

**Banned and Challenged Books  
In Texas Public Schools  
2001-2002**

*A Report of the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas*

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## 2002 Banned Book List

**The Adventures of Blue Avenger**

*Norma Howe*

**Alice on the Outside**

*Phyllis Reynolds Naylor*

**Attack of the Living Mask**

*Robert Hirschfield*

**Bag of Bones**

*Stephen King*

**The Boy on a Black Horse**

*Nancy Springer*

**The Boy Who Lost His Face**

*Louis Sacher*

**Cosmos Coyote and William the Nice**

*Jim Heynen*

**Crosses**

*Shelley Stoehr*

**Curses, Inc.**

*Vivian Velde*

**The Evil Pen Pal**

*Laban Carrick Hill*

**The Facts Speak for**

**Themselves**

*Brock Cole*

**Forever**

*Judy Blume*

**Friday Night Lights: A Town, A Team, and a Dream**

*H. G. Bissinger*

**Harry Blackmun (Supreme Court Justices)**

*Paul Deegan and Bob Italia*

**Insomnia!**

*Stephen King*

**It**

*Stephen King*

**The Killer's Cousin**

*Nancy Werlin*

**Love One Another: The Last Days of Jesus**

*Elizabeth Wylie*

**Off to Sea**

*Richard Stine*

**Past Forgiving**

*Gloria D. Miklowitz*

**Patriot Games**

*Tom Clancy*

**Reckless Homicide**

*Ira Genbert*

**Scorpions**

*Walter Dean Myers*

**Silent to the Bone**

*E. L. Konigsberg*

**Smoky Night**

*Eve Bunting*

**Snow Falling on Cedars**

*David Guterson*

**Stormy Night**

*Michelle Lemieux*

**Taming the Star Runner**

*S. E. Hinton*

**Team Picture**

*Dean Hughes*

**The Teenage Guys Survival Guide**

*Jeremy Daldry*

**Then Again, Maybe I Won't**

*Judy Blume*

**There's a Bat in Bunk Five**

*Paula Danzinger*

**A Time for Dancing**

*David Hurwin*

**The Unprotected Witness**

*James Stevenson*

**The What's Happening to My Body Book? for Boys**

*Lynda Madaras*

**The What's Happening to My Body Book? for Girls**

*Lynda Madaras*



## **Banned and Challenged Books In Texas Public Schools 2001-2002**

*A Report of the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas*

*"Censorship reflects a society's lack of confidence in itself. It is the hallmark of an authoritarian regime..."*

Justice Potter Stewart, dissenting  
Ginsberg v. United States (383 U. S. 463)

*"And when we do that, shut off the dialogue, we do violence to the First amendment and to the children of this generation and the next generation..."*

John Henry Faulk

This is the sixth consecutive annual report on censorship in Texas public schools by the **ACLU of Texas**. Again this year, the **Texas Library Association** has joined the ACLU in sponsoring the report. The content of the report is based on information furnished by the over 1200 Independent School Districts and Charter Schools in Texas. The full report, which contains indexes of books by title (with synopses), author, and school district, can be obtained by contacting the ACLU of Texas.

### **Highlights**

The Harry Potter books by J. K. Rowling were the most often challenged books in Texas during the 2001-2002 academic year. There were 71 challenges in 21 different districts. In most cases, the challenges were made to "all Harry Potter books" – **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, and Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**. The number of challenges was probably inflated by the debut of a movie based on one of the books – several districts reported that parents complained after seeing the movie, but admitted they had not read the book. Overwhelmingly, districts rejected these challenges, but, although there were no "bannings", the books were severely restricted in some instances. In the Hondo ISD, the Potter books were "use restricted" in all schools; officials reported that "*The books are still in our libraries and can be checked out by anyone, but a teacher is not allowed to read aloud in his/her classroom any part of any Harry Potter book.*" In the Fort Stockton ISD Alamo Elementary School, a

*“Parent called principal and requested that Harry Potter books not be read or discussed in her children’s classrooms. Principal notified teachers.”* In the Florence ISD elementary school, officials reported that *“All of the Harry Potter books were removed by an administrator without following district procedure. District policy was followed and a formal request for reconsideration was never initiated. The books were replaced without restriction.”* The reason given for the challenge in virtually every case was “mysticism/paganism”.

The single most often banned book this year was **Taming the Star Runner**, by S. E. Hinton. The book was banned in school libraries in the Lamar CISD (Rosenberg), the Ector County ISD (Odessa), and the Cherokee ISD. The book, a story about a city kid who goes to live on a ranch and encounters a wild horse named “Star Runner”, was challenged for “profanity/inappropriate language.” The author, who lives in Oklahoma, was contacted but had no comment on the bannings.

The Vidor ISD banned **Harry Blackmun (Supreme Court Justices)** at its Pine Forest Elementary School because a parent complained that *“... discussion of Roe vs. Wade and the abortion issue was inappropriate for elementary grade level.”*

Vidor ISD banned more books than any other district in the state – 6 in all. Included in the list of books banned in this district was the acclaimed novel about Japanese internment during WW II – **Snow Falling on Cedars**. This book was also challenged in the Richardson ISD Lake Highlands High School where it was used in the classroom. The report by the district stated that: *“student’s parent complained; however, student read book anyway even though an alternate book was on the list and allowed.”*

Note: This book was banned 2 years ago in the Boerne ISD. It was reinstated in the library after a public outcry, but removed from use in the classroom.

In the Fort Bend ISD (Sugar Land), 4 related books were challenged in the George H. Bush High School library: **Beyond Gay or Straight, Gay Rights, Homophobia, A History, and Homosexuality**. After due consideration by the administration, all 4 books were retained without restriction.

In the East Central ISD in San Antonio, a mother challenged **Are You There God? - It’s me, Margaret** by Judy Blume after listening to an audiotape of the book with her 5<sup>th</sup> grade child. The district reported that *“... When Playboy magazine was mentioned student asked what it was. Mother thought child was too young to know.”* Mother wanted book and cassette removed. School officials rejected this challenge. Books by Judy Blume are often challenged in Texas schools. Her book **Forever** was banned this year in the Cranfills Gap ISD Middle School for sexual content.

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, who writes a series of books about “Alice” – a teenaged girl coping with “growing up” problems - had several books challenged this year, as in past years. **Alice on the Outside** was banned in the Culbertson County - Allamore ISD Van Horn Junior High School, and was restricted in the Lumberton ISD Middle School: “*students must bring a note signed by parents to check out the book.*” **Alice in Rapture, Sort Of** was restricted in the Mansfield ISD Tarver-Rendon Elementary School: “*parent must approve before student can check the book out.*”

A parent in the Booker ISD wrote 2 lengthy letters to the district Superintendent challenging 3 textbooks used by her 9<sup>th</sup> grade child. **Algebra I** was deemed offensive because the text talks about the BIG BANG and carbon 14 dating relating to the age of the earth, and “*...Your agenda of promoting global warming is dubious. Then each chapter has a time line of important events which is dominated by women and blacks and latinos...*” The science text, **Exploring Physical Science (Texas Edition)**, was said to be wrongly subjecting students to a discussion of evolution: “*...you start the book by telling the student that they are no different from pond scum, you LIE to them saying the scientific evidence supports this position, ...Thus it must be the goal of the authorities that be, to take every opportunity to convince the student that he or she is NOTHING BUT AN ANIMAL...*” **Elements of Literature (Third Course)** was challenged by the same parent because of violence in the lead story which talks about kids with guns, and, again, a story that talks about evolution: “*This is where you tell them that their lives are hopeless, they evolved from an ape, and that they are insignificant. You tell them this in the grand name of science, yet science clearly supports the concept of Intelligent Design, that there is a creator of the universe...*” In his letter responding to the parent, the Superintendent strongly rejected the challenges, but stated that: “*...The teachers pull from the text what is relevant and what they feel needs to be covered...*”

Other well known challenged titles were **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee, **The Hobbit** by J. R. R. Tolkien, **A Midsummer Night’s Dream** by William Shakespeare, **Webster’s Dictionary**, **The Bible**, **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** by Maya Angelou, **Night** by Elie Wiesel, **Brave New World** by Aldous Huxley, and **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** by Mark Twain.

### **Statistical Summary**

In the request for information, school administrators were asked to classify the reasons for challenges to books into one or more pre-defined categories as follows: (Numbers in parentheses reflect the number of challenges for that reason)

- Profanity/Inappropriate language (73)
- Sexual Content (60)

- Mysticism/Paganism (75)
- Violence/Horror (61)
- Other (32) Some explanations given in this category are *“lack of literary value”, “insubordination and disrespect of protagonist”, “religious content”, “racism”, “too mature for grade level”, “non-biblical story of creation”, “homosexual content”, “drug references”, “gangs”, “talks about learning to smoke”, “crime”, “teaches evolution”, and “promotes agenda for women, blacks, and latinos.”*

Statewide, 218 challenges were issued to 134 books. Results of challenges have been categorized as follows:

Note: Banned books are those physically removed from a library. Restricted books remain in the library but can't be accessed by all students. Some restrictions are so severe as to be tantamount to banning.

- Banned (38) (18%)
- Restricted Use or Access (57) (27%)
- Alternative Allowed in Curriculum or Reading List (22) (11%)
- Final Decision Pending (16) (8%)
- Retained/No Restriction on Use (85) (37%)

### **Discussion of Findings**

This year the number of challenges because of “Mysticism/Paganism”, due to the high number of complaints about **Harry Potter** books, surpassed the “Profanity/Inappropriate language” category and led in number of challenges. Since children’s books have always been rife with stories about magic, witches, etc. (Cinderella, Hansel and Gretel, e.g.), objection to books containing this material seems new and unusual. However, the trend has been in place for several years and seems to be based on religious fundamentalism, and associated with the increased activism of these groups. It would appear that some religious activists consider that any description of supernatural events outside the context of their own preferred religious beliefs are sacrilegious or blasphemous. The increasing trend to oppose books for this reason is disturbing and could be in contradiction with constitutional values.

Many books contain language that might be offensive to some people, for reasons of profanity or for derogatory or blasphemous content. **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**, a book widely used in high school curricula, was challenged in 3 school districts for inappropriate language (use of the word “nigger”). More different books are challenged for this reason than for any other, a result corroborative of previous year’s results.

Complaints about sexual content in books are pervasive, and include books with fictional accounts of romantic encounters as well as educational books, such as *The What's Happening to My Body Book? For Boys*, *The What's Happening to My Body Book? For Girls*, and several books about homosexuality. Many parents and others simply object to sex education of any kind in schools. In the Hutto ISD, both *Brave New World* and *A Midsummer Nights Dream* were challenged for sexual content (both were used in curricula); students involved were allowed to choose another book to read.

