

## 7 thoughts to ponder concerning censorship



1. Not all speech is protected by the 1st Amendment.
2. Censors seek to limit freedom of thought and expression by restricting spoken words, printed matter, symbolic messages, freedom of association, books, art, music, movies, television programs, and Internet sites. When the government engages in censorship, First Amendment freedoms are implicated.
3. Private actors — for example, corporations that own radio stations — also can engage in forms of censorship, but this presents no First Amendment implications as no governmental, or state, action is involved.
4. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech and press, integral elements of democracy. Since *Gitlow v. New York* (1925), the Supreme Court has applied the First Amendment freedoms of speech and press to the states through the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
5. The First Amendment protects American people from government censorship. But the First Amendment's protections are not absolute, leading to Supreme Court cases involving the question of what is protected speech and what is not. On the issue of press freedoms, the Court has been reluctant to censor publication -- even of previously classified material. In the landmark case *New York Times v. United States*, the Court overturned a court order stopping the newspaper from continuing to print excerpts from the "Pentagon Papers", saying such prior restraint was unconstitutional.
6. On the issue of press freedoms, the Court has been reluctant to censor publication of even previously classified materials, as in *New York Times v. United States* (1971) — the *Pentagon Papers* case — unless the government can provide an overwhelming reason for such prior restraint.
7. Proposals to censor music date back to Plato's Republic. In the 1970s, some individuals thought anti-war songs should be censored. In the 1980s, the emphasis shifted to prohibiting sexual and violent lyrics. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) also sought to fine radio stations for the broadcast of indecent speech. In general, rap and hard-core rock-n-roll have faced more censorship than other types of music. Caution must be used in this area to distinguish between governmental censorship and private censorship.

Taken from [Censorship and the First Amendment Explained](#) | [The First Amendment Encyclopedia](#)



## EVENT PROGRAM ABOUT CENSORSHIP

*An Update: Let Books Be. Protect the Freedom to Read: And Reject Suppression of Thoughts, Ideas, In Media, Culture, Art and Publicly Supported Spaces.*

Date: October 6, 2026

Time: 11:00am-2:30pm

Place: The Paul E. Johnson Sr. Community Conference Room in the J. Eugene Smith



## Program Presenters for 2026

**Ms. Hope-Marie Cook** is the Head of the Curriculum Center and Education Librarian at Eastern Connecticut State University and is your host. She is an advocate for protecting the First Amendment in its entirety and has made it her mission to educate students on the importance of literacy and the right to read literature of their choice. She has studied and taught about the significance of using culturally diverse books in the classroom, and the importance of bibliotherapy for all ages, as well as censorship issues surrounding children's and young adult literature. Ms. Cook has presented at conferences and in college and elementary classrooms and has initiated programs for over twenty-five years. Ms. Cook started her career and education at Syracuse University, Bryant and Stratton Business Institute, and earned her B.S. in Education and a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her M.L.I.S. is from Wayne State University, and she has a SYC in Storytelling the Art of the Oral Tradition from Southern Connecticut State University. She will speak about censorship challenges over the past twenty years and her reasons for defending the right to read quoting her research, personal stories and points of view as an educator, librarian and reader.

**Mr. John Murphy** -John has served the Eastern Community for 42 years as a lecturer in Communication. He has been a media artist and producer of radio and TV programs for over 50 years. John studied at the Newhouse School at Syracuse University, worked in commercial broadcasting in upstate New York, and later completed his B.S. and M.S. at Goddard College. He served as General Manager of WHUS Radio at UConn/Storrs for 33 years and brought their student and community radio station into participation in the CPB/NPR national network. He was awarded a Citation for Public Service by the Connecticut State Legislature for his service to community media and community development. John's program on WECS Radio at Eastern is *On the Homefront*, live on Tuesdays from 2:30 - 4:00 pm. At 90.1 FM and [www.wecsfm.com](http://www.wecsfm.com)

