

A red circular sticker is affixed to a weathered wooden post. The post is wrapped in barbed wire, with the sharp points of the wire visible. The background is a blurred outdoor setting, possibly a street or park. The sticker contains the following text:

2013-2014  
**BOOKS**  
**CHALLENGED  
OR BANNED**

**Robert P. Doyle**



**BANNED  
BOOKS  
WEEK 2014**

celebrating more than  
thirty years of the  
freedom to read.

This freedom, not only to choose what we read, but also to select from a full array of possibilities, is firmly rooted in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Although we enjoy an increasing quantity and availability of information and reading material, we must remain vigilant to ensure that access to this material is preserved; would-be censors who continue to threaten the freedom to read come from all quarters and all political persuasions. Even if well intentioned, censors try to limit the freedom of others to choose what they read, see, or hear.

Sex, profanity, and racism remain the primary categories of objections, and most occur in schools and school libraries. Frequently, challenges are motivated by the desire to protect children. While the intent is commendable, this method of protection contains hazards far greater than exposure to the “evil” against which it is leveled. U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, in *Texas v. Johnson*, said, “If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the Government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable.” Individuals may restrict what they themselves or their children read, but they must not call on governmental or public agencies to prevent others from reading or viewing that material.

The challenges documented in this list are not brought by people merely expressing a point of view; rather, they represent requests to remove materials from schools or libraries, thus restricting access to them by others. Even when the eventual outcome allows

the book to stay on the library shelves and even when the person is a lone protester, the censorship attempt is real. Someone has tried to restrict another person’s ability to choose. Challenges are as important to document as actual bannings, in which a book is removed from the shelves of a library or bookstore or from the curriculum at a school. Attempts to censor can lead to voluntary restriction of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy; in these cases, material may not be published at all or may not be purchased by a bookstore, library, or school district.

It should be noted that this bibliography is incomplete because many prohibitions against free speech and expression remain undocumented. Surveys indicate up to 85 percent of actual challenges to library materials receive no media attention and remain unreported. Moreover, this list is limited to books and does not include challenges to magazines, newspapers, films, broadcasts, plays, performances, electronic publications, or exhibits.

This **bibliography** represents books challenged, restricted, removed, or banned in 2013 and 2014 as reported in the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* from May 2013 to March 2014.

(Dates prior to May 2013 indicate the controversy began earlier, but continued into 2013 or 2014.)

**Alexie, Sherman**

**The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**

THORNDIKE PRESS; LITTLE, BROWN

Removed as required reading in a Queens, N.Y. middle school (2013) because the book included excerpts on masturbation. The book, which tells the story of a Native American who transfers into an all-white high school, won the 2007 National Book Foundation award for Young People's Literature. Challenged on the tenth-grade required reading list at Skyview High School in Billings, Mt. (2013) because "[t]his book is, shockingly, written by a Native American who reinforces all the negative stereotypes of his people and does it from the crude, obscene, and unfiltered viewpoint of a ninth-grader growing up on the reservation." Pulled from the Jefferson County, W.V. schools (2013) because a parent complained about the novel's graphic nature. Challenged in a Sweet Home, Oreg. Junior High English class (2014) because of concerns about its content, particularly what some parents see as the objectification of women and young girls, and the way alternative lessons were developed and presented. Parents of the eighth-graders in the language arts classes received information summarizing the novel's most controversial issues before the unit started and had the option of asking for an alternative assignment.

Source: Sept. 2013, p. 185; Jan. 2014, pp. 10–11, 14; Mar. 2014, p. 49.

**Allende, Isabel**

**The House of the Spirits**

DIAL PRESS TRADE PAPERBACK

Challenged in the Watauga County, N.C. High School (2013) curriculum because of the book's graphic nature. After a five-month process, the book was fully retained at a third and final appeal hearing. Published in 1982, the bestseller was critically acclaimed and catapulted Allende to literary stardom. The novel was named Best Novel of the Year in Chile in 1982, and Allende received the country's Panorama Literario award. It has been translated into over thirty-seven languages.

Source: Jan. 2014, pp. 27–28; Mar. 2014, pp. 66–68.

