Free People
Read Freely
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Banned and Challenged Books in Texas Public Schools, 2003-2004
A Report of the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas

"To suppress free speech is a double wrong. It violates the rights of the hearer as well as those of the speaker." – Frederick Douglass, American abolitionist, author, and orator (1817-1895)

"People demand freedom of speech to make up for the freedom of thought which they avoid." – Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher and religious thinker (1813-1855)

“Censorship reflects a society’s lack of confidence in itself. It is the hallmark of an authoritarian regime…” – U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart, dissenting in Ginsberg v. U. S. (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, Texas humorist and author (1913-1990)

This is the ACLU of Texas’ eighth consecutive annual report on censorship in Texas public schools. Again this year, the Texas Library Association has joined the ACLU in sponsoring this report, which is based on information furnished by Texas’ nearly 1260 Independent School Districts (ISDs) and charter schools. The body of the report, which is indexed by book title, lists:

• the book’s author(s)
• the district or charter school in which it was challenged
• the city in which the district is located (if different from the name of the district)
• the setting (library or curriculum)
• the reason(s) for the challenge: violence/horror; sexual content; profanity/inappropriate language; mysticism/paganism; or “other”
• the result of the challenge: banned; use restricted; retained; altered; alternate book allowed; decision pending; or not indicated
• any additional remarks made by the school employee furnishing the report

Indexes by author and school district appear at the end of this report.

Statistical Summary
In 2003-2004, 88 independent school districts (including the Texas Youth Commission) and charter schools banned or faced challenges to 151 different books and one video used in their libraries and/or curricula. This is slightly more than 2002-2003’s statistics: 134 challenges reported in 71 school districts.

In this year’s report, no book stands out as the “most-challenged.” In recent years, J.R. Rowling’s popular Harry Potter series has surpassed other books in generating challenges and bans. In the 2001-2002 school year, Harry Potter books were the most often challenged books, with 71 challenges reported by 21 different districts; in most cases, the challenges were made to "all Harry Potter books." Last year, four ISDs faced challenges to Harry Potter books. Once again, four ISDs faced Potter challenges this year: Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, Venus ISD, Clyde CISD, and Dripping Springs ISD.
However, 2003-2004 did produce a most-banned author: Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, who was also the most frequently banned author of 2002-2003. Naylor writes a series of books about Alice McKinley, a teenager who copes with the problems and complexities of growing up and adolescence. Ector County, Klein, and Conroe ISDs faced “Alice” challenges. Naylor’s trilogy about Shiloh, an abused beagle, also produced challenges: Shiloh (Round Rock ISD) and Saving Shiloh (Carthage ISD) made our list.

Lueders-Avoca ISD faced more challenges than any other ISD this year, banning 18 titles from the Lueders Elementary school library. Coming in second place was Houston’s Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, with nine challenges. In 2002-2003, the top book-banning ISD was McKinney ISD, which this year faced only one challenge -- to Eloise in Paris by Kay Thompson and Hilary Knight. The book was retained. Last year, McKinney faced 11 challenges and banned five books.

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. This year, 6% more books were banned than retained. The overwhelming majority of books challenged or banned appeared in libraries (148 instances). Nineteen were used in curricula. One book was used in neither setting, and five were challenged or banned from an unreported setting.

Results:
- Banned (62 instances)(36%)
- Retained/no restriction on use (53 instances)(30%)
- Use/access restricted (33 instances)(19%)
- Alternate allowed in curriculum or reading list (11 instances) (6%)
- Final decision pending (10 instances)(6%)
- Altered (three instances)(2%)
- Not indicated (two instances)(1%)

Highlights
Reasons for book challenges fall into several distinct categories (see chart), as well as “other” (clarified by many, but not all, ISDs in their responses). Some “other” explanations included “reference to Jesus,” “misunderstood by students,” and “not suitable for age group.”

In “liberal” Austin, the local ISD reported two challenges: Barbara Park’s Junie B. Jones series, which the ISD reported was “altered”; and Iona and Peter Opie’s I Saw Esau: The Schoolchild’s Pocket Book, which was retained. Austin reported its Jones challenge as an unspecific, single entry, so we have listed it as such. Hays Consolidated ISD, located in the more conservative Austin metropolitan area, faced a challenge to Joanna Cole’s My Puppy Is Born, due to “photographs on page 6-7.” The ISD eventually retained the book.

ISDs faced many challenges to books by and about African Americans (see box for list), including the classic I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou. Challenged or banned classics also include Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie; Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya; Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck; 1984 by George Orwell; Brave New World by Aldous Huxley; and The Ox-Bow Incident by Walter Van Tilburg Clark.

Reasons for Challenges and Bans
Sexual content: This year, more books faced challenges due to sexual content than for any other specific reason provided to ISDs in our data collection survey. This is the same outcome as in the
2002-2003 school year. Many parents and administrators simply object to sex education of any kind in schools, or oppose references to homosexuality — a common topic in many of this year’s challenged books.

As with complaints about books containing references to the supernatural, wizards, etc. — much more numerous in the early years of *Harry Potter* — complaints about sexual content seem to be based on religious fundamentalism, and are associated with the increased activism of right-wing religious groups. It appears that some religious activists consider that any description of sex, outside the context of abstinence, encourages promiscuity. The increasing trend to oppose books for this reason is disturbing, due to the illustrated need for increased sex education in schools (for instance, Texas’ high teen pregnancy rate).

**Profanity/inappropriate language:** Many books contain language that might be offensive to some people, for reasons of profanity or for derogatory or blasphemous content. One interesting complaint this year came from Van Vleck ISD, where a parent challenged Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* after being “offended by the African-American Southern dialect used in the book.” According to the ISD, “the parent was satisfied with teacher’s explanation of the author’s use of dialect,” and the book remained in use at O.H. Herman Middle School without restriction.

**Violence/horror:** Compared to last year, challenges for this reason increased slightly. Books challenged or banned typically dealt with issues such as suicide (*Eric E. Rofes’ The Kids’ Book About Death and Dying*) and murder (the *Final Friends* trilogy by Christopher Pike; Richard Worth and Austin Sarat’s *Children, Violence, and Murder*).

**Mysticism/paganism:** Challenges were fewer than in 2002-2003. Some complaints focused on books’ discussion of religion. In Round Rock ISD, a parent complained about Phyllis Reynolds Naylor’s *Shiloh* because his Jewish son was asked to read the book. The parent “objected to a reference to praying to Jesus,” explained an ISD representative, and the student received an alternate assignment.

**How We Compiled Our Report**
The ACLU of Texas uses a list of school district numbers, names, addresses and other data compiled for the Texas Education Agency and offered on its Web site. Using this database, volunteers mailed requests for information to all Texas 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 are forms enabling school administrators to remit the request-
ed information in a simple, straightforward process. Respondents either mail or fax the form to the ACLU of Texas office, or respond via an online form posted at www.bannedbooks.info. Information from these reports is entered into a spreadsheet and converted into the report. ACLU volunteers write all book synopses.

Texas Library Association Resources
No statewide, mandated standard for dealing with book challenges to public schools yet exists. Individual school districts manage book 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. One district summarized its approved policy for addressing complaints as follows: “The major criterion for the final decision on challenged materials is the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use. No challenged library material shall be removed solely because of the ideas expressed therein.” 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 in its Intellectual Freedom Handbook, which also offers library book selection criteria guidance in several sections. You can access the Handbook at www.txla.org/pubs/ifhbk.html. The ACLU strongly recommends adoption of a standard policy, based on the TLA procedures, to be used by all public schools.

Acknowledgements
In most cases, ISD librarians and administrators responded promptly to our information requests. 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, a few school officials expressed strong resentment to our request. Some returned our forms without indicating which district they represented. Another official asked us why the ACLU only fought for “liberal” groups. The ACLU supports all individuals and groups facing censorship, regardless of political ideology or religious affiliation.

The following volunteers gave of their time and expertise (in alphabetical order):
- Denise Brady: Synopses and legal.
- Deb Calderon: ACLU Administrative Assistant. Mail and faxes.
- S. Lee Leffingwell: Director emeritus. Consultation.
- David Smith: Webmaster, data management.

The project also extends much thanks to ACLU Executive Director Will Harrell and Development Director James Canup.