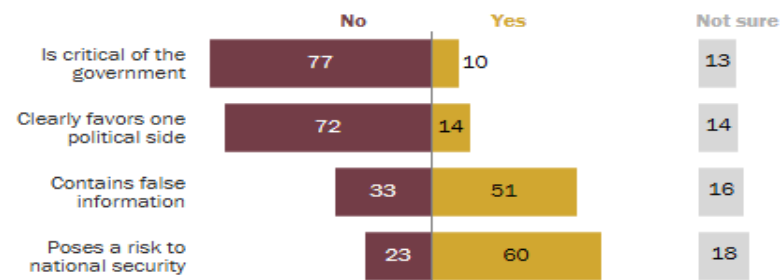
John will test your personal limits for understanding and tolerance with excerpts from his course *Mass Communication and Media Literacy*, which connect our innermost thoughts and values to controversial expressions from the edges of law and morality. He will provide a brief history of Supreme Court cases that defined what is "obscene," "indecent," and "profane" over the past 100 years. Creators that will be explored include Socrates, Lenny Bruce, The Parents Music Research Center, and Howard Stern. Please be cautioned that we will be sharing some very explicit and challenging content! If you have concerns or sensitivities to material of this nature, please stay aware during the presentation—he will provide advance notice to help you stay and enjoy the discussion.

**Dr. Theresa Severance** -Dr. Theresa Severance is a Professor of Sociology and Criminology and currently Chairs the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Criminology, and Social Work. She teaches a variety of specialty courses in criminology, such as Juvenile Delinquency, Sociology of Corrections, and Restorative Justice and the Arts and supervises Criminology interns. Her research centers on juvenile justice, reentry for formerly incarcerated women, and collateral consequences of criminal and juvenile legal system involvement. Research shows education is a vital tool for rehabilitation, yet books are censored and, in some cases, banned in prisons. Folks who are incarcerated retain the right to read, yet correctional staff have broad discretion in limiting access to reading materials. She will discuss banned books behind bars, and highlight controversies surrounding this particular form of censorship.

## How Americans think about news censorship in the U.S. Pew Research Center

### 60% of Americans say the government should be able to restrict news if it poses a national security risk

% of U.S. adults who say the U.S. government should be able to require a news organization to take down a news story if it ...



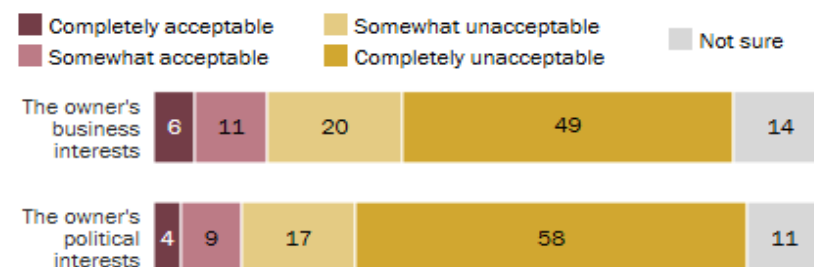
Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted June 22-28, 2026.  
"Americans Value Press Freedom but Differ on Its Limits"

PEW-KNIGHT INITIATIVE

### Most Americans think intervention from owners of news organizations is unacceptable

% of U.S. adults who say they think it is \_\_\_ for the owner of a U.S. news organization to stop it from publishing a story because it goes against ...



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted June 22-28, 2026.  
"Americans Value Press Freedom but Differ on Its Limits"

## Continued-Books About Censorship

Kemp, G. (2015). *Censorship moments : Reading texts in the history of censorship and freedom of expression (Textual moments in the history of political thought)*. London: Bloomsbury.

Laine, C., & Town, C. (2017). *Book banning and other forms of censorship (Essential library of the information age)*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Essential Library, an imprint of Abdo Publishing.

Linder, S., & Majerus, E. (2016). *Can I teach that? : Negotiating taboo language and controversial topics in the language arts classroom*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

Lockwood, J., & Jones, B. (2017). *Behind the carbon curtain : The energy industry, political censorship, and free speech*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. [Library of Congress]

Nagle, A. (2017). *Kill all normies : The online culture wars from Tumblr and 4chan to the alt-right and Trump*. Winchester, UK ; Washington, USA: Zero Books.

Pekoll, K., & American Library Association. Office for Intellectual Freedom. issuing body. (2019). *Beyond banned books : Defending intellectual freedom throughout your library*. Chicago: ALA Editions.

Rohmann, D. (2017). *Christianity, book-burning and censorship in late antiquity : Studies in text transmission*. Waco, Tx: Baylor University Press.

