



The Twelfth Annual

FREE PEOPLE READ FREELY:

A Report on Banned and Challenged Books in Texas Public Schools

2007-2008 School Year

Includes an exclusive interview with

George Christian

*who refused to comply with FBI demands for the records of library patrons,
challenged the USA PATRIOT Act and sued the Attorney General*

Celebrating National Banned Books Week
September 27 through October 4



*A few thoughts
from our Executive Director Terri Burke*

Why do we read? To look through a window at a world we have never known, to look in a mirror, and see ourselves as never before, to gain insight from experiences we may never have in this life.

Other than voting, reading freely may be an activity most readily recognized around the world as an *American* activity. Nearly every other nation has some restriction on the free exchange of ideas, the kind we find in the written word. Our founding fathers wisely spelled it out in the U.S. Constitution as a basic freedom.

Books are enlightenment, provocative, stimulating. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote that “the right to think,” which is what reading prods us to do, “is the beginning of freedom.”

In a circuitous way, the mere fact that we read offers us the chance to develop the skills to make critical decisions about what we read. Yet, school districts and “interested citizens” elect every year to steal that right from us – parents, educators and our students – by banning books from their schools’ reading lists.

For the 12th year, the ACLU Foundation of Texas brings you this annual report of books banned or challenged in Texas schools. While we turn a spotlight on the dark recesses of our educational system - those schools that ban books from school libraries or classroom reading lists. Just as strongly, that spotlight shines on those districts that stood up to a challenge and retained a book.

Why are books challenged? Last school year, they were most frequently challenged because of references to “paganism,” sexual content, violence, alcohol and, in one case, a negative reference to inner city life.

The good news from this year’s report is that the overall number of challenges that led to books being banned declined dramatically, although the state’s largest school district still challenged twice as many books as in the previous year. It might be wise to remember the words of Ghandi, who wrote, “You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.”

Because learning is important, I'd like to draw your attention to the back pages of this report where you'll find our announcement for a scholarship program for high school seniors. The ACLU is excited about our new program that will provide over \$12,000 to 16 high school seniors to apply toward their first year of school. If you are a student, or if you know of a student who is committed to civil liberties, please check out our scholarship program and apply.

Our Banned Books project is organized and led by volunteers; I extend the sincere thanks of the ACLU staff to our volunteers who have made this program successful for all these years, particularly to Cody Safford in our Houston office who organized this report. Thank you, too, to all the librarians and school administrators who responded to our Open Records Requests. Finally, thank you to George Christian, the librarian and civil libertarian who stood up for American freedoms under exceptional circumstances.

Getting involved with the ACLU of Texas is one way to help protect civil rights and individual liberties for all Texans. Join as a member, donor, volunteer and visit our website, www.aclutx.org to read about our current accomplishments and sign up for regular e-mail updates.

If you want to help insure that censors are not in control of school libraries and reading lists, join our efforts and do as President Dwight Eisenhower recommended 50 years ago:

"Don't join the book burners... Don't be afraid to go in your library and read every book."

With liberty and justice for all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terri".

Terri Burke
Executive Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Texas

P.S. Please don't forget to check out the back pages of this report to learn more about our \$12,500 scholarship program for high school seniors!

FREE PEOPLE READ FREELY

"We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

-John F. Kennedy

"Our whole constitutional heritage rebels at the thought of giving government the power to control men's minds."

-Thurgood Marshall

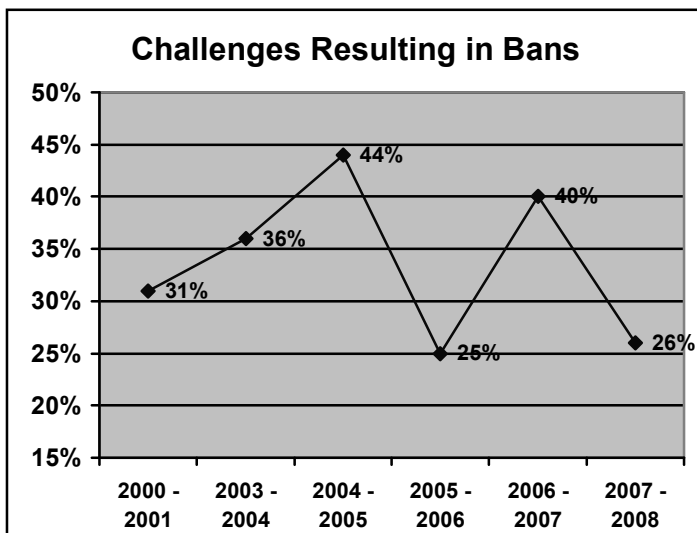
"I am opposed to any form of tyranny over the mind of man."

-Thomas Jefferson

Introduction and Summary

Since 1996, the ACLU of Texas has celebrated Banned Books Week by releasing an annual report cataloging the occurrence of censorship in Texas public schools. This is the twelfth such report. In order to compile the information necessary to present this report, over 1200 Open Records Requests were sent to every school district and charter school in the state. Each school district received a request asking specific questions about any challenge to remove or restrict library books or curriculum based reading materials during the 2007-2008 academic year. This year's report is based on the information contained within the 786 responses to open records requests. Once received, the data was then organized by the following fields: challenging district, book challenged, author of challenged book, originating campus of challenge, reason for challenge, result of challenge, whether the challenge was to curricular usage or library usage, and additional comments.

School library censors were not as active in the 2007-2008 academic year as they were in the previous year. The ACLU of Texas has not only found that fewer books were challenged this year, but also that there were far fewer banned books. The percentage of books being restricted, however, changed only slightly.



Nevertheless, the censoring spirit is alive and well in Texas's public schools. Texas's biggest school district, Houston ISD, reported nearly twice as many challenges this year as compared to last year, increasing from 11 to 20. Also, while no titles from the *Harry Potter* series were on this year's list, five titles from Phillip Pullman's fantastical *His Dark Materials* series, in which *The Golden Compass* may be found, were challenged. Like the *Potter* series, these titles are challenged almost entirely on religious grounds such as objection to the author's reported atheism or the book's mystical or pagan themes.

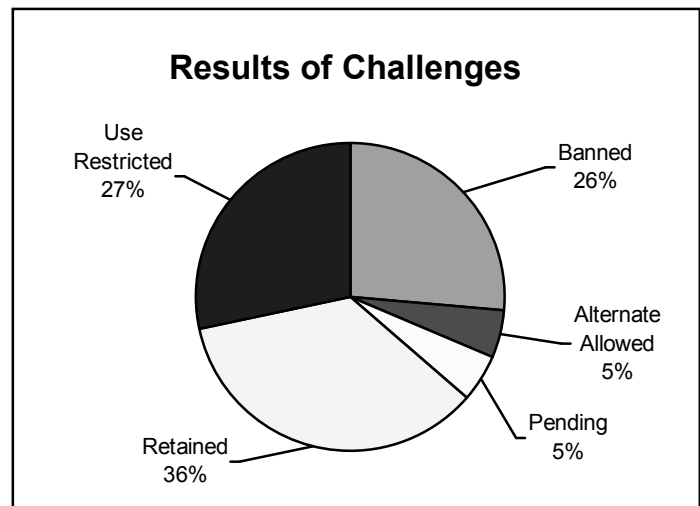
The ACLU of Texas also found that the percentage of challenges coming from the middle school/intermediate/junior high level rose substantially this year. All the while, the percentage of challenges

taking place at the high school level decreased markedly. It is difficult to know why this change took place or even what effect it will have upon Texas students.

Statistical Summary and Breakdown

The occurrence of challenges seems to have subsided slightly from the previous year. There were only 43 school districts reporting 102 challenges in the 2007-2008 academic year, while last year saw 67 school districts reporting a sum of 116 challenges. That is an inspiring 36% decrease in the number of school district reporting challenges and a 12% decrease in the number of challenges. To put it another way, 3.42% of the school districts in the state reported challenges this most recent school year, whereas 5.33% of all districts reported challenges in the previous year.

The above numbers show that the overall concentration of challenges has risen. That is, the average number of titles challenged by a district reporting at least one challenge has risen from 1.7 to 2.4. This skew is likely due to the inordinate number of challenges reported by Houston ISD (20) and Round Rock ISD (9).



In terms of challenges resulting in an outright ban on a library or curricular book, this year also seems to have been a better year for Freedom to Read in Texas' public schools. Indeed, both the rate of challenges resulting in bans and the total number of banned books decreased. Only 27 of the 102 (26%) challenges resulted in a banning during the most recent school year, whereas 46 of the 116 reported challenges (40%) resulted in the challenged title being banned during the 2006-2007 academic year. This means there was a 42% decrease in the overall number of banned books and a 35% decrease in the "success" rate of challenges.

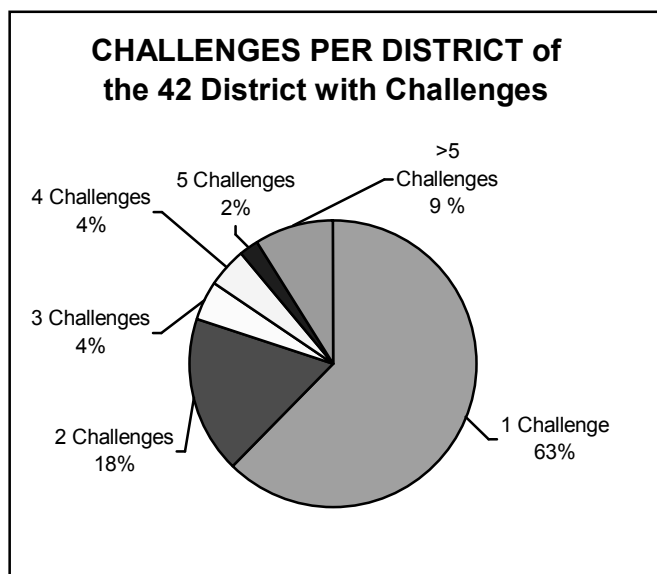
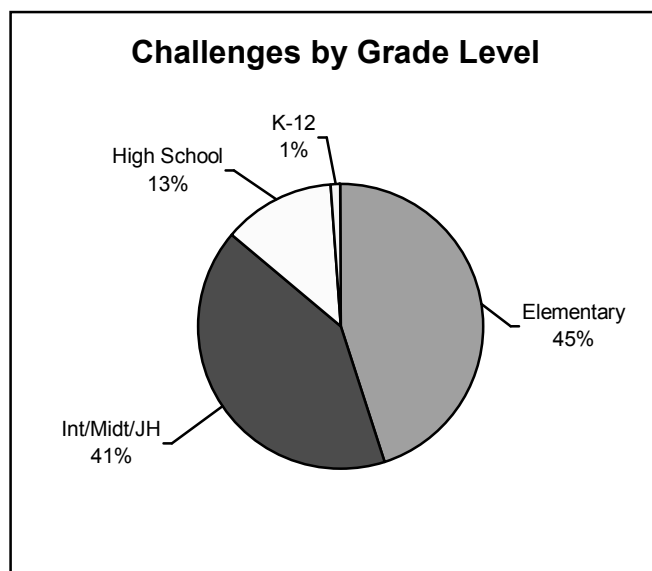
Oftentimes, school boards react to a book challenge with actions that stop short of removing books from a school's library. These actions are known as restrictions and they fall into two categories: restriction to access/special permission required, and allowance of an alternate book (these refer only to curricular books). Access to a library book may be restricted in a number of ways, but most commonly an access-restricted book may only be borrowed (1) by students of a certain age/grade level or (2) by students with parental permission. When a challenge is made to a curricular book, a school district may respond by assigning alternative readers to those students or, perhaps, to those students with parents who object to the content of the challenged text. That said, 32% (34 titles) of this year's challenges resulted in restrictions, while 40% (46 titles) of last year's challenged books were ultimately restricted. This represents significant decreases of 20% in the restriction rate and 26% in the actual number of restricted books.