Compared to previous years, challenges for reason of violent content and mysticism are increasing, and challenges for other reasons remain relatively constant.

### **How the Report was Compiled**

School district numbers, names, addresses and other data were obtained from the Texas Education Agency. Using this database, requests for information were mailed to all Independent School Districts and Charter Schools under the authority of the Texas Public Information Act, Texas Government Code Ch. 552 (formerly known as the Texas Open Records Act). State law requires that public entities are to respond to such inquiries within 10 days.

Included in the mailing was a form which, when completed, enabled school administrators to remit the requested information in a simple, straightforward process. The form could be either faxed or mailed to the ACLU of Texas' offices. School officials also had the option to access the form on-line. Information from these reports was entered into a spreadsheet and converted into the report.

ACLU volunteers wrote all book synopses.

### **Texas Library Association Resources**

Currently, there is no statewide mandated standard for dealing with book challenges to public schools, and individual school districts manage these challenges in different ways. Some have adopted a written standard policy, which requires a formal review process by an established committee, while others leave the decision to teachers, principals and/or librarians. As an example, one district summarized its Board of Trustee approved policy for addressing complaints as follows:

- *"Talk to teacher and see if matter can be settled.*
- *Talk to Principal if matter is not satisfied with the teacher.*
- *Talk to Superintendent if matter is not satisfied with the principal.*
- *Ask to be on agenda for Board of Trustees if matter is not satisfied with the Superintendent".*

Based on this information, a procedure similar to this would appear to be vague and subject to abuse at many levels.

The Texas Library Association offers a model policy for dealing with book challenges, which can be found in the TLA Intellectual Freedom Manual. In addition, library book selection criteria guidance can be found in the manual in several sections.

The manual can also be accessed at [www.tsla.org/pubs/ifhbk.html](http://www.tsla.org/pubs/ifhbk.html). The adoption of a standard policy to be used by all public schools based on the TLA procedures is strongly recommended.

### **Acknowledgements**

In most cases, school administrators and librarians gave their willing and sometimes enthusiastic support in supplying the information requested for this report. Often beset by special interest appeals to ban books from libraries and curricula, these individuals merit the thanks and appreciation of students and citizens who oppose censorship. However, it must be stated that in a few cases strong resentment to the survey and information request was expressed. One superintendent said that he regarded the project as an “abuse” of the Texas Public Information Act.

The following volunteers gave of their time and expertise (in alphabetical order):

- **Marilyn Anderson** – Data input and synopses
- **Denise Brady** – Synopses and legal
- **Deb Calderon** (ACLU Administrative Asst.) - Mail and faxes
- **Laurel Redford** – Synopses
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### **Adventures of Blue Avenger, The**

**Author:** Howe, Norma

**Synopsis:** In order to get over the grief attending his father's death, 16-year old David decides to legally change his name to "Blue Avenger" and take on the persona of a comic book hero to achieve his goal of righting the wrongs he sees in the world.

**School District:** Houston ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Welch Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Language; Sexual content; Other

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Challenged by teacher

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### **Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, The**

**Author:** Twain, Mark

**Synopsis:** An exploration of morality and race relations, the story follows young Huckleberry and a runaway slave, Jim, on their voyage down the Mississippi River.

**School District:** Carroll ISD (Southlake)

**School(s) Involved:** Carroll High School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Decision pending

**Notes:** "The campus-level committee is scheduled to meet next week."

**School District:** Cypress-Fairbanks ISD (Houston)

**School(s) Involved:** Cypress Creek

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Other = Racism

**School District:** Ector County ISD (Odessa)

**School(s) Involved:** San Jacinto Elementary School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Language

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

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## **Adventures of Isabel, The**

**Author:** Nash, Ogden

**Synopsis:** Isabel is a rambunctious young girl whose adventures and escapades are told of in verse form. The book is illustrated.

**School District:** Cypress-Fairbanks ISD (Houston)

**School(s) Involved:** Yeager Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror

**Result:** Retained without restriction

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## **Algebra I (Handbook for Texas Students)**

**Author:** Boyd, Cindy J.

**Synopsis:** First year Algebra textbook.

**School District:** Booker ISD

**School(s) Involved:** 9th Grade

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Other = "...Math book has an agenda. Math, numbers, are neutral. Your agenda promoting global warming is dubious. Each chapter has a timeline of important events which is dominated by women and blacks and latinos..."

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## **Alice in Rapture, Sort of**

**Author:** Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

**Synopsis:** This book in the Alice series covers the summer between grade school and junior high, when Alice and her sixth-grade friend Patrick start dating.

**School District:** Mansfield ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Tarver-Rendon Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Parent challenge. "Librarian will require parent to approve checkout to student."

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## **Alice on the Outside**

**Author:** Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

**Synopsis:** Alice is in the eighth grade and wonders about her relationship with her boyfriend Patrick. She also gains some insight into the nature of prejudice from a week-long consciousness-raising exercise at school; and, she must deal with a crush that another female student has for her. Alice's strong sense of who she is and what she wants continues to guide her as she develops and matures into a young woman.

**School District:** Culberson County-Allamore ISD (Van Horn)

**School(s) Involved:** Van Horn Junior High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "A parent brought this book to the attention of the principal."

**School District:** Lumberton ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Lumberton Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "Students may bring a note from a parent stating the student has permission to read the book."

---

## **Amber Spy Glass, The**

**Author:** Pullman, Phillip

**Synopsis:** The book is the last in a fantasy trilogy: "His Dark Materials". New characters are introduced, and the intrigue and adventures begun in the first two books – "The Golden Compass" and "The Subtle Knife" – are brought to a heart-stopping conclusion. (Winner of the Whitbread Book of the Year award, 2001).

**School District:** Houston ISD

**School(s) Involved:** T. H. Rogers Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Other = "Passages in the book are offensive to Christians. Challenged by student"

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## **Angela's Ashes**

**Author:** McCourt, Frank

**Synopsis:** The author recounts his childhood in Limerick, Ireland, and New York City. His family lives in dire poverty wherein food and clothing are lacking, and his Mother is reduced to begging in the streets when his father spends what little money the family has for drink. As he is introduced to both Shakespeare and the mysteries of sex as an adolescent, he discovers the unforgiving nature and power of the Catholic Church.

**School District:** Westbrook ISD

**School(s) Involved:** K - 12 campus

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Language; Sexual Content; Violence/Horror

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "Parent challenged for daughter. Being an accelerated reading book, we changed reading level to high school."

---

## **Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging: Confessions of Georgia Nicolson**

**Author:** Rennison, Louise

**Synopsis:** The story is presented as the humorous journal of a year in the life of a 14-year-old British girl. She tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

**School District:** Blue Ridge ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual content

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Unofficial challenge. Parents wrote notes to principal who sent them to me. Did not get to paperwork stage. After two weeks, both parents allowed their children to read books."

---

## **Are You There God It's Me Margaret**

**Author:** Blume, Judy

**Synopsis:** Margaret's life has changed. She has moved from New York City to the suburbs and is anxious to acclimate to her new environment. She and her new friends form a secret club to talk about what is going on in their young lives; but, Margaret is still having trouble fitting in. Everyone in town belongs to the Y or to the Jewish Community Center, but Margaret doesn't have a religion, so what is she to do? She could really use some help with the confusing things in her life.

**School District:** East Central ISD (San Antonio)

**School(s) Involved:** Oak Crest Intermediate School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Challenge is an audio cassette. Fifth grade student and her mother listened to the tape. When Playboy magazine was mentioned student asked what it was. Mother thought child was too young to know. Mother wanted book and cassette removed."

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## **Attack of the Living Mask**

**Author:** Hirschfield, Robert

**Synopsis:** This is a "choose your own nightmare" book where readers determine different elements of the book. The action takes place at creepy and mysterious Greystone Pond. When Jeff disappears on Halloween night, the pond is the first place his friends go looking for him. Readers can choose to encounter different scary creatures or go to the Halloween party instead.

**School District:** Cypress-Fairbanks ISD (Houston)

**School(s) Involved:** Copeland Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror

**Result:** Banned

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## **Back Roads**

**Author:** O' Dell, Tawni

**Synopsis:** Harley Altmyer, a 19-year-old living in rural Pennsylvania, struggles to raise his three younger sisters after his mother goes to jail for his father's murder.

**School District:** North Hopkins ISD (Sulfur Springs)  
**School(s) Involved:** High School  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** Restricted to 11th and 12th grade students.

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## **Bag of Bones**

**Author:** King, Stephen  
**Synopsis:** A novelist goes on “location” in a haunted house in Maine in order to investigate his wife’s death, and encounters “ghosts” along the way.

**School District:** Ector County ISD (Odessa)  
**School(s) Involved:** Ector Junior High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** “Moved to the Professional Library and parent was satisfied.”

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## **Beyond Gay or Straight**

**Author:** Clausen, Jan  
**Synopsis:** The book explores various theories regarding the origin of homosexuality in individuals – from history to the present – and includes cultural context and ramifications of the different theories.

**School District:** Fort Bend ISD (Sugarland)  
**School(s) Involved:** George H. Bush High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

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## **Bible, The**

**Author:**  
**Synopsis:** Believed by many Christians to be divinely inspired, the Bible is a collection of parables and religious directives written by or attributed to various authors.

**School District:** Boerne ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Boerne High School  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror; Mysticism/Paganism; Other  
**Result:** Decision pending  
**Notes:** "Seven local citizens see the use of a course on the Bible as literature/history as dangerous, claiming it is false teaching and advocating one religion."

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## **Billy**

**Author:** Roybal, Laura  
**Synopsis:** Sixteen year old Billy's easygoing life is disrupted when he is arrested for brawling, and a routine fingerprint check reveals that he is a missing child - kidnapped at age ten by his father. Convinced that his family didn't want him, or they would have tracked him down, Billy is furious when his stepfather takes him back to Iowa without letting him say goodbye to his father, friends, and girlfriend.

**School District:** Coppell ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Coppell Middle School-East  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "Committee deliberated regarding the merits of the arguments. A unanimous decision by committee members was to retain the book in collection."

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## **Blood and Chocolate**

**Author:** Klause, Annette Curtis  
**Synopsis:** When half of Vivian's werewolf pack is destroyed in a fire following the forbidden killing of a human, the remaining "loups-garoux" are forced to move to a new town, where the 16-year-old longs for companions her own age.

**School District:** La Porte ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Lomax Jr. High School; La Porte High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content; Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "Book placed on library reading reserved list. Student use by parent permission only." Challenge issued by a parent.

