



# **Free People Read Freely**

**An Annual Report on  
Banned and Challenged Books  
in Texas Public Schools  
2004-2005**

**September 25, 2005**



**Banned and Challenged Books  
in Texas Public Schools  
2004-2005**

A Report of the ACLU Foundation of Texas

*"Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us"*

Justice William O. Douglas

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

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

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

John Henry Faulk

This is the ninth consecutive annual report on censorship in Texas public schools by the ACLU of Texas. The information in the report is based on data furnished by 883 of the over 1200 Independent School Districts and Charter Schools in Texas (information requests were sent to all the districts and charter schools). The body of the report, which is indexed by book title, lists the book's author, the district or charter school in which the book was challenged, the city in which the district is located, the setting (library or curriculum), the reason for the challenge, the result of the challenge, and any additional remarks made by the person furnishing the report. A separate listing in the back of the report lists the challenged books by school district.

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## **Statistical Summary**

There were 88 challenges reported in 49 different school districts, plus an additional 13 challenges for which information is available only on the book title and author. A total of 84 books were challenged; four books received two challenges in separate school districts: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller (one challenge was for the performance of the play), *Detour for Emmy* by Marilyn Reynolds, *Forever* by Judy Blume, and *The Ultimate Spy Book* by H. Keith Melton. Reasons for book challenges were sorted into several categories (profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content, violence or horror, mysticism or paganism, and other), and more than one category could be chosen.

### **Reasons for Challenges – All Challenged Books\*:**

Profanity or inappropriate language – 40 challenges (45%)

Sexual content – 39 challenges (44%)

Violence or horror – 10 challenges (11%)

Mysticism or paganism – 6 challenges (7%)

Other – 22 challenges (25%); General concerns about age appropriateness (3 challenges; 3%) and alcohol/drug use (4 challenges; 5%) were cited several times under this heading.

### **Reasons for Challenges – Banned Books\*:**

Profanity or inappropriate language – 15 challenges (38%)

Sexual content – 18 challenges (46%)

Violence or horror – 3 challenges (8%)

Mysticism or paganism – 1 challenge (3%)

Other – 15 challenges (38%); none of the books challenged only for drug/alcohol use were banned

\*Percentages add up to more than 100 because of multiple reasons given per challenge.

The information forms listed several choices for result of challenge: banned (removed from library), use restricted, alternate book allowed, content changed or deleted, retained, and decision pending. Some school districts banned books from certain campuses due to concerns over grade level, but made no mention of whether the book was available at other grades. Other schools transferred the book from one campus to another. All books that were removed from libraries are categorized for purposes of this report as banned; however, if the person furnishing the report indicated that the book was available at other campuses, this information appears in the synopsis.

### **Results of Challenges:**

Book was banned/removed from library: 39 books (44%)

Book was retained without restrictions: 29 books (32%)

Use of the book was restricted: 11 books (13%)

Alternate book was allowed (curriculum only): 10 books (11.3%)

Content changed/deleted: 1 book (1%)

## **How the Report Was Compiled**

Using a database made available to the public by the Texas Education Agency, requests for information were mailed to all Independent School Districts and Charter Schools in Texas. The request for information about banned and challenged books was made under the authority of the Texas Public Information Act, Texas Government Code Ch.552 (commonly known as the Open Records Act). State law requires that public entities make available records requested within ten business days.

In order to facilitate the process of providing requested information, a specific list of requests was included, and a form was provided which, if completed, provided all necessary data. Schools could also opt to fill out an on-line form and submit information electronically.

## **Acknowledgements**

School librarians and administrators, for the most part, were supportive in contributing to this report and are due thanks from students and others in the communities they serve as well as from the volunteers who worked on this report. Often pressured by individuals and special interest groups to restrict access to books according to their personal belief systems, school officials largely do an excellent job in preserving broad access to library materials.

The data in this report was obtained and the report itself compiled by a group of volunteers and was funded and supported by the ACLU of Texas.

### **ACLU Foundation of Texas Banned Books Committee**

Susan Cannon, *Project Director*

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*Special Thanks:* Lauri Apple, Maida Asofsky, Laura Bellows, James Canup, Arturo Castellanos, Maria Carminati, Kelsey Israel-Trummel, Dhawal Sharma, Jarren Wenderlein

### **ACLU Foundation of Texas Board of Directors**

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# BANNED BOOKS IN TEXAS SCHOOLS

2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR

- Akira, Volume Two* by Katsuhiko Otomo
- Black Talk* by Geneva Smitherman
- Blister* by Susan Shreve
- Boy Gets Girl: A Play* by Rebecca Gilman
- Changing Bodies, Changing Lives* by Ruth Bell
- City Lights, Pocket Poets Anthology* by Lawrence Ferlinghetti
- Crosses* by Shelley Stoehr
- Cults* by Karen Zeinert
- Detour for Emmy* by Marilyn Reynolds
- Dunk* by David Lubar
- Fear Nothing* by Dean Koontz
- Forever* by Judy Blume (2 instances)
- Gangs (Opposing Viewpoints Digests Ser.)* by Gail B. Stewart (editor)
- Gingerbread* by Rachel Cohn
- Give a Boy a Gun* by Todd Strasser
- Gossip Girl* by Cecily Von Ziegesar
- Hearts in Atlantis* by Stephen King
- Highs! Over 150 Ways to Feel Really Good Without Alcohol or Drugs* by Alex J. Packer
- Life is Funny* by E.R. Frank
- Love and Other Four-Letter Words* by Carolyn Mackler
- Mick Harte was Here* by Barbara Park
- Night Riding* by Katherine Martin
- The Period Book: Everything You Don't Want to Ask (But Need to Know)* by Karen and Jennifer Gravelle
- Pornography: Opposing Viewpoints* by Helen Cochran (editor)
- The Princess Diaries* by Meg Cabot
- The Queen of Everything* by Deb Caletti
- Revolutionary Voices* by Amy Sonnie
- Safe at Second* by Scott Johnson
- Sex Education* by Tamara L. Roleff (editor)
- Shakespeare Bats Cleanup* by Ron Koertge
- Shutterbug Follies* by Jason Little
- Sloppy Firsts* by Megan McCafferty
- Suicide: Opposing Viewpoints* by Michael D. Biskup, Carol Wekesser (editors)
- Trauma-Rama: Life's Embarrassing Moments ... and How to Deal* by Megan Stine
- The Trench* by Steve Alte
- The Ultimate Spy Book* by H. Keith Melton
- Working Together Against Gang Violence* by Margi Trapani
- You Wouldn't Want to Be a Pirate's Prisoner* by John Malam

# Banned and Challenged Book Synopses

[Quotations in "Notes" are taken from forms completed by ISD staff.]

## Age of Bronze: A Thousand Ships

**Author:** Shanower, Eric

**Synopsis:** When a lustful Trojan prince abducts the beautiful Queen Helen of Sparta, Helen's husband vows to recover her no matter the cost - so begins the Trojan War. Featuring the greatest of the Greek heroes, Age Of Bronze: A Thousand Ships reveals hidden secrets of the characters' pasts, serving up joy and sorrow, leading up to the brink of war, and foreshadowing the terror to come.

**Awards:** 2001 Will Eisner Comics Industry Award for Best Writer/Artist

**School District:** Killeen ISD

**Location:** Killeen

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence or horror

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** Student objected to the violent content, was given the paperwork to file a formal challenge, but did not file a complaint.

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## Akira, Volume 2

**Author:** Otomo, Katsuhiro

**Synopsis:** In the year 2030, in the city of New-Tokyo, one man named Tetsuo attempts to confront the horrific telekinetic being living far below the city, known as Akira. Tetsuo's friends try to stop him before he stirs up trouble with Akira or becomes too powerful for his own good.

**School District:** Plano ISD

**Location:** Plano

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

**Setting:** Library

**Notes:** The book was "challenged as inappropriate for middle school readers based on explicit language, gratuitous violence in plot and illustrations, and sexually explicit graphics. Reconsideration committee upheld the challenge for middle school."