Not all book challenges result in restrictive action by school districts. In fact, it is not rare at all for a school board to take matters of intellectual freedom seriously and elect to reshelve a challenged book, allowing free and unrestricted access. In fact, this year saw 36% (36 titles) retained, while last year a quarter of challenged books (29) were retained. This reflects a very slight but positive move away from restriction and toward retention. If one couples this fact with the slightly more substantial movements from banning and challenges mentioned above, it appears that school district censors were less active in 2007-2008.

It is important to note that only 62.57% of districts responded to the ACLU of Texas' information requests this year, as opposed to last year's rate of 89.42%. Clearly, a significant number of challenges may not have been reported, hence, the actual occurrence of challenges, restrictions and banned books may be greater than the figures above suggest.

Where Were the Most Challenges?

Houston, Round Rock, Mesquite and Mansfield are the districts that reported the most challenges for the 2007-2008 school year. Houston ISD, as it did in 2006-2007, reported more challenges than any other single school district in the state. This is not surprising since HISD has more students than any other ISD in Texas. What should come as something of a surprise, however, is the fact that HISD's reported challenges nearly doubled from last year. Last year Houston ISD led all other Texas school districts with 11 challenges while this year HISD challenges dwarfed the rest with 20. HISD banned two books and restricted 12, while five were retained and the result of one challenge was pending as of press date. Round Rock ISD took second in this dubious competition with nine challenges, none of which resulted in a single ban or restriction. Mesquite ISD and Mansfield ISD both tied for third with six challenges each.



Challenges by Grade Level

It is generally the case that most challenges occur at the elementary school level, with intermediate/ middle school/junior high schools experiencing the second highest amount and high schools the least. This year, however, we saw a substantial shift in the distribution between challenges at the intermediate/middle/junior high level and the high school level. This year, 41% of all reported challenges occurred at the

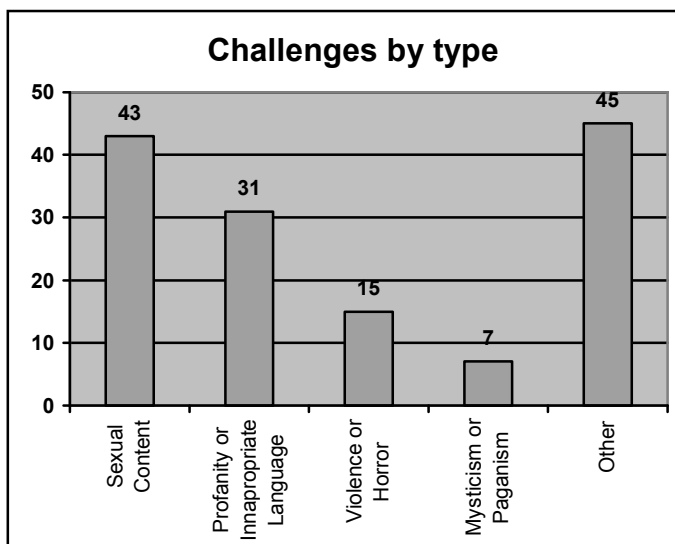
international/middle/junior high level, while only 16% of all challenges came from the same schools last year. Similarly, 13% of all of this year's challenges originated at the high school level, whereas 32% of last year's challenges were to materials found in high school.

The banning of literature is unfortunate wherever it occurs; however, one must realize that for students at the intermediate/middle/junior high level it is difficult for students to simply drive to the nearest bookseller and buy a book that has been banned from their school libraries. For many of these students, if the book is not in the school library then it might as well not exist. This is one way in which the shift mentioned above could possibly, if it is beginning a trend, represent a greater threat to the Texas students' Right to Read Freely.

Nevertheless, the majority of challenges reported for this year still originated at the elementary school level. In the 2007-2008 academic year, challenges to titles in elementary schools constituted 45% of all challenges, down only slightly from last year's 52%. In an isolated instance of district wide censorship, Beaumont ISD banned H. G. Bissinger's *Friday Night Lights* from every school library in the district.

Reasons for Challenges

This year, the vague "other" category was the most often cited complaint about a book, unlike previous years, when "profanity" was the number one reason for a book to be challenged. Of course, nearly anything can fall under the catch-all "other" category, but some of this year's notables include rarities such as "negative



comments about inner-city life," "inaccurate historical information and cultural bias," "reference to common currency for North America" and regulars such as "atheism," "alcohol," and "gay theme." Forty-five challenges cited "other" as at least one justification for why a particular book should be removed from a library of classroom use. Of challenges resulting in either banning or restriction, 24 cited "other" as a reason.

Second to "other" among reasons cited for challenging books was "sexual content." Forty-three challenges were filed, at least in part, because the petitioner believed the book contained an unsuitable level of "sexual content." Twenty-seven books were banned or restricted on account of "sexual content."

"Profanity" dropped to third this year as a reason for challenging a book. Objectionable language accounted for 31 challenges and the banning or restriction of 21 books. As in previous years, "violence or horror" and "mysticism or paganism" was at the bottom of the list of reasons for challenging a book. "Violence or horror" was cited as a reason for 16 challenges and eight banned or restricted books, while "mysticism or paganism" was a reason for eight challenges and five banned or restricted books. Only one book was banned solely because of "violence or horror" and no banned book had "mysticism or paganism" cited as its only reason to be challenged.

Bans and Restrictions without Due Process

Most school districts in the state of Texas have formal reconsideration policies in place for books that are believed by individuals to be inappropriate for school libraries. Reconsideration policies are designed to ensure that books are neither restricted nor banned behind closed doors or based on the whims of one or a few persons in power, such as a librarian, teacher or principal. Furthermore, formal reconsideration policies exist to provide transparency, accountability and the opportunity for the fate of each book to receive a public hearing of sorts in which members of the community may voice their opinion on the book's place in the library. When access to a book is restricted or banned without receiving due process, it is generally the case that only a small handful of persons is involved in the banning of a book, and the public is generally not informed or aware that a book has been deemed inappropriate for students.

This year it is known that no less than six books were banned and no less than two books were restricted without due process. The most egregious case of banning without due process took place in San Antonio at East

Central ISD. There, the principal of Heritage Middle School took it upon himself to remove four books from the school's library. Strangely, all of the books removed were graphic novels with Asian-inspired artwork.

Most Challenged Authors and Titles

There are some authors whose works are challenged nearly every year. Three renowned authors had books challenged in the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 academic years: Maya Angelou for *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Judy Blume for *Tiger Eyes*, and Harper Lee for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Though these authors' works are challenged often, none of them were among this year's most challenged authors and none were banned or restricted. Other noteworthy authors whose works were challenged this year include: Margaret Atwood, Dan Brown, Madeleine L'Engle, C. S. Lewis, Toni Morrison, Tim O'Brian, and Gary Paulson.

The most challenged author in this year's report was Phillip Pullman, with five challenges to his work. Furthermore, Pullman also wrote the most challenged title of the year, *The Golden Compass*. The popular book received four challenges this year, while his *The Subtle Knife* (from the same series) received one challenge. All challenges to Pullman's work were due to, at least in part, "mysticism or paganism," "atheism" or "anti-Christian sentiment." A film adaptation of the children's fantasy novel was released earlier this year and it is likely that the controversy surrounding the film's reportedly veiled criticism of Christianity influenced the challenges to Pullman's novels. Two of his works were challenged in the same school, Cedar Valley Middle School in Round Rock. Two of Pullman's books had student access to them restricted.

This year's second most challenged author was Alvin Schwartz. All challenges to Schwartz's work were to installments from his famed children's series *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*, a three-part anthology of illustrated ghost stories from North American folklore. Only one of Schwartz's books was restricted and none were banned. Three of the four challenges to his work were on account of "violence or horror;" one was due to an unelaborated upon "other." Two challenges to the authors work came from the same school, Hudson PEP Elementary in Longview.

A number of the works of other authors also received multiple challenges. Sue Limb's work endured three challenges, each of which resulted in "restricted access" at Walnut Bend Elementary in Houston ISD. Authors whose work also experienced multiple challenges include: Carolyn Mackler, Charlise Mericle Harper, Eric Carle, Lauren Myracle, and Sam Enthoven.

Texas Library Association Resources

The Texas Library Association holds that the freedom to read is a corollary of the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press. Freedom of choice in selecting materials is a necessary safeguard to the freedom to read and must be protected against extra-legal attempts by self-appointed censors to control that process. Citizens have the right of free inquiry, and democracy itself rests on an open dialogue and demands that freedom of the press in all forms of public communication be defended and preserved.

The Association, through its Intellectual Freedom Committee, supports access to information by responding to librarians facing book challenges, offering model policies and procedures, tracking reports of book challenges by its members, and supporting policies and legislative action that respect access to information. Members of TLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee are also available to consult with librarians facing intellectual freedom challenges. For more information on these resources visit: www.txla.org/groups/committees/IF.