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## **Bluest Eye, The**

**Author:** Morrison, Toni

**Synopsis:** An 11-year-old black girl, Pecola Breedlove, prays for blue eyes because she sees an America whose greatest love is given to blond, blue-eyed children. She believes that she will be beautiful, and that her world will be different - if only she can have blue eyes. (This was Toni Morrison's first novel).

**School District:** Anahuac ISD

**School(s) Involved:** High School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content; Other

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Other = "Lack of literary value. Book taken off pre-AP reading list"

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## **Boy on a Black Horse, The**

**Author:** Springer, Nancy

**Synopsis:** Two years after the death of her parents and brother, middle school girl Gray meets a boy her age named Chay. Chay is an intense, horse-loving Gypsy, and he and his siblings have run away from his brutal father - who has killed their mother.

**School District:** Vidor ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Pine Forest Elementary

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "Teacher brought it to the librarian's attention"

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## **Boy Who Lost His Face, The**

**Author:** Sacher, Louis

**Synopsis:** In order to fit in with his middle school friends, David Ballinger helps some classmates attack an elderly woman and steal her cane. When odd things begin to happen to him, he believes the woman to be a witch who has cursed him, and his genuine remorse causes him to punish himself. By not standing up for what is right and responsible, he loses face.

**School District:** Houston ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Briargrove

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Challenged by parent



## **Brave New World**

**Author:** Huxley, Aldous

**Synopsis:** This novel describes a utopian state in which everyone consumes daily doses of “soma”, babies are born in laboratories, and the most popular form of entertainment is “Feelie”, a movie that stimulates the senses of sight, hearing, and touch. There is no violence and every need is provided for, but Bernard feels that something is missing. He senses that his relationship with a young woman has potential beyond the confines of their normal existence.

**School District:** Hutto ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Hutto High School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

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## **Breaking Boxes**

**Author:** Jenkins, A.M.

**Synopsis:** Charlie is a teenage loner. His parents are gone, and except for his older brother, he doesn't need anyone, especially friends. But when Charlie meets Brandon, things begin to change. Even though Brandon hangs with the rich kids, Charlie discovers a real person underneath the phony exterior. He and Brandon shoot hoops, check out girls, and have serious discussions about life. But just as they begin to open up to each other, Brandon learns something about Charlie's family - something that makes them both question what they believe in and what friendship really means.

**School District:** Burleson ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Pauline G. Hughes Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** “Challenge was dropped when challenger was required to read entire book in order to pursue challenge.”

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## **Brimstone Journals, The**

**Author:** Koertge, Ronald

**Synopsis:** In a series of short interconnected poems, a diverse group of high school students reveal their hopes, struggles, and dreams - as well as the violence existing and growing in their lives.

**School District:** Poolville ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Poolville Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Our library is a K-12 library. It is set up similar to a public library. The student was a third grade student and picked up a book in the "Non-Fiction" section rather than the "Juvenile Non-Fiction" section. It was not caught a time of check-out. The parent complained to the elementary school principal. It was then brought to my attention. I met with the parent and principal. I explained the school board approved challenge procedures and gave the parent the appropriate paperwork to file a formal complaint. The parent never completed the paperwork and has not contacted the school further."

---

## **Bud, Not Buddy**

**Author:** Curtis, Christopher Paul

**Synopsis:** An orphan 10-year-old runaway, Bud "not Buddy" Caldwell copes with the adult world with his numbered "Rules and Things". He has a battered suitcase with his worldly treasures from his former life with "momma". One treasure is a flyer from a musical group, advertising Herman E. Calloway, a bass player with the Dusky Devastators of the Depression. Bud is convinced Calloway is his father. This is the story of a small boy's search for a father he's never seen and a life that has to be better than what he's known.

**School District:** Port Neches-Groves ISD (Port Neches)

**School(s) Involved:** K-3 Elementary

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Language; Violence/horror

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "p. 33 - character imagines community murder with shotgun"

---

## **Bunnicula**

**Author:** Howe, James

**Synopsis:** Harold the dog's human family, the Monroes, go to see the movie *Dracula*. Young Toby accidentally sits on a baby rabbit wrapped in a bundle on his seat and the family takes the rabbit home and names it Bunnicula. Chester, the observant family cat, soon decides there is something weird about this rabbit. He seems to be turning into vampire bunny. Chester tries to warn the family, but he is misunderstood and the results are very funny.

**School District:** Livingston ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Pine Ridge Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library, Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror; Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Alternate book allowed  
**Notes:** "Book retained without restriction in library."

---

## **Chocolate War, The**

**Author:** Cormier, Robert

**Synopsis:** Stunned by his mother's recent death and appalled by the way his father sleepwalks through life, Jerry Renault, a New England high school student, ponders the poster in his locker - "Do I dare disturb the universe"? Jerry defies the school bully, Archie, and is at first a hero then a victim. (Citations include "ALA Best Book for Young Adults").

**School District:** Beaumont ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Odom Academy  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Other  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** Other = "Insubordination, disrespect of protagonist"

**School District:** Ector County ISD (Odessa)  
**School(s) Involved:** San Jacinto Elementary School  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual content  
**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**School District:** Houston ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Stevenson Middle School  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual content  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "Parent did not proceed with the challenge."

**School District:** Pasadena ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Bondy Intermediate School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

---

## **Christmas in Heaven**

**Author:** Williams, Carol Lynch

**Synopsis:** A young girl, Honey DeLoach, lives in a small Florida town called Heaven. Fighting off pressure from her “born-again” preacher grandfather to be “called up” in front of the town, she soon becomes friends with the two daughters (Easter and Christmas) of a rich, flashy movie star who moves to town. Through her relationship with Christmas, Honey learns lessons about security, friendship and the meaning of life and salvation.

**School District:** Hico ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Hico High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Reason for challenge not further identified.

---

## **Comanche Moon**

**Author:** McMurtry, Larry

**Synopsis:** Texas Rangers Augustus McCrae and Woodrow F. Call are in their middle years as their story continues the 20-year time line between “Dead Man’s Walk” and “Lonesome Dove”. Gus, Call and their comrades-in-arms - Deets, Jake Spoon, and Pea Eye Parker – wage a bitter struggle to protect an advancing western frontier against the defiant Comanches, who are courageously determined to defend their territory and their way of life.

**School District:** Westbrook ISD

**School(s) Involved:** K - 12 campus

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Student challenged. “Moved to high school level.”

---

## **Cosmos Coyote and William the Nice**

**Author:** Heynen, Jim

**Synopsis:** When Cosmos DeHaag leaves Seattle after a brush with the law, he goes to live with his conservative Christian relatives in Iowa. In order to get along, he develops an alter ego - William the Nice. When he falls in love with Cheryl, who is a charismatic Christian, he begins to have trouble distinguishing truth from falsehood as his two personalities come into conflict.

**School District:** Roscoe ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Roscoe High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "Challenge issued by parent. Recommended book on TASHAS list."

---

## **Crazy Lady**

**Author:** Conly, Jane Leslie

**Synopsis:** Junior high isn't as easy as Vernon Dibbs expected. Since his mother died a couple of years ago, his life seems a little lost. To make some money and stay out of trouble, he begins tutoring the son of his alcoholic neighbor, Maxine. Vernon develops a bond with Maxine's son and helps her learn that giving him up will give him greater opportunities.

**School District:** Marlin ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Marlin Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Decision pending

---

## **Cross Your Fingers Spit in Your Hat**

**Author:** Schwartz, Alvin

**Synopsis:** The book is a collection of folklore and superstitions.

**School District:** Grand Prairie ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Dickinson

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

---

## **Crosses**

**Author:** Stoehr, Shelley

**Synopsis:** Nancy doesn't have a best friend until she meets Katie in the bathroom at school. She and Katie have something in common: they both cut themselves. At first, it's just fun - like the drugs and alcohol and shoplifting - and Nancy and Katie don't talk about why they do it. But soon Nancy realizes that she and Katie need cutting to get through the day. Nancy can cover the scars on her arms and legs. It's the others, the ones inside, that are becoming hard to hide.

**School District:** Killeen ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Smith Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Violence/horror

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "This book was a young adult title that was purchased as a part of a start-up collection for a campus library that lost its collection in a fire. The entire young adult series was deemed to be inappropriate for the middle school students and were removed."

---

## **Crossing, The**

**Author:** McCarthy, Cormac

**Synopsis:** The adventures of two young men coming of age in the Southwest United States and Mexico are chronicled in this, the second book in a trilogy.

**School District:** East Central ISD (San Antonio)

**School(s) Involved:** Oak Crest Intermediate School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Used by sixth grade social studies teacher. Fifth grade social studies teacher previewed it for possible use and found factual errors so she wrote a letter to the principal asking for it to be discarded. The teacher was given the procedure to follow but has not used them."

---

## **Curses, Inc.**

**Author:** Velde, Vivian

**Synopsis:** This book is a collection of ten stories, ranging from a modern-day story featuring an Internet spell service to more traditional tales set in the timeless world of folklore. The ten stories offer a diverse picture of the nature of witches and their craft.

**School District:** Beaumont ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Caldwood Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism

**Result:** Banned

---

## **Danger Zone**

**Author:** Klass, David

**Synopsis:** When he joins a predominantly black "Teen Dream Team" that will be representing the United States in an international basketball tournament in Rome, high school student Jimmy Doyle makes some unexpected discoveries about prejudice, racism, and politics.

**School District:** Cherokee ISD

**School(s) Involved:** All schools in district

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Book restricted to 7th grade students and above

---

## **Daughters of Eve**

**Author:** Duncan, Lois

**Synopsis:** A teacher forms a club of high school girls, and attempts to manipulate their lives under the guise of feminist philosophy. All of the teens have boy problems, and their leader convinces them to seek revenge.

**School District:** Calhoun County ISD (Port Lavaca)

**School(s) Involved:** Travis Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Violence/horror

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** La Porte ISD

**School(s) Involved:** La Porte Jr. High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual content; Violence; Horror

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "Book placed on library reading reserved list. Student use by parent permission only." Challenge issued by a parent.

---

## **Dog Heaven**

**Author:** Rylant, Cynthia

**Synopsis:** The book provides one person's interpretation of a Dog Heaven, where dogs run as far as they like, play with angel children, sleep on clouds, eat cat-shaped or squirrel-shaped biscuits, and return to earth for visits.

**School District:** Humble ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Deerwood Elementary

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Other= Religious content. "Dogs dying and going to heaven confused 5-year-old. Parent was advised that she could instruct library staff to restrict book from her own child but no other children."

---

## **Draw Me a Star**

**Author:** Carle, Eric

**Synopsis:** The artist tells a young child to draw a star, then the star tells him to draw a Sun, then a man and a woman and so on until a "universe" is created.