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## 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:** Houser Elementary

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Not age appropriate

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Houser was an intermediate school; it is now an elementary school and the book was left in circulation by mistake. It is now in the custody of the librarian and students can check it out with parental permission.

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## Alice the Brave

**Author:** Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

**Synopsis:** The seventh in a series of comedic novels about the adolescent Alice McKinley, this volume recounts the summer before eighth grade for Alice and her friends as they face the challenges of family life, romance, and learning to swim.

**School District:** Mesquite ISD  
**Location:** Mesquite  
**School(s) Involved:** Pirrung Elementary  
**Setting:** Classroom library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** Removed from classroom collection after committee review due to parent request for removal

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## **The Bad Beginning (A Series of Unfortunate Events, Book One)**

**Author:** Snicket, Lemony  
Tales of the three orphaned Baudelaire children and their misadventures with their greedy guardian, Count Olaf, who wants their family fortune. The author uses formal, Latinate language and extensive commentary to make the frightening story humorous. Continuing series.  
**Awards:** Colorado Children's Book Award, Nevada Young Readers Award

**School District:** Gregory-Portland ISD  
**Location:** Portland  
**School(s) Involved:** T.M. Clark Elementary  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism  
**Result:** Retained  
**Notes:** Child was allowed to read alternate selection.

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## **Beyond the Burning Time**

**Author:** Lasky, Kathryn  
**Synopsis:** When, in the winter of 1691, accusations of witchcraft surface in her small New England village, 12-year-old Mary Chase fights to save her mother from execution. Mary's awareness grows and she feels increased responsibility for her family's safety against themes of hate, greed, visible and invisible worlds, theocracy and family love.

**Awards:** American Library Association (ALA) Best Book for Young Adults (1995)  
**School District:** Killeen ISD  
**Location:** Killeen  
**School(s) Involved:** Eastern Hills Middle School  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content  
**Result:** Alternate book allowed  
**Notes:** In an eighth-grade English class, "parent objected but did not read the book. Teacher agreed with alternate book choice."

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## **Black Talk: Words and Phrases from the Hood to Amen Corner**

**Author:** Smitherman, Geneva  
**Synopsis:** This dictionary of black languages contains hundreds of entries that focus on current usage of words in African-American culture as well as a section on the debate over Ebonics and a history of the speech of African-Americans.

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission  
**Location:** Corsicana  
**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Inappropriate Language  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** Objection was that "some of the terms could be used to create racial tension among the population we serve;" Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

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## **Blister**

**Author:** Shreve, Susan  
**Synopsis:** After her sister is stillborn, Alyssa's heartbroken family moves to a cramped apartment, and then her father announces that

he's leaving. Attempting to cope with loss, isolation, and abandonment, Alyssa adopts a new name for herself: "Blister." While she's deeply troubled by life's uncertainties and human weakness, Alyssa takes guidance from a perceptive grandmother and ultimately learns the strength and resilience of the human heart.

**School District:** Waxahachie ISD

**Location:** Waxahachie

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "The challenge was made by a parent because of the sexual content they felt the book contained." Principal removed book without formal challenge request.

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## Boy Gets Girl: A Play

**Author:** Gilman, Rebecca

**Synopsis:** After a blind date, a woman magazine reporter in New York finds herself the object of a jilted stalker's obsession.

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission

**Location:** Corsicana

**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** "Not consistent with the educational goals of the State and TYC"

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Objection was that "the inappropriate language and ideas might be misunderstood by our population;" Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

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## Brave New World

**Author:** Huxley, Aldous

**Synopsis:** Huxley's vision of the future in his astonishing 1931 novel includes a world of tomorrow in which capitalist civilization has

been reconstituted through the most efficient scientific and psychological engineering, where the people are genetically designed to be passive and consistently useful to the ruling class.

**School District:** South Texas ISD

**Location:** Mercedes

**School(s) Involved:** Science Academy of South Texas

**Setting:** Curriculum - required summer reading program

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**Notes:** Book challenged by two different parents. One objected to the sexual content, the other cited excerpts of the book with commentary.

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## Changing Bodies, Changing Lives

**Author:** Bell, Ruth

**Synopsis:** An ambitious, encyclopedic work seeking to cover virtually all of the sexual and emotional changes that characterize the teenage years. Illustrated with cartoons, photographs, and line drawings, and includes illuminating quotations from interviews with dozens of teens.

**Awards:** New York Public Library's Book for the Teen Age

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission

**Location:** Corsicana

**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** "Not consistent with the educational goals of the State and TYC"

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Objection was that "because of the descriptive pictures and the detailed information, our population's disturbances might be misunderstood and cause severe



acting out;" the Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

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## The Chocolate War

**Author:** Cormier, Robert

**Synopsis:** One student's principled refusal to sell chocolate during a school fundraiser becomes the unlikely spark that lights a powder keg. The inhumanity of mob mentality in a school setting is explored, and an idealistic conclusion proves thought-provoking. "Masterfully structured and rich in theme; the action is well crafted, well timed, suspenseful." —The New York Times Book Review

**Awards:** 1991 ALA Margaret A. Edwards Lifetime Achievement Award - *The Chocolate War* was one of three books cited as the basis for the award

**School District:** Idalou ISD

**Location:** Idalou

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

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content

**Result:** Use restricted

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## City Lights, Pocket Poets Anthology

**Author:** Ferlinghetti, Lawrence (editor)

**Synopsis:** Drawing from the 52 volumes published in the Pocket Poets series since 1956, this selection provides a handy sampler of many of the prominent avant-garde and leftist poets of the post-WWII era. Included are poems from Beat staples such as Allen Ginsberg, Kenneth Patchen, Jack Kerouac, and Ferlinghetti himself. The anthology also demonstrates, however, the beyond-Beat breadth of the series, with works from William Carlos Williams, Robert Bly, Frank O'Hara, Denise Levertov, and others.

**Awards:** American Association of Publisher's Curtis Benjamin Award for Creative Publishing

**School District:** Irving ISD

**Location:** Irving

**School(s) Involved:** Lorenzo de Zavala Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Inappropriate language

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** The book was considered "not appropriate for students" and was removed from the shelf without a formal meeting.

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## Crazy Lady

**Author:** Conly, Jane Leslie

**Synopsis:** A lonely, struggling junior high student, still coping with the recent sudden loss of his mother, befriends alcoholic Maxine and her son with mental retardation and finds new purpose and meaning in life.

**Awards:** 1994 Newbery Honor Book

**School District:** Alief ISD

**Location:** Houston

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** Parent objected to "swearing, specifically 'taking the name of the Lord thy God in vain,'" spoke with the Assistant to the Superintendent, but never followed through with a formal challenge.

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## Crosses

**Author:** Stoehr, Shelley

**Synopsis:** Nancy doesn't have a best friend, until she meets Katie in the bathroom at school. Unhappy at home, due to an alcoholic, abusive environment, Nancy and her friend Katie adopt punk lifestyles and find

relief in cutting themselves until Nancy is forced to confront her problems.

**Awards:** ALA "Recommended Book for Reluctant Young Readers;" ALA "Best Book;" and YALSA "Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, 1999

**School District:** Industrial ISD

**Location:** Vanderbilt

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content, violence or horror

**Result:** Banned

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## The Crucible

**Author:** Miller, Arthur

**Synopsis:** Written during the "McCarthyism" of the 1950's, Miller's play generally follows the true story of the Salem Witch Trials from 1692 Massachusetts wherein over 19 individuals were tried and hung for witchcraft. Commentators often draw parallels between the events.

**Awards:** 1953 Tony Award for Outstanding Play

**School District:** Nederland ISD

**Location:** Nederland

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

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Mysticism or paganism

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

## CHALLENGE - PERFORMANCE

**School District:** Fort Davis ISD

**Location:** Fort Davis

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

**Setting:** Performance for UIL One Act Play competition

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, mysticism or paganism

**Result:** Content changed or deleted

**Notes:** Due to nature of competition, the play had to be cut; play was performed "without

inappropriate language per local community standards."

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## Cults

**Author:** Zeinert, Karen

**Synopsis:** Zeinert describes many cults, giving an overview of their history, beliefs, characteristics, and the role each plays in American culture.