**Anaya, Rodolfo**

**Bless Me, Ultima**

WARNER BOOKS

Retained in the Teton High School sophomore English class in Driggs, Idaho (2013) despite concerns about the novel's mature content. Anaya's best-known work, it was awarded the prestigious Premio Quinto Sol. President George W. Bush awarded Anaya the National Medal of Arts in 2002. In 2008, it was one of twelve classic American novels selected for The Big Read, a community-reading program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, and in 2009, it was in the list of the United States Academic Decathlon.

Source: Jan. 2014, pp. 26–27.

**Atwood, Margaret**

**The Handmaid's Tale**

MCCLELLAND AND STEWART

Challenged, but retained as required reading for a Page High School International Baccalaureate class and as optional reading for Advanced Placement reading courses at Grimsley High School in Guilford County, N.C. (2012) because the book was "sexually explicit, violently graphic and morally corrupt." Some parents thought the book is "detrimental to Christian values." The novel won the 1985 Governor General's Award in Canada and the first Arthur C. Clarke Award in 1987; it was also nominated for the 1986 Nebula Award, the 1986 Booker Prize, and the 1987 Prometheus Award. It has been adapted for the cinema, radio, opera, and stage.

Source: Jan. 2013, p. 11; Nov. 2013, pp. 244–45.

**Aylisli, Akram**

**Stone Dreams**

NOVELLA PUBLISHED IN DRUZHBA NARODOV (FRIENDSHIP OF THE PEOPLES)

Burned (2013) at various locations around Azerbaijan. The novella is sympathetic to Armenians and recounts Azeri atrocities in the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia twenty years ago. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev stripped the author of his title of "People's Writer" and the pension that goes with it. A pro-government political party in Baku, Azerbaijan, announced that it would pay \$12,700 to anyone who cuts off the ear of the 75-year-old novelist for portraying Azerbaijanis as savages.

Source: May 2013, pp. 108–9.

**Chbosky, Stephen**

**The Perks of Being a Wallflower**

POCKET BOOKS

Removed from eighth-grade classrooms at Hadley Junior High School in Glen Ellyn, Ill. (2013) because of concerns about sexually explicit content and language. In June, the Glen Ellyn Elementary District 41 School Board overturned the decision and returned the book to the library shelves. Most board members were willing to reinstate the book after assurances from district administrators that a revised parental notification letter would be sent at the start of each school year warning parents that their children could be getting access to sometimes mature content in classroom libraries. Published in 1999, the coming-of-age tale is about an introspective fifteen-year-old high school freshman who writes letters to an anonymous friend. Intelligent beyond his years, he is an unconventional thinker; yet, as the story begins, Charlie is also shy and unpopular. In 2012, a film adaptation of the novel was released to positive critical response and commercial success. The film won numerous awards. Challenged on a summer reading list for incoming freshmen at Wharton High School in Tampa, Fla. (2013) because “it deals with sexual situations and drug use.”

Source: July 2013, pp. 143–44; Sept. 2013, pp. 184, 201.

**Ellis, Elisabeth Gaynor, and Anthony Esler**

**World History**

PRENTICE-HALL

Challenged, but retained in the Volusia County, Fla. high schools (2013) despite a thirty-two-page chapter on “Muslim Civilizations” that covers the rise of Islam and the building of a Muslim empire. Protesters believe the Volusia high schools are using the world history textbook to “indoctrinate” students into the Islamic religion and recommend student volunteers tear the chapter out of the 1,000-page book.

Source: Jan. 2014, pp. 9–10.

**Ellison, Ralph**

**Invisible Man**

RANDOM HOUSE

Challenged, but retained on the shelves of the Randolph County, N.C. high school libraries (2013) despite the book’s strong language. Ellison won the National Book Award for Fiction in 1953. In 1998, the Modern Library ranked the novel nineteenth on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the twentieth century. *Time* magazine included the novel in its TIME 100 Best English-language Novels from 1923 to 2005.

Source: Nov. 2013, pp. 242–43.

**Erlbach, Arlene**

**The Middle School Survival Guide**

WALKER & CO.

Removed from the Walnut Street School library in Delanco, N.J. (2013) because “the book provided too much information about sexual issues for middle school students.”

Source: July 2013, p. 141.

**Follett, Ken**

**The Pillars of the Earth**

MACMILLAN

Pulled from a senior English honors class in the Troy, Penn. Area School District (2013) after parent objections. The objections concerned material of a sexual nature in the book that the parents deemed inappropriate. Published in 1989, the historical novel, set in the middle of the twelfth century, is about the building of a cathedral in the town of Kingsbridge, England. The book was selected for Oprah’s Book Club in 2007.