The story is based on the author's memory of stories told to him as a child by his Grandmother.

**School District:** East Central ISD (San Antonio)

**School(s) Involved:** Harmony Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Parent complained of nude art work, tissue paper forms of man and woman."

**School District:** Plano ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Weatherford Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "The book was challenged on the basis of an impressionistic drawing of a nude man and woman. Several parents felt the illustration was inappropriate for this age group (kindergarten) or even for 3rd -5th grade. Too early to introduce private parts outside of guided health instruction."

---

## **Drop Dead**

**Author:** Cole, Babette

**Synopsis:** Children often ask their grandparents "Why are you so old and wrinkled?" This book chronicles an elderly couple's life, from babyhood to death and beyond.



**School District:** Keller ISD

**School(s) Involved:** North Riverside Elementary

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Other= Inappropriate for grad level. "Committee decision to leave book in regular collection; no changes."

---

## **Educating Esme**

**Author:** Codell, Esme Raji

**Synopsis:** The novel is the actual diary of a young, hip, first-year teacher in an inner-city Chicago elementary school.

**School District:** Nixon-Smilely CISD (Nixon)

**School(s) Involved:** Nixon-Smilely High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "Teacher and student turned in book."

---

## **Elements of Literature (3rd Course)**

**Author:**

**Synopsis:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade literature textbook

**School District:** Booker ISD

**School(s) Involved:** 9th Grade

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Violence/horror; Other

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Other= teaches evolution. "...You tell the students the big lie, that they are but animals..."

---

## **Evil Pen Pal, The**

**Author:** Hill, Laban Carrick

**Synopsis:** This book is a "choose your own nightmare" book where readers determine different elements of the book. You have been corresponding with Billy, a boy who lives in Florida, for two years. So you are very excited when Billy writes that he is coming to visit you this summer! But the night before he is scheduled to arrive at your house, you get a strange letter warning you that Billy is someone you should be afraid of.

**School District:** Cypress-Fairbanks ISD (Houston)

**School(s) Involved:** Copeland Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror

**Result:** Banned

---

## **Exclusive**

**Author:** Brown, Sandra

**Synopsis:** A second-stringer with first-class talent, Barrie Travis is stuck at a low-budget independent television station struggling to survive among the giant networks. Then, suddenly, she receives an invitation from First Lady Vanessa Merritt for an off-the-record conversation. Barrie's reporter instincts are instantly aroused. Blind to everything but getting her exclusive, Barrie is determined to investigate the death of the President's child. But she soon realizes that getting her story will test her ethics and her patriotism.

**School District:** Nixon-Smilely CISD (Nixon)

**School(s) Involved:** Nixon-Smilely High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "Teacher turned in book."

---

## **Experiment, The**

**Author:** Darnton, John

**Synopsis:** A tiny island off the coast of Georgia is the home to a colony of clones raised to provide organs for the rich and famous; however, one clone escapes to New York City and meets up with his twin. They investigate this bizarre occurrence despite scientists and politicians who want to keep the whole thing quiet.

**School District:** Victoria ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Memorial High School

**Setting:**

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Individual teacher use. Challenge issued by a parent. "The decision was made by the high school principal to restrict use as per policy."

---

## **Exploring Physical Science (Texas Edition)**

**Author:** Maton, Anthea, et al

**Synopsis:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade science textbook

**School District:** Booker ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** 9th Grade  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Other  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** Other= teaches evolution. "...Again you start the book by telling the student they are no better than pond scum, you lie to them..."

---

## **Facts Speak for Themselves, The**

**Author:** Cole, Brock  
**Synopsis:** The book opens with a murder whose witness is 12-year-old Linda. It quickly becomes clear in her interrogation that she was sexually involved with the murdered man. The story is structured around the interrogation and her matter-of-fact narration of her tragic life story – from her Mother’s failed marriage to being forced to care for her two brothers.

**School District:** Beaumont ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Caldwood Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** Inappropriate content for age level

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## **Family Honor**

**Author:** Parker, Robert B.  
**Synopsis:** A female private investigator, who happens to be a former police officer, and her sidekick work together on a case in Boston. Their assignment – finding a 15-year-old girl who has run away from her wealthy parents. The investigation leads them to uncover a criminal conspiracy that reaches to the top of the state government.

**School District:** Westbrook ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** K - 12 campus  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** Student challenged. Moved to high school level.

---

## Fighting Ground, The

**Author:** Avi

**Synopsis:** On April 3, 1778, America is caught up in the Revolutionary War. On this warm spring morning in New Jersey, a 13-year-old boy –Jonathan - and his father are quietly tilling the sod on their farm. Unexpectedly, the quiet is interrupted by the sound of an alarm ringing from the nearby tavern. Jonathan is sent to find out what the trouble is. What he finds in the next 24 hours - when he does fight in the War and is taken prisoner by three Hessian soldiers - changes his understanding of war and life forever. The real war, he discovers, is being fought within himself.

**School District:** Longview ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Ware Elementary School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Language

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**Notes:** Challenged by faculty member

---

## Flyy Girl

**Author:** Tyree, Omar

**Synopsis:** Tracy Ellison lives in Germantown, Pa., a predominantly Black, middle-class neighborhood of Philadelphia. Tracy's teenage problems stem mainly from boys, courting, kissing, and sex. The book chronicles her coming of age with a variety of men. Her life is turned around when she sees what happens to the older sister of her neighbor, Rhaheema, who has become a crack whore. The moral of the book is that virtue is rewarded; vice punished.

**School District:** Longview ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Longview High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Challenged by parent

---

## Forever

**Author:** Blume, Judy

**Synopsis:** This story of first love between teens involves sexual activity, separation and loyalty, parental relationships, and other young adult issues surrounding romantic relationships.

**School District:** Cranfills Gap ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** none specified  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** Challenge by administrators

**School District:** Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD (Bedford)  
**School(s) Involved:** Harwood Junior High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** The book was found to be appropriate at the high school level, grades 10-12.

---

## Free Fall

**Author:** Sweeny, Joyce  
**Synopsis:** The story takes place in the danger zone where high crimes and extreme sports clash. It is a non-stop adventure that moves from the frozen mountaintops of Wyoming to the cavernous archives of the FBI, and from the siren-haunted Los Angeles streets to the jungles of Thailand.

**School District:** Angleton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Elementary Schools (5th grade)  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "This book is part of the recommended accelerated reading book program. It's restricted to intermediate campus with written parental consent."

---

## Friday Night Lights – A Town, A Team, and a Dream

**Author:** Bissinger, H. G.  
**Synopsis:** Focused on the mania for high school football in a small Texas town – Odessa – the story examines the town's social values, racism and other prejudices, and the subordination of education to the all consuming priority of victory on the gridiron.

**School District:** Kemp ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Kemp Intermediate School; Kemp Jr. High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language  
**Result:** Banned

---

## **Froggy's Halloween**

**Author:** London, Jonathon

**Synopsis:** Froggy can't decide what to be for Halloween. He finally decides on being the Frog Prince, but he has no idea what problems this costume will cause for him.

**School District:** Goose Creek CSD (Baytown)

**School(s) Involved:** All schools in district

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual content

**Result:** Decision pending

**Notes:** "Sexual harrassment; teaches reader a nasty rhyme; imagery of exposing another person's genitalia. Decision pending legal investigation of violation of district's zero tolerance policy for sexual harrassment."

---

## **Gay Rights**

**Author:** Roleff, Lamara L.

**Synopsis:** This book examines both sides of the debate on gay rights, from homosexual marriage to gays in the military to child custody to equal protection under the law. The arguments pro and con are presented thoughtfully so that the young reader can consider both sides and prepare a well-reasoned assignment.

**School District:** Fort Bend ISD (Sugar Land)

**School(s) Involved:** George H. Bush High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Parent complained about book. School formed a reconsideration committee. Decided to keep the book on the shelf. Parent did not return for further discussion."

---

## **Greasy Grimy Gopher Guts**

**Author:** Sherman, Josepha

**Synopsis:** The book is a study of the songs, insults, jokes, and offensive rhymes invented or passed around by children in North America, but paralleled by children all over the world. In three sections--"Getting Down to Basics," "Dealing with Authority," and "The Commercial World" --the authors combine humor and serious commentary on subjects such as bodily functions, death, pregnancy, and school to parents, friends, and "The Life and Deaths of Barney."

**School District:** Killeen ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Fairway Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual content; Violence/Horror

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Other=Homosexual content, religious content, drug references. "This was a parent complaint who was given the district paperwork to fill out and never did follow through. The librarian now keeps the book as reference."

---

## **Grendel**

**Author:** Gardner, John

**Synopsis:** This classic from John Gardner re-tells the story of Beowulf from the monster's point of view.

**School District:** Ranger ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Pearce High School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Objection made after book was read. No action taken." Objection from parent and student.

---

## **Harry Blackmun (Supreme Court Justices)**

**Author:** Deegan, Paul and Italia, Bob

**Synopsis:** Book for readers ages 9-12 about U. S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, author of the Roe v. Wade decision.

**School District:** Vidor ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Pine Forest Elementary

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Challenged by parent. "Parent thought discussion of Roe vs. Wade and the abortion issue was inappropriate for elementary grade level."

---

## **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**

**Author:** Rowling, J. K.

**Synopsis:** In one of the most hotly anticipated sequels in memory, J.K. Rowling takes up where she left off with Harry's second year at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Old friends and new torments abound, including a spirit named Moaning Myrtle who haunts the girl's bathroom, an outrageously conceited professor, Gilderoy Lockhart, and a mysterious force that turns Hogwart students to stone.

**School District:** Blue Ridge ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Unofficial challenge. Parents wrote notes to principal who sent them to me. Did not get to paperwork stage. After two weeks, both parents allowed their children to read books."

**School District:** Carrollton-Farmers ISD (Carrollton)

**School(s) Involved:** Farmers Branch Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism; Other

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Other=Religious content. "Situation arose in early November. Parent went to see the movie when it came out and never pursued the challenge further."

**School District:** Ector County ISD (Odessa)

**School(s) Involved:** Hays Elementary, Alamo Elementary, Burleson Elementary Schools

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**School District:** Fayetteville ISD

**School(s) Involved:** none specified

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism

**Result:** Alternate book allowed



**School District:** Florence ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Florence Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "All of the Harry Potter books were removed by an administrator without following district procedure. District policy was followed and a formal request for reconsideration was never initiated. The books were replaced without restriction."

**School District:** Forney ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Clayborn Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Friendswood ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Cline Elementary, Westwood Elementary, Bales Intermediate School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Ft. Stockton ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Alamo Elementary School

**Setting:** Library, Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "Parent called principal and requested that Harry Potter books not be read or discussed in her childrens' classrooms. Principal notified teachers."