Report compiled, written, and designed by Lauri Apple.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Banned Books (62 instances)</th>
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| **The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby: the First Graphic Novel**  
  Dav Pilkey, Harold Hutchins, and George Beard |
| **After the Rain**  
  Norma Fox Mazer |
| **Alice on the Outside**  
  Phyllis Reynolds Naylor |
| **The Beet Fields: Memories of a Sixteenth Summer**  
  Gary Paulsen |
| **Black Talk: Words and Phrases from the Hood to the Amen Corner**  
  Geneva Smitherman |
| **Blue Star Rapture**  
  James W. Bennett |
| **Born in Sin**  
  Evelyn Coleman |
| **Both Sides Now**  
  Ruth Pennebaker |
| **The Boy Who Cried ‘Wolf!’**  
  Ellen Schecter |
| **Changing Bodies, Changing Lives: A Handbook for Teenagers**  
  Ruth Bell Alexander |
| **Cosmos Coyote and William the Nice**  
  Jim Heynen |
| **Cowboy Ghost**  
  Robert Newton Peck |
| **Crack: The New Drug Epidemic**  
  Gilda Berger |
| **Crazy: A Novel**  
  Benjamin Lebert |
| **The Story of the X-Men: How It All Began**  
  Michael Teitelbaum |
| **Cut**  
  Patricia McCormick |
| **A Dance for Three**  
  Louise Plummer |
| **Daughter of Fortune**  
  Isabel Allende |
| **Drugs**  
  Gail B. Stewart |
| **Educating Esmé: Diary of a Teacher’s First Year**  
  Esme Raji Codell |
| **Ella Enchanted**  
  Gail Carson Levine |
| **Enchantment**  
  Orson Scott Card |
| **Every Time a Rainbow Dies**  
  Rita Williams-Garcia |
| **The Facts Speak for Themselves**  
  Brock Cole |
| **Faerie Wars**  
  Herbie Brennan |
| **The Figure in the Shadows**  
  John Bellairs |
| **Give a Boy a Gun**  
  Todd Strasser |
| **The Giver**  
  Lois Lowry |
| **I Saw Esau: The Schoolchild’s Pocket Book**  
  Iona and Peter Opie |
| **In the Night Kitchen**  
  Maurice Sendak |
| **The Innocents Within**  
  Robert Daley |
| **It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health**  
  Robie H. Harris |
| **It’s So Amazing! A Book About Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families**  
  Robie H. Harris |
| **Jack & Jill**  
  James Patterson |
| **Leslie’s Journal**  
  Allan Stratton |
| **Letters from the Inside**  
  John Marsden |
| **Mama puso un huero! O como se hacen los ninos (Mommy Laid an Egg: or Where Do Babies Come From?)**  
  Babette Cole |
| **Nightjohn**  
  Gary Paulsen |
| **On the Edge: Stories at the Brink**  
  Lois Duncan (editor) |
| **Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss, and What I Learned**  
  Judd Winick |
| **The Period Book: Everything You Don’t Want to Ask (But Need to Know)**  
  Karen Gravelle and Jennifer Gravelle |
| **The Perks of Being a Wallflower**  
  Stephen Chbosky |
| **Plainsong**  
  Kent Haruf |
| **The Rag and Bone Shop**  
  Robert Cormier |
| **A Rainbow of Gangs: Street Cultures in the Mega-City**  
  James Diego Vigil |
| **Secret Sacrament**  
  Sherryl Jordan |
| **Seek**  
  Paul Fleischman |
| **Slave Day**  
  Rob Thomas |
| **Slot Machine**  
  Chris Lynch |
| **Smart Mouth: Poetry & Prose**  
  WritersCorps Youth |
| **Stormy Night**  
  Michele Lemieux |
| **Suicide (Opposing Viewpoints)**  
  David Bender |
| **That Was Then, This Is Now**  
  S.E. Hinton |
| **Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale**  
  Holly Black |
| **The Upstairs Room**  
  Johanna Reiss |
| **What’s in a Name**  
  Ellen Wittlinger |
| **What My Mother Doesn’t Know**  
  Sonya Sones |
| **When Dad Killed Mom**  
  Julius Lester |
| **Zap! I’m a Mind Reader**  
  Dan Greenburg |
## Challenged Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abortion: Opposing Viewpoints</td>
<td>Tamara L. Roleff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code</td>
<td>Eoin Colfer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Book (Diary of a Teenage Stud) Vol. III: Run, Jonah, Run</td>
<td>Jonah Black</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bless Me, Ultima</td>
<td>Rudolfo Anaya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blubber</td>
<td>Judy Blume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brave New World</td>
<td>Aldous Huxley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge to Terabithia</td>
<td>Katherine Paterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Child Called “It”: One Child’s Courage to Survive</td>
<td>Dave Pelzer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children, Violence, and Murder</td>
<td>Richard Worth and Austin Sarat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dangerous Environments</td>
<td>Missy Allen and Michel Peissed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Step on the Crack!</td>
<td>Colin McNaughton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draw Me a Star</td>
<td>Eric Carle</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Drowned</td>
<td>Elizabeth Levy</td>
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<tr>
<td>El León, la Bruja y El Ropero (The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe)</td>
<td>C.S. Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eloise in Paris</td>
<td>Kay Thompson</td>
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<td>The Encyclopedia of Serial Killers</td>
<td>Michael Newton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fat Camp Commandos</td>
<td>Daniel Pinkwater and Andy Rash</td>
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<td>The Fighting Ground</td>
<td>Avi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flyy Girl</td>
<td>Omar Tyree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gib Rides Home</td>
<td>Zilpha Keatley Snyder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goosebumps Series</td>
<td>R.L. Stine</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Great Gilly Hopkins</td>
<td>Katherine Paterson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halloween ABC</td>
<td>Eve Merriam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets</td>
<td>J. K. Rowling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone</td>
<td>J. K. Rowling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry Potter series</td>
<td>J.K. Rowling</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</td>
<td>Maya Angelou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceman</td>
<td>Chris Lynch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junie B. Jones series (trilogy)</td>
<td>Barbara Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Light in the Attic</td>
<td>Shel Silverstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lostman’s River</td>
<td>Cynthia DeFelice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mai the Psychic Girl</td>
<td>Kazuya Kudo and Ryoichi Ikekami</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mick Harte Was Here</td>
<td>Barbara Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>My Father’s Scar: A Novel</td>
<td>Michael Cart</td>
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<tr>
<td>My Puppy Is Born</td>
<td>Joanna Cole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Of Mice and Men</td>
<td>John Steinbeck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Pan</td>
<td>J.M. Barrie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychological Disorders Related to Designer Drugs</td>
<td>Elizabeth Connelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remember Me 2: The Return</td>
<td>Christopher Pike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saving Shiloh</td>
<td>Phyllis Reynolds Naylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark</td>
<td>Alvin Schwartz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shiloh</td>
<td>Phyllis Reynolds Naylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sinatra: A Life Remembered</td>
<td>Lew Irwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stranger in a Strange Land</td>
<td>Robert A. Heinlein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stuck in Neutral</td>
<td>Terry Trueman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tangerine</td>
<td>Edward Bloor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vatos</td>
<td>José Galvez and Luis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day</td>
<td>Alberto Urrea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yolonda’s Genius</td>
<td>Carol Fenner</td>
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### Decision Pending (10 instances)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Chocolate War</td>
<td>Robert Cormier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crazy: A Novel</td>
<td>Benjamin Lebert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Friends (trilogy)</td>
<td>Christopher Pike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Goes to Day Camp</td>
<td>James Ziefert and Mavis Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just the Two of Us</td>
<td>Will Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Is Funny</td>
<td>E.R. Frank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mara in the Morning</td>
<td>C.B. Christiansen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory Boy</td>
<td>Will Weaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop Those Pants!</td>
<td>Mordicai Gerstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What My Mother Doesn’t Know</td>
<td>Sonya Sones</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1984
George Orwell

Alice Alone
Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

All American Girl
Meg Cabot

Amanda's Wedding
Jenny Colgan

Beware of Kissing
Lizard Lips
Phyllis Shalant

Black Boy
Richard Wright

The Color Purple
Alice Walker

Cut
Patricia McCormick

Dear Nobody
Berlie Doherty

Flipped (A Texas Bluebonnet Book)
Wendelin Van Draanen

Flowers for Algernon
Daniel Keyes

From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun
Jacqueline Woodson

Hate Crimes
Laura D'Angelo

Hatemongers and Demagogues
Thomas Streissguth

In the Night Kitchen
Maurice Sendak

Introducing Michaelangelo
Robin Richmond

It's an Aardvark-Eat-Turtle World
Paula Danziger

The Kids' Book About

Death and Dying
Eric E. Rofes

Magic Fire
Christopher Pike

Nathan's Run
John Gilstrap

The Ox-Bow Incident
Walter Van Tilburg Clark

Patriot Games
Tom Clancy

Princess in the Spotlight
Meg Cabot

Psychological Effects of Cocaine and Crack Addiction
Ann E. Holmes, Carol C. Nadelson and Claire E. Reinburg

Sexual Politics
Kate Millett

The Silver Kiss
Annette Curtis Klause

Sloppy Firsts
Megan McCafferty

Snow Falling on Cedars
David Guterson

Song for a Shadow
Bernie MacKinnon

Vampires
Janet Perry and Victor Gentle

What Happens When You Grow?
Joy Richardson

When Dad Killed Mom
Julius Lester

The White Power Movement: America's Racist Hate Groups
Elaine Landau
1984
Author: Orwell, George
Synopsis: Set in 1984 London, this classic depicts a world in which Big Brother’s always watching, the Thought Police can practically read minds, and the Party dictates “the Truth.” Caught up in this frightening society is Winston Smith, who is in danger because he retains his memory and remains aware that the Party’s truth is fiction.

School District: Round Rock ISD
Location: Round Rock
School(s) Involved: Stony Point Ninth Grade Center
Setting: Library and curriculum
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Use restricted
Notes: A parent challenged the book after her daughter was assigned to read it. An alternate title was assigned.

Abortion: Opposing Viewpoints
Author: Roleff, Tamara L.
Synopsis: A collection of articles exploring differing perspectives and viewpoints on abortion, written for high school students.

School District: El Campo ISD
Location: El Campo
School(s) Involved: El Campo High School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Retained
Notes: “Staff member is totally against abortion for any reason. However, after looking at the entire book, she agreed that both sides of the issue were presented and fully discussed, and dropped her opposition to [it.]”

The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby: The First Graphic Novel
Author: Pilkey, Dav; Hutchins, Harold; and George Beard
Synopsis: When the school principal finds George and Harold causing havoc in the cafeteria, he assigns them each an essay on good citizenship so they will not write another comic about their superhero, Captain Underpants. Instead, George and Harold write about a new character superhero: Super Diaper Baby and his fight against evil Deputy Doo-Doo.