Source: Nov. 2013, pp. 219–20.

**Frank, Anne**

**Anne Frank:**

**The Diary of a Young Girl**

DOUBLEDAY

Challenged, but retained in the Northville, Mich. middle schools (2013) despite anatomical descriptions in the book. Before the school district’s vote, ten free speech organizations signed a letter urging the Northville School District to keep the book. The letter, which was sent to the superintendent and board of education members, “emphasized the power and relatability of Frank’s diary for middle school students. Frank’s honest writings about her body and the changes she was undergoing during her two-year period of hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam can serve as an excellent resource for students themselves undergoing these changes.” The diary has now been published in more than sixty different languages and is on several lists of the top books of the twentieth century.

Source: July 2013, p. 163.

**Gaiman, Neil**

**Neverwhere**

BBC BOOKS

Temporarily removed from the Alamogordo, N.Mex. High School library and curriculum (2013) because of what one parent calls “inappropriate content.” The British author wrote in *The Guardian*: “Well-meaning adults can easily destroy a child’s love of reading. Stop them reading what they enjoy or give them worthy-but-dull books that you like—the twenty-first-century equivalents of Victorian ‘improving’ literature—you’ll wind up with a generation convinced that reading is uncool and, worse, unpleasant.”

Source: Nov. 2013, pp. 217–18.



**Green, John**  
**Looking for Alaska**

SPEAK

Challenged in the Verona, N.J. High School curriculum (2013) because a parent found the sexual nature of the story inappropriate. The book was a *New York Times* bestseller and won the 2006 Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature.

Source: Nov. 2013, pp. 218–19.

**Ignatow, Amy**  
**The Popularity Papers**

AMULET

Challenged, but retained at two Prosser, Wash. elementary school libraries (2013). Only available to fifth-graders, the story is written in a journal format and drawn by the two main characters who want to unlock the secrets to being popular in middle school. One of the girls has two fathers; the other has only a mother. The American Library Association’s Rainbow Project selected it as a top-ten title for 2011. It was a 2010 National Parenting Publications Association Gold Award winner and selected by the Chicago Public Library as one of the 2011 “Best of the Best” books.

Source: May 2013, p. 124.

**Lyga, Barry**  
**I Hunt Killers**

LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Challenged on the Lexington, Ky. Henry Clay High School reading list (2013) because it is too violent for teens. The book is listed on the Kentucky Bluegrass Awards for ninth through twelfth grades.

Source: Jan. 2014, p. 10.

**Morrison, Toni**  
**Bluest Eye**

KNOPF; NAL

Challenged in Legacy High School’s Advanced Placement English classes in Adams County, Colo. (2013) because it was a “bad book.” A notice was sent home to let parents and students know what they would be reading and why and an alternate assignment was offered to those who wanted it. Half a dozen students of about 150 opted to read one of the alternative texts and received instruction on those works outside of class time.

Challenged on a suggested reading list for Columbus, Ohio high school students (2013) by the school board president because it is inappropriate for the school board to “even be associated with it.” A fellow board member described the book as having “an underlying socialist-communist agenda.” Morrison is an Ohio native, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, and Nobel laureate.

Source: Sept. 2013, p. 184; Nov. 2013, p. 219.

**Myers, Walter Dean**  
**Fallen Angels**

SCHOLASTIC

Challenged on the Danbury Middle School reading list in Toledo, Ohio (2013) because of inappropriate language. The book depicts the reality of the Vietnam War, with sometimes gruesome descriptions of combat and frequent foul language from soldiers. It won the 1988 Coretta Scott King Award.

Source: May 2013, p. 104.

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds**  
**Intensely Alice**

ATHENEUM BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS; SIMON PULSE

Challenged, but retained in the Buffalo, Mo. middle school (2013) despite the principal’s formal complaint against several “very questionable pages” featuring a safe sex scene.

Source: May 2013, pp. 123–24.

**Othman, Norani, ed.**  
**Muslim Women and the Challenges of Islamic Extremism**

SISTERS IN ISLAM

Banned by the Malaysian Ministry of Home Affairs (2008) on the grounds that it was “prejudicial to public order” and that it could confuse Muslims, particularly Muslim women. The Malaysian High Court overturned the ban on January 25, 2010, and on March 14, 2013, the Federal Court threw out the government’s appeal to reinstate the ban.

