# 2018 - 2019 BANNED BOOKS Report on Texas Schools





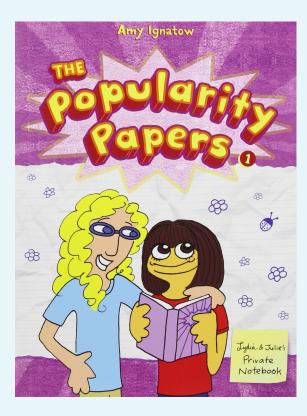
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# 44%

This year 44% of schools in Texas responded to our request for information about banned and challenged books.

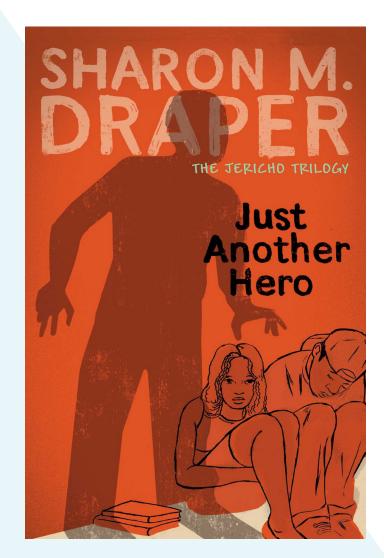


6 out of 17 of the books challenged were banned.

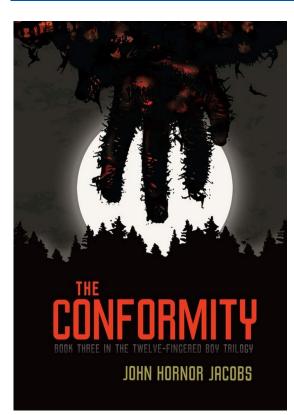


In 2018-2019 we recorded 17 book challenges — requests by parents or school administrators to permanently remove a book from a school's library collection or curriculum submitted by 13 Texas public school districts and charter schools. The books in question were challenged for various reasons including violence (Smith, Draper), political or racial offensiveness (Seuss), or sexual content (Telgemeier).

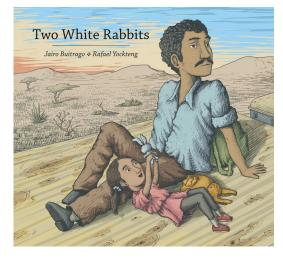
Some school districts logged multiple challenges, including Azle and Royse City Independent School Districts (ISDs). While some school administrators made efforts to restrict access to challenged books without banning them outright, six books were completely removed from school collections this school year. These books include Popularity Paper Series by Sonja Jones and Just Another Hero by Sharon Draper.



## **BANNED BOOKS**



THE CONFORMITY by John Hornor Jacobs was removed from the Roosevelt Elementary library collection in McAllen ISD.



TWO WHITE RABBITS by Jairo Buitrago was removed from the Liberty Elementary library collection in Azle ISD, for being being politically, racially, or socially offensive.

## **MCALLEN ISD**

#### School: Roosevelt Elementary

Book: The Conformity, John Horner Jacobs

- Reasons Cited: profanity, inappropriate content
- Action Taken: removed from library collection

## **NEW BRAUNFELS ISD**

School: Oak Run Middle School

Book: This One Summer, Mariko Tamaki

- Reasons Cited: other -'mature content'
- Action Taken: removed from library collection

## **AZLE ISD**

#### School: Liberty Elementary

Books: Two White Rabbits, Jariro Buitrago

- Reasons Cited: violence, and politically, racially, or socially offensive content
- Action Taken: removed from library collection

## **ROYSE CITY ISD**

#### School: Herndon Intermediate

#### Book: Popularity Papers Series, Amy Ignatow

- Reasons Cited: none specified
- Action Taken: removed from the library due to parent concern

## **SUNNYVALE ISD**

#### School: Sunnyvale High School

Book: Just Another Hero, Sharon Draper

- Reasons Cited: violence, school shooting
- Action Taken: removed from library collection

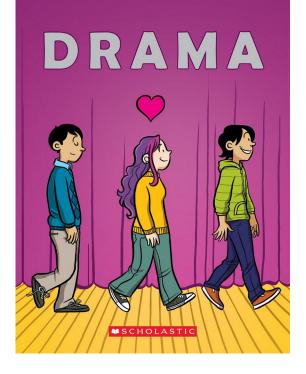
The 2018-2019 school year saw a

# 40% decrease

in banned books compared to the previous year.

# **CHALLENGED BOOKS**

## FROM THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF SMILE



DRAMA by Raina Telgemeier was challenged for the fourth year in a row.

## **AUBREY ISD**

#### School: Aubrey High School

## Book: How to Read Literature Like a Professor, Thomas C. Foster

- Reasons Cited: sexual content
- Action Taken: alternate book provided

## SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY Charter School

## Book: The entire bibliography of Dr. Seuss, Dr. Seuss

- Reasons Cited: politically, racially, or socially offensive content
- Action Taken: decision pending

## **SAN FELIPE DEL RIO ISD**

#### School: Garfield, Lamar Elementaries

#### Book: George, Alex Gino

- Reasons Cited: parent expressed concern with content
- Action Taken: relocated to Del Rio Middle School

## LITTLE ELM ISD

## School: Little Elm High School

#### Book: The Tortilla Curtain, T.C. Boyle

- Reasons Cited: inappropriate content
- Action Taken: allowed to remain in school library, selections of text restricted during classroom instruction

## **ROYSE CITY ISD**

## **School: Vernon Elementary**

#### Book: The Dork Diaries Series, Rachel Renee Russell

- Reasons Cited: mature content
- Action Taken: relocated to middle school

## **TEMPLE ISD**

#### School: Scott Elementary

#### Book: Poison Apples, Poems for You, My Pretty, by Christine Heppermann

- Reasons Cited: age-inappropriate content
- Action Taken: relocated to high school library collections

## **CONROE ISD**

## School: Conroe ISD high schools

#### Book: Beauty Queens, Libba Bray

- Reasons Cited: profanity, sexual content
- Action Taken: use restricted

## **KATY ISD**

### School: Stockdick Junior High

#### Book: Reluctantly Alice, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

- Reasons Cited: nudity
- Action Taken: use restricted

## **BURLESON ISD**

## School: Kerr Middle School

## Book: In the Middle of the Night

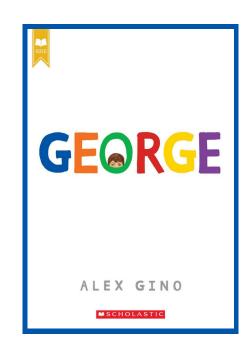
- Reasons Cited: violence, PTSD
- Action Taken: alternate book allowed

## **BRAZOS ISD**

## School: Brazos Elementary

## Books: Drama, Raina Telgemeier

- Reasons Cited: sexual content
- Action Taken: use restricted



GEORGE by Alex Gino, a novel about a transgender middle school girl, was challenged this year.