School District: Friendswood ISD
Location: Friendswood
School(s) Involved: Westwood Elementary School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Inappropriate language
Result: Retained
Notes: Parent request.

School District: O’Donnell ISD
Location: O’Donnell
School(s) Involved: O’Donnell Elementary School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Inappropriate language; sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

After the Rain
Author: Mazer, Norma Fox
Synopsis: Fifteen-year-old Rachel worries about everything. As her crotchety grandfather approaches death, she reaches out to him and comes to better understand herself and her world.

School District: Darrouzett ISD
Location: Darrouzett
School(s) Involved: Darrouzett Elementary School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: The book will be reviewed by a committee during the summer.

Alice Alone
Author: Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
Synopsis: From the continuing series about Alice McKinley, an adolescent girl. This volume finds
Alice in the ninth grade and struggling with family issues (as the only female in her motherless family), a new classmate’s challenge to her longtime relationship with her boyfriend, and a startling revelation of sexual abuse from one of her classmates.

**School District:** Conroe ISD  
**Location:** Conroe  
**School(s) Involved:** Elementary  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** Placed in intermediate library.

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**Alice in April**

**Author:** Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds  
**Synopsis:** From the continuing series about Alice McKinley, an adolescent girl. In this volume, Alice faces her thirteenth birthday, and deals with puberty, bodily changes, her family, and an acquaintance’s suicide.

**School District:** Klein ISD  
**Location:** Klein  
**School(s) Involved:** Roth Elementary  
**Setting:** Not indicated  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/language; sexual content  
**Result:** Not indicated  
**Notes:** None.

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**Alice on the Outside**

**Author:** Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds  
**Synopsis:** Alice McKinley is in the eighth grade and wonders about the status of her relationship with her boyfriend, Patrick; gains some insight into the nature of prejudice from a weeklong, consciousness-raising exercise at school; and deals with the crush that another female student has on her.

**School District:** Ector ISD  
**Location:** Ector  
**School(s) Involved:** Blanton Elementary  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Other  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** A parent informally challenged the book, claiming that it contained adult material.

---

**All American Girl**

**Author:** Meg Cabot  
**Synopsis:** The trials and tribulations of Sam, a 15-year-old girl and self-described “urban rebel” living in Washington D.C. who falls in love with the boyfriend of her sister, a popular cheerleader. When Sam inadvertently saves the life of the President of the United States, she becomes a national hero overnight, is named teen ambassador to the United Nations, and gets the president’s son as her boyfriend.

**School District:** Pleasant Grove ISD  
**Location:** Texarkana  
**School(s) Involved:** Pleasant Grove Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/language; other  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** Inappropriate subject matter.

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**Amanda’s Wedding**

**Author:** Colgan, Jenny  
**Synopsis:** The lives and loves of several twenty-something female Londoners, chronicled in the style of the popular film *Bridget Jones’s Diary*.

**School District:** Denison ISD  
**Location:** Denison  
**School(s) Involved:** Denison High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/language  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** None.

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**Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code**

**Author:** Colfer, Eoin  
**Synopsis:** The third in a series of fantasy adventures of an adolescent boy criminal “mastermind.”

**School District:** Mesquite ISD  
**Location:** Mesquite  
**School(s) Involved:** Rutherford Elementary  
**Setting:** Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; violence/horror  
Result: Retained  
Notes: A committee reviewed the book.

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The Beet Fields: Memories of a Sixteenth Summer  
Author: Paulsen, Gary  
Synopsis: For a 16-year-old boy out in the world alone for the first time, every day is an education in the hard work and boredom of migrant labor. Every day teaches him something more about friendship, hunger, or profanity. He joins up with a carnival and becomes a grunt, running a ride and shilling for the show.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD  
Location: Lueders  
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary  
Setting: Library  
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content  
Result: Banned  
Notes: None.

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Beware of Kissing Lizard Lips  
Author: Shalant, Phyllis  
Synopsis: A scrawny sixth-grade boy discovers girls and gains confidence through learning martial arts.

School District: Houston ISD  
Location: Houston  
School(s) Involved: Emerson Elementary  
Setting: Library  
Reason Cited: Sexual content  
Result: Retained  
Notes: Parent challenge.

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Black Book (Diary of a Teenage Stud)  
Vol. III: Run, Jonah, Run  
Author: Black, Jonah  
Synopsis: Jonah is about to lose his virginity, but a call from his ex-girlfriend changes the mood.

School District: Crowley ISD  
Location: Crowley  
School(s) Involved: Crowley Ninth Grade  
Setting: Library  
Reason Cited: Sexual content  
Result: Retained  
Notes: None.

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Black Boy  
Author: Wright, Richard  
Synopsis: An autobiography describing Wright’s coming of age in poor, racist, rural Mississippi and Memphis, Tenn.

School District: Pearland ISD  
Location: Pearland  
School(s) Involved: Ninth grade center  
Setting: Curriculum  
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content  
Result: Use restricted/alternate book allowed  
Notes: Novel removed from curriculum; excerpt in textbook will be used.

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Black Talk: Words and Phrases from the Hood to the Amen Corner  
Author: Smitherman, Geneva
Synopsis: The book opens the hidden history of African-American culture as expressed through contemporary “Black English,” and is written as a dictionary of words and phrases unique to the culture: for examples, “kitchen,” “jump salty,” and “got her nose open.”

School District: Texas Youth Commission
School(s) Involved: Corsicana Residential Treatment Center
Location: Corsicana
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language
Result: Banned
Notes: Teacher challenge.

Bless Me, Ultima
Author: Anaya, Rudolfo
Synopsis: Antonio, a young Hispanic boy living in New Mexico, faces a more complex maturation process after Ultima, a “curandera,” comes to live with his family. Antonio is torn between his traditional Catholic beliefs and the influence of Ultima, who cures with herbs and uses supernatural forces to combat the evil in their midst.

School District: Orangefield ISD
Location: Orangefield
School(s) Involved: High School
Setting: Curriculum
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Alternate book allowed
Notes: Religious objection to character in book. Student received an alternate assignment.

Blue Star Rapture
Author: Bennett, James W.
Synopsis: T.J. Nucci, a cigarette-smoking junior, has a life-changing experience during a week of basketball camp.

School District: Beaumont ISD
Location: Beaumont
School(s) Involved: Elementary and Middle schools
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: Executive warning from district lead librarian after teacher/principal complaints. Few libraries at elementary or middle school levels actually had title in campus collections. “This book is simply inappropriate for lower-grade levels.”

Born in Sin
Author: Coleman, Evelyn
Synopsis: Fourteen-year-old Keisha lives in a Georgia housing project full of drug dealers, but works hard in school and is determined to achieve her goals. She overcomes the discouragement of school administrators and threats from a local drug lord, and ends up training for the Olympics in swimming.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

Blubber
Author: Blume, Judy
Synopsis: Julie and her classmates tease their overweight classmate Linda, but their schemes to torment her backfire when the tables are turned.

School District: Friendswood ISD
Location: Friendswood
Both Sides Now
Author: Pennebaker, Ruth
Synopsis: Fifteen-year-old, ultra-responsible Liza has her life under control until her creative mother is diagnosed with breast cancer. Liza’s life begins to fall apart, until she learns to accept the uncertainties of life and come to terms with her mother’s illness.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity; sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

The Boy Who Cried ‘Wolf!’
Author: Schecter, Ellen
Synopsis: Retelling of the traditional fable for young readers. Illustrated by Gary Chalk.

School District: China Spring ISD
Location: China Spring
School(s) Involved: China Spring Elementary
Setting: Not indicated
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

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: South Texas ISD
Location: Mercedes
School(s) Involved: Science Academy
Setting: Curriculum
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Retained/alternate book allowed
Notes: Alternate books offered as per board policy (policy unchanged; administrative guidelines reviewed and revised).

Bridge to Terabithia
Author: Paterson, Katherine
Synopsis: Jesse’s dull rural world expands when he befriends Leslie, the new girl in school, and they create the secret world of Terabithia beneath a tree. When Leslie dies while trying to reach Terabithia in a storm, Jesse struggles with her death and the effect her life had upon his.

School District: Nederland ISD
Location: Nederland
School(s) Involved: Central Middle School
Setting: Curriculum
Reason Cited: Profanity/language
Result: Content changed/deleted
Notes: None.

Author: Alexander, Ruth Bell
Synopsis: Written by the authors of Our Bodies, Ourselves, this book discusses health and sexuality issues for teenagers, including puberty, STDs and the danger of promiscuous sex, and teenage pregnancy and its alternatives. Illustrated with cartoons, photographs, diagrams, and line drawings. Includes interviews with teenagers.

School District: Texas Youth Commission
Location: Corsicana
School(s) Involved: Corsicana Residential Treatment Center
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: Assistant superintendent and principal challenge.
A Child Called “It”: One Child’s Courage to Survive
Author: Pelzer, Dave
Synopsis: Autobiographical story of a boy’s child abuse as his alcoholic mother isolates him from the rest of the family, torments him, and tries to kill him by starving, poisoning and stabbing him. One in a series.

School District: Clear Creek ISD
Location: League City
School(s) Involved: Brookside Intermediate
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Violence/horror
Result: Retained
Notes: Book challenged by a sixth-grader’s parent.

Children, Violence, and Murder
Author: Worth, Richard and Austin Sarat
Synopsis: Explores causes of violent crime involving children as well as attitudes toward child criminals. Profiles case histories of young murderers and tragedies such as the Columbine High School shooting.