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission

**Location:** Corsicana

**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** "Not consistent with the educational goals of the State and TYC"

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Objection was that "students could misunderstand the works of the author and act (negatively) on the information received;" Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

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## Danger: Cocaine

**Author:** Chier, Ruth

**Synopsis:** Describes how cocaine is made and the dangers of using it.

**School District:** Harlandale ISD

**Location:** San Antonio

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Drug references and photos of drug usage

**Result:** Retained

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## The Dare

**Author:** Stine, R.L.

**Synopsis:** Story by prolific youth horror writer ("Goosebumps" series) involving a young teenage girl with a crush on a rich,

popular classmate who dares her to kill one of their teachers.

**School District:** Liberty Hill ISD

**Location:** Liberty Hill

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Violence or horror

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** No formal challenge was made; a teacher requested review of the book.

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## A Day No Pigs Would Die

**Author:** Peck, Robert Newton

**Synopsis:** To a 13-year-old Vermont farm boy whose father slaughters pigs for a living, maturity comes early as he learns "doing what's got to be done," especially regarding his pet pig who cannot produce a litter.

**Awards:** Association for Childhood Education International Books for Children Bibliography; Colorado Children's Book Award; Library of Congress Children's Books of the Year; ALA Best Books for Young Adults; 1973 School Library Journal Best Books of the Year.

**School District:** Longview ISD

**Location:** Longview

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

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**Notes:** "Parent requested that this book be removed from 9th grade reading list because of profanity and scene involving pig breeding. Alternate titles were already available. Committee reiterated that this was only one of several available titles. This particular book is used to show aspects of American culture that are dissimilar to East Texas (i.e., Shaker religion and rural farm life).

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## Detour for Emmy

**Author:** Reynolds, Marilyn

**Synopsis:** The rising star of her eighth grade class, Emmy enjoys the best that teen-age life has to offer. Ninth grade, however, offers her some adult choices, and adult responsibilities as a result. A whirlwind romance leads to pregnancy and a host of life-changing crossroads.

**Awards:** 1996 South Carolina Young Adult Book Award

### TWO CHALLENGES

**School District:** Liberty-Eylau ISD

**Location:** Texarkana

**School(s) Involved:** Liberty-Eylau Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**School District:** Seguin ISD

**Location:** Seguin

**School(s) Involved:** A.J. Briesemeister Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** Verbal challenge was made, but no formal challenge was filed.

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## Dunk

**Author:** Lubar, David

**Synopsis:** Soon-to-be-11th-grader Chad encounters an insult-spewing clown on the New Jersey shore who, as strange as it may seem, helps Chad face many of the difficult circumstances besetting the teenager. While Chad is generally ignored, dismissed, or belittled by those around him, this "Bozo" receives society's embrace, and Chad yearns for that sense of belonging. Learning the difference between being "laughed at" and

“laughing with,” Chad overcomes many of his life challenges, especially the absence of his irresponsible father.

**School District:** Joshua ISD

**Location:** Joshua

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** “Content inappropriate for grades pre-K-6”

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## Fear Nothing

**Author:** Koontz, Dean

**Synopsis:** Christopher Snow – an orphan with a rare medical condition forcing him to avoid virtually all light – and his faithful beer-guzzling dog are pitted against an out-of-control genetic engineering laboratory and a shadowy, murderous nemesis.

**Awards:** 1998 Bram Stoker Award Nominee

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission

**Location:** Corsicana

**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** “Not consistent with the educational goals of the State and TYC”

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Objection was that “student may display more violent and criminal tendencies;” Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

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## Forever

**Author:** Blume, Judy

**Synopsis:** A teenager falls in love for the first time and loses her virginity; when her boyfriend goes away for the summer, she begins to fall for someone else and to question the nature of love.

**Awards:** 1996 Margaret A. Edwards Award, particularly recognizing the book *Forever*

## TWO CHALLENGES:

**School District:** Chisum ISD

**Location:** Paris

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Banned at middle school level; transferred to high school campus

**School District:** Pasadena ISD

**Location:** Pasadena

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** At the building and district level, the decision was made to restrict the book to high school only; at the final level of appeal, the superintendent banned the book.

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## Forgotten Fire

**Author:** Bagdasarian, Adam

**Synopsis:** The horrors of the Armenian genocide are recounted as experienced by a 12-year-old boy who loses his family; the author based the novel on his great-uncle’s recollections of his life in Turkey.

**Awards:** 2000 National Book Award – Young People’s Literature Nominee

**School District:** Round Rock ISD

**Location:** Round Rock

**School(s) Involved:** Anderson Mill Elementary

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content, violence or horror

**Result:** Use restricted; transferred to middle school

**Notes:** Elementary school students can request the book; school district has

interlibrary loan system and web-based catalog.

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## **Gangs (Opposing Viewpoints Digests Ser.)**

**Author:** Stewart, Gail B. (Editor)

**Synopsis:** Through four interviews with teenagers 16-20 years of age, Stewart explores the seriousness of gangs in America, the factors that lead to joining gangs, and the lifestyle that is stereotypically associated with gangs.

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission

**Location:** Corsicana

**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** "Not consistent with the educational goals of the State and TYC"

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Objection was that students might act out the described behaviors and "some gang related behaviors could surface;" Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

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## **A Gathering of Old Men**

**Author:** Gaines, Ernest J.

**Synopsis:** Elderly black men form an alliance to resist racial discrimination in the 1970s on a Louisiana sugarcane plantation.

**School District:** Longview ISD

**Location:** Longview

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

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**Notes:** "Parent requested that this book be removed from 9th grade summer AP reading list because of profanity and racially

disparaging remarks. Alternative titles were already available, but committee also moved [book] to 10th grade list. Complex structure, including multiple viewpoints, is valuable for supplementing the literacy base of a college-bound student."

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## **Gingerbread**

**Author:** Cohn, Rachel

**Synopsis:** Told from the perspective of a privileged, rebellious 16-year-old girl who is kicked out of boarding school on the West Coast (where she is based with her perfectionist mother and distant stepfather) and sent to live with her unknown biological father in New York City. Cyd learns to appreciate both cultures and both families, including her gay half-brother, and finally tells her mother about her secret abortion.

**Awards:** Best Book of the Year 2002 selection by Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, Barnes & Noble and The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

**School District:** Hallettsville ISD

**Location:** Hallettsville

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content

**Result:** Banned from junior high library; book transferred to high school library

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## **Give a Boy a Gun**

**Author:** Strasser, Todd

**Synopsis:** A challenging narrative told from many perspectives about a fictional high school shooting, similar to the Columbine disaster, that attempts to portray the many difficult and complex issues leading to school violence.

**Awards:** 2001 Rhode Island Teen Book Award

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission  
**Location:** Corsicana  
**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** "Does not support the curriculum"  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** Objection was that the book "could produce more violent and criminal behaviors;" Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

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## Go Ask Alice

**Author:** Anonymous  
**Synopsis:** Diary of teen angst by a 15-year-old girl struggling with addiction. After her friend spikes her drink with LSD, Alice begins to spin out of control and into addiction to help ease the pain of her lonely, angst-ridden teenage life. In print for over 25 years, the book offers a glimpse into the difficulties of being a teenager and the dangers of addiction.

**School District:** Burleson ISD  
**Location:** Burleson  
**School(s) Involved:** Hughes Middle School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, "inappropriate subject matter, conflicting messages about drugs and sex"  
**Result:** Retained  
**Notes:** Decision made by committee of school board member, community member, protesting parent, school principal, school secretary, school librarian, and the head of the Reading Department.