Ross, C. (2015). *Lessons in censorship : How schools and courts subvert students' First Amendment rights*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Simon, J. (2015). *The new censorship : Inside the global battle for media freedom (Columbia journalism review books)*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Strossen, N. (2018). *Hate : Why we should resist it with free speech, not censorship (Inalienable rights series)*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

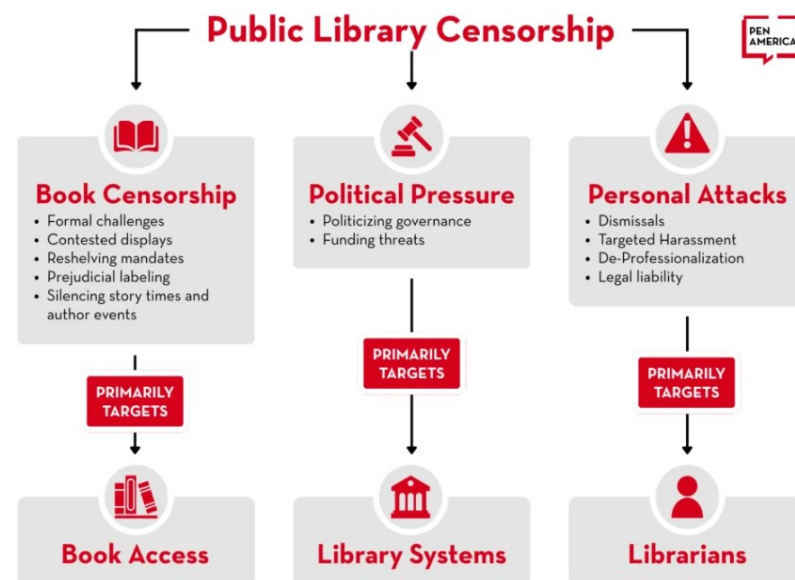
Tushnet, M., Chen, A., & Blocher, J. (2017). *Free speech beyond words : The surprising reach of the First Amendment*. New York: New York University Press.

Whittington, K. (2019). *Speak freely : Why universities must defend free speech (New forum books)*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