Source: May 2013, pp. 125–26.

**Rivera, Tomas**  
**And the Earth Did Not Devour Him**

HAMPTON-BROWN

Challenged, but retained as part of the Clarke County, Ga. schools class reading list (2013) despite “a paragraph in the book full of offensive language.” The book is the story of a Mexican boy’s life in a migrant family in the 1940s and 1950s, with themes of family life and tensions, getting an education, and growing up. In 1970 Rivera’s book won the Premio Quinto Sol literary award, established by a California publisher to encourage and promote Chicano authors.

Source: Sept. 2013, pp. 184–85; Nov. 2013, p. 244.

**Rosen, Lucy**  
**I Am Bane**

HARPERFESTIVAL

Challenged, but retained at the Geneva, Ill. Public Library (2013) despite concerns that the images are too scary for young readers. The film *The Dark Knight Rises* inspired the book.

Source: Jan. 2014, p. 25.

**Rowell, Rainbow**  
**Eleanor & Park**

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS

Retained, despite a challenge by the chairman of the Anoka-Hennepin, Minn. School Board (2013) because parents of a student objected to the book's content, citing its use of profanity and its treatment of sexuality. The Anoka County Library had scheduled a visit by the author, but the event was cancelled due to the controversy. Set in a poor Omaha neighborhood, the story concerns two outsider teens in the 1980s who find a common bond in music amidst poverty, bullying, abuse, racism, and budding sexuality. Selected by National Public Radio as a 2013 Great Read.

Source: Nov. 2013, pp. 216-17; Jan. 2014, pp. 25-26.

**St. Stephen's Community House**  
**The Little Black Book for Girlz:**  
**A Book on Healthy Sexuality**

ANNICK PRESS

Challenged at the Taft High library in Lincoln City, Ore. (2013) because "it is simply too graphic for a seventh grader." Each library book is "run by a district committee made up of district staff and community members."

Source: July 2013, pp. 141-42.

**Satrapi, Marjane**  
**Persepolis:**  
**The Story of a Childhood**

PANTHEON BOOKS

Removed, via a district directive, from all Chicago, Ill. public schools (2013) due to "graphic illustrations and language" and concerns about "developmental preparedness" and "student readiness." Seventh- and eleventh-grade students study the graphic novel about the author's experience growing up in Iran during the Iranian revolution as part of Chicago Public Schools' Literacy Content Framework. As the news spread of the directive, students mobilized a media campaign in opposition to "banning a book that's all about the freedom of speech." Students took to their Facebook and Twitter accounts, checked out all library copies of the book, wrote blogs, sent e-mails, wrote investigative articles for the student newspaper, contacted the author, staged protests, and appeared on local radio and television programs. Eventually the school issued a letter telling high school principals to disregard the earlier order to pull the book. The book was a *New York Times* Notable Book, a *Time* magazine "Best Comix of the Year," and a *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Los Angeles Times* bestseller. A film version was nominated for Best Animated Feature at the 80th Academy Awards in 2007.

Source: May 2013, pp. 103-4.

**Stone, Tanya Lee**  
**A Bad Boy Can Be Good**  
**for a Girl**

RANDOM HOUSE

Challenged, but retained at the Currituck, N.C. High School library (2013). This first novel by Stone, written in a poetry format, follows the story of three girls who fall for the same bad boy intent on seducing every girl in school.

Source: Nov. 2013, p. 243.

**Walker, Alice**  
**Color Purple**

HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVIH

Challenged, but retained as a Brunswick County, N.C. Advanced Placement English eleventh-grade assignment (2013). Language and sexuality or "obscenity" were most often cited as the reason for the majority of the unofficial complaints and criticisms, as was whether or not the book, a Pulitzer Prize winner that deals with issues of racism, violence against women, and rape, has literary value that was age appropriate for the students.

Source: Jan. 2014, p. 12; Mar. 2014, p. 66.

**Winter, Jeanette**  
**Nasreen's Secret School:**  
**A True Story from Afghanistan**

BEACH LANE BOOKS

Challenged in Johnson City, N.Y. schools as a suggested reading (2013) because of violent illustrations and storyline. The book is about the Taliban taking control of an Afghan village and preventing girls from going to school. After Nasreen's father is kidnapped and presumed killed, her grandmother smuggles her each day to an underground school where she can learn to read and write.