Banned Books

Books Removed from Library Shelves or Class Reading Lists

Bissinger, H. G.
Friday Night Lights

Bradford, Barbara Taylor
Love in Another Town

Block, Francesca L.
The Hanged Man

Brown, Dan
Digital Fortress

Carle, Eric
Draw Me a Star

DiCamillo, Kate
Because of Winn Dixie

Dunn, Benn and Brian Smith
Marvel Mangaverse Vol. 1

Hahn, Mary Downing
Dead Man in Indian's Creek

Hopkins, Ellen
Burned

Koertge, Ronald
The Arizona Kid

Koontz, Dean
The House of Thunder

Kotobuki, Tsukasa
Ragnarok Series (entire series)

Kumakura, Yuchi
Jing King of Bandits

Lester, Julius
When Dad Killed Mom

Mackler, Carolyn
Vegan Virgin Valentine

Mayer, Mariana
Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Brave

Merriam, Eve
The Inner City Mother Goose

Nelson, Kristin
The Alamo

Okuda, Hitoshi and Curtis Yee
The All New Tenchi Muyo

Patron, Susan
Higher Power of Lucky

Rylant, Cynthia
I Had Seen Castles

Stevenson, James
The Bones in the Cliff

Thompson, Kay
Eloise in Paris

Toriyama, Akira
Dragon Ball Z (entire series)

Steffens, Bradley
Giants

Steig, William
El Hueso Prodigiso

Sweeney, Joyce
Headlock

Restricted Books

Access Restricted to Readers Based on Age, Reading Level, Parental Permission, etc.

Anaya, Rudolfo
Bless Me Ultima

Atwood, Margaret
The Handmaid's Tale

Bruner, Elaine and Siegfried
Engelman
*Reading Mastery Fast Cycle II:
Take Home Book (SRA)*

Butler, Dori Hillestad
My Mom's Having a Baby

Carle, Eric
Draw Me a Star

Coburn, Jake
Lovesick

Deuker, Carl
Runner

Enthoven, Sam
The Black Tattoo

Gutman, Dan
Million dollar kick

Gwaltney, Doris
Homefront

Harper, Charise Mericle
Flashcards of My Life

Harris, Robie H
*It's not the Stork! A Book About
Girls, Boys, Babies and Bodies*

Henkes, Kevin
Olive's Ocean

Lichtenheld, Tom
*What are You so Grumpy
About?*

Limb, Sue
Girl 15, Charming but Insane

Limb, Sue
*Girl (Nearly) 16, Absolute
Torture*

Limb, Sue
*Girl, Going on 17, Pants on
Fire*

Micklethwait, Lucy
I Spy: An Alphabet in Art

Murdic, Suzanne
Drug Abuse

Myracle, Lauren
Eleven

Myracle, Lauren
*The Fashion Disaster that
Changed My Life*

Parnell, Peter and Justin
Richardson
And Tango Makes Three

Plum-Ucci, Carol
Body of Christopher Creed

Pullman, Phillip
The Golden Compass

Qualey, Marsha
Just Like That

Radziszewicz, Tina
*Ready or Not?: A Girl's Guide to Making
Her Own Decisions about
Dating, Love and Sex*

Saltz, Dr. Gail
*Amazing You! Getting Smart
about Your Private Parts*

Sendak, Maurice
In the Night Kitchen

Schwartz, Alvin
*Scary Stories 3: More Tales to
Chill Your Bones*

Retained Books

Challenge did not Affect Student Accessibility to Book or Status in Curriculum

Calhoun County ISD

Travis Middle
Pelzer, David J.
A Child Called "It"

Canutillo ISD

Alderete Middle
Ferris, Jean
Eight Seconds

College Station ISD

A&M Consolidated High School
Gains, Ernest J.
A Lesson Before Dying

A&M Consolidated High School
Anaya, Rudolfo
Bless Me, Ultima

Corpus Christi ISD

Lexington Elementary
Ziefert, James
Harry Goes to Day Camp

Denton ISD

Navo Middle
Cabot, Max
Ready or Not

Edna ISD

Edna High School
O'Brian, Tim
Tomcat in Love

Houston ISD

Stevenson Middle
Kwansney, Michelle D.
Baby Blue

Pin Oak Middle School
Solín, Sabrina
The Seventeen Guide to Sex and Your Body

Walnut Bend Elementary
Haddix, Margaret Peterson
The House on the Gulf

Littman, Sarah Darer
Confessions of a Closet Catholic

E. A. Lyons Elementary
Marshall, Edward
Fox All Week

Ingleside ISD

Ingleside High School
Angelou, Maya
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

Katy ISD

Mayde Creek High School
Morrison, Toni
Beloved

Kerrville ISD

Starkey Elementary
Ward, Lee
101 Ways to Bug Your Parents

Longview ISD

Hudson PEP Elementary
Schwartz, Alvin
Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark

Schwartz, Alvin
More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark

Mansfield ISD

T. A. Howard Middle
Pullman, Phillip
The Golden Compass

Mesquite ISD

Berry Middle
Enthoven, Sam
The Black Tattoo

Berry Middle
Korman, Gordon
Born to Rock

Agnew Middle
Vail, Rachel
If We Kiss

A. C. New Middle
Mackler, Carolyn
The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things

Midway ISD

Woodway Elementary
Paulson, Gary
Hatchet

New Caney ISD

Keefer Crossing Middle
Sones, Sonya
What My Mother Doesn't Know

North East ISD

Bradley Middle
Cole, Sheila
What Kind of Love

Round Rock ISD

Union Hill Elementary School
Parker, Steve
The Human Body

Cedar Valley Middle
Rennison, Louise
Knocked Out by My Nunga-Nungas

Pullman, Phillip
The Golden Compass

Pullman, Phillip
The Subtle Knife

Canyon Creek Elementary
Jacqueline Woodson
Show Way

Ridgeview Middle
Going, K. L.
Fat Kid Rules the World

Cactus Ranch Elementary
Holt, Kimberly Willis
When Zachary Beaver Came to Town

McNeil High School
Bing, Leon
Do or Die

Stephenville ISD

Gilbert Intermediate
Wallace, Bill
Red Dog

Tyler ISD

Owens Elementary
Schwartz, Alvin
Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark

Wichita Falls ISD

All District High Schools
Lee, Harper
To Kill a Mockingbird

Banned or Challenged Books- By School

Alba-Golden ISD

School: Alba Golden High School

Book: *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood

Reason Cited: Sexual Content

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

School: Alba Golden Junior High

Book: *The Golden Compass*, Phillip Pullman

Reason Cited: Mysticism or Paganism

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

Notes: Media coverage and controversy. It was pulled from library shelves at principal's discretion. No due process or formal review of challenge.

Beaumont ISD

School: All Schools

Book: *Friday Night Lights*, H.G. Bissinger

Reason Cited: Profanity or Language, Sexual Content, Other (Racism)

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Although the book was removed from the libraries, it continues to be used as a classroom novel on the high school level at one school.

Bridge City ISD

School: Bridge City Middle

Book: *Body of Christopher Creed*, Carol Plum-Ucci

Reason Cited: Profanity

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

School: Bridge City Intermediate

Book: *I had Seen Castles*, Cynthia Ryant

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Content too mature for this level. Book was sent to Middle School.

School: Sims Elementary

Book: *Eloise in Paris*, Kay Thompson

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Sexual Illustrations: main character visits museum [with] nude artwork.

Calhoun County ISD

School: Travis Middle

Book: *A Child Called "It,"* David J. Pelzer

Reason Cited: Profanity, Violence or Horror

Action Taken: Retained

Notes: A parent did not like language and thought content was shocking.

Canutillo ISD

School: Alderete Middle

Book: *Eight Seconds*, Jean Ferris

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Retained

Notes: Gay Theme

Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD

School: Coldspring Intermediate

Book: *The Midwife's Apprentice*, Karen Cushman

Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Mysticism or Paganism

Action Taken: Pending

Notes: Reference to "a roll in the hay" as well as unspecified pagan ideas (or at least ideas in conflict with Christianity).

College Station ISD

School: A&M Consolidated High School

Book: *A Lesson Before Dying*, Ernest J. Gaines

Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Profanity

Action Taken: Retained

School: A&M Consolidated High School

Book: *Bless Me, Ultima*, Rudolfo Anaya

Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Profanity, Violence or Horror, Mysticism or Paganism

Action Taken: Retained

Corpus Christi ISD

School: Lexington Elementary

Book: *Harry Goes to Day Camp*, James Ziefert

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Retained

Notes: Includes the camp song "One Hundred Bottles of Beer on the Wall."

Denton ISD

School: Navo Middle

Book: *Ready or Not*, Meg Cabot

Reason Cited: Sexual Content

Action Taken: Retained

Dickinson ISD

School: McAdams Junior High

Book: *The House of Thunder*, Dean Koontz

Reason Cited: Profanity

Action Taken: Banned

Dilley ISD

School: Mary Harper Middle

Book: *Ready or Not?: A Girl's Guide to Making Her Own Decisions about Dating, Love and Sex*, Tina Radziszewicz

Reason Cited: Sexual Content

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

East Central ISD

School: Heritage Middle

Book: *Marvel Mangaverse Vol. 1*, Ben Dunn, et al

Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Other

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Nudity. The principal opted to remove the book from the library.

School: Heritage Middle

Book: *The All New Tenchi Muyo* (Series), Hitoshi Okuda

Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Other

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Nudity. The principal opted to remove the book from the library.

School: Heritage Middle

Book: *Ragnarok* (Series), Myong-jin Yi, et al

Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Other

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Nudity. The principal opted to remove the book from the library.

School: Heritage Middle

Book: *Dragon Ball Z* (Series), Akira Toriyama

Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Other

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Nudity. The Principal opted to remove the book from the library.

Edna ISD

School: Edna High School

Book: *Tomcat in Love*, Tim O'Brien

Reason Cited: Profanity or Language, Sexual Content, Other

Action Taken: Retained

Notes: Religious Questions. Local Catholics challenged use of the book in Junior AP English class. Some parents withdrew their children from the AP class.

Friendswood ISD

School: Windsong Intermediate

Book: *The Bones in the Cliff*, James Stevenson

Reason Cited: Profanity, Violence or Horror, Other

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: It was decided that the book was more appropriate for the junior high campus.