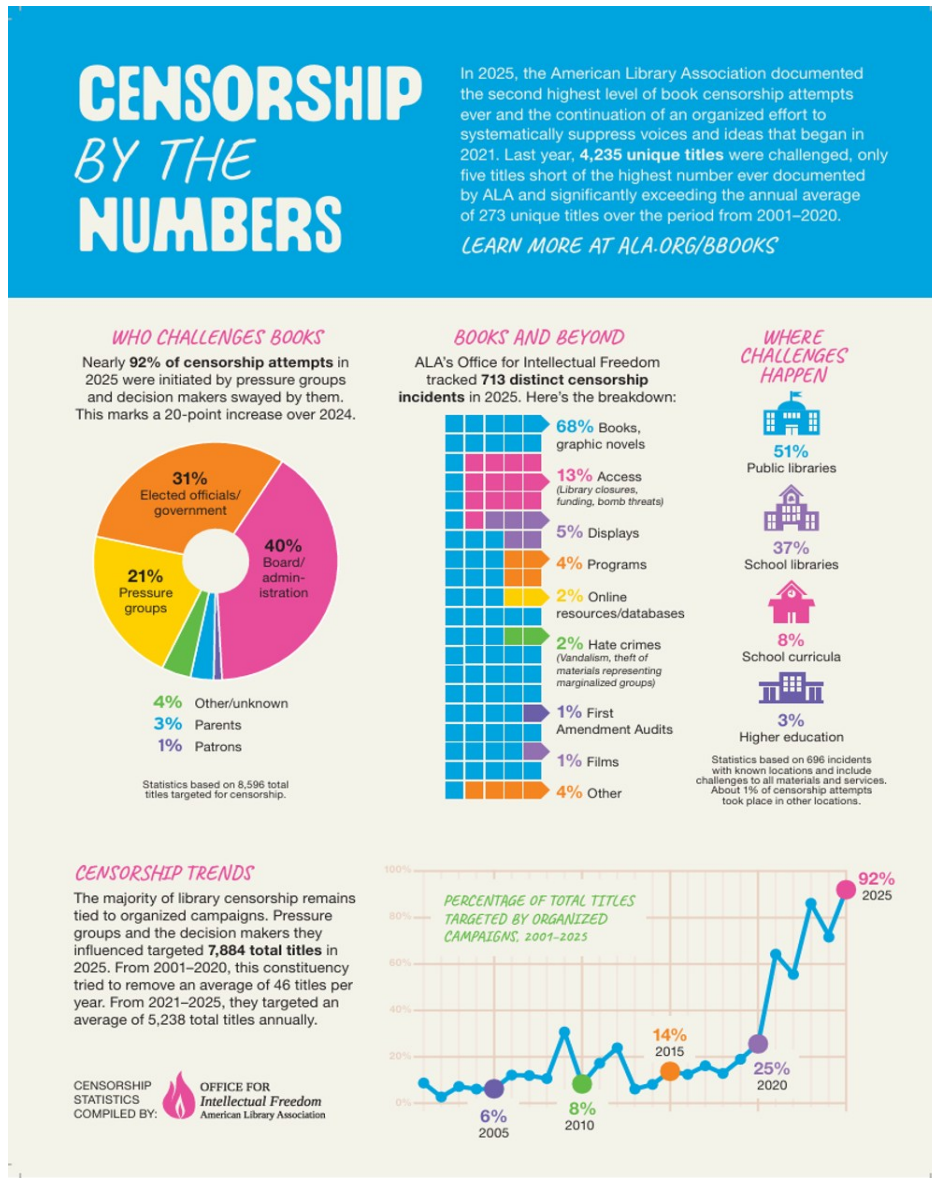
## Program Presenters for 2026

**Ms. Amy Slowik** is Head of Youth & Family Learning at Russell Library. She holds an M.L.I.S. from the University of Iowa as a Digital Library Fellow, and an M.A. from the University of Chicago's Program in the Humanities. Slowik has worked in public, academic, and school libraries in Connecticut, San Diego, Kentucky, Iowa, and New Jersey. Russell Library is the 2026 recipient of the Connecticut Library Association Excellence in Public Library Service Award, and Connecticut Insider's Best of Connecticut / Best Cultural Attraction for Families award.

**Isaiah Roby** (on video) graduated from Eastern in 2013. He double majored in Psychology and Women & Gender Studies. He was one of the first graduates with the major of Women and Gender Studies. Isaiah was inducted into Psi Chi (psychology honor society) and Triota (WGS honor society). He was instrumental with establishing the Pride Center and gender neutral housing on campus. As the past president of Pride Alliance for multiple years he received the Ella T. Grasso Distinguished Service award for his activism both on campus and off for the trans community. He has read over 250 books already this year, he can probably pretend to be an expert about literature and get away with it for a while longer. The librarians believe him at least, since he has never returned a book late to the library and is weirdly proud of that. To continue to befriend librarians, Isaiah received his MLS from Emporia State University in 2025. and was inducted into Beta Phi Mu (International honor society of library and information studies) in 2025. Currently he works in criminal defense, finding the overlap between librarianship and public defense work to better the lives of clients and attorneys.



## About Censorship Challenges



FYI, In 2025, 92% of Censorship Challenges were by organized campaigns/pressure groups. A total of 7,884 books were targeted in 2025. In the previous 20 years, the majority of challenges would have come from patrons and parents.

## Books About Censorship from the J. Eugene Smith Library Collection at Eastern Connecticut State University.



Abrams, F. (2017). *The soul of the First Amendment*. New Haven ; London: Yale University Press.

Biesen, S. (2018). *Film censorship : Regulating America's screen (Short cuts (London, England) ; 67)*. London: Wallflower.

Chemerinsky, E., & Gillman, H. (2017). *Free speech on campus*. New Haven ; London: Yale University Press.

Choldin, M. (2016). *Garden of broken statues : Exploring censorship in Russia*. Boston, MA: Academic Studies Press.

Dell, P. (2010). *You can't read this! : Why books get banned (Pop culture revolutions)*. Mankato, MN: Compass Point Books.

Dershowitz, A. (2017). *Trumped up*. New York: Bombardier Books, an imprint of Post Hill Press.

Gillingham, P., Lettieri, M., & Smith, B. (2018). *Journalism, satire, and censorship in Mexico*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.

Hall, P. (2018). *The Oxford handbook of music censorship (Oxford handbooks)*. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press.