School District: Wharton ISD
Location: Wharton
School(s) Involved: Wharton Junior High School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Violence/horror
Result: Retained
Notes: This is the same challenge reported last year as a “decision pending.”

The Chocolate War
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 that asks, “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: Athens ISD
Location: Athens
School(s) Involved: Athens High School
Setting: Curriculum
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content
Result: Decision pending
Notes: None.

The Color Purple
Author: Walker, Alice
Synopsis: A moving novel about an abused and uneducated black woman’s search for empowerment. Winner of the 1983 Pulitzer Prize.

School District: Joshua ISD
Location: Joshua
School(s) Involved: Loﬁn Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Use restricted
Notes: None.

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 Cherilyn, who is a charismatic Christian, he begins to have trouble distinguishing truth from falsehood as his two personalities come into conﬂict.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

Cowboy Ghost
Author: Peck, Robert Newton
**Synopsis:** The story of 16-year-old Titus’s transition out of boyhood during a cattle drive in 1924 Florida. Titus and his crew battle Indians and cattle thieves and unpredictable weather, and receive words of wisdom from a “cowboy ghost.”

**School District:** Ector County ISD  
**Location:** Odessa  
**School(s) Involved:** Blanton Elementary  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Other  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** A parent informally challenged the book, claiming it contained adult material.

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**Crack: The New Drug Epidemic**  
**Author:** Berger, Gilda  
**Synopsis:** Explores the drug crack (the pure crystallized form of cocaine) and educates teens about the dangers of use and addiction, manufacture and sale of the drug, the impact on children, and efforts to treat addicts and end the crack trade. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs, it includes a glossary and lists of suggestions for further reading and help organizations.

**School District:** Cypress-Fairbanks ISD  
**Location:** Houston  
**School(s) Involved:** Thorton Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Other  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** Explicit descriptions of drug use. Outdated information.

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**Crazy: A Novel**  
**Author:** Lebert, Benjamin  
**Synopsis:** Lebert was only 16 years old when this autobiographical novel debuted, eventually becoming a German bestseller. Benni, the protagonist, suffers from paralysis and poor learning habits. Kicked out of four boarding schools, he teams up with a bunch of fellow misfits and sets out to explore the “crazy” life of drinking, sex, and culture.

**School District:** Cypress-Fairbanks ISD  
**Location:** Houston  
**School(s) Involved:** Goodson Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Other  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** Belief that character’s self-mutilation would cause readers to do it, too. For only seventh- and eighth-grade checkout.

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**Cut**  
**Author:** McCormick, Patricia  
**Synopsis:** Thirteen-year-old Callie is confined to a mental hospital, Sea Pines, because she cuts herself with sharp objects. She gradually improves and responds to therapy.
School(s) Involved: Corsicana Residential Treatment Center
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other; self-destructive behavior
Result: Banned
Notes: Student challenge.

A Dance for Three
Author: Plummer, Louise
Synopsis: Fifteen-year-old Hannah Ziebarth is pregnant with the child of her first love, Milo Fabiano, a good-looking boy from a wealthy family. In addition to the baby, Hannah’s mother has become agoraphobic, her father has died, and Milo is cheating on her. All this lands Hannah in a mental facility, where a therapist eventually helps her to reassemble her life.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

Dear Nobody
Author: Doherty, Berlie

School District: Pleasant Grove ISD
Location: Texarkana
School Involved: Pleasant Grove Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content; other/inappropriate subject matter
Result: Use restricted
Notes: None.

Dangerous Environments
Author: Allen, Missy and Michel Peissed

School District: Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Location: Houston
School(s) Involved: Milsap Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other/explicit descriptions
Result: Retained
Notes: Informal challenge; no paperwork.

Don’t Step on the Crack!
Author: McNaughton, Colin
Synopsis: A “what-if” story, presented in picture-book format, about the dangers of failing to heed the old wives’ tale.

School District: Allen ISD
Location: Allen
School(s) Involved: Bolin Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Violence/horror
Result: Retained
Notes: Too scary for young children.

Daughter of Fortune
Author: Allende, Isabel
Synopsis: Allende’s sixth novel focuses on Eliza Sommers, a Chilean whose British adoptive parents a spinster and her brother try to raise her as a Brit. As Eliza grows up, she becomes more attuned to her heritage, falls in love with her father’s clerk, and follows him to California. In her travels she meets a Chinese doctor who becomes her best friend. Set in the mid-1800s.

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 childhood memories of stories his grandmother had told him.
School District: Northside ISD
Location: San Antonio
School(s) Involved: Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content/illustrations
Result: Retained
Notes: None.

The Drowned
Author: Levy, Elizabeth
Synopsis: A teenager spends a boring summer in Atlantic City with her aunt, tries to occupy herself with a “haunted tour” of the city, and becomes embroiled in the case of a drowned teenage boy and his distraught mother.

School District: Mesquite ISD
Location: Mesquite
School(s) Involved: Berry Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content
Result: Retained
Notes: None.

Drugs
Author: Stewart, Gail B.
Synopsis: Social studies exploration of issues surrounding drugs and drug use.

School District: Little Elm ISD
Location: Little Elm
School(s) Involved: Hackberry Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Banned
Notes: Inappropriate subject matter for elementary students.

Educating Esmé: Diary of a Teacher’s First Year
Author: Codell, Esmé Raji
Synopsis: The actual diary of a young, hip, first-year teacher in an inner-city Chicago elementary school.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary

Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity; sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

El Leon, la Bruja y El Ropero (The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe)
Author: Lewis, C.S.
Synopsis: Spanish translation of the popular children’s fantasy book. Features religious undertones and an exploration of “good” and “evil.”

School District: Houston ISD
Location: Houston
School(s) Involved: Rodriguez Elementary
Setting: Curriculum
Reason Cited: Mysticism/paganism
Result: Alternate book allowed
Notes: Parent challenge.

Eloise in Paris
Author: Thompson, Kay and Hilary Knight
Synopsis: Sequel to the original Eloise, first published in 1957. Eloise is now six years old and goes to Paris. Pen-and-ink illustrations.

School District: McKinney ISD
Location: McKinney
School(s) Involved: E.H. Slaughter Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Retained
Notes: “Nude illustrations, pages 38 and 45.”

Ella Enchanted
Author: Levine, Gail Carson
Synopsis: Young Ella is cursed at birth when a fairy gives her the “gift” of obedience. Her mother dies and she is left with an evil stepmother and stepsisters. Spunky Ella embarks on a search to find the fairy to break the curse and set her free, encountering ogres, elves, a pumpkin coach, a glass slipper, and a prince along the way. Newberry Honor.
School District: Ector County ISD
Location: Odessa
School(s) Involved: Blanton Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Banned
Notes: A parent informally challenged the book, claiming it contained adult material.

**Enchantment**

**Author:** Card, Orson Scott

**Synopsis:** A Ukrainian-born American student is transported to the ninth century to play the prince in a Russian version of *Sleeping Beauty*. Depicts history, religion, and myth in a time-travel tale.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

The Encyclopedia of Serial Killers

**Author:** Newton, Michael

**Synopsis:** A reference book providing information about individual serial killers and related topics in criminal justice.

School District: Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Location: Houston
School(s) Involved: Cy Ridge High School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Violence/horror; other
Result: Retained
Notes: Believed book would cause students to become killers.

Every Time a Rainbow Dies

**Author:** Williams-Garcia, Rita

**Synopsis:** The world of 16-year-old Thulani, who came to Brooklyn from Jamaica with his mother and brother, changes when his mother returns to Jamaica and dies, and he witnesses a rape in the alley outside his apartment. Thulani rescues the victim, who dresses in colorful “rainbow” clothes, and, in spite of her resistance, they become friends.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

**The Facts Speak for Themselves**

**Author:** Cole, Brock

**Synopsis:** Twelve-year-old Linda witnesses a murder. It quickly becomes clear during her interrogation that she was sexually involved with the murdered man. The story is structured around the interrogation and Linda’s 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: Colorado ISD
Location: Colorado
School(s) Involved: Colorado Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: “Described a rape scene in too much detail.”

**Faerie Wars**

**Author:** Brennan, Herbie

**Synopsis:** Henry Atherton’s family disintegrates when his mother has an affair with his father’s female secretary. Henry escapes by helping an eccentric old man with household chores, and discovers a parallel world where faeries in “the Purple Kingdom” are embroiled in a battle to defeat the forces of evil. In the end, what Henry learns allows him to resolve his issues with his family.

School District: Newcastle ISD
Location: Newcastle
School(s) Involved: Newcastle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

**Fat Camp Commandos**

**Author:** Pinkwater, Daniel and Andy Rash
Synopsis: To protest their forced attendance at a weight loss camp, a brother and sister and their friend run away and become pro-fat activists.

School District: Waller ISD
Location: Waller
School(s) Involved: Fields Store Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Retained
Notes: “A mother stated that she felt the book made fun of overweight people. After reading it, [the librarian] felt the book was a humorous story about some boys at a weight loss camp who learned self-acceptance, and put it back on the shelf.”

The Fighting Ground
Author: Avi
Synopsis: During the Revolutionary War, a 13-year-old boy and his father are working on their farm in New Jersey when they become drawn into the war. Jonathon is taken prisoner, and realizes that the real war is being fought within himself.

School District: East Central ISD
Location: San Antonio
School(s) Involved: Harmony Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/inappropriate language
Result: Decision pending
Notes: “Paperwork on the challenge was brought to the elementary school office on Monday, April 19. It was sent to the librarian for committee review.”

The Figure in the Shadows
Author: Bellairs, John
Synopsis: An insecure, overweight sixth-grader is convinced that an ancient amulet owned by his grandfather is really a lucky, magical talisman, although it also appears to bring him danger.