Gonzales ISD

School: Gonzales High School

Book: *Vegan Virgin Valentine*, Carolyn Mackler

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Parent referred to language, nonspecific.

Houston ISD

School: Sharpstown High School

Book: *The Coldest Winter Ever*, Sister Souljah

Reason Cited: Profanity, Sexual Content

Action Taken: Pending

Notes: Pulled for Evaluation

School: E. A. Lyons Elementary

Book: *Fox All Week*, Edward Marshall

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Retained

Notes: Parent said the book promoted smoking.

School: Benbrook Elementary

Book: *Scary Stories 3: More Tales to Chill Your Bones*, Alvin Schwartz

Reason Cited: Violence or Horror

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

School: J. F. Kennedy Elementary

Book: *The Hanged Man*, Francesca Lia Block

Reason Cited: Profanity

Action Taken: Banned

School: Stevenson Middle

Book: *Baby Blue*, Michelle D. Kwansney

Reason Cited: Mysticism or Paganism

Action Taken: Retained

Notes: Ouija board can be found in book.

School: Pin Oak Middle

Book: *The Seventeen Guide to Sex and Your Body*, Sabrina Solin

Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Other

Action Taken: Retained

Notes: Too much sexual detail. A teacher thought the book was too mature for a specific 7th grader.

School: Grady Middle

Book: *Prince Caspian: The Return to Narnia*, C. S. Lewis

Reason Cited: Mysticism or Paganism

Action Taken: Alternate Book Allowed

School: Wheatly High School

Book: *Beasts of No Nation*, Uzodinma Iweala

Reason Cited: Sexual Content

Action Taken: Alternate Book Allowed

School: Wilson Elementary

Book: *Runner*, Carl Deuker

Reason Cited: Profanity

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

School: Robinson Elementary

Book: *El Hueso Prodigiso*, William Steig

Reason Cited: Violence or Horror

Action Taken: Banned

School: Walnut Bend Elementary

Book: *Flashcards of My Life*, Charise Mericle Harper

Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Other

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

Notes: Mature Situations

School: Walnut Bend Elementary

Book: *Girl 15, Charming but Insane*, Sue Limb

Reason Cited: Profanity
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required
School: Walnut Bend Elementary
Book: *Girl Nearly 16, Absolute Torture*, Sue Limb
Reason Cited: Profanity
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

School: Walnut Bend Elementary
Book: *Girl, Going on 17, Pants on Fire*, Sue Limb
Reason Cited: Profanity
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

School: Walnut Bend Elementary
Book: *The House on the Gulf*, Margaret Peterson Haddix
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Retained
Notes: Inappropriate for second graders.

School: Walnut Bend Elementary
Book: *The Fashion Disaster that Changed My Life*, Lauren Myracle
Reason Cited: Profanity, Sexual Content
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required
Notes: Mature Situations

School: Walnut Bend Elementary
Book: *Eleven*, Lauren Myracle
Reason Cited: Profanity, Sexual Content
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

School: Hartman Middle
Book: *Just Like That*, Marsha Qualey
Reason Cited: Profanity, Sexual Content
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

School: Unknown
Book: *Reading Mastery II: Fast Cycle Take-Home Book (SRA)*,

Siegfried Engleman and Elaine Bruner
Reason Cited: Violence or Horror, Mysticism or Paganism, Other
Action Taken: Alternate Book Allowed
Notes: A parent objected to words found in vocabulary lesson (e.g. witch, wizard, murderers). At the request of the parent, an alternative book was provided to his/her child.

School: Walnut Bend Elementary
Book: *Confessions of a Closet Catholic*, Sarah Darer Littman
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Retained
Notes: Religious Questions

Hubbard ISD
School: Hubbard Elementary
Book: *Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Brave*, Mariana Mayer
Reason Cited: Violence or Horror
Action Taken: Banned

School: Hubbard Elementary
Book: *Because of Winn Dixie*, Kate DiCamillo
Reason Cited: Profanity
Action Taken: Banned

Ingleside ISD
School: Ingleside High School
Book: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou
Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Profanity, Violence or Horror, Other
Action Taken: Retained
Notes: Racist remarks degrading to women.

Irving ISD
School: Brown Elementary
Book: *Drug Abuse*, Suzanne Murdic
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required
Notes: Parent objected to content of book.

Karnes City ISD
School: Roger E. Sides Elementary

Book: *Draw Me a Star*, Eric Carle
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required
Notes: Graphic cartoon regarding anatomy.
School: Roger E. Sides Elementary
Book: *What are You So Grumpy About?*, Tom Lichtenheld
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required
Notes: Graphic nature. The book included a cartoon-type picture of a child holding up underwear.

School: Roger E. Sides Elementary
Book: *Olive's Ocean*, Kevin Henkes
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required
Notes: Graphic nature

School: Roger E. Sides Elementary
Book: *Homefront*, Doris Gwaltney
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required
Notes: Graphic Nature

School: Karnes City Junior High
Book: *The Black Tattoo*, Sam Enthoven
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required
Notes: Religious References

Katy ISD
School: Mayde Creek High School
Book: *Beloved*, Toni Morrison
Reason Cited: Profanity, Sexual Content
Action Taken: Retained

Keller ISD
School: Indian Springs Middle
Book: *Jing: King of the Bandits*, Yuchi Kumakura
Reason Cited: Profanity, Sexual Content
Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Committee of teachers and staff at Indian Springs Middle School agreed unanimously that the book was not appropriate for the 7th-8th grade level, even though it was ranked by publisher as appropriate for ages 13+.

Kerrville ISD

School: Starkey Elementary

Book: *101 Ways to Bug Your Parents*, Lee Ward

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Retained

Notes: Parents felt book depicted ways to be disrespectful to adults and teachers. Parent wanted book removed from shelves and desired support from school in teaching children to be respectful. The review committee retained book, finding it well-written and humorous.

Klein ISD

School: Klein Collins High School

Book: *Bless Me, Ultima*, Rudolfo Anaya

Reason Cited: Profanity, Sexual Content

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

Notes: Challenge to curricular usage, an alternate was allowed for objecting students/parents.

School: Hassler Elementary

Book: *The Million Dollar Kick*, Dan Gutman

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

Notes: A mother had an objection to a single paragraph. She felt it was difficult to explain to her 3rd grader. The book will be in the librarian's office until the family no longer has children attending the school.

Laredo ISD

School: Lamar Middle

Book: *Headlock*, Joyce Sweeney

Reason Cited: Profanity

Action Taken: Banned

School: Lamar Middle

Book: *When Dad Killed Mom*, Julius Lester

Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Violence or Horror

Action Taken: Banned

School: Lamar Middle

Book: *Burned*, Ellen Hopkins

Reason Cited: Profanity

Action Taken: Banned

Liberty Hill ISD

School: Bill Burden Elementary

Book: *In the Night Kitchen*, Maurice Sendak

Reason Cited: Sexual Content

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

Notes: Decision made at campus level to put book on reserve because of illustrations of baby boys genitals.

Longview ISD

School: Hudson PEP Elementary

Book: *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*, Alvin Schwartz

Reason Cited: Violence or Horror

Action Taken: Retained

School: Hudson PEP Elementary

Book: *More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*, Alvin Schwartz

Reason Cited: Violence or Horror

Action Taken: Retained

Mansfield ISD

School: Carol Holt Elementary

Book: *It's Not the Stork!: A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies and Bodies*, Robbie Harris

Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Other

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

Notes: Anatomically correct illustrations; viewpoints and subject matter requiring parental guidance. This is now a parent only check-out book.

School: Carol Holt Elementary

Book: *Amazing You?: Getting Smart About Your Private Parts*, Dr. Gail Saltz

Reason Cited: Sexual Content

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

Notes: Inappropriateness of level for intended user, format, graphic content and anatomically correct illustrations, viewpoints and subject matter requiring parental guidance. This is a parent only check-out book.

School: Carol Holt Elementary

Book: *I Spy: An Alphabet in Art*, Lucy Micklethwait

Reason Cited: Sexual Content

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

Notes: Administrator challenge to graphic content, anatomically correct illustrations, inappropriate format and level for intended user. This is a parent check-out book only.

School: Carol Holt Elementary

Book: *My Mom's Having a Baby!*, Dori Hillestad Butler

Reason Cited: Sexual Content

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

Notes: Administrator challenge to graphic content, anatomically correct illustrations, inappropriate format and level for intended user. This is a parent check-out book only.

School: Carol Holt Elementary

Book: *Flashcards of My Life*, Charise Mericle Harper

Reason Cited: Sexual Content

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

Notes: Administrator challenge to graphic content, anatomically correct illustrations, inappropriate format and level for intended user. This is a parent check-out book only.

School: T. A. Howard Middle
Book: *The Golden Compass*, Phillip Pullman
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Retained
Notes: Anti-Christian sentiment.

Mesquite ISD

School: Berry Middle
Book: *The Arizona Kid*, Ronald Koertge
Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Profanity
Action Taken: Banned
Notes: Book was to be relocated to high school, but parent returned it damaged, so it was discarded

School: Berry Middle
Book: *The Black Tattoo*, Sam Enthoven
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Retained
Notes: Disturbing content.

School: Berry Middle
Book: *Born to Rock*, Gordon Korman
Reason Cited: Profanity
Action Taken: Retained

School: West Mesquite High School
Book: *Love in Another Town*, Barbara Taylor Bradford
Reason Cited: Sexual Content
Action Taken: Banned

School: Agnew Middle
Book: *If We Kiss*, Rachel Vail
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Retained
Notes: Contained inappropriate content.

School: A. C. New Middle
Book: *The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things*, Carolyn Mackler
Reason Cited: Sexual Content
Action Taken: Retained

Midway ISD

School: Woodway Elementary
Book: *Hatchet*, Gary Paulson
Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Violence or Horror, Other
Action Taken: Retained
Notes: Age appropriateness, divorce, adultery, suicide and hate.

New Caney ISD

School: Keefer Crossing Middle
Book: *What My Mother Doesn't Know*, Sonya Sones
Reason Cited: Profanity, Sexual Content
Action Taken: Retained

North East ISD

School: Northern Hills Elementary
Book: *Giants*, Bradley Steffens
Reason Cited: Violence or Horror
Action Taken: Banned
Notes: The review committee felt the content of the book was inappropriate for the age of the students on the campus

School: Encino Park Elementary
Book: *And Tango Makes Three*, Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
Reason Cited: Sexual Content
Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required
Notes: Moved to professional collection due to inappropriate language for grade level

School: Bradley Middle
Book: *What Kind of Love*, Sheila Cole
Reason Cited: Profanity, Sexual Content
Action Taken: Retained

School: Huebner Elementary
Book: *The Alamo*, Kristin Nelson
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Banned
Notes: Book was removed due to inaccurate information and cultural bias.