Journell, W. (2019). *Unpacking fake news : An educator's guide to navigating the media with students*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Continued-A Selective 5 Year Timeline of Censored Art  
copied from the NCAC Website

What are your thoughts?  
Is it ever okay to censor art calling for it's removal?



2021-A Brooklyn elementary removed a mural created by fifth grade students based on the grounds that it is too divisive and not inclusive enough because it displays a Black Trans Lives matter sign and a quote from author Audre Lorde, "Your silence will not protect you." Later after some pushback from speech advocates explaining silencing student expression solely due to dislike of its viewpoint contradicts free speech principles and violate the school's First Amendment obligations, the superintendent admitted the mural should not have been removed.

Many more murals have been censored over the years, including this one below in 2019- The San Francisco Unified School District voted to remove murals at George Washington High School. At issue are depictions of George Washington's slaves and violence against Native Americans. The murals, created in fresco by Russian-American social realist painter Victor Arnautoff, can only be removed by the irreversible act of destroying them. Complaints about the murals first arose in the 1960s, leading the school to commission murals from artist Dewey Crumpler to offer positive imagery of people of color. In 2017 proposal to designate George Washington High School as a historical landmark reignited calls for the murals to be removed. The school convenes a Reflection and Action Group which recommends that the murals be removed. Arts advocates and anti-censorship organizations, call for additional educational programming around the murals. Advocates for preserving the murals maintain that this art must be considered in its historical and social context and that arguments for removal do not give students enough credit for their ability to grapple with complexity. The San Francisco Unified School District votes to reverse their decision to destroy the murals and to instead cover them with panels.



## Do you agree or disagree that these books should be challenged or banned?

### TOP 11 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2025

The American Library Association documented **487 attempts to censor** books at libraries, schools, and universities in 2025. The reasons most commonly cited for censorship were false claims of illegal obscenity for minors; inclusion of LGBTQIA+ representation; covering topics of race, racism, social justice, and diversity; and presenting political or religious views with which the challengers disagreed. Of the **4,235 unique titles** that were challenged or banned in 2025, here are the top 11 most frequently targeted.



# PUBLIC LIBRARY DATA AND TRENDS



Last year, 235 public library systems experienced known threats to intellectual freedom. OIF provided 202 instances of support to public libraries related to 108 separate threats to intellectual freedom in 36 states (Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin).

Beyond book challenges, there were 40 challenges to displays, 27 challenges to programs, 14 hate crimes, and 7 First Amendment audits documented at public libraries in 2025.

Of the threats to intellectual freedom at public libraries, 156 were from governmental decision-makers and pressure groups, including attempts to censor 599 of the total 824 books challenged. Board members and library administrators initiated 71 of these, including challenges to 295 books, nearly all of which were in multi-title censorship efforts.

2025

ANNUAL AVERAGE  
2001–2020

438 documented threats to intellectual freedom

144 documented threats to intellectual freedom

184 book censorship attempts

97 book censorship attempts

824 total books challenged

102 total books challenged

513 books censored

7 books censored

92 books banned

3 books banned



Report censorship attempts to OIF ([oif@ala.org](mailto:oif@ala.org)) when they happen at your library, school, or university. You don't have to be a librarian or ALA member to get confidential one-on-one help. Find more ways to reach us at [ala.org/oif](http://ala.org/oif).



## A Selective 5 Year Timeline of Art and Censorship Issues

According to the [Art and Culture Censorship Timeline - National Coalition Against Censorship](#) Internet address listed in this guide for more art censorship cases.

2024-2026– A series of executive orders signed by President Trump that condemned diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, as well as LGBTQIA+, and pro-Palestinian speech as discriminatory and prohibited within federal agencies, as well as an order that attacked the representation of U.S. history as “improper Ideology” were instrumental in placing restrictions on the operations of cultural agencies and thousands of museums, galleries and archives nationwide. Hence, the Smithsonian made multiple adjustments to displays, and planned exhibitions following a list from the Trump administration.

2025– Modern Art Museum in Fort Worth TX-Police confiscate the works of Sally Mann as her works of art are of her children as they were growing up, often not wearing clothes. A criminal investigation takes place and a grand jury decided to not press charges and works are returned to the gallery.