School District: Amarillo ISD
Location: Amarillo
School(s) Involved: Frazier Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Use restricted
Notes: Inappropriate relationship issues for younger students.

Flipped (A Texas Bluebonnet Book)
Author: Van Draanen, Wendelin
Synopsis: Told alternately by eighth-graders Bryce and Juli, this story describes a unique girl who is infatuated (“flipped”) with a boy from her neighborhood. The boy thinks she is weird until the eighth grade, when his opinion changes and he begins to like her — just as she begins to lose interest in him.

School District: Burleson ISD
Location: Burleson
School(s) Involved: Frazier Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; violence/horror
Result: Banned
Notes: Parent objection. A committee formed, reviewed the book, and decided to keep it. An upper-level administrator/cluster director decided that it needed to be taken off after parents appealed.

Flowers for Algernon
Author: Keyes, Daniel
Synopsis: First published in 1959, this best-seller focuses on Charlie, a mentally disabled man who becomes part of a medical experiment to in-
crease his intelligence. The experiment has only ever been tried once, on a laboratory mouse named Algernon. Charlie’s I.Q. gradually increases, until he surpasses most other humans and becomes as alienated from his peers as he was when simpleminded. Then, suddenly, the smart mouse Algernon begins to deteriorate. Nebula Award-winning novel, and adapted into the Oscar-winning movie *Charley* (1968).

**School District:** Bellville ISD  
**Location:** Bellville  
**School(s) Involved:** Bellville Junior High  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/language; sexual content  
**Result:** Use restricted/alternate book allowed  
**Notes:** None.

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**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 her neighbor’s older sister, who has become a crack-addicted prostitute. The moral of the book is that virtue is rewarded, and vice punished.

**School District:** Killeen ISD  
**Location:** Killeen  
**School(s) Involved:** Shoemaker High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content  
**Result:** Use restricted (in library office)  
**Notes:** Challenged by a teacher who is also the parent of a student at campus.

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**Forever**  
**Author:** Blume, Judy  
**Synopsis:** This story of first love between teenagers involves sexual activity, separation and loyalty, parental relationships, and other young adult issues central to romantic relationships.

**School District:** Beaumont ISD  
**Location:** Beaumont  
**School(s) Involved:** “One”  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/language  
**Result:** Retained  
**Notes:** “Parent objected but did not submit formal request for reconsideration.”

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From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun  
**Author:** Woodson, Jacqueline  
**Synopsis:** At age 13, Melanin Sun, an African-American boy growing up in Brooklyn, has to cope with finding out that his single mother has become the lesbian partner of a white woman. Explores themes of racism, prejudice, and familial love.

**School District:** Killeen ISD  
**Location:** Killeen  
**School(s) Involved:** Liberty Hill Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content  
**Result:** Use restricted (in library office)  
**Notes:** Challenged by a teacher who is also the parent of a student at campus.

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**Gib Rides Home**  
**Author:** Snyder, Zilpha Keatley  
**Synopsis:** Story of young Gib Whittaker’s experiences at an early 20th-century orphanage. Gib dreams of leaving the orphanage and having a real family. When an affluent family adopts him, Gib dares to hope that he’s found a loving home at last, only to realize that he has been “farmed out” – a routine practice of the era wherein older orphans were adopted to be sent to work as farm hands.

**School District:** Carthage ISD  
**Location:** Carthage  
**School(s) Involved:** Libby Elementary  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/language
The Goosebumps series
Author: Stine, R.L.
Synopsis: Series of stories involving ghosts, goblins, and scary happenings.

School District: Humble ISD
Location: Humble
School(s) Involved: Maplebrook Elementary
Setting: Library/book club
Reason Cited: Violence/horror; other
Result: Retained
Notes: “Too frightening.”

The Giver
Author: Lowry, Lois
Synopsis: A 12-year-old boy is chosen as leader of an apparently utopian society unhindered by sickness, crime or poverty, but soon discovers the disturbing truth about what the citizens must give up to achieve such an ordered and conflict-free environment. 1994 Newberry Medal winner.

School District: Graham ISD
School(s) Involved: Woodland Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity
Result: Retained
Notes: None.

Halloween ABC
Author: Merriam, Eve
Synopsis: A collection of 26 poems, one for each letter of the alphabet, about the spookiest holiday.

School District: Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Location: Houston
School(s) Involved: Emmott Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Mysticism/paganism
Result: Retained
Notes: Informal challenge/no paperwork.

Harry Goes to Day Camp
Author: Ziefert, James and Mavis Smith
Synopsis: Harry the Hippo heads off to day camp. Early reader.
School District: Midway ISD
Location: Waco
School(s) Involved: South Bosque Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Decision pending
Notes: “Phrase in book, ‘99 bottles of beer on the wall … 98 bottles of beer.’ ISD is in the process of selecting a committee and making a decision.”

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 Hogwarts students to stone.

School District: Venus ISD
Location: Venus
School(s) Involved: Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Violence/horror; mysticism/paganism
Result: Retained
Notes: “The grandfather of a middle school student believed the book encouraged witchcraft, suicide, etc. Following school policy, a committee reviewed the book and decided that the book should not be labeled or restricted.”

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone
Author: Rowling, J.K.
Synopsis: First in a series of books chronicling Harry Potter’s adventures at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Raised by a non-wizard “muggle” aunt and uncle, Harry does not know that his parents were wizards, or that he is famous in the wizard world. He is summoned to attend the infamous school and experiences the first of many adventures.

School District: Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD
Location: Carrollton
School(s) Involved: Thompson Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Mysticism/paganism
Result: Retained
Notes: None.

Harry Potter series
Author: Rowling, J.K.
Synopsis: Series of books revolving around a boy wizard.

School District: Dripping Springs ISD
Location: Dripping Springs
School(s) Involved: Primary (PK-3)
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Mysticism/paganism
Result: Retained
Notes: Parent challenged at campus level and did not appeal.

Hate Crimes
Author: D’Angelo, Laura
Synopsis: A factual book discussing the motivations of those who perpetrate violence against others for reasons of religion, sexual preference, ethnicity, or race. Uses high-profile U.S. cases as examples.

School District: Spring ISD
Location: Houston
School(s) Involved: Twin Creeks Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Use restricted
Notes: “Books were placed behind the circulation desk for teachers to read, but not for student use. The parent has not requested reconsideration of instructional materials.”

Hatemongers and Demagogues
Author: Streissguth, Thomas
Synopsis: Starting with the original Salem witch hunts, this book explores the history of racism and bigotry and the American leaders who have spurred “hatemongering.” Includes coverage of McCarthyism, the Ku Klux Klan, “skinheads,” and others.

School District: Spring ISD
Location: Houston
School(s) Involved: Twin Creeks Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Use restricted
Notes: “Books were placed behind the circulation desk for teachers to read, but not for student use. The parent has not requested reconsideration of instructional materials.”

Iceman
Author: Lynch, Chris
Synopsis: The boys on 14-year-old Eric’s hockey team call him “the Iceman” for his ruthless playing of the sport. Eric is alienated from his father, who wants him to play even meaner; his mother, who constantly criticizes him; and his slacker brother. His only friend is the quiet loner who works with him at the local mortuary. 1995 Best Books for Young Adults (ALA); 1995 Recommended Books for Reluctant Young Adult Readers (ALA); 1995 Books for the Teen Age (New York Public Library); Books for Youth Editors’ Choices 1994 (Booklist); English Journal Young Adult Literature 1994 Honor List.

School District: McAllen ISD
Location: McAllen
School(s) Involved: Morris Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language
Result: Retained
Notes: “Librarian will continue to allow eighth-graders to use this book as purchased. The book meets district criteria/does not display pervasively vulgar language because it contains such language on less than 9% of the book. Eighteen pages were noted of a total of 225 pages, each page containing one word.”

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
Author: Angelou, Maya
Synopsis: The autobiography of a distinguished African-American poet. Angelou recounts the anguish of her Arkansas childhood, and her adolescence in northern slums. In one incident, she becomes pregnant against her will.

School District: Como-Pickton CISD
Location: Como
School(s) Involved: Como-Pickton High School
Setting: Curriculum
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content; violence/horror
Result: Alternate allowed
Notes: “Challenged by a parent. The book was used in a classroom setting for all kids (10th-grade English) to read. The teacher/school substituted a book to accommodate any child (or parent of a child) uncomfortable with the book. Instructional method was also altered from large class group reading/discussion to silent reading.”

School District: Van Vleck ISD
Location: Van Vleck
School(s) Involved: O. H. Herman Middle School
Setting: Curriculum
Reason Cited: Language/offended by African-American Southern dialect used in the book
Result: Retained
Notes: “No formal action was taken. Parent was satisfied with teacher’s explanation of the author’s use of dialect.”

I Saw Esau: The Schoolchild’s Pocket Book
Author: Opie, Iona and Peter Opie

School District: Austin ISD
Location: Austin
School(s) Involved: Hart Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language
Result: Retained
Notes: “A campus committee found the book to be appropriate, and it remains on the library shelves.”

School District: Nederland ISD
Location: Nederland
School(s) Involved: Highland Park Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

In the Night Kitchen
Author: Sendak, Maurice
Synopsis: Mickey, a small boy, dreams of a “Night Kitchen” where he makes a cake with a cook who looks like Oliver Hardy, and has an adventure while looking for milk.

School District: China Spring ISD
Location: China Spring
School(s) Involved: China Spring Elementary
Setting: Not indicated
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Use restricted
Notes: None.