Rockwall ISD

School: Amy Parks-Heath Elementary
Book: *A Wrinkle in Time*, Madeleine L'Engle
Reason Cited: Mysticism or Paganism
Action Taken: Alternate Book Allowed

Round Rock ISD

School: Union Hill Elementary
Book: *The Human Body*, Steve Parker
Reason Cited: Sexual Content
Action Taken: Retained

School: Hopewell Middle
Book: *Junior Achievement Workbook*
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Pending
Notes: Reference to common currency for North America.

School: Cedar Valley Middle
Book: *Knocked-out by My Nunga-Nungas*, Louise Rennison
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Retained
Notes: Request by principal who objected to a lesbian character.

School: Cedar Valley Middle
Book: *The Golden Compass*, Phillip Pullman
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Retained
Notes: Request by parent who objected to author's atheism and religious overtones in book.

School: Cedar Valley Middle
Book: *The Subtle Knife*, Phillip Pullman
Reason Cited: Other
Action Taken: Retained
Notes: Request by parent who objected to author's atheism and religious overtones in book.

School: Canyon Creek Elementary

Book: *Show Way*, Jacqueline Woodson

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Retained

Notes: Parent objected to use of vernacular or possible ebonics.

School: Ridgeview Middle

Book: *Fat Kid Rules the World*, K. L. Going

Reason Cited: Sexual Content

Action Taken: Retained

School: McNeil High School

Book: *Do or Die*, Leon Bing

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Pending

Notes: Request for reconsideration because of gang related subject matter.

School: Cactus Ranch Elementary

Book: *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*, Kimberly Willis Holt

Reason Cited: Sexual Content

Action Taken: Retained

Seguin ISD

School: Jim Barnes Middle

Book: *Lovesick*, Jake Coburn

Reason Cited: Profanity, Sexual Content, Other

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

Notes: Explicit references to drug and alcohol use.

Shallowater ISD

School: Shallowater Intermediate

Book: *The Golden Compass*, Phillip Pullman

Reason Cited: Violence or Horror, Mysticism or Paganism

Action Taken: Book Restricted or Special Permission Required

Notes: Parental permission required.

Sheldon ISD

School: Monahan Elementary

Book: *Dead Man in Indian's Creek*, Mary Downing Hahn

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Explicit references to drugs and alcohol use. The mother in the story is smuggling cocaine to help raise money for her family and the complainant didn't believe children should be presented with that as an alternative for too little money.

School: Cravens Early Childhood Academy

Book: *Draw Me a Star*, Eric Carle

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Drawings of unclothed people in book. It was pulled by the librarian and principal after a teacher showed them a drawing of unclothed people.

Stephenville ISD

School: Gilbert Intermediate

Book: *Red Dog*, Bill Wallace

Reason Cited: Violence or Horror

Action Taken: Retained

School: Gilbert Intermediate

Book: *Higher Power of Lucky*, Susan Patron

Reason Cited: other

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Before the book was shelved for student viewing, a review committee found the book age inappropriate.

Temple ISD

School: Kennedy-Powell Elementary

Video: *Ruby Bridges*, Tori Ann Johnson

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Pending

Notes: Based on language used.

Tioga ISD

School: Tioga Elementary

Book: *Tiger Eyes*, Judy Blume

Reason Cited: Sexual Content

Action Taken: Pending

Notes: Sexual References not appropriate for elementary students.

Tyler ISD

School: Owens Elementary

Book: *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*, Alvin Schwartz

Reason Cited: Other

Action Taken: Retained

School: Stewart Middle

Book: *The Inner City Mother Goose*, Eve Merriam

Reason Cited: Profanity, Other

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Negative Comments about inner-city life. Book was removed from middle school library by librarian, at campus direction, and sent to high school where subject matter was more appropriate for age.

Waco ISD

School: Lake Air Middle

Book: *Digital Fortress*, Dan Brown

Reason Cited: Sexual Content, Profanity

Action Taken: Banned

Notes: Moved to a High School Library

Wichita Falls ISD

School: All District High Schools

Book: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee

Reason Cited: Violence or Horror, Other

Action Taken: Retained

Notes: Racism

2007 LIST OF BOOKS BANNED OR CHALLENGED IN TEXAS SCHOOLS

(ALPHABETICAL BY TITLE)

Note: We have not attempted to include all awards won by these titles, but have chosen the highest award as representative. The AR notation indicates an Accelerated Reader test is available for the book. See <http://www.arbookfind.com> for more information.

101 Ways to Bug Your Parents, by Lee Wardlaw, Dial Books, 1996. A young boy's parents enroll him in a creative writing class. In this class he writes the titular tutorial and attempts to sell it to his classmates. AR: Yes.

A Child Called "It", by David J. Pelzer, 1995. An autobiographical account of the horrifically abusive childhood the author experienced at the hands of his alcoholic mother. AR: Yes.

The Alamo, Kristin Nelson, Learner Publishing Group, 2004. Intended for children aged 5- 9, this is a short introduction to the Alamo, the battle for it, and its importance in US and Texas history. AR: Yes.

The All New Tenchi Muyo (Series), by Hitoshi Okuda, VIZ Media LLC, 2003. Graphic novel series in which earthlings and extraterrestrials make friends, flirt, and battle space villains.

Amazing You: Getting Smart about Your Private Parts, by Dr. Gail Saltz. A picture book designed for children ready to learn about reproduction, birth and the differences between boys and girls. AR: No.

And Tango Makes Three, by Peter Parnall and Justin Richardson, Simon & Schuster, 2005. At New York City's

Central Park Zoo, two male penguins fall in love and start a family by taking turns sitting on an abandoned egg until it hatches.

Award: 2005 Best Children's Books of the Year. AR: Yes

The Arizona Kid, by Ronald Koertge, Candlewick Press, 1985. A Teenager named Billy spends his summer with his homosexual uncle in Arizona. There, he works at a racetrack and falls in love with a girl named Cara Mae. Awards: Booklist's Best Book of the Decade, YALSA's Best Book for Young Adults 1988. AR: Yes.

Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Brave, by Mariana Mayer, William Morrow and Company, 1994. Vasilisa's wicked stepmother sends her on an errand to fetch a light from an evil witch named Baba Yaga. Once there, Vasilisa is forced to become the witch's housemaid and is given a series of impossible chores. AR: Yes.

Baby Blue, by Michelle D. Kwansney, Henry Holt & Co., 2004. While still coming to terms with the unexpected death of her father, young Blue must now deal with her runaway sister and her abusive stepfather. AR: Yes.

Beasts of No Nation, by Uzodinma Iweala, Harper

Perennial, 2006. A young boy from an unknown West African nation is forced to become a soldier in the bloody civil war for his home land.

Because of Winn Dixie, by Kate DiCamillo, Candlewick Press, 2000. A ten year old girl tells the reader about her first year in a new town and all the things she learns with her new dog at her side. Awards: ALA Best Books, Newberry Honor. AR: Yes.

Beloved, by Toni Morrison, New American Library, 1987. After the Civil War, Sethe, an ex-slave, and her family cannot free themselves from their past. Awards: American Book Award, Pulitzer Prize. AR: Yes.

The Black Tattoo, by Sam Enthoven, Razorbill/Penguin, 2006. An adolescent boy's best friend is possessed by an ancient demon known as the Scourge. In order to save his friend, the boy must venture into hell and battle the Scourge. AR: Yes.

Bless Me, Ultima, by Rudolfo Anaya, Warner Books, 1972. Set in WWII era New Mexico, a young boy must face questions of morality and religion when Ultima, a healer who uses herbs and magic, comes to live with his family. Awards: ALA Outstanding Books for the College Bound. AR: Yes.

Body of Christopher Creed, by Carol Plum-Ucci, Harcourt, 2001. Until Chris went missing, Torey often bullied him. Now he only feels guilt and is compelled to solve the mystery of the disappearance. Awards: ALA Best Books for Young Adults. AR: Yes.

The Bones in the Cliff, by James Stevenson, William Morrow & Co., 1995. A boy living on a New England island tries to protect his alcoholic father from a dangerous man he can not confront. AR: Yes.

Born to Rock, by Gordon Korman, Hyperion Books, 2006. A High School senior who is president of his school's Young Republicans club discovers that a 1980's punk rock legend may be his biological father. As the two come to know one another, the young man's beliefs and ideologies are challenged and reshaped. Awards: The Red Maple Award. AR: Yes.

Burned, by Ellen Hopkins, Simon Pulse, 2007. Pattyn, the eldest child in her large abusive and dysfunctional. Mormon family, spends the summer on her aunt's ranch. Her aunt's ranch proves to be refuge from her family life, but she knows she must eventually return home. AR: Yes.

The Coldest Winter Ever, by Sister Souljah, Washington Square Press, 2001. Winter is a young Brooklynner whose identity hinges upon the wealth of her family, but her world changes dramatically when her father is arrested for being a drug dealer and all of her prized possessions are confiscated. AR: Yes.

Confessions of a Closet Catholic, by Sarah Darer Littman, Dutton, 2005. When Justine's best friend gives up chocolate for lent, Justine decides to give up Judaism. When her grandmother has a stroke, she wonders if her conversion is at fault. Awards: Sydney Taylor Award AR: Yes.

Dead Man in Indian's Creek, by Mary Downing Hahn, HarperCollins, 1990. Two adolescent boys discover a corpse while camping. Later, one of the boys becomes convinced that the body is connected to his widowed mother and her involvement with cocaine dealers. Awards: ALA Quick Pick for Young Adult Readers. AR: Yes

Digital Fortress, by Dan Brown, St. Martin's Press, 1996. The head of the NSA's cryptography division must stop the proliferation of an unbreakable code capable of impairing national security. AR: Yes

Do or Die, by Leon Bing, HarperCollins, 1991. A colorful portrait of the Los Angeles' street gang subculture as told through interviews with members.

Dragon Ball Z (Series), by Akira Toriyama, VIZ Media LLC, 2003. The series follows the fantastical adventures of Son Goku from boyhood into old age. Eventually, he becomes the greatest fighter in the universe, but not before battling many terrestrial and extraterrestrial rivals.