2022–Student artwork was removed by school officials in an elementary school in Athens, Georgia because it celebrated gay rights with a rainbow flag. Officials likened the rainbow flag to a swastika when responding to the NCAC. An apology is issued to the students and the school officials meet to discuss equity issues in their curriculum.

2022– The Orange County Museum of Art, in California cancels invitation for Ben Sakoguchi's 16 panel painting. Museum leadership thought that the swastikas in the work, *Comparative Religions 101*, would make some patrons uncomfortable, upset or triggered, despite the fact that the art casts a critical view of Nazism. Later the museum leadership changes their mind and invites the artist to attend with panel painting. The artist declines.

## Internet Sites Dealing with Censorship Issues



American Civil Liberties Union

<https://www.aclu.org/>

American Library Association

<https://www.ala.org>

Art and Cultural Censorship Timeline

<https://ncac.org/resource/art-and-culture-censorship-timeline>

First Amendment Center

<https://www.freedomforuminstitute.org/first-amendment-center/>

Foundation For Individual Rights In Education

<https://www.thefire.org/>

Free Expression Network/Clearinghouse

<https://www.freeexpression.org>

Freedom House

<https://freedomhouse.org/>

National Coalition Against Censorship

<https://ncac.org/topic/internet-censorship>

The National Council of Teachers of English

<http://www2.ncte.org/>

PEN America

<https://pen.org>

People For the American Way (PFAW)

<https://www.peoplefor.org>



## MOST FREQUENTLY TARGETED TITLES IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 2025

**#1 GENDER QUEER** by Maia Kobabe  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/genderBR](https://bit.ly/genderBR)

**#2 THIS BOOK IS GAY** by Juno Dawson  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/thisbookBR](https://bit.ly/thisbookBR)

**#3 SEX IS A FUNNY WORD**  
by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth

**#4 THE RAINBOW PARADE**  
by Emily Neilson  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/paradeBR](https://bit.ly/paradeBR)

**#5 (TIE) BEING YOU: A FIRST CONVERSATION ABOUT GENDER**  
by Megan Madison, Jessica Ralli, and Anne/Andy Passchier  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/beingyouBR](https://bit.ly/beingyouBR)

**#5 (TIE) IT FEELS GOOD TO BE YOURSELF** by Theresa Thorn  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/feelsgoodBR](https://bit.ly/feelsgoodBR)

**#5 (TIE) IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL**  
by Robie H. Harris  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/normalBR](https://bit.ly/normalBR)

**#5 (TIE) THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER** by Stephen Chbosky  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/wallflowerBR](https://bit.ly/wallflowerBR)

**#5 (TIE) WHEN AIDAN BECAME A BROTHER** by Kyle Lukoff and Kaylani Juanita  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/aidanBR](https://bit.ly/aidanBR)

**#10 (TIE) ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE**  
by George M. Johnson  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/allboysBR](https://bit.ly/allboysBR)

**#10 (TIE) I'M NOT A GIRL** by Maddox Lyons, Jessica Verdi, and Dana Simpson  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/notagirlBR](https://bit.ly/notagirlBR)

**#10 (TIE) A KIDS BOOK ABOUT BEING NONBINARY** by Hunter Chinn-Raich



**#10 (TIE) A KIDS BOOK ABOUT BEING TRANSGENDER** by Gia Parr



"Challenges" are not just complaints about books, but willful attempts to remove or restrict access. No one has the right to censor books or abridge the rights of others.

**#10 (TIE) OUR SKIN: A FIRST CONVERSATION ABOUT RACE** by Megan Madison, Jessica Ralli, and Isabel Roxas  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/ourskinBR](https://bit.ly/ourskinBR)

**#10 (TIE) RAINBOW: A FIRST BOOK OF PRIDE** by Michael Genhart

## MOST TARGETED YOUNG ADULT / TEEN TITLES (ALL LIBRARY TYPES)<sup>2</sup>

**#1 SOLD** by Patricia McCormick  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/soldBR](https://bit.ly/soldBR)

**#2 THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER** by Stephen Chbosky  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/wallflowerBR](https://bit.ly/wallflowerBR)

**#3 GENDER QUEER** by Maia Kobabe  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/genderBR](https://bit.ly/genderBR)

**#4 EMPIRE OF STORMS**  
by Sarah J. Maas  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/empireofstormsBR](https://bit.ly/empireofstormsBR)