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## The Gorillas in Gill Park

**Author:** Gordon, Amy  
**Synopsis:** Recommended for grades 4-7 by School Library Journal. Willy Wilson leaves his conventional and controlled life to go live

in the big city with his recently widowed Aunt Bridget, a somewhat unconventional costume designer, who more or less leaves Willy to his own devices (like shopping for his own food.) Here he discovers himself through his interactions with Gill Park. The park proves a magical place, where music played through loudspeakers provides a soundtrack for the park's visitors, a man lives in an extravagant tree house, the unathletic Willy becomes first baseman (and a good one at that), and an orphan girl lives a bohemian lifestyle with no rules and never having to go to school, but with quite a knack for drawing with chalk. When the eccentric millionaire who owns the park makes plans to sell it to a scheming and greedy real estate developer, the residents and shop owners in the area commence with a petition drive to try to save the park. Willy thwarts the developer's plans to turn the park into a shopping mall and saves the day. In the end, the orphan child gets to go to school and learn to read as she has always wanted, the park goes on providing pleasure to so many of the city's residents, and Willy discovers he has a personality.

**School District:** Keller ISD  
**Location:** Keller  
**School(s) Involved:** Willis Lane Elementary School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Language  
**Result:** Retained

---

## Gossip Girl

**Author:** Von Ziegesar, Cecily  
**Synopsis:** Trio of uptown New York private school girls and their exploits with rock stars and various scandals.

**School District:** Elgin ISD  
**Location:** Elgin  
**School(s) Involved:** Elgin High School

**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** Decision made by interim superintendent and school board

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## Harry Potter

**Author:** Rowling, J.K.  
**Synopsis:** Mild-mannered Harry Potter spent the first 10 years of his life abused and ignored by an adoptive aunt and uncle who loathe him. However, as it turns out, young Harry comes from a line of wizards and has tremendous potential as a wizard himself. The arrival of a mysterious letter leads to Harry's matriculation at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and the adventures begin. The series consists of six volumes so far; the report did not specify a particular book out of the series.

**School District:** Fort Hancock ISD  
**Location:** Fort Hancock  
**School(s) Involved:** Fort Hancock schools  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism or paganism  
**Result:** Alternate book allowed

---

## Hearts in Atlantis

**Author:** King, Stephen  
**Synopsis:** This collection of five short stories deals with the generation growing up in the 1960s with the Vietnam War as the backdrop and its loss of innocence.

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission  
**Location:** Corsicana  
**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** "Offers no educational significance"  
**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Objection was that the book "could possibly have a negative influence on some of our youth;" Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

---

## Highs! Over 150 Ways to Feel Really Good without Alcohol or Drugs

**Author:** Packer, Alex J.  
**Synopsis:** By the author of How Rude! The Teenagers' Guide to Good Manners, Proper Behavior and Not Grossing People Out, this volume deals with alternatives to drug and alcohol use for young people. Includes discussions of stress reduction, breathing exercises, meditation, and how to do creative experiments to stimulate and entertain young people without the use of artificial stimulants. Text boxes and charts provide additional information and perspectives.

**School District:** Mount Enterprise ISD  
**Location:** Mount Enterprise  
**School(s) Involved:** Elementary, Junior High  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism or paganism, other  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** "Links to web sites on pg. 181 in book were cited as places children do not need to go to."

---

## The Hunting of the Last Dragon

**Author:** Jordan, Sherryl  
**Synopsis:** Set in an imaginary 14th-century England, a British peasant boy whose village has been destroyed and a Chinese orphan girl (really a young Chinese noblewoman) being exhibited as a "freak" in a traveling carnival set out to kill a dragon and save the countryside. A relationship develops between the boy and girl.

**School District:** Northside ISD  
**Location:** San Antonio  
**School(s) Involved:** Elementary Schools  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Sexual content, violence  
**Result:** Retained  
**Notes:** "Committee members all liked the book and agreed that the book should be read within the context of the story as it is applicable to the history, culture, time and setting."

---

## It's Not the End of the World

**Author:** Blume, Judy  
**Synopsis:** When her parents divorce, Karen, a sixth-grader, struggles to understand that sometimes people you love are unable to live together.

**School District:** Longview ISD  
**Location:** Longview  
**School(s) Involved:** Bramlette Elementary  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language  
**Result:** Alternate book allowed in curriculum; book retained in library  
**Notes:** Parent requested that book be removed from Accelerated Reader program and from library "because of the subject matter (divorce) and profanity. Committee removed from AR curriculum but retained for library use, feeling that the book presents a realistic perspective of divorce from a child's point of view. The few instances of profanity were appropriate in the context of adult conversation."

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## Journals

**Author:** Cobain, Kurt  
**Synopsis:** Kurt Cobain, the front man of Nirvana, kept notes in over twenty notebooks on his thoughts on music, the band, fame, and the people who bought his albums; these

notebooks were compiled into a journal after his death.

**School District:** Erath Excels! Academy  
**Location:** Stephenville  
**School(s) Involved:** Erath Excels! Academy  
**Setting:** Curriculum  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** Parental permission slips required before book was taught

---

## Life is Funny

**Author:** Frank, E.R.  
**Synopsis:** The lives of eleven Brooklyn teenagers from varying ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds are intertwined, forming vignettes that bring to life the struggles of each character, such as abuse, absent parents, or an unwanted pregnancy. The depiction of inner-city teenage life is realistic, bringing forth teenage struggles and triumphs.

**School District:** Austin ISD  
**Location:** Austin  
**School(s) Involved:** All Middle Schools  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content  
**Result:** Banned from middle school libraries; Use restricted to high school libraries  
**Notes:** A committee of teachers, parent, librarian and counselor "believed the book to be more appropriate for older, more mature audiences" and that it should not be "on circulating shelves of middle school libraries."

---

## Like Jake and Me

**Author:** Jukes, Mavis  
**Synopsis:** An uplifting tale celebrating the coming together of a boy and his new stepfather. Initially timid, the boy, Alex,



develops self-confidence and camaraderie with his rugged cowboy stepfather when he “rescues” him from a wolf-spider. Full-page pastel illustrations complement the story.

**Awards:** Newberry Honor Book

**School District:** D.R.A.W. Academy

**Location:** Houston

**School(s) Involved:** D.R.A.W. Academy

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Restricted to grades 5-8; the book contains “pictures of a stepfather and stepson partially nude (except a cowboy hat) trying to free a spider.”

---

## Lizard

**Author:** Covington, Dennis

**Synopsis:** Lucius Sims is sent to a special school for children with mental retardation because of his unusual features that make him look like a lizard. A shoe salesman helps him escape by claiming to be his father, and adventure follows.

**School District:** Mansfield ISD

**Location:** Mansfield

**School(s) Involved:** T.A. Howard Middle School

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** “The committee found that, since the overall purpose of the book was to demonstrate how someone who has a physical deformity can overcome extremely difficult obstacles while maintaining a positive sense of self, the book should remain on the library shelves.”

---

## Love and Other Four-Letter Words

**Author:** Mackler, Carolyn

**Synopsis:** Upon her parents’ split, sixteen-year-old Samantha Davis must move to Manhattan, where she struggles with the changes in her location, her parents, and herself.

**School District:** Waxahachie ISD

**Location:** Waxahachie

**School(s) Involved:** Waxahachie Ninth Grade Academy

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** “The challenge was made by a parent who felt the book contained instructions on performing sexual acts.” Principal removed book without formal challenge request.

---

## Love Hina (Book 12)

**Author:** Akamatsu, Ken

**Synopsis:** Number 12 in series of anime novels. Naru struggles with her love for Keitaro. Keitaro’s sister, Kanoko, is willing to fight Naru for her brother’s love and attention, and with the help of a magical spell, Naru finds herself faced with a terrible backlash every time she gets in the way of the siblings’ relationship. Kanoko and Naru take on the form of each other, further confusing Kanoko and each other. Lots of girls fighting over boys in towels and lingerie.

**School District:** Corpus Christi ISD

**Location:** Corpus Christi

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexually suggestive graphics

**Result:** Retained

---

## Making the Run

**Author:** Henson, Heather

**Synopsis:** A high-school senior in a small town, Lu McLellan turns to drugs, photography, and an older boyfriend to ease the pain she feels from her mother's death and the dreariness of her hometown.