Draw Me a Star, by Eric Carle, PaperStar, 1992. An 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. AR: Yes.

Drug Abuse, by Suzanne Murdico, Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers, 1998. A nonfiction book that informs young readers about drugs and their dangers. Also gives advice for people who suffer or know someone who suffers from substance abuse problems. AR: Yes.

The Earth, My Butt & Other Big Round Things, by Carolyn Mackler, Candlewick, 2003. Feeling like she does not fit in with the other members of her family, who are all thin, brilliant, and good-looking, Virginia tries to deal with her self-image, her first physical relationship, and her disillusionment with her family and friends. Award: 2004 Prinz Honor book. AR: Yes.

Eight Seconds, by Jean Ferris, Harcourt, 2000. A young man begins to question his sexuality when he attends rodeo school and finds himself attracted to a handsome, tough and gay cowboy. Awards: ALA Best Book for Young Adults. AR: Yes

Eleven, by Lauren Myracle, Dutton, 2004. After her eleventh birthday, Winnie's social life changes as her friends become more focused on boys and clothes. AR: Yes.

Eloise in Paris, by Kay Thompson, Simon and Schuster, 1999. Eloise is beckoned to Paris by her mother. There she attends Fashion Week and explores all the city has to offer. AR: Yes.

The Fashion Disaster that Changed My Life, by Lauren Myracle, Dutton, 2005. Through her journal, a seventh grader describes her place in her school's social hierarchy, as well as her ideas on friendship, boys and fashion. AR: Yes.

Fat Kid Rules the World, by K. L. Going, Puffin, 2004. Troy is an overweight high school student considering suicide who meets Curt, a homeless teen guitarist with a drug addiction. The two become friends, form a punk band, and offer one another emotional support. Awards: ALA Best Book for Young Adults. AR: Yes

Flashcards of My Life, by Charise Mericle Harper; Little, Brown & Co.; 2006. The reader learns about a junior high aged girl's personal, family and school life through her diary styled entries into a series of "flashcards" with titles such as "Friends" and "Kiss." AR: Yes.

Fox All Week, by Edward Marshall, Penguin Books, 1995. A picture book about a fox whose good intentions get him into trouble. AR: Yes.

Friday Night Lights, by H. G. Bissinger, Harper Collins, 1990. Explores the fanaticism surrounding Texas High School football by retelling the story of Odessa's 1988 Permian High School team and the town's obsession with it. Awards: ALA outstanding Books for the College Bound. AR: Yes.

Giants, by Bradley Steffens, KidHaven, 2006. An overview of giants in popular culture.

Explores their mythological origins as well as their depictions in folklore, literature, athletics and even as corporate mascots. AR: Yes.

Girl, 15, Charming but Insane, by Sue Limb, Delacorte Press, 2004. A fifteen-year-old English girl often feels overshadowed by her overachieving best friend, but eventually finds that her greatest gift is her sense of humor. Awards: New York Public Library's Best Books for the Teen Aged. AR: Yes.

Girl, Going on 17, Pants on Fire, by Sue Limb, Delacorte Press, 2006. Jess has a rough year as a result of a number of lies, the end of her relationship with her boyfriend, trouble at school, and her mother's new love. AR: Yes.

Girl, (Nearly) 16, Absolute Torture, by Sue Limb, Delacorte Press, 2005. An adolescent girl had planned to spend the summer with her boyfriend, but her plans get derailed when she is forced to vacation with her mother. Eventually, she comes to learn more about her family than she expected. AR: Yes

The Golden Compass, Philip Pullman, Knopf, 1995. Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subjects of gruesome experiments in the Far North. AR: Yes

I Had Seen Castles, by Cynthia Rylant, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1995. Now an old man, John is still shaken by

memories of enlisting and fighting in WWII. AR: Yes.

The Handmaid's Tale, by Margret Atwood, Fawcett, 1985. In the near future, the US is under a theocratic regime that subjugates women. Offred is one such woman, and she is a handmaid to a commander and desires more than anything to become impregnated by him so she will have worth. Awards: ALA Notable Book, ALA Outstanding Books for the College Bound. AR: Yes.

The Hanged Man, by Francesca Lia Block. After the death of her father, Laurel is haunted by family secrets, shame and addiction. She tries to escape her troubles, but she must first confront them to find love.

Harry Goes to Day Camp, by James Ziefert, Puffin, 1990. An illustrated book for early readers about Harry's first experience at day camp. AR: yes.

Hatchet, by Gary Paulson, Simon and Schuster, 1987. As the only survivor of a plane crash, a young boy is forced to fend for himself in the wilderness. Through his daily struggles, Brian learns self-dependency and comes to terms with his parent's divorce. Awards: ALA Notable Book, Newberry Honor Book. AR: Yes.

Headlock, by Joyce Sweeney, Henry Holt & Co., 2006. A teen's dream of becoming a professional wrestler is frustrated by unexpected family issues. Awards: YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers. AR: Yes.

The Higher Power of Lucky, by Susan Patron, Atheneum, 2006. Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her, 10-year-old aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble determines to run away while also continuing to seek the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life. Award: 2007 Newbery Award. AR: Yes

Homefront, by Doris Gwaltney, Simon & Schuster, 2006. Set in WWII era rural Virginia, Margaret didn't give the war much thought until her English cousin, Courtney, came to live with her family. Their relationship becomes strained after Courtney steals the affection of Margaret's boyfriend and grandmother. Awards: English in a Flash Recommended Reading List. AR: Yes.

The House of Thunder, by Dean Koontz, Berkley Publishing, 1992. Susan wakes up in a hospital bed with amnesia. She then resolves to reclaim her past, only to find there are four figures from her past standing in her way. AR: Yes.

The House on the Gulf, by Margaret Peterson Haddix, Simon & Schuster, 2004. A teenage boy gets a house-sitting job and invites his family to move in with him. After the move, his behavior becomes suspect and his sister begins to investigate his private life. Award: Junior Library Guild Recommended Reading. AR: Yes.

El Hueso Prodigioso (The Amazing Bone), by William Steig, Puffin, 1997. The Spanish translation of Steig's tale about a

piglet who is saved from thieves by a talking bone that fell from a witch's basket. Awards: Caldecott Honor, ALA Best Books. AR: Yes (In the English).

The Human Body, by Steve Parker, Dorling Kindersley, 1993. A picture encyclopedia about the human body, its parts and systems, and how they function. AR: Yes.

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou, Random House, 1970. An autobiographical treatment of racism, sexism, and self-acceptance through the story of a girl who finally finds peace in early motherhood. Award: ALA Outstanding Books for College Bound. AR: Yes.

The Inner City Mother Goose, by Eve Merriam, Simon and Schuster, 1969. This is a collection of children's poems highly influenced by classic nursery rhymes and critical or contemporary societal problems such as violence, poverty, drugs and racism.

In the Night Kitchen, by Maurice Sendak, HarperCollins, 1970. The book depicts a young boy's dream journey through a surreal baker's kitchen where he assists in the creation of a cake to be ready by the morning. Awards: 1971 Caldecott Honor, ALA Notable Children's Books of 1940-1970.

I Spy: An Alphabet in Art, by Lucy Micklethwait, HarperTrophy, 1996. An alphabet book with an element from a famous painting representing each letter of the

alphabet. Awards: Parent's Choice Gold Award.

It's Not the Stork!: A Book about Girls, Boys, Babies and Bodies, by Robbie H. Harris, Candlewick, 2006. A cartoon bird and a cartoon bee explain conception, pregnancy, birth, the differences and similarities between boys and girls, and inappropriate touching. Awards: ALA Notable Book. AR: Yes.

Jing: King of Bandits (Series), by Yuchi Kumakura, TokyoPop, 2005. A series of graphic novels about an infamous young bandit named Jing.

Just Like That, by Marsha Qualey, Puffin, 2007. Eighteen year-old Hannah experiences guilt, frustration and hope after the death of two teens she could have saved. AR: Yes.

Knocked Out By My Nunga-Nungas, Louise Rennison, HarperTeen, 2003. This book continues the story of 14-year-old Georgia Nicolson and her adventures as the new girlfriend of Sex God, Robbie. The story includes a family trip to Och Aye Land (Scotland) on a hideous family vacation, away from the new boyfriend. AR: No

A Lesson before Dying, by Ernest T. Gaines, Random, 1994. Set in 1940's Louisiana, tells the story of an educated African-American man who struggles to teach another African-American man on death row how to "die like a man." Award: ALA Outstanding Books for the College Bound. AR: Yes.

Love in another Town, by Barbara Taylor Bradford, HarperTorch, 2006. A young married man and a beautiful, middle aged divorcee fall in love, despite their age difference and his marriage.

Lovesick, by Jake Coburn, Dutton, 2005. An alcoholic young man loses his athletic scholarship after becoming injured while driving drunk. However, the billionaire father of a similarly aged bulimic woman offers to pay the teen's tuition if he agrees to spy on her while she is attending university. The young man agrees, but they later fall in love. Awards: ALA 2006 List of Best Books For Young Adults. AR: Yes.

Marvel Mangaverse Vol 1, by Ben Dunn, Marvel Comics, 2002. A comic book about the classic Marvel characters, but illustrated in the Japanese manga style.

The Midwife's Apprentice, by Karen Cushman, HarperTrophy, 1996. Set in medieval England, a homeless girl is taken under the wing of a shrewd midwife. Under her tutelage, the girl finds confidence and learns the art of midwifery. Awards: 1996 Newbery Medal. AR: Yes.

The Million Dollar Kick, by Dan Gutman, Hyperion, 2001. A Thirteen-year-old girl with a hatred for athletics is presented with the opportunity to win a million dollars by kicking a goal against a local soccer legend. AR: Yes.

More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark, by Alvin Schwartz, HarperCollins, 1984. The second

installment in Schwartz' trilogy of anthologies of illustrated ghost stories from American folklore. Awards: Library of Congress Children's Books. AR: Yes.

My Mom's Having a Baby!, by Dori Hillstad Butler, Albert Whitman & Co., 2005. A picture book about a grade school aged girl who describes sexual intercourse and her mother's pregnancy. Awards: Booklist Editor's Choice. AR: Yes.

Olive's Ocean, by Kevin Henkes, Greenwillow, 2003. On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, a twelve-year-old girl gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer. Award: 2004 Newbery Honor Book. AR: Yes.