The Innocents Within
Author: Daley, Robert
Synopsis: An American pilot shot down over central France in 1944 during WWII falls in love with the Jewish ward of a pastor who runs an underground resistance network. Based on the true story of Pastor Andre Trocme of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, whose small Protestant village in France became a haven for Jews during the Holocaust.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content; profanity/language
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

Introducing Michaelangelo
Author: Richmond, Robin
Synopsis: Part of a series exploring the lives and masterpieces of three major artists.

School District: China Spring ISD
Location: China Spring
School(s) Involved: China Spring Intermediate
Setting: Not indicated
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Use restricted
Notes: None.

It’s an Aardvark-Eat-Turtle World
Author: Danziger, Paula
Synopsis: Fourteen-year-old best friends Rosie and Phoebe are happy when their single parents fall in love and move in together, but soon discover that being sisters is harder than being friends, and that there is no perfect family.

School District: Bonham ISD
Location: Bonham
School(s) Involved: Finley-Oates Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Use restricted
Notes: “A parent brought the book to the librarian because he didn’t believe the content was appropriate for third-graders. The parent didn’t demand re-
moval of the book, but just wanted it brought to
the librarian’s attention. The librarian has pulled
the book from the shelf and has restricted stu-
dent use.”

It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing
Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sex-
ual Health
Author: Harris, Robie H.
Synopsis: Explains the physical, psychological,
emotional and social changes that occur during
puberty. Includes watercolor and pencil illustra-
tions of various body types to encourage teen self-
acceptance. Illustrated by Michael Emberley.

School District: Fort Bend ISD
Location: Sugar Land
School(s) Involved: Stephen F. Austin and
George H. Bush High Schools
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

It’s So Amazing! A Book About Eggs,
Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families
Author: Harris, Robie H.
Synopsis: Written in comic book style, this book
is directed toward assisting parents in talking to
children about “where babies come from,” and ad-
dresses topics such as conception, birth, love, sex-
uality and family. Illustrated by Michael Emberley.

School District: Fort Bend ISD
Location: Sugar Land
School(s) Involved: Not indicated
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

Jack & Jill
Author: Patterson, James
Synopsis: Popular murder detective Alex Cross
(Kiss the Girls) returns to the D.C. streets to solve
the homicides of a controversial U.S. senator and
an innocent little girl.

School District: Plainview ISD

Location: Plainview
School(s) Involved: Plainview High School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity
Result: Banned
Notes: Parent challenge.

Junie B. Jones series
Author: Park, Barbara
Synopsis: Series involving rambunctious young-
ster Junie B. Jones. Includes Junie B. Jones Has
a Peep in Her Pocket, Junie B. Jones Is a Party
Animal, Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook, Junie B.
Jones Is a Beauty Shop Guy, and Junie B. Jones
Smells Something Fishy.

School District: Austin ISD
Location: Austin
School(s) Involved: Webb Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language
Result: Altered
Notes: Main character’s nonstandard English.

Just the Two of Us
Author: Smith, Will
Synopsis: Picture book by actor/singer Smith fol-
lows a father as he watches his son grow through
three stages of life – from newborn, to young child,
to young man.

School District: Col-
lege Station ISD
Location: College
Station
School(s) Involved:
Rock Prairie Element-
ary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Pro-
fanity/inappropriate
language
Result: Decision pending
Notes: “A committee will review the parent’s writ-
ten complaint.”

The Kids’ Book About Death and
Dying
Author: Rofes, Eric E.
**Leslie’s Journal**

*Author:* Stratton, Allan  
*Synopsis:* Leslie, a 10th-grade girl, struggles with a broken family and being raped and abused by her older boyfriend, with whom she’s obsessed. Leslie runs away, but a substitute teacher exposes her situation after reading her journal and reporting the crimes to the authorities.

**School District:** Lueders-Avoca ISD  
**Location:** Lueders  
**School(s) Involved:** Lueders Elementary  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** None.

**Letters from the Inside**

*Author:* Marsden, John  
*Synopsis:* Set in Australia, this psychological drama plays out in the correspondence between two teenage girls, one of whom is in a maximum-security prison for a horrendous, unnamed crime.

**School District:** Pearland ISD

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**Life Is Funny**

*Author:* Frank, E.R.  
*Synopsis:* The lives and loves of 11 Brooklyn teenagers, whose experiences involve domestic violence, alcoholic parents, and religious intolerance, among other things.

**School District:** Somerset ISD  
**Location:** Somerset  
**School(s) Involved:** Junior High  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content  
**Result:** Decision pending  
**Notes:** Book removed after teacher challenge. The principal retained the book.

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**A Light in the Attic**

*Author:* Silverstein, Shel  

**School District:** Ector County ISD  
**Location:** Odessa  
**School(s) Involved:** Bowie Junior High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Other  
**Result:** Retained  
**Notes:** “Obscenity of picture on p. 26 was in question. A committee of five members met on Jan. 1, 2004 to consider the challenge. After careful review, they retained the book in the library. The illustration met the selective criteria in Local Policy EFA.” Parent challenge.

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**Lostman’s River**

*Author:* DeFelice, Cynthia
Synopsis: Tyler MacCauley and his family live in poverty in the wetlands of Florida, and befriend a stranger who claims to be studying the area. They discover he is planning to kill the wildlife rather than save it, and their future becomes threatened.

School District: Mabank ISD
Location: Mabank
School(s) Involved: Lakeview Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language
Result: Retained
Notes: The ISD will provide guidance to students to determine individual appropriateness.

Magic Fire
Author: Pike, Christopher
Synopsis: A Los Angeles high school student has “pyrekinetic” ability – i.e., he can start fires with his mind. He and his girlfriend lead a delusional crusade to free Earth from an alleged alien domination, and jeopardize the entire city.

School District: Rains ISD
Location: Emory
School(s) Involved: Intermediate
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Use restricted
Notes: “As a result of the challenge, the consensus was to clearly label books according to interest level. The Intermediate Administration requested grades 4-5 students receive parental permission to check out upper-grade interest-level library materials.”

Mai the Psychic Girl
Author: Kudo, Kazuya and Ryoichi Ikegami
Synopsis: First of three volumes that tell the story of Mai, a Japanese schoolgirl who becomes the target of organizations of powerful conspirators who want to use her for her psychic powers.

School District: Clear Creek ISD
Location: League City
School(s) Involved: Clear Brook High School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content/nudity
Result: Retained
Notes: Parent challenge.

Mama puso un huero: O como se hacen los ninos (Mommy Laid an Egg: or Where Do Babies Come From?)
Author: Cole, Babette
Synopsis: A comical story highlighting the birds and the bees, featuring Cole’s cartoonish illustrations.

School District: Amarillo ISD
Location: Amarillo
School(s) Involved: Humphreys Highland Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: Librarian-filed. “A committee was formed and decided that the book was not appropriate for young readers.”

Mara in the Morning
Author: Christiansen, C.B.
Synopsis: Mara and her mother share some quiet moments together in the early morning hours while the house is still quiet. For preschool and elementary readers.

School District: Boyd ISD
Location: Boyd
School(s) Involved: Boyd Elementary School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Decision pending
Notes: “The school has not received the forms required for a formal challenge.”

Memory Boy
Author: Weaver, Will
Synopsis: Set in the year 2008. Sixteen-year-old Miles discovers that the volcanic ash falling over his hometown of Minneapolis is affecting the whole country, which is thrown into chaos. Miles reveals his hidden mechanical skills, and uses his tools to build a vehicle in which the family can escape the city.

School District: Klein ISD
Location: Klein
School(s) Involved: Strack Intermediate
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 anger with God. Phoebe believes that if only Mick had worn a helmet, he would have survived the accident.

My Puppy Is Born
Author: Cole, Joanna
Synopsis: A new litter of Norfolk terriers makes life exciting for the little girl who lives next-door.

My Father’s Scar: A Novel
Author: Cart, Michael
Synopsis: A gay youth’s coming-of-age story, set in the early 1970s when he is a college freshman. Includes flashbacks to pivotal moments in the character’s adolescence, including his relationship with his father and first loves.

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 followed by a hit man, and must plead his case to a rapt nation via an interested talk radio show host.

Nightjohn
Author: Paulsen, Gary
Synopsis: An adult slave named Nightjohn teaches 12-year-old Sarny, also a slave, how to read – in spite of grim consequences (dismemberment) that could result if they are discovered.
Of Mice and Men
Author: Steinbeck, John
Synopsis: George Milton and Lennie Small are ranch hands who dream of one day owning a small farm. George acts as a father figure to simple-minded Lennie, calming him and helping to rein in his great physical strength. When Lennie accidentally kills the ranch owner’s flirtatious daughter-in-law, George shoots his friend rather than allow him to be captured by a vengeful lynch mob.

School District: Copperas Cove ISD
Location: Copperas Cove
School(s) Involved: Copperas Cove High School
Setting: Curriculum
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; violence/horror
Result: Alternate book allowed
Notes: None.

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. For his act of salvation, the analyst must pay with his life.

School District: Rains ISD
Location: Emory
School(s) Involved: Intermediate
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Violence/horror
Result: Use restricted
Notes: “As a result of the challenge, the consensus was to clearly label books according to interest level. The Intermediate Administration requested grades 4-5 students receive parental permission to check out upper-grade interest-level library materials.”

On the Edge: Stories at the Brink
Author: Duncan, Lois (editor)
Synopsis: Duncan, an award-winning author of more than 40 suspense thrillers for young adults, puts together a riveting collection of short stories by Gail Carson Levine, Alden Carter, and other esteemed writers.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity; sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss, and What I Learned
Author: Winick, Judd
Synopsis: Graphic novel tells the story of the author’s friendship with Zamora, an HIV-positive AIDS activist.