**School District:** Cypress-Fairbanks ISD

**Location:** Houston

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** Challenged by parent

---

## Mick Harte Was Here

**Author:** Park, Barbara

**Synopsis:** A poignant and touching portrait of one family's attempt to regroup after losing one of its members: little Mick, age 12, who died in a terrible bicycle accident. While bicycle safety is the easy moral of the story, the book's strongest attribute is the quality of the writing, which captures in straightforward details the hope and humor that accompanies family life even in the midst of tragedy.

**School District:** Waxahachie ISD

**Location:** Waxahachie

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "The challenge was made by a parent that did not like the fact that the main character was angry with God." Principal removed book without formal challenge request.

---

## My Brother Sam is Dead

**Author:** Colliet, James and Chris

**Synopsis:** All his life, Tim Meeker has looked up to his brother Sam. Sam's smart and brave and is now a part of the American Revolution; not everyone in town wants to be a part of the rebellion. Most people are supporters of the British, including Tim and Sam's father. With the war soon raging, Tim knows he'll have to make a choice - between the Revolutionaries and the Redcoats . . . and between his brother and his father.

**Awards:** Newberry Honor book.

**School District:** Killeen ISD

**Location:** Killeen

**School(s) Involved:** Cedar Valley Elementary

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

---

## My Chimp Friday

**Author:** Mundis, Hester

**Synopsis:** When an old friend of her father's drops off an unusually intelligent chimpanzee at their apartment in the middle of the night with strict orders to keep the chimp a secret, 12-year-old Rachel wants to know what the big mystery is all about.

**Awards:** Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2005

**School District:** Humble ISD

**Location:** Kingwood

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained

---

## The Mystery of the Pirate Ghost

**Author:** Hayes, Geoffrey

**Synopsis:** Otto and his Uncle Tooth track down the pirate ghost terrorizing Boogle Bay in a “whodunit” for early readers. Illustrations.

**School District:** Plano ISD

**Location:** Plano

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** “Characters engaged in cigar smoking, pipe smoking, beer drinking”

**Result:** Retained

---

## Night Riding

**Author:** Martin, Katherine

**Synopsis:** Growing up in the 1950s, eleven-year-old Prin befriends her new neighbor, Mary Faith. Upon discovering that Mary Faith’s father beats her, Prin goes night riding to find out more information but consequently puts herself into a dangerous situation.

**School District:** Northside ISD

**Location:** San Antonio

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** “There were concerns about the appropriateness of the subject matter for middle school students.”

---

## Nothing but the Truth

**Author:** Avi

**Synopsis:** Story told through a series of journal entries, memos, letters, and dialogues. A ninth-grade boy hums during the national anthem rather than singing or staying silent and is disciplined for violating school policy. The situation soon spirals out of control, and

he and his family, his teacher, the school, and the local community are in the middle of a national event.

**School District:** New Braunfels ISD

**Location:** New Braunfels

**School(s) Involved:** Oak Run Sixth Grade Campus

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained

---

## The Period Book: Everything You Don’t Want to Ask (But Need to Know)

**Author:** Gravelle, Karen; Gravelle, Jennifer

**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 how to talk to your parents about it. Illustrations by Debbie Palen.

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission

**Location:** Corsicana

**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** “Does not meet high standards of quality in artistic quality and/or literary style”

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Objection was that “with our given population and the severity of their emotional disturbances this book could be misinterpreted and result in appropriate sexual” outcomes; Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

---

## **Pornography: Opposing Viewpoints**

**Author:** Cothran, Helen. (Editor)

**Synopsis:** Cothran explores whether pornography is harmful, whether it should be censored, and how it should be regulated.

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission

**Location:** Corsicana

**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** "Does not meet high standard of quality education significance"

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Objection was that the book was "not suitable reading materials for the population, because our students could possibly act out some of the things described;" Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

---

## **Prey**

**Author:** Crichton, Michael

**Synopsis:** High-tech thriller involving a man who discovers his wife works for a tech company that is developing self-replicating microscopic machines designed to serve the military, but which have now escaped into the environment intent on killing the scientists trapped in the plant.

**School District:** Hays Consolidated ISD

**Location:** Kyle

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** Challenger maintained that book "should be rated R", was "filthy" and "glorified garbage" and objected to the "use of the Lord's name in vain."

---

## **The Princess Diaries**

**Author:** Cabot, Meg

**Synopsis:** Average ninth-grader Mia finds her life turned upside down when it is revealed that her father, who always claimed merely to be a European politician, is in fact a bona fide prince. Finding that she is now a "princess," Mia is sent skittering on a comic rollercoaster ride into royalty.

**School District:** Joshua ISD

**Location:** Joshua

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "Content inappropriate for grades pre-K-6"

---

## **The Queen of Everything**

**Author:** Caletti, Deb

**Synopsis:** Jordan, a junior in high school, thinks she has found normalcy in living with her optometrist father (as opposed to her hippie mother), but her father begins an affair with a married woman, and the affair ends violently.

**School District:** Amarillo ISD

**Location:** Amarillo

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/inappropriate language; sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** The library director believed the material was too mature for an elementary school campus; the committee suggested the book could be used in high schools.

---

## Revolutionary Voices

**Author:** Sonnie, Amy

**Synopsis:** An impassioned multicultural compendium describing the fear, loneliness, and courage of gay youth coming to terms with their identity and overcoming prejudice.

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission

**Location:** Corsicana

**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** "Not consistent with the educational goals of the State and TYC"

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Objection was that the result of reading the book would be "inappropriate behavior by the students;" Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

---

## Rugrats Stormy Weather

**Author:** Wigand, Molly

**Synopsis:** The ever-popular Rugrat babies are excited, rather than scared, by the big storm coming their way.

**School District:** Donna ISD

**Location:** Donna

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** Parent concerned due to use of the word "stupid."

---

## Safe at Second

**Author:** Johnson, Scott

**Synopsis:** Rising star athlete Todd Bannister is a hot commodity. A rising star pitcher, he's in demand by all around him – talent scouts, recruiters, and fans. As his popularity rises,

his arrogance and insensitivity also rise, much to the chagrin of his best friend and ally, Paulie Lockwood. When a line drive strikes Bannister in the face and blinds one of his eyes, Lockwood stands by him, and Bannister learns important life lessons about friendship and the hubris of self-importance.

**School District:** Joshua ISD

**Location:** Joshua

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "This book has inappropriate language for children."

---

## Sex Education

**Author:** Roleff, Tamara L. (Editor)

**Synopsis:** This book presents different opinions in the sex education debate, addressing issues such as if sex education should be taught and how it should be taught. More in-depth topics include discussing gay parenting in a sex education setting.

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission

**Location:** Corsicana

**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** "Does not meet high standard of quality education significance"

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Objection was that the book "might confuse the readers with some of the controversial issues discussed;" Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

---

## Shakespeare Bats Cleanup

**Author:** Koertge, Ron

**Synopsis:** A coming-of-age tale told in accessible free verse, "Shakespeare" tells the story of 14-year-old Kevin Boland, obsessed with baseball, who discovers the joys of poetry while bed-ridden with mono. Poetry helps Kevin express his sports ambitions and his difficulty grappling with the recent death of his mother.

**School District:** Joshua ISD

**Location:** Joshua

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "This content is inappropriate for children."

---

## Shutterbug Follies

**Author:** Little, Jason

**Synopsis:** Bee, an amateur photographer and technician in a Manhattan one-hour photo lab, keeps a collection of interesting pictures she develops. One day, Bee develops pictures that seem to depict a murder, and she becomes a detective attempting to figure out what exactly happened.

**School District:** Lueders-Avoca ISD

**Location:** Lueders

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content

**Result:** Banned

---

## Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

**Author:** Brashares, Ann

**Synopsis:** Story of four young girlfriends who share a pair of thrift store pants (which mysteriously fit each of them despite their different shapes) during the course of a summer spent apart from one another.

**School District:** Carrollton-Farmers ISD

**Location:** Carrollton

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** Parent rescinded the challenge

---

## Sloppy Firsts

**Author:** McCafferty, Megan

**Synopsis:** Sixteen-year old Jessica Darling's best and only friend moves away, and she is left alone to finish high school among parents and peers to whom she cannot relate.

**School District:** Amarillo ISD

**Location:** Amarillo

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language; sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** The library director believed the material was too mature for an elementary school campus; the committee suggested the book could be used in high schools.