Prince Caspian: The Return to Narnia, by C. S. Lewis, Geoffrey Bles, 1951. The heroes and heroines of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe must help Prince Caspian save Narnia from Wicked King Mirax. AR: Yes.

Ragnarok (Series), by Myong-jin Yi, TokyoPop, 2002. After sleeping for a millennium, the Wolf Goddess must travel across Midgard in search of the reincarnation of the god Balder. All the while, she is being hunted by a Valkyrie.

Reading Mastery II: Fast Cycle Take-Home Book (SRA), by Siegfried Engelman and Elaine Bruner, Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, 1995. A reading textbook

with grades K-2 in mind, focuses on vocabulary and grammar.

Ready or Not: A Girl's Guide to Making Her Own Decisions About Dating, Love and Sex, by Tina Radziszewicz, Walker Books, 2006. Offers adolescent girls advice on puberty, sex, dating, contraception, and much more, in question-and-answer format.

Ready or Not: An All-American Girl Novel, by Meg Cabot, HarperCollins, 2005. Samantha is a high school junior and she is considering having sex with her boyfriend, the president's son. AR: Yes.

Red Dog, by Bill Wallace, Pocket Books, 1987. Set in nineteenth century Wyoming, an adolescent boy's mettle is tested when he is forced to become the head of his family's isolated household. AR: Yes.

Ruby Bridges (Film), by Toni Ann Johnson, Disney, 1998. Tells the true story of the titular character who was among the first African-American kindergarteners to attend the previously all-white public schools of New Orleans. Awards: NAACP Image award nominee, 1998 Humanitis Prize for Teleplay, Golden Apple.

Runner, by Carl Deuker, Houghton Mifflin, 2005. A teenager living on a docked and decrepit sailboat with his alcoholic father is conflicted about his new and mysteriously high paying job delivering unmarked packages. AR: Yes.

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark, by Alvin Schwartz, HarperCollins, 1983. An anthology of illustrated ghost stories inspired by North American folklore. Awards: Library of Congress Children's Books. AR: Yes.

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark 3, by Alvin Schwartz, HarperCollins, 1983. The third in a trilogy of anthologies of illustrated ghost stories inspired by North American folklore. AR: Yes.

If We Kiss, by Rachel Vail, HarperCollins, 2005. A teenage girl receives her first kiss from her best friend's boyfriend. She then comes to obsess over the boy and the kiss, but feels guilty about the situation. AR: Yes.

The Seventeen Guide to Sex and Your Body, by Sabrina Solin, Aladdin 1996. Using language geared toward adolescent girls, this is guide to sex, anatomy, puberty, birth control, eating disorders and similar topics.

Show Way, by Jacqueline Woodson, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2004. The making of "Show Ways," or quilts that once served as secret maps for freedom-seeking slaves, is a tradition passed from mother to daughter in the author's family. Award: Newberry Honor, ALA Best Books. AR: Yes

The Subtle Knife, by Philip Pullman, Knopf, 1997. As the boundaries between worlds begin to dissolve, Lyra and her daemon help Will in his search for his

father and for a powerful, magical knife. AR: Yes
Tiger Eyes, by Judy Blume, Bantam Doubleday, 1981. After a teenage girl's father is killed in a convenience store robbery, she and the surviving members of her family visit relatives in Los Alamos, NM. Once there, she meets a young man who helps her cope with the death of her father. Awards: California Young Reader Medal. AR: Yes.

To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee, HarperCollins, 1999. A white attorney defends a black man unfairly accused of rape in depression era Alabama. Award: 1961 Pulitzer Prize. AR: Yes

Tomcat in Love, by Tim O'Brien, Broadway Books, 1998. A linguistics professor is obsessed both with reclaiming the love of his ex-wife and also with wooing every woman with whom he speaks. AR: Yes.

Vegan Virgin Valentine, by Carolyn Mackler, Candlewick Press, 2004. A conflict of personalities arises when young Mara must live with her similarly aged niece. AR: Yes.

What are You So Grumpy About?, by Tom Lichtenheld; Little, Brown Young Readers, 2003. A humorously illustrated book about some of the reasons a child might become grumpy: being forced to eat "grown up food," stubbing a toe, receiving underwear as a gift, etc. Awards: *Child* magazine best children's book designation

What Kind of Love?: The Diary of a Pregnant Teenager, Sheila

Cole, HarperCollins, 1995. A 15-year-old adolescent becomes pregnant after having sex for the first time. As the plot unfolds she considers her options: getting an abortion, adopting the father, putting the baby up for adoption.

What My Mother Doesn't Know, by Sonya Sones, Simon Pulse, 2003. This novel tells the story of an awkward and sexually repressed teenager who feels forced to choose between her handsome boyfriend and her geeky crush. AR: Yes.

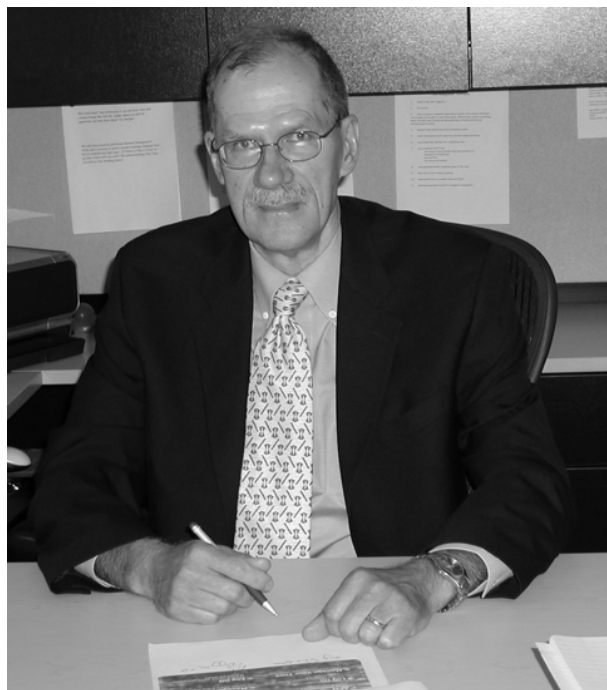
When Dad Killed Mom, by Julius Lester, Harcourt, 2001. After a man kills his wife, the couple's two children rely on each other and resist allowing their family to fall apart. Award: VOYA Award, YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers. AR: Yes.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town, by Kimberly Willis Holt, Random House, 1999. An adolescent Texan is having a terrible summer due to the fact that his mother left the family to pursue a career in music and his crush is oblivious to his presence. But, he comes to cope with these issues upon befriending Zachary "the World's Fattest Boy" Beaver. Awards: National Book Award. AR: Yes.

A Wrinkle in Time, by Madeline L'Engle, Yearling, 1962. A sister and brother, encouraged by a stranger from another dimension, embark upon a journey through the cosmos in order to find their missing father. Awards: Newbery Medal, Sequaoyah Book Award, and Lewis Carroll Shelf Award. AR: Yes.

The ACLU of Texas Interviews George Christian

In 2005, George Christian received a National Security Letter (NSL) from the FBI. The NSL demanded that Mr. Christian, as Executive Director of a non-profit library consortium, forfeit the library records of patrons to the FBI for reasons of national security. Furthermore, the letter imposed a perpetual gag order upon him, requiring that he never disclose the existence of the letter he received. Mr. Christian and three of his colleagues refused to comply. The ACLU sued Attorney General John Ashcroft, challenging the constitutionality of both of the government's demands and the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act used to justify them. Their case came to be known as Doe v Gonzalez. After a long and arduous legal battle, the US government withdrew both of its demands.



Could you please recount your experience as a plaintiff in Doe v Gonzalez?

In a word, it was bizarre. I never expected to be suing the Attorney General of the United States. Nor did I imagine I would have to do so anonymously under the imposition of a non-disclosure mandate (gag order). My three colleagues (members of the Executive Committee of our Board of Directors) and I could not even attend our trial in Federal District Court, even though we were the plaintiffs! We had to watch the proceedings on closed

circuit TV from a locked room in Federal Courthouse 60 miles away. The Justice Department felt that if we were in the courtroom our identities would be uncovered by the press, and alleged this would be a threat to National Security (Judge Janet Hall had a high enough security clearance to review the government's classified evidence, and opined the evidence did not support this claim).

Despite their concerns, the Justice Department failed to properly redact (censor with a black marker) the affidavits and other material submitted as part of our lawsuit, and made available as public record of the case. So my name and the name of one of my colleagues, Peter Chase, were soon in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and numerous Connecticut newspapers. Peter's and my home and work phones rang continuously as reporters tried to reach us for comment. Our ACLU attorneys felt that even saying "no comment" could be interpreted as a breach of the non-disclosure mandate, so we couldn't even answer our phones. This transferred the burden to our staffs and families—yet we could not tell them what was going on. Of course, they knew what was in the newspapers, but that knowledge just swept them under the shadow of the non-disclosure mandate. If they discussed the case with anyone, how could they prove the information they had came from press reports and not directly from us?

The district court decision to lift our gag order was appealed by the Justice Department. In appellate court, the ACLU presented a sheaf of clippings of newspaper articles that revealed Peter's and my identities. The Justice Department argued our identities had not really been revealed because "no one in Connecticut reads the *New York Times*," and claimed they had a study proving 64% of the public does not believe what they read in newspapers anyway. They then moved to suppress this evidence from the court record—evidence consisting solely of previously published newspaper articles!

Shortly after the Appellate trial, the USA PATRIOT Act came up for renewal in Congress. We were fighting in court for a lifting of our gag order so we could testify before Congress while they were considering the renewal. Attorney General Gonzales continued to maintain that the PATRIOT Act had not and would not be used against libraries. We could refute that simply by showing up—but were prevented from doing so by our non-disclosure mandate.

Attorney General Gonzales also informed Congress that there was no statutory basis for claims of privacy. Coincidentally, one of the passages redacted from our affidavits was our claim that 48 states have laws requiring librarians to maintain the privacy of patron records. Our quote of the Connecticut state law to this effect was also redacted. Apparently, the fact that privacy really has a statutory basis is considered a threat to National Security.

Congress renewed the USA PATRIOT Act while we remained gagged. Six weeks later the Justice Department informed our ACLU attorneys they would no longer contest our case in court (they also went to the court and tried to get our case dismissed and expunged from the record, as if it never happened). The appellate court sent our case back to the district court, where Judge Hall struck down our non-disclosure mandate as unconstitutional. After ten months we were free to speak out, to tell the public how National Security Letters were being used.