Source: Jan. 2014, pp. 11-12.

**Winter, Jeanette**  
**The Librarian of Basra:**  
**A True Story from Iraq**

HMH BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Challenged in Johnson City, N.Y. schools as a suggested reading (2013) because of violent illustrations and storyline. The book is about a librarian who sneaks books out of a library during the U.S. bombings in Iraq. The librarian works with members of the community to keep the books safe until the war is over and a new library can be built.

Source: Jan. 2014, pp. 11-12.

# Take Action!

Protect Your  
Right to Read

Support libraries

Join a group

Seek assistance

Raise awareness

Write a letter

Attend a meeting

Stay Informed

Speak up

Each day, all across the country, one of our most basic freedoms—the right to read—is in danger. In communities large and small, censorship attempts threaten to undermine our freedom to read. Without our constant support, the First Amendment freedoms that we so often take for granted—the right to read, explore ideas, and express ourselves freely—are at risk.

The First Amendment guarantees that each of us has the right to express our views, including opinions about particular books. At the same time, the First Amendment also ensures that none of us has the right to control or limit another person's ability to read or access information. Yet when individuals or groups file formal written requests demanding that libraries and schools remove specific books from the shelves, they are doing just that—attempting to restrict the rights of other individuals to access those books.

The rights and protections of the First Amendment extend to children and teens as well as adults. While parents have the right—and the responsibility—to

guide their own children's reading, that right does not extend to other people's children. Similarly each adult has the right to choose his or her own reading materials, along with the responsibility to acknowledge and respect the right of others to do the same.

When we speak up to protect the right to read, we not only defend our individual right to free expression, we demonstrate tolerance and respect for opposing points of view. And when we take action to preserve our precious freedoms, we become participants in the ongoing evolution of our democratic society.

**Act now** to protect your right to read.  
Here are three ways that you can get involved:

1

## Stay Informed

### Be aware of what's happening

*The best way to fight censorship is to be aware that it's happening. When you encounter it, be prepared to speak up or let others know.*

Ask the people on the front lines — librarians, teachers, and school principals — if there are any current attempts to challenge or ban books or other materials. If they have support groups or information lists, ask to join them.

Legislators and public officials often introduce legislation to restrict access to books and other materials in libraries, schools, and bookstores. Let officials know that there are citizens actively opposed to demands to restrict or remove books in schools and libraries.

### Attend school board, library board, and PTA meetings

*You can speak up about the importance of free speech to education in a democratic society.*

As a regular participant in gatherings, you have the opportunity to learn about policies governing access to books and materials. You can witness firsthand when someone demands that a school or library remove a book or restrict access to books.

### Subscribe to print and online news publications

*You can stay current on First Amendment rights and censorship issues.*

#### The ALA Office for Intellectual

**Freedom** ([ala.org/oif](http://ala.org/oif)) publishes the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* and provides regular news updates via the OIF blog, Twitter ([twitter.com/oif](https://twitter.com/oif)) and the IFACTION mailing list ([lists.ala.org/sympa/info/ifaction](http://lists.ala.org/sympa/info/ifaction)).

#### The First Amendment Center

([firstamendmentcenter.org](http://firstamendmentcenter.org)) maintains an online First Amendment library ([firstamendmentcenter.org/research-articles](http://firstamendmentcenter.org/research-articles)) and provides breaking news about First Amendment issues via its RSS newsfeed.

### Join groups committed to preserving the right to read

*You can participate by joining these nonprofit organizations.*

#### The Freedom to Read Foundation

([ftrf.org](http://ftrf.org)) is the only organization in the United States whose primary goal is to protect and promote the First Amendment in libraries by participating in litigation dealing with free expression in libraries and other venues. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, *The FTRF News*.

#### The American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression

([abffe.org](http://abffe.org)) promotes and protects the free exchange of ideas, particularly those contained in books, by opposing restrictions on the freedom of speech.

#### The National Coalition Against

**Censorship** ([ncac.org](http://ncac.org)) is an alliance of fifty national nonprofit organizations, including literary, artistic, religious, educational, professional, labor, and civil liberties groups, that work to educate both members and the public at large about the dangers of censorship and how to oppose it.

#### The Comic Book Legal Defense Fund

([cbldef.org](http://cbldef.org)) works to protect free speech in comics by supporting First Amendment rights for members of the comics community, fans, and professionals alike.