**#5 (TIE) LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB** by Malinda Lo  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/telegraphclubBR](https://bit.ly/telegraphclubBR)

**#5 (TIE) TRICKS** by Ellen Hopkins  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/tricksBR](https://bit.ly/tricksBR)

**#7 A COURT OF THORNS AND ROSES** by Sarah J. Maas  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/thornsBR](https://bit.ly/thornsBR)

**#8 (TIE) IDENTICAL** by Ellen Hopkins  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/identicalBR](https://bit.ly/identicalBR)

**#8 (TIE) LOOKING FOR ALASKA**  
by John Green  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/alaskaBR](https://bit.ly/alaskaBR)

**#8 (TIE) STORM AND FURY**  
by Jennifer L. Armentrout  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/stormBR](https://bit.ly/stormBR)

## MOST TARGETED YOUNG ADULT / TEEN GRAPHIC NOVELS (ALL LIBRARY TYPES)

**#1 GENDER QUEER** by Maia Kobabe  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/genderBR](https://bit.ly/genderBR)

**#2 FLAMER** by Mike Curato  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/flamerBR](https://bit.ly/flamerBR)

**#3 HEARTSTOPPER VOL. 5**  
by Alice Oseman

**#4 (TIE) ASSASSINATION CLASSROOM (SERIES)** by Yusei Matsui

**#4 (TIE) CHECK, PLEASE!**  
by Ngozi Ukazu  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/checkBR](https://bit.ly/checkBR)

**#4 (TIE) HEARTSTOPPER VOL. 4**  
by Alice Oseman  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/heartstopper4BR](https://bit.ly/heartstopper4BR)

**#7 (TIE) HEARTSTOPPER VOL. 1**  
by Alice Oseman  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/heartstopper1BR](https://bit.ly/heartstopper1BR)

**#7 (TIE) HEARTSTOPPER VOL. 3**  
by Alice Oseman  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/heartstopper3BR](https://bit.ly/heartstopper3BR)

2. In 2025, OIF documented 5,127 total challenges to 2,159 unique YA titles. This represents 68% of the total volume of book challenges and 61.5% of the unique titles challenged. From 2001–2020, an average of 93 YA books were challenged each year.

3. In 2025, OIF documented 1,062 total challenges to 724 unique children's titles. This represents 14.1% of total challenge volume and 20.6% of the unique titles challenged. From 2001–2020, an average of 72 children's books were challenged each year.

## Most Frequently Targeted Titles in Public Libraries in 2025– Continued

### #7 (TIE) LAURA DEAN KEEPS

**BREAKING UP WITH ME** by Mariko Tamaki  
and Rosemary Valero-O'Connell  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/lauradeanBR](http://bit.ly/lauradeanBR)

### #7 (TIE) PERSEPOLIS

by Marjane Satrapi  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/persepolisBR](http://bit.ly/persepolisBR)

### #7 (TIE) SPINNING

by Tiffie Walden  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/spinningBR](http://bit.ly/spinningBR)

## MOST TARGETED CHILDREN'S TITLES (ALL LIBRARY TYPES)<sup>3</sup>

### #1 DRAMA

by Raina Telgemeier  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/dramaBR](http://bit.ly/dramaBR)

### #2 (TIE) MELISSA

by Alex Gino  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/melissaBR](http://bit.ly/melissaBR)

### #2 (TIE) THE RAINBOW PARADE

by Emily Neilon  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/paradeBR](http://bit.ly/paradeBR)

### #4 (TIE) IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL

by Robie H. Harris  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/normalBR](http://bit.ly/normalBR)

### #4 (TIE) WHEN AIDAN BECAME A

**BROTHER** by Kyle Lukoff and Kaylani Juanita  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/aidanBR](http://bit.ly/aidanBR)

### #6 (TIE) THE BLACK FRIEND

by Frederick Joseph  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/blackfriendBR](http://bit.ly/blackfriendBR)

### #6 (TIE) RELISH: MY LIFE IN THE

**KITCHEN** by Lucy Knisley  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/relishBR](http://bit.ly/relishBR)

### #8 (TIE) ANNE FRANK'S DIARY: THE GRAPHIC ADAPTATION

by Ari Folman and David Polonsky  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/annefrankgnBR](http://bit.ly/annefrankgnBR)