School District: Texas Youth Commission
Location: Crockett
School(s) Involved: Crockett State School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content; other/gang content
Result: Banned
Notes: All-male campus; caused classroom disruptions.

The Ox-Bow Incident
Author: Clark, Walter Van Tilburg
Synopsis: Set in 1885, and first published in 1940, Clark’s book tells the story of the lynching of three innocent men and the emotional tragedy that consequently ensues in a Western town.

School District: Seguin ISD
Location: Seguin
School(s) Involved: Vogel Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content
Result: Use restricted
Notes: “Marked for older students’ use only.”

The Period Book: Everything You Don’t Want to Ask (But Need to Know)
Author: Gravelle, Karen and Jennifer Gravelle
Synopsis: The author and her 15-year-old niece answer questions a young girl might have about her period, including what it feels like, how to choose pads and tampons, the physical, social and emotional changes that come with it, and to how to talk to your parents about it. Illustrations by Debbie Palen.

School District: Texas Youth Commission
Location: Crockett
School(s) Involved: Crockett State School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Banned
Notes: All-male campus. Caused classroom disruptions.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower
Author: Chbosky, Stephen
Synopsis: Story of a high school “wallflower,” told through letters of an introverted boy. Includes experiences with first dates and first loves, family, friends, sex drugs, and music.

School District: Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Location: Houston
School(s) Involved: Hamilton Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language
Result: Retained
Notes: Informal challenge; no paperwork.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

Peter Pan
Author: Barrie, J.M.
Synopsis: Wendy, John, and Michael Darling follow Peter Pan, the boy who never grows up, to a world where fairies live and children can fly. Includes encounters with mermaids, Indians, fairy dust, and Captain Hook.

School District: Carthage ISD
Location: Carthage
School(s) Involved: Libby Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Retained
Notes: “Illustrations of a mermaid with a bare chest. The 7.2 reading level book is seldom read by second- and third-graders.”

Plainsong
Author: Haruf, Kent
Synopsis: Story of a life in a small town in Colorado, including the trials and tribulations of a single father trying to raise his two sons, a pregnant teenager deserted by her boyfriend, and two elderly lifelong bachelors farming their old family homestead.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity; sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

Princess in the Spotlight
Author: Cabot, Meg
Synopsis: Continuing story of The Princess Diaries, accounts of the teenaged princess of Genovia. In this volume, Mia must deal with unexpected news from her mother and a secret admirer.

School District: Crandall ISD
Location: Crandall
School(s) Involved: L.F. Raynes Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other; sexual content
Result: Use restricted
Notes: “The parent challenged that the subject matter and sexual explicitness were inappropriate for a sixth-grader. The committee agreed the book is appropriate for only very mature, middle school-age students. Since the grade configuration is 6, 7, and 8, the book was restricted for check-out by sixth-graders.”
Psychological Disorders Related to Designer Drugs
Author: Connelly, Elizabeth
Synopsis: Examines the history, nature, effects, and dangers of drugs such as Ecstasy, PCP, fentanyl, and meperidine.

School District: Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Location: Houston
School(s) Involved: Thorton Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Retained
Notes: Detailed descriptions of drug use. Informative, age appropriate.

Psychological Effects of Cocaine and Crack Addiction
Author: Holmes, Ann E., Carol C. Nadelson and Claire E. Reinburg
Synopsis: Examines the problems associated with the use of crack and other forms of cocaine, focusing on the mental and psychological disorders that can occur.

School District: Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Location: Houston
School(s) Involved: Thorton Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Use restricted/in reference
Notes: “Explicit descriptions of drug use. Research-based; better uses are for teachers and individual student research projects.”

The Rag and Bone Shop
Author: Cormier, Robert
Synopsis: A young interrogator tries to prove a reclusive 12-year-old murdered his seven-year-old friend in Monument, Mass.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

A Rainbow of Gangs: Street Cultures in the Mega-City
Author: Vigil, James Diego
Synopsis: About youth “street culture” in current society.

School District: Texas Youth Commission
Location: San Saba
School(s) Involved: San Saba State School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Banned
Notes: Gang content.

Remember Me 2: The Return
Author: Pike, Christopher
Synopsis: The spirit of a murdered teenager returns in the body of another 18-year-old to keep the murderer from killing again.

School District: Amarillo ISD
Location: Amarillo
School(s) Involved: Bowie Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/inappropriate language; sexual content; violence/horror
Result: Retained
Notes: “Parent objection. Parents moved to another school and did not file a formal complaint.”

Saving Shiloh
Author: Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
Synopsis: Sixth-grader Marty and his family try to help their tough neighbor, Judd, change his mean ways, even though their West Virginia community considers Judd to be a terminal troublemaker.

School District: Carthage ISD
Location: Carthage
School(s) Involved: Libby Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language
Result: Retained
Notes: “This is the only book in the trilogy that has been challenged. Should another complaint transpire, alterations of the words will be made.”

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark
Author: Schwartz, Alvin
Synopsis: One of Schwartz’s popular books on American folklore, filled with 24 scary stories and songs. Includes skeletons, ghosts, and haunted houses. Illustrated.

School District: Humble ISD
Location: Humble
School(s) Involved: Maplebrook Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Violence/horror; other
Result: Retained
Notes: “Too frightening.”

Secret Sacrament
Author: Jordan, Sherryl
Synopsis: Award-winner Jordan’s fantasy novel about Gabriel, a young healer whose journeys involve both danger and personal sacrifice.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

Seek
Author: Fleischman, Paul
Synopsis: A high school senior uses the San Francisco radio airwaves to search for his missing father.

School District: Huntington ISD
Location: Huntington
School(s) Involved: Intermediate (grades 4-5)
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity; sexual content
Result: Banned
Notes: “Principal refused to follow written policy.”

Sexual Politics
Author: Millett, Kate
Synopsis: Feminist treatise regarding the oppression of women in literature, philosophy, psychology, and politics.

School District: Millsap ISD
Location: Millsap
School(s) Involved: High School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Use restricted
Notes: “The text was deemed inappropriate for high school students due to explicit descriptions of sexual acts. Book came in a ‘bundle’ and did not get screened prior to shelving.”

Shiloh
Author: Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
Synopsis: When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog’s real owner, who is unduly harsh to his dogs.

School District: Round Rock ISD
Location: Round Rock
School(s) Involved: Pond Springs Elementary
Setting: Library/curriculum
Reason Cited: Other/reference to Jesus
Result: Alternate book allowed
Notes: “The Jewish parent of a student objected to a reference to praying to Jesus. The student was given an alternate assignment.”

The Silver Kiss
Author: Klause, Annette Curtis
Synopsis: A mysterious teenage boy who harbors a secret helps a girl come to terms with her mother’s deadly illness.

School District: Mission CISD
Location: Mission
School(s) Involved: Mission, K. White, and Alton Memorial Junior High Schools
Setting: Curriculum
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Use restricted
Notes: “Age appropriateness of content material.”

Sinatra: A Life Remembered
Author: Irwin, Lew
**Synopsis:** A biographical book featuring photos and facts about the legendary crooner.

**School District:** Cypress-Fairbanks ISD  
**Location:** Houston  
**School(s) Involved:** Watkins Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/language  
**Result:** Retained  
**Notes:** “Informal challenge; no paperwork.”

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**Slave Day**  
**Author:** Thomas, Rob  
**Synopsis:** On “Slave Day,” student council members and some of the faculty at Robert E. Lee High School in Deerfield, Texas are “sold” to “masters” to raise money for charity. Shawn Greeley, the African-American student council president, is purchased by an African-American activist, who contends the event is racist and wants to teach Shawn and others a lesson. Other slave-master relationships take unusual and surprising turns, as a poor student buys an unpopular teacher, a female student buys a computer “geek,” and a cheerleader buys her athlete boyfriend. Written from the perspective of each of the main characters as they explore the issues of racism, feminism, and equality.

**School District:** Kountze ISD  
**Location:** Kountze  
**School(s) Involved:** Kountze Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/language; sexual content  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** None.

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**Sloppy Firsts**  
**Author:** McCafferty, Megan  
**Synopsis:** When her best friend moves away from their small New Jersey town, sensitive 16-year-old Jessica is distraught that the only person with whom she could really communicate has gone. Now she has to deal with the superficial girls at school, her family’s obsessions, and her lack of a love life all by herself.

**School District:** Barbers Hill ISD  
**Location:** Mont Belvieu  
**School(s) Involved:** Barbers Hill Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/inappropriate language; sexual content  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** None.

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**Slot Machine**  
**Author:** Lynch, Chris  
**Synopsis:** When overweight teenager Elvin is sent to a retreat, he and his two best friends try out different sports to see where they fit in.

**School District:** Liberty-Eylau ISD  
**Location:** Texarkana  
**School(s) Involved:** Liberty-Eylau Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/language  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** None.

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**Smart Mouth: Poetry & Prose**  
**Author:** WritersCorps Youth  
**Synopsis:** A collection of poetry and prose by inner-city youths.

**School District:** Graham ISD  
**Location:** Graham  
**School(s) Involved:** Graham Junior High  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/language  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** “Book moved up to high school library.”

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**Snow Falling on Cedars**  
**Author:** Guterson, David  
**Synopsis:** Focused on 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, dealing 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:** Hamilton ISD  
**Location:** Hamilton  
**School(s) Involved:** Hamilton High School  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/language; sexual content  
**Result:** Use restricted/alternate book allowed  
**Notes:** “Parents and students who found the book offensive were allowed to choose another book. Also, the teacher primarily focused on the segments of literary value, choosing to omit the sections containing profanity, inappropriate language, and sexual content. Campus principal formally challenged the book.”