Six weeks after Judge Hall's ruling, the Justice Department informed our attorneys they no longer sought the information requested by our National Security Letter. We felt this was done to keep our contesting of compliance with the NSL out of court so that NSLs could not be found to be unconstitutional by the courts.

In the time since the USA PATRIOT Act came into effect, how many National Security Letters are known to have been issued and how many of those people are still gagged?

There is no good answer to this question, since the cloak of National Security makes accountability extremely difficult. Barton Gellman claimed in a lengthy article in the Washington Post in 2005 that 30,000 per year had been issued since the passage of the USA PATRIOT Act in 2001. A Justice Department investigation of the FBI's use of National Security Letters by the Adjutant General in 2007 revealed that 150,000 had been issued in the previous two years. Those two numbers add up to 300,000 NSLs between 2001 and 2007. The real number is anyone's guess. By the way, the non-disclosure mandate accompanying each National Security Letter is perpetual—every recipient of those 300,000 letters cannot even reveal that they were contacted by the FBI. They must take the secret of their encounter with a National Security Letter with them to their graves.

It has been said that only the mischievous should be concerned when the government may secretly

investigate an individual's library records. How do you feel about that sentiment?

The broad issue is that we are free only because the Constitution protects us from the abuse of power by the government. To allow those protections to be disregarded is to allow the Constitution and our liberties to be placed at risk.

To limit my answer to your question, the danger lies with mischievous access to library records, not the mischievous use of information available in a library. The issue is serious enough that 48 states have laws protecting the privacy of library patron records and requiring librarians to take all necessary steps to maintain that privacy. Librarians cannot release confidential information without a court order. A librarian should not be expected to determine if a policeperson is making a lawful request or is just trying to learn whether their spouse is researching divorce or spousal abuse. That's for the courts to decide. When the police present a warrant it means that an independent judiciary has reviewed the evidence and determined there is probable cause for the investigation. Requiring a subpoena or a warrant protects both the public and the librarian.

The assurance of privacy in the use of libraries protects all users. People researching cancer or std's don't want anyone else to know of their concerns. Would students or interested citizens be comfortable researching Wahhabism if they thought the FBI would second guess their motivations? Same for a businessman exploring markets in the Mid-East.

Before your case was litigated, it was public knowledge that the PATRIOT Act allowed the government to secretly investigate a citizen's public library records without a warrant. Do you believe this had any affect on library patrons and the books they chose to borrow? Did you ever have any conversations that you can recount about this matter?

When the USA PATRIOT Act was passed in 2001, librarians became concerned that it contained several investigative authorizations accompanied by non-disclosure mandates. Librarians became concerned about these provisions. Our library consortium began to work with other library consortia in Connecticut to develop prototype policies that could be adopted by our member libraries. Then Attorney General Ashcroft berated librarians for being hysterical (an offensive putdown of a profession dominated by women) and declared that the

USA PATRIOT Act had not and never would be used against libraries. Along with many other librarians, we took him at his word, and the concerns over the potential abuse of patron privacy under the USA PATRIOT Act died down. I don't think the level of concern among library patrons was ever as high as among librarians (the public rightfully expects librarians to guard their privacy), and it too declined after Ashcroft's bombast.

When I was served with a National Security Letter, it was the first time I had ever heard those three words strung together like that. Even my attorney had never heard those three words—because every other recipient had been perpetually gagged and could not mention their encounter.

What do you consider to be the role of the library in a democratic society?

A library is a place where citizens can come to inform themselves on any topic, knowing that the information available in a library represents a broad and fair spectrum of knowledge and opinion. There are no conservative or liberal, Republican, or Democratic, socialist, or fundamentalist libraries, though all those spectrums of thought may be represented. In a library one can contrast and compare. It is a marketplace of ideas

Maintaining a democracy requires an informed electorate. The founding fathers knew this, and stressed the provision of public education. Libraries insure that all of us have access to becoming informed.

What does the term "intellectual freedom" mean to you?

To me it means the freedom to think and to become informed so one can think. Freedom of the press assumes the freedom to read. If one fears the police arm of the government is second guessing one's choices in reading, then one isn't free to read, and freedom of the press becomes a hollow phrase.

When our gag order was lifted, and we began to talk about our thoughts on our experience, we all realized that preventing us from speaking (or writing) prevented us from thinking as well. As we spoke and interacted with others, our thoughts blossomed—it was quite an amazing experience. The same curtailment of intellectual freedom

happens if the breath of ideas we are exposed to is limited by a fear of reading about them.

What advice do you have for the school librarian whose library is facing the potential banning of a book?

The idea of book banning is so anti-democratic that it just astounds me. Schools exist to expand horizons, not restrict them. Librarians are trained to choose books that will expand the horizons of the students. Allowing their judgment to be second guessed by any and every member of the community is simply absurd. Schools should teach our youth to think, to evaluate competing ideas and develop discernment. Book banning declares that the purpose of schools is to protect young people from ideas.

Provocative or challenging books broaden the knowledge of the reader. One can understand and learn from the experiences of others without having to have those experiences personally. It's the opportunity to try ideas out without having to personally undergo the experiences leading to those ideas or without having to inflict the consequences of those experiences on oneself or others. No one fears that a reader of Moby Dick will become obsessed with the idea of revenge. But no one can read Moby Dick without understanding the tragedy of obsession and the fearful consequences it can have for others as well as oneself.

It is often parents who call for books to be removed from libraries. What advice do you have for parents considering such action?

You have the right to limit your child's access to particular books—but no right to tell other parents what their children can or cannot read.

However, look at books that you dislike or that make you uncomfortable as an opportunity to shape your child's development. You can't protect him or her from ideas forever. Instead try reading the book together—take turns with your child reading it to each other. Discuss the passages or ideas that you disagree with or that make you uncomfortable and why they do so. This is a much better way to impart your values to your children and to help them form their own judgment around your values, than by simply denying them access to ideas they are going to encounter at some point anyway. Do you want that encounter to be with you or on their own?

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation 2009 Youth Activist Scholarship Program



If you are, or if you know, a student activist working to protect the civil rights afforded by our constitution, check out our scholarship program. The ACLU will be providing \$12,500 to 16 high school seniors across the country who have demonstrated a dedication to civil liberties activism.

To qualify, a student must fill out the application included in this publication or obtain an electronic application from the Field Organizer of the ACLU of Texas at thayes@aclutx.org. Fill out the application completely, including personal contact information, an essay, recommendations and agreement to terms. Once completed, students must interview with the ACLU of Texas and be recommended by the Affiliate to the National ACLU for consideration.

The Deadline for applications is November 14, 2008, however we encourage early applications.

ACLU Youth Activist Scholarship Program Application

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION *(to be completed by applicant)*

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

High School: _____

GPA: _____

How did you first learn about the ACLU Youth Scholarship Program?

Please Note: *The purpose of the ACLU Foundation scholarship is to provide young civil liberties activists with financial assistance in obtaining a college degree. The scholarship is intended to pay for tuition and room/board for the recipient's first year of college, and will be sent directly to the college's office of financial aid. In the event that the recipient should receive a full scholarship from his/her college and does not need to pay for these expenses, the scholarship can only be used for other direct educational expenses for the recipient's first year of college, i.e. a student account in the official school bookstore. Any remaining funds that cannot be used by the recipient for direct educational expenses will be given to the recipient's nominating ACLU affiliate to be used for youth outreach and programming.*

For the applicants: I agree to the rules of the ACLU Foundation scholarship process. I affirm that the information enclosed in the application is accurate and original to me, and I authorize the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation to reproduce, distribute, create derivative works of and publicly display my essay in all media now known or hereafter developed in connection with its mission, including for promotional purposes. If I am a recipient of the 2009 ACLU Youth Scholarship, I grant the ACLU Foundation the right to use my name, likeness, and biographical information in all media in connection with ACLU Foundation's mission, including promotional materials without any further compensation or permission.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For applicants under 18: Consent from a Parent or Legal Guardian is also required

I, _____ represent that I am the [parent/guardian] of the above named individual. I have read the foregoing and fully understand the contents hereof. I hereby consent to the foregoing on his/her behalf.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

B. ESSAY

On separate pages, please attach a personal statement of 1,000 words or less describing your civil liberties activism. Please include your understanding of what it means to be a civil liberties activist, specific examples of how you have demonstrated your dedication to civil liberties, challenges that you had to overcome in doing so, and how you showed leadership in your actions.

C. RECOMMENDATION FORM

Section I – To be completed by the applicant.

Name of applicant: _____

Name/Title of Reference: _____

I waive ☐ do not waive ☐ my right to access information on the recommendation form.

The ACLU does not require that you waive your right to review the recommendations in your file as a condition for award of a scholarship. However, you have the option of signing such a waiver in the event that your reference requires that you waive access to the recommendation. If you waive the right to access information on the recommendation form, please ensure that the affiliate receives the recommendation in a sealed envelope.

Section II – To be completed by applicant's reference (not a family member).

Please complete answers in separate document and submit with application.

1. In what capacity and how long have you known the applicant?
2. How has the applicant shown his/her commitment and activism to civil liberties? Please provide specific examples.
3. How has the applicant shown leadership and teamwork in his/her community, both through his/her activism and otherwise. Please provide specific examples.
4. How do you see the applicant continuing his/her civil liberties activism in college?

5. Additional comments:

Name: _____ Title/Position _____

School: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

D. **CHECKLIST** *(to be completed by the affiliate and sent with the application):*

- ☐ **Personal Information**
 - Completed by the applicant
- ☐ **Personal Essay**
 - Completed by the applicant
- ☐ **Recommendation Form**
 - Section I completed by the applicant
 - Section II completed by the applicant's reference (not a family member)
 - Sent to the affiliate in a sealed envelope if the right to access information on the recommendation form is waived

Deadline: Application due November 14!!

Mail your application to:

ACLU of Texas
Youth Scholarship Program
P.O. Box 12905
Austin, Texas 78711

Or email your application to:

thayes@aclutx.org with the words "youth scholarship" in the subject line

Please direct all questions to Tracey Hayes, Field Organizer, at thayes@aclutx.org, or cal 512.478.7300 x 124

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BANNED BOOKS PROJECT DIRECTOR

Tracey Hayes

VOLUNTEERS

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