---

## So Far from the Bamboo Grove

**Author:** Watkins, Yoko Kawashima

**Synopsis:** Recommended for grades 6 and up by School Library Journal. True story about the author's childhood experience in Korea during World War II. Story follows a Japanese family stationed in North Korea as the war begins and they are forced to flee back home to war-ravaged Japan. The story offers a realistic account of the atrocities of war from the vantage point of a child civilian. As the

Communist Korean army begins their eradication of all Japanese in Korea, Yoko, her older sister, and their mother begin their treacherous journey south. Along the way, Korean and Russian soldiers threaten violence and rape. The family has little money, no food, no housing, and are forced to walk for days, disguised as Korean soldiers, in order to escape to the south. The two young girls learn to search for food scraps in trashcans. Those who are injured must wash cuts in urine for lack of water supplies. With strength of will and a little luck, the three make it back to Japan, only to find it destroyed and all their known relatives dead from American bombs. Not taking political sides, the book serves to recall the tragedies of war and show its lifelong effects on the people living in it.

**School District:** Corpus Christi ISD

**Location:** Corpus Christi

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

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content, violence/horror

**Result:** Alternate book allowed; parental permission required

---

## The Stand-Off

**Author:** Hogan, Chuck

**Synopsis:** This debut thriller from 26-year-old Hogan has created quite a buzz in the trades. An almost washed-up FBI agent, John Banish, has two talents: drinking and hostage negotiation. He has an opportunity for redemption in persuading a white-supremacist to release his wife and kids, held hostage in the Rockies. Surprise ending is a knock-out punch.

**School District:** Cypress-Fairbanks ISD

**Location:** Houston

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** Parent of student made verbal complaint, but no formal challenge.

---

## Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself

**Author:** Blume, Judy

**Synopsis:** Story of Sally J. Freedman, a 10-year old girl, that takes place in the winter of 1947-48 when her family moves to Miami Beach. Sally makes up stories, casts herself in starring roles in make-believe movies, and encounters a sinister stranger.

**School District:** McKinney ISD

**Location:** McKinney

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Retained

---

## Stones in Water

**Author:** Napoli, Donna Jo

**Synopsis:** Historical fiction from the World War II time period. A Venetian boy, Roberto, and two friends are rounded up by Nazi soldiers and sent out of Italy to work in labor camps. One boy is killed and Roberto escapes from the camp and undergoes a harrowing adventure of survival.

**School District:** Killeen ISD

**Location:** Killeen

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, violence or horror

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** "The parent filled out paperwork, read the book, and met with district

committee. After discussion, the book was retained with no restrictions.”

---

## 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 of South Texas

**Setting:** Curriculum - required summer reading program

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Alternate book allowed

**Notes:** Book challenged by two different parents. One objected to the sexual content, the other cited excerpts of the book with commentary.

---

## Suicide: Opposing Viewpoints

**Author:** Biskup, Michael D., Wekesser, Carol (Editors)

**Synopsis:** This book in the Opposing Viewpoints series deals with multiple aspects of suicide, including the right to suicide, causes of suicide, teen suicide, and assisted suicide. Both popular and unpopular opinions are presented, allowing the reader to gain an overall understanding of the issue and reach his/her own well-informed conclusions.

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission

**Location:** Corsicana

**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** “Not consistent with the educational goals of the State and TYC”

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Objection was the concern that reading the book would result in “students acting-out the behaviors described;” Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

---

## Taking Care of Your Dog

**Author:** Piers, Helen

**Synopsis:** This is a children’s guide to buying, training, feeding, and taking care of a puppy.

**School District:** Plano ISD

**Location:** Plano

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity/inappropriate language

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** Parent objected to the use of the term “bitch” in reference to a female dog; the committee kept the book on the shelf with no restrictions.

---

## Tell No One

**Author:** Coben, Harlan

**Synopsis:** Mystery novel about an adult man, David Beck, who has finally recovered from his wife's murder eight years earlier when he gets mysterious e-mails that appear to indicate she is still alive. Beck embarks on a quest to find the truth of the matter, while being chased by the police for his wife’s murder and being targeted by a powerful billionaire trying to frame Beck for the murder. His only ally is a black drug dealer whose child he is treating for hemophilia.

**School District:** Perryton ISD

**Location:** Perryton



**School(s) Involved:** Perryton Junior High  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content, violence or horror  
**Result:** Retained  
**Notes:** Committee voted to keep it on the shelf with no restrictions.

---

## **There's an Owl in the Shower**

**Author:** George, Jean Craighead  
**Synopsis:** Recommended for grades 3-5 by School Library Journal. Borden Watson is angry at the spotted owl. The little creature has put his daddy out of work. Borden's dad was a logger in the forests of the Pacific Northwest, but a judge ordered a halt to his company's clear-cutting of the old-growth forests until the Forest Service could do something about the impending depletion of the endangered spotted owls' habitat. "The government, it seemed to Borden, liked owls better than people." And he is not alone. The town he lives in is exploding with violence between the environmentalists and the loggers. So, Borden vows to shoot all the owls left in order to end the conflict and get his dad back to work. That is, until he meets Bardy, a baby spotted owl that has fallen from its nest. Borden takes the little owl home, and both he and his father bond with Bardy as they become surrogate owl parents. Through Bardy, they begin to see the dangers of clear-cutting the forest and the far-reaching effects it has on the environment.

**School District:** Corpus Christi ISD  
**Location:** Corpus Christi  
**School(s) Involved:** Windsor Park Elementary  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity  
**Result:** Retained

---

## **Too Old for This; Too Young for That!: Your Survival Guide for the Middle-School Years**

**Author:** Mosatche, Dr. Harriet S.; Unger, Karen  
**Synopsis:** A guide for children transitioning into adolescence that covers topics that range from the onset of puberty to self-esteem to time-management with humor, this book provides survival tips, additional resources, and activities for the reader.

**School District:** Mercedes ISD  
**Location:** Mercedes  
**School(s) Involved:** John F. Kennedy Elementary  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Graphic content; inappropriate for grade level  
**Result:** Use restricted  
**Notes:** Physical education coach took the book away from a student and gave it to the principal for review; the book is now in a professional collection for teacher use only.

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## **Trauma-rama: Life's Most Embarrassing Moments...and How to Deal**

**Author:** Stine, Megan  
**Synopsis:** This book, published by *Seventeen* magazine compiles the varied mortifying situations in which teenagers can sometimes find themselves and offers advice on how to deal with a range of "disastrous" scenarios.

**School District:** Waxahachie ISD  
**Location:** Waxahachie  
**School(s) Involved:** Waxahachie Ninth Grade Academy  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language, sexual content

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** "The challenge was made by a parent who was concerned with the book's 'R-rated' language and sexual content." Principal removed book without formal challenge request.

---

## The Trench

**Author:** Alten, Steve

**Synopsis:** Shark adventure sequel to *Meg*. Angel, the shark-baby of Meg from the first in the series, is being held in captivity for scientific observation. When she inevitably breaks loose, she begins a rampage of attacking tourists and wreaking havoc across the seas. While biologist Jonas Taylor is in pursuit of the shark, his wife is digging up dirt on the mysterious billionaire who owns the shark. She discovers an even more sinister plot, in which the owner is devising a scheme to provide nuclear fusion supplies for terrorists.

**School District:** Aldine ISD

**Location:** Houston

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Inappropriate for fifth-graders

**Result:** Banned from intermediate library; transferred to high school library

**Notes:** The book was intended for adults, and the current librarian had no idea why the book was in the collection. She did not purchase this book. The committee's decision was to remove the book and transfer it to a high school in the district.

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## Tyler on Prime Time

**Author:** Atinsky, Steve

**Synopsis:** Recommended for grades 5-8 by the School Library Journal. Twelve-year old Tyler dreams of being a star, and to his delight he is sent to live for the summer with his

uncle, a television producer in Hollywood. He learns all about life on the set in preparation for a big audition!

**School District:** Crandall ISD

**Location:** Crandall

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "Use of the book was restricted to the recommended grade level."