**School District:** Garrison ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Garrison Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "This was considered an informal challenge by a high school teacher."

**School District:** Hempstead ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Hondo ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** All schools  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "The books are still in our libraries and can be checked out by anyone, but a teacher is not allowed to read aloud in his/her classroom any part of any Harry Potter book."

**School District:** Huntsville ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Middle School (grades 7-8)  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** Use for one student was restricted

**School District:** Morton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library, Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "Copy of book given to minister that I purchased. The Librarian had a reading group for alternative while teacher read it to students. No further comments."

**School District:** Pampa ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Pampa Middle School  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Decision pending  
**Notes:** "Challenge is at Level I campus appeal as of 3-26-02."

**School District:** Princeton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** All schools  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted

**School District:** Ranger ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "Motion was made to remove the books from the library but died for lack of a second. 1/17/02 board meeting."

**School District:** Seguin ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Vogel Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Alternate book allowed  
**Notes:** "The student was not exposed to the book in the classroom or library."  
Book title reported as "Harry Potter". Librarian was unable to determine which specific title is in question.

**School District:** Sharyland ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Martinez Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

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## **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**

**Author:** Rowling, J. K.  
**Synopsis:** Harry is in his fourth year at Hogwarts, when he attends the Quidditch World Cup with Ron and Hermione during the summer. Back at school, someone mysteriously enters Harry's name to compete in the dangerous "Tri-Wizard Tournament."

**School District:** Blue Ridge ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "Unofficial challenge. Parents wrote notes to principal who sent them to me. Did not get to paperwork stage. After two weeks, both parents allowed their children to read books."

**School District:** Carrollton-Farmers ISD (Carrollton)  
**School(s) Involved:** Farmers Branch Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism; Other  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** Other=Religious content. "Situation arose in early November. Parent went to see the movie when it came out and never pursued the challenge further."

**School District:** Ector County ISD (Odessa)  
**School(s) Involved:** Hays Elementary, Alamo Elementary, Burleson Elementary Schools  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**School District:** Florence ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Florence Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "All of the Harry Potter books were removed by an administrator without following district procedure. District policy was followed and a formal request for reconsideration was never initiated. The books were replaced without restriction."

**School District:** Forney ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Clayborn Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Friendswood ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Cline Elementary, Westwood Elementary, Bales Intermediate School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Ft. Stockton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Alamo Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library, Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "Parent called principal and requested that Harry Potter books not be read or discussed in her childrens' classrooms. Principal notified teachers."

**School District:** Garrison ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Garrison Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "This was considered an informal challenge by a high school teacher."

**School District:** Hempstead ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Hondo ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** All schools  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "The books are still in our libraries and can be checked out by anyone, but a teacher is not allowed to read aloud in his/her classroom any part of any Harry Potter book."

**School District:** Huntsville ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Middle School (grades 7-8)  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "Use for one student was restricted."

**School District:** Morton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library, Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "Copy of book given to minister that I purchased. The Librarian had a reading group for alternative while teacher read it to students. No further comments."

**School District:** Pampa ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Pampa Middle School  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Decision pending  
**Notes:** "Challenge is at Level I campus appeal as of 3-26-02."

**School District:** Princeton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** All schools  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted

**School District:** Ranger ISD

**School(s) Involved:** High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Motion was made to remove the books from the library but died for lack of a second. 1/17/02 board meeting."

**School District:** Sharyland ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Martinez Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

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## **Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**

**Author:** Rowling, J. K.

**Synopsis:** Harry Potter's is in his third year at Hogwarts. For twelve long years, the dread fortress of Azkaban held an infamous prisoner named Sirius Black. Convicted of killing 13 people with a single curse, he was said to be the heir apparent to the Dark Lord, Voldemort. Now he has escaped, leaving only two clues as to where he might be headed. Harry Potter's defeat of "You-Know-Who" was Black's downfall as well. And the Azkaban guards heard Black muttering in his sleep, "He's at Hogwarts - he's at Hogwarts." Harry Potter isn't safe, not even within the walls of his magical school and surrounded by his friends, because on top of it all, there may well be a traitor in their midst.

**School District:** Blue Ridge ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Unofficial challenge. Parents wrote notes to principal who sent them to me. Did not get to paperwork stage. After two weeks, both parents allowed their children to read books."

**School District:** Carrollton-Farmers ISD (Carrollton)

**School(s) Involved:** Farmers Branch Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism; Other

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Other=Religious content. "Situation arose in early November. Parent went to see the movie when it came out and never pursued the challenge further."

**School District:** Ector County ISD (Odessa)  
**School(s) Involved:** Hays Elementary, Alamo Elementary, Burleson Elementary Schools  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**School District:** Hempstead ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Huntsville ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Middle School (grades 7-8)  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "Use for one student was restricted."

**School District:** Florence ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Florence Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "All of the Harry Potter books were removed by an administrator without following district procedure. District policy was followed and a formal request for reconsideration was never initiated. The books were replaced without restriction."

**School District:** Forney ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Clayborn Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Friendswood ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Cline Elementary, Westwood Elementary, Bales Intermediate School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Ft. Stockton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Alamo Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library, Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "Parent called principal and requested that Harry Potter books not be read or discussed in her childrens' classrooms. Principal notified teachers."

**School District:** Garrison ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Garrison Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "This was considered an informal challenge by a high school teacher."

**School District:** Hondo ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** All schools  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "The books are still in our libraries and can be checked out by anyone, but a teacher is not allowed to read aloud in his/her classroom any part of any Harry Potter book."

**School District:** Morton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library, Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "Copy of book given to minister that I purchased. The Librarian had a reading group for alternative while teacher read it to students. No further comments."

**School District:** Pampa ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Pampa Middle School  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Decision pending  
**Notes:** "Challenge is at Level I campus appeal as of 3-26-02."

**School District:** Princeton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** All schools  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted



**School District:** Ranger ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "Motion was made to remove the books from the library but died for lack of a second. 1/17/02 board meeting."

**School District:** Sharyland ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Martinez Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

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## **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**

**Author:** Rowling, J. K.

**Synopsis:** Harry Potter has no idea how famous he is. That's because he's being raised by his miserable muggle aunt and uncle who are terrified Harry will learn that he's a wizard, just as his parents were. But everything changes when Harry is summoned to attend an infamous school for wizards and he begins to discover some clues about his illustrious birthright. From the surprising way he is greeted by a lovable giant, to the unique curriculum and colorful faculty at his unusual school, Harry finds himself drawn deep inside a mystical world he never knew existed and closer to his own noble destiny.

**School District:** Blue Ridge ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "Unofficial challenge. Parents wrote notes to principal who sent them to me. Did not get to paperwork stage. After two weeks, both parents allowed their children to read books."

**School District:** Carrollton-Farmers ISD (Carrollton)  
**School(s) Involved:** Farmers Branch Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism; Other  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** Other=Religious content. "Situation arose in early November. Parent went to see the movie when it came out and never pursued the challenge further."

**School District:** Ector County ISD (Odessa)  
**School(s) Involved:** Hays Elementary, Alamo Elementary, Burleson Elementary Schools  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**School District:** Florence ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Florence Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "All of the Harry Potter books were removed by an administrator without following district procedure. District policy was followed and a formal request for reconsideration was never initiated. The books were replaced without restriction."

**School District:** Forney ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Clayborn Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Friendswood ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Cline Elementary, Westwood Elementary, Bales Intermediate School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Ft. Stockton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Alamo Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library, Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "Parent called principal and requested that Harry Potter books not be read or discussed in her childrens' classrooms. Principal notified teachers."

**School District:** Garrison ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Garrison Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "This was considered an informal challenge by a high school teacher."

**School District:** Gatesville ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Gatesville Intermediate School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Student and parent selected an alternate book to their satisfaction. Parent was a district employee."

**School District:** Gregory-Portland ISD (Gregory)

**School(s) Involved:** W. C. Andrews Elementary School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**School District:** Hempstead ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Hondo ISD

**School(s) Involved:** All schools

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "The books are still in our libraries and can be checked out by anyone, but a teacher is not allowed to read aloud in his/her classroom any part of any Harry Potter book."

**School District:** Houston ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Garcia

**Setting:** Library, Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**Notes:** "Alternate book allowed for one student only; challenged by parent."

**School District:** Huntsville ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Middle School (grades 7-8)

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Use for one student was restricted

**School District:** Lewisville ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Indian Creek Elementary  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**School District:** Morton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library, Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "Copy of book given to minister that I purchased. The Librarian had a reading group for alternative while teacher read it to students. No further comments."

**School District:** Pampa ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Pampa Middle School  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Decision pending  
**Notes:** "Challenge is at Level I campus appeal as of 3-26-02."

**School District:** Princeton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** All schools  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Use restricted

**School District:** Ranger ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** "Motion was made to remove the books from the library but died for lack of a second. 1/17/02 board meeting"

**School District:** Sharyland ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Martinez Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

**School District:** Willis ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Lynn Lucas Middle School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Parent complained on the last day of instruction using the book."

---

## **Hawk O' Toole's Hostage**

**Author:** Brown, Sandra

**Synopsis:** Hawk O' Toole kidnaps Miranda Price, the ex-wife of a government official, and her son as they travel on a train out West. Miranda will do anything to save her child despite feelings she has for the man who holds her hostage. . . even if it means facing up to a shocking revelation that will make her question her past, her choices, and the woman she's become.

**School District:** Nixon-Smilely CISD (Nixon)

**School(s) Involved:** Nixon-Smilely High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "Teacher turned in book."

---

## **Heaven in a Wildflower**

**Author:** Hagan, Patricia

**Synopsis:** The novel is Civil War era historical fiction about a feisty plantation owner's daughter, Anjele Sinclair. Anjele leaves home to attend school in England, and returns to find that her illicit lover Gator is fighting for the enemy in the war.

**School District:** Nixon-Smilely CISD (Nixon)

**School(s) Involved:** Nixon-Smilely High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content

**Result:** Use restricted

---

## **Hobbit, The**

**Author:** Tolkien, J.R.R.

**Synopsis:** This essential prelude to J.R.R. Tolkien's epic masterwork "The Lord of the Rings," answers the essential question: how did Bilbo Baggins get the One Ring? Whisked away from his comfortable life in his hobbit-hole by Gandalf the wizard and a company of dwarfs, Bilbo Baggins finds himself caught up in a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent - a large and very dangerous dragon.

**School District:** Willis ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Lynn Lucas Middle School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/paganism

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**Notes:** "Only one family challenged the book out of 60 students. After the alternate assignment was made, the matter was dropped."