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**Song for a Shadow**  
**Author:** MacKinnon, Bernie  
**Synopsis:** Being the son of a famous rock star creates a troubled family life for Aaron, who has to live in the shadow of his father’s fame and his mother’s mental illness.

**School District:** Pleasant Grove ISD  
**Location:** Texarkana  
**School(s) Involved:** Pleasant Grove Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity/language  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** None.

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**Stop Those Pants!**  
**Author:** Gerstein, Mordicai  
**Synopsis:** A young boy has trouble getting dressed one morning because his clothes have minds of their own.

**School District:** Boyd ISD  
**Location:** Boyd  
**School(s) Involved:** Boyd Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content  
**Result:** Decision pending  
**Notes:** None.

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**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:** Little Elm ISD  
**Location:** Little Elm  
**School(s) Involved:** Hackberry Elementary  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Other  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** “Inappropriate illustrations for elementary students.”

---

**The Story of the X-Men: How It All Began**  
**Author:** Teitelbaum, Michael  
**Synopsis:** This illustrated book introduces readers to the original team of X-Men and describes how Charles Xavier, a.k.a. Professor X, brought them together.

**School District:** North East ISD  
**Location:** San Antonio  
**School(s) Involved:** Hardy Oak Elementary  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content; violence/horror  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** “Book deemed inappropriate for the elementary level and sent to the middle school.”

---

**Stranger in a Strange Land**  
**Author:** Heinlein, Robert A.  
**Synopsis:** Science-fiction story of a man, raised on Mars by Martians, who arrives on Earth with no knowledge of its cultures or religions. He espouses a religion of free love and psychic intervention, which creates turmoil.

**School District:** South Texas ISD  
**Location:** Mercedes  
**School(s) Involved:** Science Academy  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content
Stuck in Neutral
Author: Trueman, Terry
Synopsis: Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel has cerebral palsy and cannot walk or talk. Unbeknownst to anyone, however, he also has excellent cognitive abilities and is well-adjusted and happy. Shawn discovers that his well-meaning father wants to kill him to end what he believes must be a tortured life because of Shawn’s physical disability. Told from Shawn’s perspective, the book raises issues of the meaning of freedom, life and death, and parental responsibility.
School District: Abilene ISD
Location: Abilene
School(s) Involved: Franklin Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content
Result: Retained
Notes: None.

That Was Then, This Is Now
Author: Hinton, S.E.
Synopsis: Sixteen-year-olds Mark and Bryon have been like brothers since childhood. As their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to gradually disintegrate.
School District: Big Spring ISD
Location: Big Spring
School(s) Involved: Marcy Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other/not suitable for age group
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale
Author: Black, Holly
Synopsis: Kaye Fierch, a hard-living, 16-year-old “Asian blonde” faerie, believes she’s human. After her rock-and-roll mom’s boyfriend threatens to kill her, Kaye returns to her childhood home in New Jersey with her mother, and discovers herself in the middle of a rivalry between two faerie kingdoms.
School District: Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Location: Houston
School(s) Involved: Langham Creek High School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language
Result: Retained
Notes: “Informal challenge; no paperwork.”

Tangerine
Author: Bloor, Edward
Synopsis: Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness, and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.
School District: Friendswood ISD
The Upstairs Room
Author: Reiss, Johanna
Synopsis: 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 in the upstairs room of a peasant Gentile family’s remote farmhouse. Honors include: 1973 Newberry Honor Book, Notable Children’s Books of 1971-1975 (ALA) and Outstanding Children’s Books of 1972 (New York Times), among many others.

School District: Midway ISD
Location: Waco
School(s) Involved: Spring Valley Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language
Result: Banned
Notes: “The book was removed from the library because of the strong language and story content: the treatment of Jewish people in Germany during World War II.”

Vampires
Author: Perry, Janet and Victor Gentle
Synopsis: A survey of the roles of vampires in legends, pop culture, and the arts.

School District: Waller ISD
Location: Waller
School(s) Involved: Fields Store Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Use restricted
Notes: “A mother … stated that she didn’t like the book and didn’t want [her child] to read it. Books with high (6.0 and above) reading levels and some books with more mature subject matter have purple dots. The librarian put a ‘purple dot’ on this book. Before being allowed to check out these books, students must have a letter of permission signed by their parent.”

Vatos
Author: Galvez, José and Luis Alberto Urrea
Synopsis: Collection of photographs and prose by and about Latino boys and men. Galvez has won the Pulitzer Prize.

School District: Granbury ISD
Location: Granbury
School(s) Involved: Acton Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Retained
Notes: “A teacher thought it encouraged Hispanic gangs. No formal challenge.”

The Well
Author: Taylor, Mildred D.
Synopsis: In this continuation of the Logan family saga, the father recounts an incident from his boyhood during the 1910 drought in Mississippi involving interracial relations and adolescent behavior.

School District: Newton ISD
Location: Newton
School(s) Involved: Newton Elementary School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language
Result: Retained
Notes: None.

What Happens When You Grow?
Author: Richardson, Joy
Synopsis: Describes how bodies grow, develop and change.

School District: Chisum ISD
Location: Paris
School(s) Involved: Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Use restricted
Notes: None.

What’s in a Name
Author: Wittlinger, Ellen
Synopsis: Ten teens each narrate a vignette involving a town war over the city’s name. Their stories intermingle with the teenage issues they face.
What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day
Author: Cleage, Pearl
Synopsis: Story of a woman who returns to her small hometown in Michigan, her lofty career dreams dashed by finding out she has tested positive for HIV. Being needed by family and friends, and falling in love, help save her from despair.

School District: Granbury ISD
Location: Granbury
School(s) Involved: Acton Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity/language
Result: Retained
Notes: “No formal challenge. Questioned by a parent.”

What My Mother Doesn’t Know
Author: Sones, Sonya
Synopsis: Teenage Sophie’s diaries, expressed as poems full of revelations about young love and lust, friendship, and family life.

School District: Abilene ISD
Location: Abilene
School(s) Involved: Franklin Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content
Result: Retained
Notes: None.

School District: Klein ISD
Location: Klein
School(s) Involved: Hildebrandt Intermediate
Setting: Not indicated
Reason Cited: Profanity/language; sexual content
Result: Decision pending
Notes: “Committee has yet to determine status.”

When Dad Killed Mom
Author: Lester, Julius
Synopsis: Narrated alternately by a sixth-grade boy and his eighth-grade sister, this story describes what two children experience when their father murders their mother.

School District: Leggett ISD
Location: Leggett
School(s) Involved: All
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity; sexual content
Result: Use restricted
Notes: None.

School District: Lueders-Avoca ISD
Location: Lueders
School(s) Involved: Lueders Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Profanity; violence/horror
Result: Banned
Notes: None.

Where Do You Think You’re Going, Christopher Columbus? (Video)
Author: Fritz, Jean

School District: Klein ISD
Location: Klein
School(s) Involved: Benfer Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Retained
Notes: “Illustrations in this video show Indians without clothes.”
The White Power Movement: America’s Racist Hate Groups
Author: Landau, Elaine
Synopsis: Book details origins and development of racist hate groups in the U.S., such as the Ku Klux Klan and skinheads. Examines the history of such groups, analyzing causes for the phenomenon of hatred and modern racist movements.

School District: Spring ISD
Location: Houston
School(s) Involved: Twin Creeks Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Other/content
Result: Use restricted. Books were placed behind the circulation desk for teachers to read, but not for student use.
Notes: “The parent has not requested reconsideration of instructional materials.”

Yolonda’s Genius
Author: Fenner, Carol
Synopsis: Yolonda is smart, tough, and big for her age. Her younger brother Andrew doesn’t talk very much, and has trouble learning to read, but creates beautiful music with the old harmonica their father left him. When bullies destroy Andrew’s cherished harmonica, it falls to Yolonda 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: Houston ISD
Location: Houston
School(s) Involved: Clinton Park Elementary
Setting: Curriculum
Reason Cited: Other
Result: Alternate book allowed
Notes: Parent challenged.

The Winner
Author: Baldacci, David
Synopsis: LuAnn Tyler is pretty and smart, but stuck in poverty and living with her abusive boyfriend. A stranger offers her the chance to win $100 million in the next lottery, and LuAnn ends up with her life in danger.

School District: Granbury ISD
Location: Granbury
School(s) Involved: Acton Middle School
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Sexual content; profanity/language; violence/horror
Result: Not indicated
Notes: Parent questioned whether the book was appropriate for seventh grade.

Zap! I’m a Mind Reader
Author: Greenburg, Dan
Synopsis: After a botched experiment involving electricity in science class shocks 10-year-old Zack, he discovers that he can read other people’s minds and hear their thoughts – which leads to chaos.

School District: Joshua ISD
Location: Joshua
School(s) Involved: North Joshua Elementary
Setting: Library
Reason Cited: Violence/horror
Result: Banned
Notes: “The book was scanned and it was concluded that an immature reader could get the wrong message while reading the book. Example: page 22, “… I love to kill. Can’t kill now. Wait till tomorrow. Kill tomorrow! …””

The Wish
Author: Levine, Gail Carson
Synopsis: A girl is granted one wish by an old lady to whom she gives up her seat on the subway. She chooses to be “the most popular kid” at her school, with unexpected results. Explores what it means to popular and to learn who your real friends are.

School District: Carthage ISD
Location: Carthage
School(s) Involved: Libby Elementary
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