### #8 (TIE) IT FEELS GOOD TO BE

**YOURSELF** by Theresa Thorn  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/yourselfBR](http://bit.ly/yourselfBR)

### #8 (TIE) LILY AND DUNKIN

by Donna Gephart  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/dunkinBR](http://bit.ly/dunkinBR)

### #8 (TIE) TOO BRIGHT TO SEE

by Kyle Lukoff  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/toobrightBR](http://bit.ly/toobrightBR)

## MOST TARGETED CHILDREN'S GRAPHIC NOVELS (ALL LIBRARY TYPES)

### #1 DRAMA

by Raina Telgemeier  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/dramaBR](http://bit.ly/dramaBR)

### #2 SEX IS A FUNNY WORD

by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth

### #3 RELISH: MY LIFE IN THE KITCHEN

by Lucy Knisley  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/relishBR](http://bit.ly/relishBR)

### #4 ANNE FRANK'S DIARY: THE GRAPHIC ADAPTATION

by Ari Folman and David Polonsky  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/annefrankgnBR](http://bit.ly/annefrankgnBR)

### #5 (TIE) THE DEEP & DARK BLUE

by Niki Smith  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/darkblueBR](http://bit.ly/darkblueBR)

### #5 (TIE) THE PRINCE AND THE DRESSMAKER

by Jen Wang  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/dressmakerBR](http://bit.ly/dressmakerBR)

### #7 (TIE) HEY, KIDDO

by Jarrett Krosoczka  
Book Résumé: [bit.ly/kiddoBR](http://bit.ly/kiddoBR)

### #7 (TIE) THEY CALLED US ENEMY

by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott,  
and Harmony Becker

Want to know if the  
freedom to read a book or  
author you love has ever  
been jeopardized? You can  
use our Censorship Search  
Portal to find out!  
[ala.org/searchportal](http://ala.org/searchportal)

## Quotes About Censorship



"Believe in truth. To abandon facts is to abandon freedom. If nothing is true, then no one can criticize power, because there is no basis upon which to do so. If nothing is true, then all is spectacle. The biggest wallet pays for the most blinding lights." --Timothy Snyder, *On Tyranny*

"Art is a nation's most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves and to others the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish." -- Lyndon Johnson, on signing into existence the National Endowment on the Arts.

"The first step in liquidating a people is to erase its memory. Destroy its books, its culture, its history. Then have somebody write new books, manufacture a new culture, invent a new history. Before long the nation will begin to forget what it is, and what it was. The world around will forget even faster." --Novelist Milan Kundera

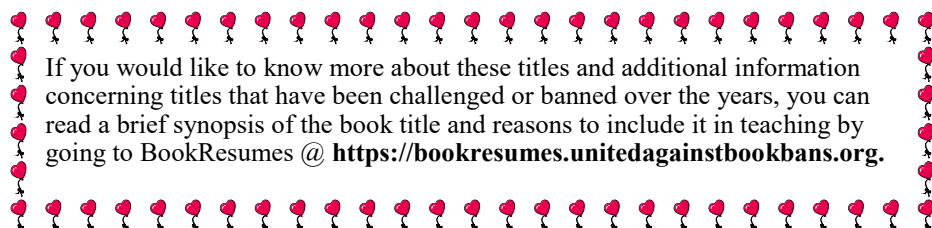
"Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear." -- Harry S. Truman, message to Congress, August 8, 1950

"Don't join the book burners. Don't think you are going to conceal thoughts by concealing evidence that they ever existed." -- Dwight D. Eisenhower, speech at Dartmouth College, June 14, 1953

"Books won't stay banned. They won't burn. Ideas won't go to jail. In the long run of history, the censor and the inquisitor have always lost. The only sure weapon against bad ideas is better ideas. The source of better ideas is wisdom. The surest path to wisdom is a liberal education." -- Alfred Whitney Griswold, *Essays on Education*

"Children deprived of words become school dropouts; dropouts deprived of hope behave delinquently. Amateur censors blame delinquency on reading immoral books and magazines, when in fact, the inability to read anything is the basic trouble." -- Peter S. Jennison

"Who controls the past controls the future, who controls the present controls the past." -- George Orwell from his novel *1984*



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