---

## **Holding Me Here**

**Author:** Conrad, Pam

**Synopsis:** A mysterious boarder named Mary Walker moves into the house of 14-year-old Robin. Robin sneaks into Mary's room and reads her journal only to find she has a family in another town. Robin decides to try and reunite Mary with her family, not knowing that doing so will put her life in jeopardy.

**School District:** Keller ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Indian Springs Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Decision pending

**Notes:** "Parent did not turn in the form until the last day of school; thus the committee has not had a chance to convene to review the book."

---

## **Homophobia: A History**

**Author:** Fore, Byrne

**Synopsis:** The book is a literary chronicle of the history of homophobia.

**School District:** Fort Bend ISD (Sugarland)

**School(s) Involved:** George H. Bush High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Retained without restriction

---

## Homosexuality

**Author:** Dunbar, Robert E.

**Synopsis:** The book is a history of the gay rights movement for young readers. Chapter topics include "Society and Homosexual Orientation," "What Science Can Tell Us," "The Gay Revolution," "Religious Views," "The Charlie Howard Murder" (an accounting of a 1984 hate crime), "Homosexuality and the Law," and "Weighing Both Sides."

**School District:** Fort Bend ISD (Sugar Land)

**School(s) Involved:** George H. Bush High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Retained without restriction

---

## I Had Seen Castles

**Author:** Rylant, Cynthia

**Synopsis:** Despite the urging of his girlfriend Ginny to become a conscientious objector, John Dante eagerly joins the service during World War II. The graphic descriptions of battle and casualties are horrifying, and, although John survives his war experience, his ability to lead a normal life has been permanently damaged. His post-war thoughts as a retired professor in Canada, on war and life, end the story with an affecting air of acceptance and resignation.

**School District:** Killeen ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Fairway Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "This was a parent complaint who was given the district paperwork to fill out and never did follow through. There was one word "breast" in the book that the parent did not like. The librarian now keeps the book as reference."

---

## I Hadn't Meant to Tell You

**Author:** Woodson, Jacqueline

**Synopsis:** Two 12-year-old girls - one white, one black - have recently lost their mothers, and both must learn to deal with race and family issues. A friendship develops between the girls, and in exploring their differences, both of their lives are transformed.

**School District:** Socorro ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Jane A. Hambric School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content; Violence/horror

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "District's request for reconsideration of educational materials form was filed by a parent. The parent suggested that the book be restricted to higher grade level students. The review committee agreed and the book is restricted to grades 6 and up."

---

## **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**

**Author:** Angelou, Maya

**Synopsis:** The story is the autobiography of Maya Angelou. A distinguished African American poet recounts the anguish of her Arkansas childhood, and her adolescence in northern slums. In one incident, she becomes pregnant against her will.

**School District:** Bandera ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Bandera High School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**School District:** Boys Ranch ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Boys Ranch High School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content; Violence/horror

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

---

## **If It Doesn't Kill You**

**Author:** Bechard, Margaret

**Synopsis:** High school freshman Ben should be enjoying playing football, meeting girls, and going to parties, but he's too busy trying to cope with his father's moving out to live with another man. In this look at the emotional life of a suburban jock, Bechard gives readers a likable protagonist with a lot going on under the surface. Ben struggles to balance his own conflicted feelings about his Dad with the messages he gets from the testosterone-infused world of male high school athletes.



**School District:** Lamar CISD (Rosenberg)

**School(s) Involved:** Navarro Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content

**Result:** Decision pending

**Notes:** "The campus committee voted to retain the book. The parent challenging the book has appealed the decision. It is still in the process of appeal."

---

## **Insomnia**

**Author:** King, Stephen

**Synopsis:** Ralph Roberts has been having hallucinations since his wife died; but, can they be hallucinations when his neighbor shares them? Ralph lives in Derry, Maine, where awesome and terrifying forces are at work. Ralph is now caught up in the weird and unnatural happenings along with his friends.

**School District:** McAllen ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Travis Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "Book removed only from the middle school. Parent challenged this." book.

---

## **It**

**Author:** King, Stephen

**Synopsis:** It (Derry) is a small town that is haunted by a mysterious evil force. Several people stumble upon the horror as teenagers, then leave town to seek success in the world. As adults, they are drawn back to Derry mysteriously to once again face the nightmare.

**School District:** Vidor ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Vidor High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "Student brought it to a teacher's attention, and teacher showed the librarian."

---

## **It's Not the End of the World**

**Author:** Blume, Judy

**Synopsis:** When her parents divorce, Karen, a sixth grader struggles to understand that sometimes people are unable to live together.

**School District:** Texline ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Texline Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language  
**Result:** Use restricted

---

## **Keeping the Moon**

**Author:** Dessen, Sarah

**Synopsis:** Former fat girl Colie Sparks arrives in her aunt's small town of Colby, North Carolina, physically fit but still haunted by memories of years of humiliation. Colie finds friendship with two waitresses, Morgan and Isabel, from the Last Chance Café and with a shy, artistic young man named Norman. Wacky yet wise, Morgan and Isabel help Colie see herself in a new way and realize the potential that has been there all along.

**School District:** Clear Creek ISD (League City)

**School(s) Involved:** League City Intermediate School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Decision pending

**Notes:** “Challenged by a parent. The reconsideration process is currently under way. A decision has not yet been made on the campus level.”

---

## **Killer's Cousin, The**

**Author:** Werlin, Nancy

**Synopsis:** After being acquitted of the murder of his girlfriend, David, a 17-year-old, goes to live with his aunt and uncle in another city for his senior year in high school in order to escape media attention and the skepticism of his friends and neighbors. His cousin Lily, aged 11, resents the intrusion, especially since he is staying in the room of her dead sister – a room she feels should be hers. David sees Lily's hostility as a reflection of her upbringing in a dysfunctional family, and her repeated taunts cause him to believe that she is an evil person capable of violent acts.

**School District:** Plano ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Haggard Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual content; Violence/Horror

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "Parent objected to storyline which dealt with teenagers killing. Parents cited inappropriate language and references to sexual relations of parents. Parent felt the book inappropriate to the middle school level in light of news reports on teenagers killing relatives and other young people. The school committee voted to retain the book; however the parent filed an appeal at the district level. The district committee recommended that the book be removed from the middle school libraries and retained at the 9-12 grade levels."

---

## **Killing Mr. Griffin**

**Author:** Duncan, Lois

**Synopsis:** A group of students kidnap their teacher, Mr. Griffin, to teach him a "lesson". Their plans go awry and Mr. Griffin dies, leaving the students in a morass of lies and guilt.

**School District:** Anahuac ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror

**Result:** Use restricted

**School District:** Garland ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror

**Result:** Decision pending

---

## **Love One Another - the Last Days of Jesus**

**Author:** Wyeback, Elizabeth

**Synopsis:** The story of Jesus' last days on earth - for young readers, including Jesus' interaction with the downtrodden, the outcasts, and his disciples, and his crucifixion and resurrection.

**School District:** Seguin ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Even Start

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Reason = Specific religious focus

---

## **Mick Harte Was Here**

**Author:** Park, Barbara

**Synopsis:** Phoebe Harte, age 13, describes the death of her brother Mick in a bicycle accident. Her grief runs the gamut of emotions – shock, rage, disassociation, and angry rantings against God. Phoebe believes that if only Mick had worn a helmet, he would have survived the accident.

**School District:** Hallsville ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Hallsville Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** “The book was challenged on the way it treated death and grief through the eyes of a 13 year old girl. The book was retained and another book on grief, which the parent liked, was added to our library also.”

---

## **Midsummer Night's Dream, A**

**Author:** Shakespeare, William

**Synopsis:** Shakespeare’s most popular work for children is a comedy involving a magical love potion, two sets of lovers, an amateur theatrical group, and the King and Queen of the fairies on a midsummer night in an enchanted forest.

**School District:** Hutto ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Hutto Middle School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

---

## **Moon Mother**

**Author:** Young, Ed

**Synopsis:** The story is a creation tale incorporating the mythology of North American Native Americans.

**School District:** Goose Creek CSD (Baytown)

**School(s) Involved:** Stephen F. Austin

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content; Other

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Other = Non-Biblical story of creation

---

## **Nathan's Run**

**Author:** Gilstrap, John

**Synopsis:** Twelve-year-old Nathan Bailey is orphaned, alone, and accused of murdering a police officer. He becomes the target of a nationwide manhunt, is targeted by a hit man, and must plead his case to a rapt nation via an interested talk radio show host.

**School District:** McKinney ISD

**School(s) Involved:** McKinney North High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Violence/horror

**Result:** Retained without restriction

---

## **New Grolier Encyclopedia of World War II, Vol. 8**

**Author:** Grolier

**Synopsis:** An overview of World War II with references.

**School District:** Grand Prairie ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Dickinson

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content; Violence/horror

**Result:** Retained without restriction

---

## **Night**

**Author:** Wiesel, Elie

**Synopsis:** Elie Wiesel recants the true story of his experiences in Nazi concentration camps during World War Two.

**School District:** Lake Travis ISD (Austin)

**School(s) Involved:** Lake Travis Middle School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Language; Violence/horror

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "Use restricted to select 7th grade students who receive teacher guidance in interpreting the book."

---

## Nothing But the Truth

**Author:** Avi

**Synopsis:** Freshman Philip Malloy is a good student but his English grade is keeping him off the track team. Another problem Philip has is his treatment of the national anthem during homeroom: he hums along instead of abiding by the school rule of “respectful, silent attention”. His confrontation with his homeroom/English teacher ends in a two-day suspension; but the media attention this problem receives erroneously labels the problem as a denial of his patriotic rights. The author shows how well meaning people can generate misinformation by not listening and misinterpreting the facts.

**School District:** Community ISD (Nevada)

**School(s) Involved:** Community Intermediate School, Community Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** “This was a verbal challenge from a parent.”

---

## Off to Sea

**Author:** Stine, Richard

**Synopsis:** A book about contemporary romance that covers the topics of infatuation, separation, and reconciliation.

**School District:** Seguin ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Even Start

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content

**Result:** Banned

---

## One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

**Author:** Kesey, Ken

**Synopsis:** In this eloquent statement of human individuality, a sane but rebellious man is placed in an insane asylum where he turns the very notion of insanity upside down. Boisterous and ribald, this is the unforgettable story of a mental ward and its inhabitants, including the tyrannical Big Nurse Ratchet and Randle Patrick McMurphy - the brawling, fun-loving new inmate who resolves to oppose her.

**School District:** Anahuac ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Use restricted

---

## **Past Forgiving**

**Author:** Miklowitz, Gloria D.

**Synopsis:** Alex, age 15, thinks she is so lucky to have a boyfriend like Cliff - gorgeous, polite, popular, talented. She wants to please him so much that she excuses his controlling behavior, his angry outbursts and his jealousy. She finally draws the line when he expects to be forgiven for raping her on a date. The story is an excellent example of abusive relationships.