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## The Ultimate Spy Book

**Author:** Melton, H. Keith

**Synopsis:** Historian H. Keith Melton's exploration of 20<sup>th</sup>-century espionage, including the history of spying, famous spies, types of spies, and modern gadgets, weapons, and hardware. The last chapter includes information on "How to Be a Spy" and includes training and recruitment, covers, and other strategies. Illustrated.

**TWO CHALLENGES:**

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission

**Location:** Corsicana

**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** "Not consistent with the educational goals of the State and TYC"

**Result:** Banned

**Notes:** Objection was that the book "could possibly lead to more serious criminal behaviors;" Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

**School District:** Irving ISD

**Location:** Irving

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Nude statue of woman

**Result:** Retained

**Notes:** No formal meetings were held.

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## 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:** Judson ISD

**Location:** Universal City

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

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** Placed in an eighth grade reading section

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## Whale Talk

**Author:** Crutcher, Chris

**Synopsis:** T. J. Jones is black, Japanese, and white, and the son of a crack mother who abandoned him. He is now a successful small town high school senior with a loving adoptive family, but with an understanding of prejudice that sometimes fuels his anger. When the school football star bullies an innocent, he concocts and carries out a plan to seek revenge on the system by gathering a group of high school outcasts to form a winning swim team.

**School District:** Killeen ISD

**Location:** Killeen

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

**Setting:** Curriculum

**Reason Cited:** Profanity or inappropriate language

**Result:** Use restricted

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**Notes:** "Use of book was restricted by the principal."

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## When Plague Strikes: The Black Death, Smallpox, AIDS

**Author:** Giblin, James Cross

**Synopsis:** Book for young adults comparing and contrasting the bubonic plague in 14<sup>th</sup>-century Europe, various Smallpox epidemics around the world, and the current AIDS crisis, and the impact that misinformation, ignorance, and prejudice have had on how those diseases (and their victims) were/are portrayed and treated. Illustrations by David Frampton

**School District:** Grapevine-Colleyville ISD

**Location:** Grapevine

**School(s) Involved:** Bear Creek Elementary

**Setting:** Library

**Reason Cited:** Sexual content

**Result:** Use restricted

**Notes:** "Could stir up fears based on subject matter of plagues"; "the book was placed in a collection available only to teachers."

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## Whirligig

**Author:** Fleischman, Paul

**Synopsis:** Self-absorbed Brent gets drunk and tries to kill himself after the girl he's been lusting after snubs him. In a tragic twist of fate, Brent survives his reckless driving, but Lea, a beautiful and talented high-school senior dies instead. Wracked by guilt, Brent arranges through the court to meet the victim's parents, who make an unusual, but life-changing request. Brent is to travel to the four corners of America and set up four "whirligigs." In a magical turn of events, these windblown constructions impact the lives of others, who then achieve the kind of peace of fulfillment that Brent had lost, and Lea represented.

**School District:** McKinney ISD  
**Location:** McKinney  
**School(s) Involved:** Glen Oaks Elementary  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Theme - underage drinking  
**Result:** Retained

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## **The Witch Book: The Encyclopedia of Witchcraft, Wicca, and Neo-Paganism**

**Author:** Buckland, Raymond  
**Synopsis:** This collection, written by an elder in the Witchcraft movement, provides brief outlines on a wide variety of topics in modern Paganism.

**School District:** Cypress-Fairbanks ISD  
**Location:** Houston  
**School(s) Involved:** Cypress Ridge High School  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Mysticism or paganism  
**Result:** Retained  
**Notes:** Challenged by parent who was "opposed to subjects of phallic worship, fetish, art deemed pornographic"

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## **Working Together Against Gang Violence (The Community Participation Series)**

**Author:** Trapani, Margi  
**Synopsis:** This book provides advice for young people on how to take an active role in the struggle against gang violence as well as how to stand up to peer pressure and avoid situations with the potential for trouble

**School District:** Texas Youth Commission  
**Location:** Corsicana

**School(s) Involved:** Corsicana Residential Treatment Center  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** "Does not support the curriculum"  
**Result:** Banned  
**Notes:** Objection was that the book "could be viewed as a way of glorying gang violence and the contents could be misinterpreted;" Texas Youth Commission operates juvenile correctional facilities.

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## **You Wouldn't Want to Be a Pirate's Prisoner**

**Author:** Malam, John  
**Synopsis:** You are captain of a Spanish galleon. Suddenly, your ship is attacked by pirates. This illustrated children's book offers the gruesome details of what could occur once your life is in the hands of the pirates. Particularly violent illustrations of people being whipped, burned, and tortured. Explains the ins and outs of cruelty used on the high seas. Part of a series of "You Wouldn't Want to Be..." books.

**School District:** Keller ISD  
**Location:** Keller  
**School(s) Involved:** Woodland Springs Elementary  
**Setting:** Library  
**Reason Cited:** Violent content, especially illustrations  
**Result:** Banned from elementary school library; transferred to library of feeder school for grades 5-6

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*The following books were challenged in Texas schools during the 2004-2005 school year; school information and the results of any challenges are unavailable:*

## **Alligators in the Sewer and 222 Other Urban Legends**

**Author:** Craughwell, Thomas J.

**Synopsis:** We've all heard them – urban legends about aliens landing in Roswell, Elvis sightings from beyond the grave, a man found naked at his own surprise party, tales of stolen kidneys and other medical mishaps, and of course, alligators roaming city sewer lines. This book collects many of the better-known myths, and dozens of lesser-known gems.

## Bumps in the Night

**Author:** Allard, Harry

**Synopsis:** When he discovers his house is haunted, Dudley Stork enlists the help of his friends to find out what is causing the spooky noises. This is an amusing adventure tale.

## The Cat in the Dryer and 222 Other Urban Legends

**Author:** Craughwell, Thomas J.

**Synopsis:** Collection of urban legends including celebrity rumors, scams, pranks, hoaxes, and scary stories. Special section dedicated to what the author calls a new kind of urban legend, the patriotic urban legend, which grew after the events of September 11. "In these stories, Americans strike a blow – in nonviolent ways – against those whose sympathies lie with the terrorists rather than the victims." According to the legends that follow, those people "whose sympathies lie with the terrorists" are Arabs and "leftists." In one legend, the "Bud Avenger," two Arab 7-11 clerks cheer for joy while watching the twin towers collapse on TV. In response, the Budweiser deliveryman silently removes all Budweiser products from the shelves of the store and then spreads word to his fellow deliverymen who follow suit until the shelves are empty and the store goes out of business. In a coffee shop in Idaho, where some "leftist" college students are having a discussion about their opposition to military action against Afghanistan and the Taliban, the patrons all stare in stunned silence and then everyone

joins in singing "God Bless America" until the treacherous "leftists" leave the shop with their heads hung in shame. Recommended for high school and up by the School Library Journal.

## 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 that looks like Oliver Hardy and has an adventure looking for milk for the morning cake.

## Loose Women

**Author:** Cisneros, Sandra

**Synopsis:** Poems of Sandra Cisneros (author of *The House on Mango Street*) from the perspective of a worldly, Mexican-American independent woman who writes about life, love, lust, and other issues.

## One Door Away from Heaven

**Author:** Koontz, Dean

**Synopsis:** Action-thriller meets alien conspiracy. Micky Bellsong, a young woman at a turning point in her life, goes to her aunts to seek some solace and time to think about her life. Instead, she meets the young, physically deformed Leilani Klonk, whose stepfather and drug-addicted mother have convinced the girl that aliens will beam her up to their spaceship before her tenth birthday and fix her deformities. As Micky learns more about the young girl's family, and her stepfather's involvement in several murders, she becomes more worried that the young girl could face a more terrible fate. In a second plot, Curtis Hammond is being chased by two different cross-country manhunts – one led by the FBI and the other by a group of mass murderers. The novel breaches a number of touchy topics like assisted suicide and substance abuse and takes an impassioned stand against utilitarian bioethics.

