BANNED BOOKS
2015-2016

Response
53% of schools in Texas responded to our open records request

Challenged
13 books were challenged during the 2015-16 school year

Banned
5 out of 13 of the challenged books were banned.

Schools
Challenges came from elementary, middle, high and charter schools.

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SUMMARY

In 2015-2016, we recorded thirteen book challenges submitted to Texas schools. The books in question were challenged for a number of reasons, including horror (Poe), offensiveness (Lee), or upsetting to religious sensitivities (Myers, Camus).

Based on responses to our open records requests, twelve school districts logged book challenges this past year. In many cases, librarians and school administrators found a way to accommodate the parents' complaints while not depriving other students of the challenged material, either by denying access to the book to the child of the parent who filed the complaint, or by requiring students to have parental permission before checking out the texts in question. Troublingly, one book was recorded as "destroyed by third party; school reimbursed."

Five books were banned outright, including Edgar Allen Poe's "The Tell Tale Heart" and Walter Dean Myers's "Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary." Additionally, a world geographic textbook that described African slaves as 'immigrants' and 'workers' was also banned.

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1. Malcolm X By Any Means Necessary
   Walter Dean Myers

2. The Tell Tale Heart
   Edgar Allan Poe

3-5. The Monkey's Paw
   W.W. Jacobs

Drama
Raina Telgemeier

World Geography
McGraw-Hill

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**BREAKDOWN**

**BLUM ISD**
- **BOOK:** MALCOLM X: BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY, BY WALTER DEAN MYERS
- **SCHOOL:** BLUM HIGH SCHOOL
- **REASON CITED:** OFFENSIVE TO RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES; POLITICALLY, RACIALLY, OR SOCIALLY OFFENSIVE
- **ACTION TAKEN:** BANNED

**BEAUMONT ISD**
- **BOOK:** WORLD GEOGRAPHY, MCGRAW-HILL
- **SCHOOL:** PEARLAND HIGH SCHOOL
- **REASON CITED:** DESCRIBES AFRICAN SLAVES AS "WORKERS" AND "IMMIGRANTS"
- **ACTION TAKEN:** BANNED

**KIRBYVILLE CISD**
- **BOOK:** DRAMA, RAINA TELGEMEIER
- **SCHOOL:** KIRBYVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
- **REASON CITED:** POLITICALLY, RACIALLY, OR SOCIALLY OFFENSIVE
- **ACTION TAKEN:** BANNED

**POTH ISD**
- **BOOK:** THE TELL TALE HEART, EDGAR ALLAN POE
- **SCHOOL:** POTh JUNIOR HIGH
- **REASON CITED:** VIOLENCE OR HORROR; OFFENSIVE TO RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES
- **ACTION TAKEN:** BANNED
- **BOOK:** THE MONKEY’S PAW, W.W. JACOBS
- **SCHOOL:** POTh JUNIOR HIGH
- **REASON CITED:** VIOLENCE OR HORROR
- **ACTION TAKEN:** BANNED

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NEW BRAUNFELS ISD
BOOK: I SURVIVED (THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001), LAUREN TARSHIS
SCHOOL: MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
REASON CITED: THE WORD TERRORIST BEING USED
ACTION TAKEN: USE RESTRICTED, ALTERNATE ASSIGNMENT PROVIDED

NORTHSIDE ISD
BOOK: HOMEROOM DIARIES, JAMES PATTERSON
SCHOOL: NORTHSIDE ISD SECONDARY SCHOOLS
REASON CITED: PROFANITY
ACTION TAKEN: USE RESTRICTED

MCKINNEY ISD
BOOK: THIS ONE SUMMER, MARIKO TAMAKI
SCHOOL: WEBB ELEMENTARY
REASON CITED: INAPPROPRIATE FOR GRADE LEVELS
ACTION TAKEN: USE RESTRICTED; BOOKS TRANSFERRED TO HIGH SCHOOLS

ORENDA CHARTER SCHOOL
BOOK: THE STRANGER, ALBERT CAMUS
SCHOOL: GATEWAY COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL
REASON CITED: VIOLENCE OR HORROR; OFFENSIVE TO RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES
ACTION TAKEN: RETAINED

MONTGOMERY ISD
BOOK: THE HIGHWAYMAN (POEM), ALFRED NOYES
SCHOOL: MONTGOMERY JUNIOR HIGH
REASON CITED: PROFANITY; SEXUAL CONTENT OR NUDITY; VIOLENCE OR HORROR; DRUGS OR ALCOHOL
ACTION TAKEN: RETAINED

TAYLOR ISD
BOOK: TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, HARPER LEE
SCHOOL: TAYLOR MIDDLE SCHOOL
REASON CITED: POLITICALLY, RACIALLY, OR SOCIALLY OFFENSIVE
ACTION TAKEN: RETAINED; NOVEL FOUND TO BE APPROPRIATE ACCORDING TO LOCAL POLICY EFA

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**Northwest ISD**
Book: Pugdog, Andrea U'Ren
School: Beck Elementary School
Reason Cited: Politically, Racially, or Socially Offensive; About Gender Confusion & Identity; Also Promotes Cross-Dressing
Action Taken: Retained

**Harmony ISD**
Book: Black Butler #5 and #6, Yana Toboso
School: Harmony School of Advancement
Reason Cited: Offensive to Religious Sensitivities; Witchcraft, Satanic, and Occult Themes
Action Taken: Destroyed by Third Party; School Reimbursed