**School District:** McKinney ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Walker Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Other = Age inappropriate. "The campus review committee at Walker discussed this book in committee following an official challenge by a parent. The committee decided that the book would better serve students at a middle or high school level so the book was sent to a middle school collection and removed from Walker."

---

## **Patriot Games**

**Author:** Clancy, Tom

**Synopsis:** An ultra-left-wing faction of the IRA has targeted a CIA analyst for stifling an assassination attempt on the life of Prince Charles salvation in an assassination attempt. And now he must pay with his life.

**School District:** White Oak ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Middle School (grades 6-8)

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Banned

---

## **Rainforest, The**

**Author:**

**Synopsis:** The videotape depicts conditions and lifestyles in the Amazon River basin. Human inhabitants, flora, and fauna are visually described in native settings.

**School District:** Houston ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Jackson Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Challenged item is a video. "Video shows nudity in Amazon Indians. The video is labeled to preview first so part containing nudity can be skipped. Challenged by teacher. This was not a challenge but a teacher did bring this to my attention to let me know."

---

## **Reckless Homicide**

**Author:** Genbert, Ira

**Synopsis:** Two brothers, one (Michael) a high-powered corporate attorney, the other (Charlie) a prescription drug abuser grieving his daughter's death become involved in legal difficulties. After helping Charlie falsify a drug test so he can return to being a pilot, Michael is forced to defend himself from a claim of reckless homicide when Charlie crashes the plane. Family issues and romantic liaisons complicate the plot.

**School District:** Seguin ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Saegert Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Banned

---

## **Road to Nowhere**

**Author:** Pike, Christopher

**Synopsis:** Teresa Chafey is running away from home when she picks up two mysterious hitchhikers, Poppy Corn and Freedom Jack. As they ride along the California coast they tell stories: Teresa of her devastating relationship with her boyfriend, Poppy of a sad young woman she once knew, and Freedom of a talented young man with a violent temper. Yet as they talk, a darker story unfolds around them.

**School District:** Spring Branch ISD (Houston)

**School(s) Involved:** Memorial Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content; Violence/horror; Other

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Other = crime, violence, and drug addiction



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## **Robots Are Coming, and Other Problems, The**

**Author:** Rash, Andy

**Synopsis:** The book is a witty, bizarre collection of poems about monsters, robots, abominable snowmen, werewolves, etc. The author's off-beat humor is punctuated by his creative gouache and ink illustrations.

**School District:** Keller ISD

**School(s) Involved:** North Riverside Elementary

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Other= Inappropriate material for grade level. "Committee decision to leave book in collection; no changes."

---

## **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**

**Author:** Taylor, Mildred D.

**Synopsis:** Cassie, a young black girl, and her family struggle to hold on to their land in the rural South during the depression. Her father works away from home, leaving her mother to run the farm and resist fear and panic as they face a year of night riders and burnings.

**School District:** Ector County ISD (Odessa)

**School(s) Involved:** Travis Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Conference with parent to explain remarks; parent was satisfied."

**School District:** Pflugerville ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Middle School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

---

## **Rose Madder**

**Author:** King, Stephen

**Synopsis:** Rose Daniels flees her nightmare marriage to seek refuge in a strange city, far from her brutal husband. Her husband Norman is a police officer whose relentless savagery and mad obsessions cause him to follow her to her sanctuary and drive her to transform herself to survive.

**School District:** Westbrook ISD

**School(s) Involved:** K - 12 campus

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content; Violence/Horror

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Student challenged. "Being and accelerated reading book, we changed reading level to high school."

---

## **Rosie and Michael**

**Author:** Viorst, Judith

**Synopsis:** Rosie and Michael are best friends. Writing in the first person, Michael and Rosie each describe their friendship, which includes fun - but also teasing, practical jokes, forgiveness, and acceptance.

**School District:** Pasadena ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Young Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Parent felt that the delivery of the message in the book was out of touch with today's issues. Illustrations were inappropriate."

---

## **Scorpions**

**Author:** Myers, Walter Dean

**Synopsis:** After his older brother is jailed for murder, 13-year-old Jamal takes over as leader of the "Scorpion" gang. Jamal tries to get money to bail his brother out of jail.

**School District:** Rockdale ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Rockdale Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Other = Gangs. "A second grade girl chose to check out a book that was not on her reading level and interest level. The book is on the Accelerated Reading Program. The author is well known."

---

## **Seventeen Magazine**

**Author:**

**Synopsis:** Monthly magazine targeting teenage girls including fashion, makeup, fiction, and dating advice.

**School District:** Friendswood ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Friendswood High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content  
**Result:** Retained without restriction

---

## **Shadow Boxer**

**Author:** Lynch, Chris

**Synopsis:** In the five years since their father's death from accumulated boxing injuries, 14-year-old George has earnestly taught his younger brother Monty how to fight--but not how to stop fighting. Now, to his dismay, and his mother's, Monty is growing up in his dad's image, with "the heart of a lion and the head of a starfish," sneaking away to their Uncle Archie's gym to train, going off on his own, coming home with the marks of street fights. The shadow of the father is finally dispelled by his friend and trainer, Uncle Archie, but is only laid to rest by the final conflict between the sons. The final round of the novel produces two champions, as the brothers put the past in perspective.

**School District:** Anahuac ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language  
**Result:** Use restricted

---

## **Silent to the Bone**

**Author:** Konigsburg, E. L.

**Synopsis:** After calling 911 to report that his baby sister has stopped breathing, young teen Branwell Zamborska stops speaking, is suspected of causing his sister's injury, and is put in a juvenile center. Told through the eyes of his best friend, the quest to solve the mystery of what really happened involves the attractive English "au pair" who lived with the family.

**School District:** Kress ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Kress Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual content  
**Result:** Banned

## **Silver**

**Author:** Mazer, Norma Fox

**Synopsis:** Fourteen-year-old Sarabeth Silver dreads going to a snobby school where all the girls are rich and pretty. But she soon learns that looks aren't everything when her clique of friends confides its problems. (ALA Best Book for Young Adults).

**School District:** Pleasant Grove ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Pleasant Grove Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Reason = age inappropriate

---

## **Smoky Night**

**Author:** Bunting, Eve

**Synopsis:** This Caldecott Medal book is an attempt by the author to try and understand how the Los Angeles riots affected children who lived through them. It is a story about cats -- and people -- who couldn't get along until a smoky and fearful night brings them together.

**School District:** Vidor ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Pine Forest Elementary

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence/horror

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "Teacher brought it to the librarian's attention."

---

## **Snow Falling on Cedars**

**Author:** Guterson, David

**Synopsis:** Centered around the post World War II murder trial of a Japanese-American man accused of murdering his colleague, a fisherman, the plot also traces the personal histories of the main characters. The story deals with Japanese internment during the war and race relations in a small, mixed race community. It is also an intriguing mystery with an interesting twist at the end of the trial.

**School District:** Richardson ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Lake Highlands High School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**Notes:** "Student's parent complained; however, student read book anyway even though an alternate book was on the list and allowed."

**School District:** Vidor ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Vidor Junior High

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Parent challenge

---

## **Song of Solomon**

**Author:** Morrison, Toni

**Synopsis:** Macon Dead is an upper-class Northern black businessman trying to insulate his family from the danger and despair of the common blacks with whom he shares the neighborhood. The book follows Milkman Dead, Macon's son, as he struggles to understand his family history and the ways in which that history has both been damaged by and transcended the horror of slavery.

**School District:** Little Elm ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Little Elm High School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content

**Result:** Decision pending

**Notes:** "Committee is still meeting; believe students will be given a choice - read it or another."

---

## **Soup**

**Author:** Peck, Robert Newton

**Synopsis:** Soup's real name was Luther, but he preferred "Soup", and became incensed when anyone called him Luther. Soup busts his pal's lip for calling him Luther, but the two become best friends and engage in several acts of childish vandalism together - breaking windows, for example. The story describes their childhood adventures together.

**School District:** Seguin ISD

**School(s) Involved:** W.B. Ball Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Language; Other

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Reason = Talks about learning to smoke. "Per parent request the book is restricted from his student."

---

## **Squeeze Play**

**Author:** Freeman, Mark

**Synopsis:** Three baseball players from Rosemont High School take the minor leagues by storm, but worry over getting into spring training with the majors.

**School District:** Santa Fe ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Santa Fe Junior High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "The Reconsideration Committee unanimously agreed to leave the book in the library."

---

## **Stories from Africa**

**Author:** Dolch, Marguerite P.

**Synopsis:** The book is a collection of folk tales from Africa, from the "Folklore of the World" series.

**School District:** Kerrville ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Starkey Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** "Parent objected to creation myth told folklore in book because it conflicted with personal belief."

---

## **Stormy Night**

**Author:** Lemieux, Michele

**Synopsis:** The author's exquisite, inventive drawings imaginatively illustrate the Big Questions racing through a girl's mind as she lies in bed on a stormy night.

**School District:** Vidor ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Pine Forest Elementary

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "Teacher brought it to the librarian's attention."

---

## **Taming the Star Runner**

**Author:** Hinton, S. E.

**Synopsis:** Travis, a cool city kid, is sent to stay with his uncle on his ranch in the country, finds that his schoolmates don't appreciate his city ways. He does find friendship with Casey who runs the riding school at the ranch. She's the bravest person Travis has ever met and crazy enough to try to tame the Star Runner, her beautiful, dangerous horse who's always on edge, about to explode. It's clear to Travis that he and the Star Runner are two of a kind - creatures not meant to be tamed.

**School District:** Cherokee ISD

**School(s) Involved:** All schools in district

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Banned

**School District:** Ector County ISD (Odessa)

**School(s) Involved:** Ireland Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Book transferred to Nimitz Jr. High

**School District:** Lamar CISD (Rosenberg)

**School(s) Involved:** Austin Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "The book was challenged by a parent. It was determined by the committee that the book was more appropriate for the junior high schools."

---

## **Team Picture**

**Author:** Hughes, Dean

**Synopsis:** Story of the relationship between a young runaway and the alcoholic hotel bellman who becomes his foster parent. A subplot involves the young man's baseball team and complicated romantic relationships.

**School District:** Canadian ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Baker Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** The challenge was issued by a parent.

---

## **Teenage Guys Survival Guide, The**

**Author:** Daldry, Jeremy  
**Synopsis:** The book is a humorous guide for boys ages 10 - 14, offering advice on dating, sex, body changes, and social life. There is advice on everything - asking a girl out on a date, selecting clothes, managing the changes in your body, and coping with the rigors of the social scene.