#### The American Civil Liberties Union

([aclu.org](http://aclu.org)) works daily to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution, including the freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Local chapters and affiliates ([aclu.org/affiliates](http://aclu.org/affiliates)) provide assistance to local communities.

## Challenge Censorship

### Report censorship to ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom

*You can help raise awareness of censorship in your local community.*

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracks attempts to remove or restrict books across the country. By reporting censorship incidents, you can help to identify trends in censorship cases and document responses and solutions to censorship. All identifying information is kept strictly confidential. You can file reports online by going to [ala.org/challengereporting](http://ala.org/challengereporting).

### Attend and participate in public hearings

*You can inform public officials that censorship won't be tolerated in the community.*

By attending hearings, you can speak out in support of free expression and the right to read freely. You can let officials know that there are citizens actively opposed to demands to restrict or remove books in schools and libraries. Such attempts seldom succeed when concerned citizens speak out against censorship.

### Write letters to public officials

*You can write to public officials encouraging them to preserve the freedom to read.*

Let them know that your rights and your views are entitled to the same respect as those who seek to censor books. Write to any public official that you believe can

prevent the suppression of books in your community: your mayor, city council, other city officials, library board members, school board members, superintendent of schools, etc.

### Send a letter or an op-ed article to local news organizations

*You can update community news outlets with information and opinion.*

Make sure you let reporters and editors know that there are members of the community who oppose censorship and the official suppression of ideas. Letters to public officials, letters sent to local news outlets, and comments posted on websites and blogs are effective ways to raise awareness.

### Work with community groups

*You can network with local organizations for support.*

Inform professional associations, civic organizations, and religious groups about attempts to remove books from the community's library or school. You can ask to speak to their membership about the importance of preserving First Amendment freedoms. Or ask if you can contribute an article to the group's newsletter or website. You can speak with the group's leaders and ask them to lend public support to efforts to protect the right to read in the community.

### Form a coalition to oppose censorship in your community

*You can partner with others who support the right to read freely.*

Even a small number of persons can form an effective group to oppose censorship. Such groups allow members to share responsibility for attending meetings and conducting outreach efforts. By joining together you can become a resource for the community as a whole. To read the story of one exemplary community coalition, visit the website [westbendparentsforreespeech.webs.com](http://westbendparentsforreespeech.webs.com).

### Seek assistance from national groups

*You can get guidance and support from experienced organizations.*

Get started by researching existing groups so that you can benefit from their expertise. Check out the national organizations listed on page 10 for assistance, resources, and referrals whenever you or your organization addresses demands to remove books from libraries or schools.

## Support Your Local Schools and Libraries

### Join Library Friends groups and PTAs

*You can become an advocate for community education groups.*

Libraries and schools rely on volunteers and advocates to accomplish their mission of educating young people. These groups also provide information and lifelong learning opportunities to adults in the community. You can contribute by participating in Friends groups, PTAs, or volunteering directly where your help will strengthen these vital institutions.

### Participate in Banned Books Week

*You can promote the right to read by joining in the celebration.*

Each year, libraries, schools, and bookstores across the nation celebrate the freedom to read by observing Banned Books Week. This public event in September features author visits and readings from banned books. You can show your support for the freedom to read by attending these events. Please visit [ala.org/bbooks](http://ala.org/bbooks) for more resources and information, or connect on Facebook ([facebook.com/bannedbooksweek](http://facebook.com/bannedbooksweek)).

## SUPPORT BANNED BOOKS WEEK

Banned Books Week merchandise to help celebrate the freedom to read—such as posters, t-shirts, buttons, and bookmarks—is available for purchase at the ALA Store online at [alastore.ala.org](http://alastore.ala.org), or by calling toll-free at **1-866-SHOP ALA** (1-866-746-7252).

For more information on Banned Books Week, please visit [ala.org/bbooks](http://ala.org/bbooks)



### *Sponsored by:*

American Booksellers Association  
American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression  
American Library Association  
American Society of Journalists and Authors  
Association of American Publishers  
Comic Book Legal Defense Fund  
Freedom to Read Foundation  
National Association of College Stores  
National Coalition Against Censorship  
National Council of Teachers of English  
PEN American Center

### *Endorsed by:*

Center for the Book in the Library of Congress  
Project Censored