## **Rainbow Boys**

**Author:** Sanchez, Alex; Louth, Jack

**Synopsis:** Mature novel dealing with the senior high year of three gay youths grappling with issues ranging from “coming out” to first love to unprotected sex to HIV/AIDS. Lists contact information for support organizations.

## **Running Loose**

**Author:** Crutcher, Chris

**Synopsis:** A teenager’s senior year in high school becomes challenging as he is kicked off the football team for opposing the football coach and his girlfriend is killed in a car accident.

## **Sally Go Round the Sun**

**Author:** Fowke, Edith

**Synopsis:** 1969 publication of children's games and songs by a Canadian folklorist

## **Sari Says: The Real Dirt on Everything from Sex to School**

**Author:** Locker, Sari

**Synopsis:** *Teen People* online advice columnist Sari Locker addresses families, friendship, crushes (including interracial dating), body image, body piercing, tattoos, sexual health, and other issues of interest to young people.

## **Something Upstairs: A Ghost Story**

**Author:** Avi

**Synopsis:** When he moves from Los Angeles to Providence, Rhode Island, Kenny discovers that his new house is haunted by the spirit of a black slave boy, Caleb, who asks Kenny to return with him to the early nineteenth century and prevent his murder by slave traders.

**Awards:** 2003 Boston Globe-Horn Book

# Challenged Books

ORDERED BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## **Aldine ISD**

*The Trench* by Steve Alten

## **Alief ISD**

*Crazy Lady* by Jane Leslie Conly

## **Amarillo ISD**

*Sloppy Firsts* by Megan McCafferty  
*The Queen of Everything* by Deb Caletti

## **Austin ISD**

*Life is Funny* by E.R. Frank

## **Burleson ISD**

*Go Ask Alice* by Anonymous

## **Carrollton-Farmers ISD**

*Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* by Ann Brashares

## **Chisum ISD**

*Forever* by Judy Blume

## **Conroe ISD**

*Alice Alone* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

## **Corpus Christi ISD**

*Love Hina* 12 by Ken Akamatsu  
*So Far from the Bamboo Grove and Other Readings* by Yoko Kawashima Watkins  
*There's an Owl in the Shower* by Jean Craighead George

## **Crandall ISD**

*Tyler on Prime Time* by Steve Atinsky

## **Cypress-Fairbanks ISD**

*Making the Run* by Heather Henson  
*The Stand-Off* by Chuck Hogan

*Witch Book: The Encyclopedia of Witchcraft, Wicca, and Neo-Paganism* by Raymond Bucklin

## **Donna ISD**

*Rugrats Stormy Weather* by Molly Wigand

## **DRAW Academy**

*Like Jake and Me* by Mavis Jukes

## **Erath Excels! Academy**

*Journals* by Kurt Cobain

## **Elgin ISD**

*Gossip Girl* by Cecily Von Ziegesar

## **Fort Davis ISD**

*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

## **Fort Hancock ISD**

*Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling

## **Grapevine-Colleyville ISD**

*When Plague Strikes* by James Cross Giblin

## **Gregory-Portland ISD**

*The Bad Beginning (A Series of Unfortunate Events, Vol. 1)* by Lemony Snicket

## **Hallettsville ISD**

*Gingerbread* by Rachel Cohn

## **Harlandale ISD**

*Danger: Cocaine* by Ruth Chier

## **Hays CISD**

*Prey* by Michael Crichton

## **Humble ISD**

*My Chimp Friday* by Hester Mundis

## **Idalou ISD**

*The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier

## **Industrial ISD**

*Crosses* by Shelley Stoehr

## **Irving ISD**

*City Lights: A Poet's Anthology* by Lawrence Ferlinghetti (Editor)  
*The Ultimate Spy Book* by H. Keith Melton

## **Joshua ISD**

*Dunk* by David Lubar  
*Safe at Second* by Scott Johnson  
*Shakespeare Bats Cleanup* by Ron Koertge  
*The Princess Diaries* by Meg Cabot

## **Judson ISD**

*What My Mother Doesn't Know* by Sonya Sones

## **Keller ISD**

*The Gorillas of Gill Park* by Amy Gordon  
*You Wouldn't Want to Be a Pirate's Prisoner* by John Malam

## **Killeen ISD**

*Age of Bronze: A Thousand Ships* by Eric Shanower  
*Beyond the Burning Time* by Katherine Lasky  
*My Brother Sam is Dead* by James and Chris Colliet  
*Stones in Water* by Donna Jo Napoli  
*Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher

## **Liberty Hill ISD**

*The Dare* by R.L. Stine

**Longview ISD**

*A Gathering of Old Men* by Ernest J. Gaines  
*It's Not the End of the World* by Judy Blume  
*A Day No Pigs Would Die* by Robert Newton Peck

**Lueders-Avoca ISD**

*Shutterbug Follies* by Jason Little

**Liberty-Eyala ISD**

*Detour for Emmy* by Marilyn Reynolds

**Mansfield ISD**

*Lizard* by Dennis Covington

**McKinney ISD**

*Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself* by Judy Blume  
*Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman

**Mercedes ISD**

*Too Old for This, Too Young for That* by Harriet S. Mosatche

**Mesquite ISD**

*Alice the Brave* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

**Mount Enterprise ISD**

*Highs! Over 150 Ways to Feel Really Good without Alcohol or Drugs* by Alex J. Packer

**Nederland ISD**

*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

**New Braunsfels ISD**

*Nothing but the Truth* by Avi

**Northside ISD**

*Night Riding* by Katherine Martin  
*The Hunting of the Last Dragon* by Sherryl Jordan

**Pasadena ISD**

*Forever* by Judy Blume

**Perryton ISD**

*Tell No One* by Harlan Coben

**Plano ISD**

*Akira Vol. 2* by Katsuhiko Otomo  
*Taking Care of your Dog* by Helen Piers  
*The Mystery of the Pirate Ghost* by Geoffrey Hayes

**Round Rock ISD**

*Forgotten Fire* by Adam Bagdasarian

**Seguin ISD**

*Detour for Emmy* by Marilyn Reynolds

**South Texas ISD**

*Brave New World* by Alduous Huxley  
*Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert A. Heinlein

**Texas Youth Commission**

*Black Talk* by Geneva Smitherman  
*Boy Gets Girl: A Play* by Rebecca Gilman  
*Changing Bodies, Changing Lives* by Ruth Bell  
*Cults* by Karen Zeinert  
*Fear Nothing* by Dean Koontz  
*Gangs: Opposing Viewpoints* by Gail B. Stewart (editor)  
*Give a Boy a Gun* by Todd Strasser  
*Hearts in Atlantis* by Stephen King  
*The Period Book* by Karen and Jennifer Gravelle  
*Pornography: Opposing Viewpoints* by Helen Cothran (editor)  
*Revolutionary Voices* by Amy Sonnie  
*Sex Education* by Tamara L. Roleff  
*Suicide: Opposing Viewpoints* by Michael D. Bisskup and Carol Wekesser (editors)

*The Ultimate Spy Book* by H.

Keith Melton  
*Working Together Against Gang Violence* by Margi Trapani

**Waxahachie ISD**

*Blister* by Susan Shreve  
*Love and Other Four-Letter Words* by Carolyn Mackler  
*Mick Harte Was Here* by Barbara Park  
*Trauma-rama: Life's Most Embarrassing Moments...and How to Deal* by Megan Stine

**Challenged Books - School District Information and Result of Challenge Unavailable**

*Alligators in the Sewer* by Thomas J. Craughwell  
*Bumps in the Night* by Harry Allard  
*Cat in the Dryer* by Thomas J. Craughwell  
*In the Night Kitchen* by Maurice Sendak  
*Loose Women* by Sandra Cisneros  
*One Door Away from Heaven* by Dean Koontz  
*Rainbow Boys* by Alex Sanchez, Jack Louth  
*Running Loose* by Chris Crutcher  
*Sally Go Round the Sun* by Edith Fowke  
*Sari Says: The Real Dirt on Everything from Sex to School* by Sari Locker  
*Something Upstairs: A Ghost Story* by Avi  
*Tenderness* by Robert Cormier  
*UFO Abductions* by Neal Bernard