**School District:** Culberson County-Allamore ISD (Van Horn)  
**School(s) Involved:** Van Horn Junior High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** "A teacher noticed that several boys were huddled around a book. She noticed what the sexual content of the book was. She brought it to the principal."

---

## **Then Again, Maybe I Won't**

**Author:** Blume, Judy  
**Synopsis:** Tony Miglione's life changed forever when his father became rich from an invention. His family moved to a rich neighborhood on Long Island. He has a new friend named Joel who shoplifts. Joel has a 16-year-old sister who undresses in front of her window. And then there's Grandma who won't come down from her bedroom. Besides his new life, Tony has questions about growing up.

**School District:** Celina ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Celina Intermediate School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** Challenged by parent

---

## **There's a Bat in Bunk Five**

**Author:** Danzinger, Paula  
**Synopsis:** Fourteen-year old Marcy, a junior counselor at a creative arts camp, is involved in a series of madcap adventures.



**School District:** Marble Falls ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Marble Falls Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "Felt that this book was not appropriate for this age group."

---

## **Third Eye, The**

**Author:** Duncan, Lois

**Synopsis:** High school senior Karen worries that her psychic powers will make her seem different from other people. She is frightened at first when a young policeman asks her to use her gift to help the police locate missing children.

**School District:** Ector County ISD (Odessa)

**School(s) Involved:** Ireland Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Decision pending

**Notes:** Paperwork is pending on the reason for objection.

---

## **Tiger Eyes**

**Author:** Blume, Judy

**Synopsis:** After Davey's father is killed in a hold-up, she and her mother and younger brother visit relatives in New Mexico. Here Davey is befriended by a young man who helps her find the strength to carry on and conquer her fears. (Citations include "ALA Best Book for Young Adults" and "New York Times Outstanding Children's Books of the Year").

**School District:** Prairieland ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Deport Elementary/Junior High

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Use restricted

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## **Time for Dancing, A**

**Author:** Hurwin, Davida

**Synopsis:** Samantha and Juliana are dancers and best friends. They are planning their future together in college - until Julie is diagnosed with lymphoma. The disease proves to be a barrier to Samantha and Julie's once-close relationship. The level of honesty between them is changed and challenged by the illness, and while Sam tries to be a good friend, her fears and Julie's trials move them ever farther apart until Julie seems entirely alone.

**School District:** Graham ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Graham Junior High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** "Moved up to high school library."

---

## **Time to Kill, A**

**Author:** Grisham, John  
**Synopsis:** After the brutal rape of his young daughter, a black man in Mississippi takes the law into his own hands and murders one of the perpetrators. A white attorney chooses to defend the man and faces threats from some in the community for doing so.

**School District:** Gonzales ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Gonzales Junior High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual Content; Violence/horror  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "A parent complained about the graphic rape of a child at the beginning of the book. The book was removed from open shelving to a parental permission check out."

---

## **Timeline**

**Author:** Crichton, Michael  
**Synopsis:** This story of high-tech time-travel adventure involves a visit to the Middle Ages via a "quantum foam wormhole". The time travelers encounter castles, dungeons, giants, knights, and a guillotine.

**School District:** Judson ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Judson High School  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual content; Other  
**Result:** Alternate book allowed  
**Notes:** Homosexual content

---

## **To Be a Killer**

**Author:** Bennett, Jay  
**Synopsis:** Paul, a popular, very bright athlete, plots to murder his high school science teacher who he feels caused his coach's death and who stands in the way of a glorious future.

**School District:** Cypress-Fairbanks ISD (Houston)

**School(s) Involved:** Bleyl Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Other = Too mature for 6th graders

---

## **To Kill a Mockingbird**

**Author:** Lee, Harper

**Synopsis:** Attorney Atticus Finch defends a black man accused of murder in a small town in the deep south during the '30's. With unswerving honesty, the story probes the irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in that time and place. Finch, with his quiet stamina and heroism, awakens the conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence, and hypocrisy – but only to a point. (A Pulitzer Prize winning novel).

**School District:** Van Vleck ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Van Vleck High School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Other = Racial content

**School District:** Whitehouse ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Whitehouse High School

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**Notes:** "In our district if a student is offended by material referenced in a book, the student can select an alternate book and will be tested over that book. This is what happened with this challenged book. The student was allowed to read another book."

---

## **Tommyknockers**

**Author:** King, Stephen

**Synopsis:** A writer in a small New England village uncovers an ancient artifact, and strange and terrifying events begin to happen in the town.

**School District:** Waco ISD

**School(s) Involved:** A. J. Moore Academy

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "Student will not check out other books by this author as requested by parent."

---

## Unprotected Witness, The

**Author:** Stevenson, James

**Synopsis:** Pete's father became part of the federal witness protection program. Unfortunately, the program is fallible, and Pete's father has been murdered.

**School District:** Beaumont ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Caldwood Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Banned

---

## Upstairs Room, The

**Author:** Reiss, Johanna

**Synopsis:** The novel is an autobiography about two young Dutch-Jewish sisters during World War II who were separated from their family and forced to hide for more than two years. They lived in the upstairs room of a remote farmhouse of a peasant Gentile family. [Honors include 1973 Newberry Honor Book, Notable Children's Books of 1971–1975 (ALA), Best Books of 1972 (SLJ), Outstanding Children's Books of 1972 (NYT), 1973 Jane Addams Award Honor Book, Children's Books of 1972 (Library of Congress), The Buxtehude Bulla Prize 1976 (German Award for Outstanding Children's Book Promoting Peace), 1972 Jewish Book Council Children's Book Award].

**School District:** Rockwall ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Virginia Reinhardt Elementary School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** A parent challenged the book. "A districtwide committee, comprised of teachers, parents, community members and school administrators, determined that the language challenged was appropriate for the character in the novel and that the novel was appropriate as well as of value for upper elementary level students."

---

## **We All Fall Down**

**Author:** Cormier, Robert

**Synopsis:** Jane Jerome and her family return home to find their home vandalized, and 14-year-old Karen at the bottom of the stairs in a coma. The "Avenger" has seen it all, and vows to track down the 4 teens responsible. In the ensuing story, 3 disparate character's lives converge in violent confrontations. Important issues raised in this essentially moral novel include the dissolution of family, societal violence, personal responsibility, and guilt.

**School District:** Anahuac ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Use restricted

---

## **Webster's Dictionary**

**Author:**

**Synopsis:** Reference book.

**School District:** Godley ISD

**School(s) Involved:** High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** inclusion of the word "nigger"

---

## **What's Happening to My Body? Book for Boys, The**

**Author:** Madaras, Lynda

**Synopsis:** The author and her daughter write a sensitive, detailed guide for boys on the verge of adolescence.

**School District:** Motley County ISD (Matador)

**School(s) Involved:** none specified

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Other

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Content

---

## **What's Happening to My Body? Book for Girls, The**

**Author:** Madaras, Lynda

**Synopsis:** The author and her daughter write a sensitive, detailed guide for girls on the verge of adolescence.

**School District:** Motley County ISD (Matador)  
**School(s) Involved:** none specified  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Other  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** Content

---

## **When Zachary Beaver Came to Town**

**Author:** Holt, Kimberly Willis  
**Synopsis:** A 13-year-old boy living in a small Texas town in 1971 is dealing with abandonment by his mother who has run off to Nashville to become a singer, the death of his best friend's brother in Vietnam, and an unrequited crush on the town beauty. When a 600-plus pound boy comes to town as part of a traveling sideshow, the teen makes a friend that teaches him many important life lessons.

**School District:** Judson ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Olympia Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "Only this child is restricted."

---

## **Who Killed Mr. Chippendale**

**Author:** Glenn, Mel  
**Synopsis:** Told entirely in free-form poetry, a dual mystery and exploration into contemporary high school life follows the investigation into the murder of an English teacher and reveals the secret lives of several students.

**School District:** McKinney ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** McKinney North High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror  
**Result:** Decision pending

**School District:** Perryton ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Perryton Junior High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Violence/horror  
**Result:** Decision pending  
**Notes:** "Challenge was received 4/2/02, and this report was due prior to a committee meeting addressing the challenge."

---

## Witches

**Author:** Dahl, Roald

**Synopsis:** The 7-year-old hero of this story has been orphaned in an automobile accident and lives with his aged, cigar-smoking grandmother, a retired 'witchophile'. Even though she tells him everything he needs to know to identify witches, he inadvertently finds himself in the midst of the annual convention of all the witches of England and discovers The Grand High Witch's plot to destroy every child in England. Before he can escape, he is turned (permanently) into a mouse. With the help of his grandmother, he turns the tables on the coven and the witches suffer the same fate.

**School District:** Celina ISD

**School(s) Involved:** Celina Intermediate School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism/Paganism

**Result:** Retained without restriction

**Notes:** Challenged by parent

---

## Witness, The

**Author:** Brown, Sandra

**Synopsis:** Kendall Deaton is a public defender in the small town of Prosper, South Carolina. She marries handsome hunk Matt Burnwood, expecting to live a fairy tale life; but her life then changes. She is witness to a hideous event and is running for her life.

**School District:** Nixon-Smiley CISD (Nixon)

**School(s) Involved:** Nixon-Smiley High School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language; Sexual Content

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "Teacher turned in book."

---

## Wolf Rider

**Author:** Avi

**Synopsis:** Fifteen-year-old Andy Zadinski risks his own safety to protect a young woman while tracking down a stranger named Zeke, who he has been led to believe has killed the woman.

**School District:** Troup ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Troup Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Violence/Horror  
**Result:** Use restricted

---

## **Yolanda's Genius**

**Author:** Fenner, Carol  
**Synopsis:** Yolanda is smart, tough, and big for her age. Her younger brother, Andrew, doesn't talk very much and has trouble learning to read, but is able to create beautiful music with the old harmonica left to him by their father. When bullies destroy Andrew's cherished harmonica, it falls to Yolanda to replace the instrument and reveal her brother's musical genius to the world. (1996 Newberry Honor Book. 1996 ALA Notable Children's Book).

**School District:** Longview ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Hudson PEP School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language  
**Result:** Retained without restriction  
**Notes:** Challenged by grandparent (guardian)

---

## **You Hear Me?**

**Author:** Franco, Betsy, ed.  
**Synopsis:** The poems and occasional brief essays in this book are all written by boys aged twelve to twenty. The writings are concerned with issues of identity, relationships with parents, friends, and girlfriends; and emotional maturation.

**School District:** Houston ISD  
**School(s) Involved:** Jackson Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/Inappropriate language  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** "Use restricted to teachers. This was not a challenge but a teacher did bring this to my attention to let me know."



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