is it transparent and accessible? Does it include comics?
- ❏ Do you have a separate CHALLENGE POLICY in place? If not, create one
- ❏ IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS in your library system--who are the deciders on book bans?
- ❏ COMPARE POLICY MODELS. Are your policies the best they can be?
- ❏ PAY ATTENTION to those books that are being challenged around the nation; build advocacy

DURING a challenge:
- ❏ What are the REVIEWS of the book?
- ❏ For schools, are there CURRICULUM connections?
- ❏ For both school and public libraries, does this comic book FILL A NEED? Is it an award winner?
- ❏ Is your CHALLENGE PROCESS being followed?
- ❏ What COMMUNITY SUPPORTS are available to you?
- ❏ REPORT the challenge to the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom: https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report

AFTER a challenge:
- ❏ Win, lose, or draw, make it a point to THANK the people who helped you - you may need them again.
- ❏ UPDATE your policies where needed to strengthen them against future challenges
- ❏ Many challenge policies have a "COOLING OFF" period, where the same book cannot be challenged again for # of years. Is this in place for your library?
- ❏ PREPARE by asking - are there books similar to your challenged comic that may also trigger a challenge?
- ❏ LIVE to library another day. You are not alone.

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We want to know more!

Please take our short 5 min survey to tell us about your training in and knowledge of comic book bans