



**GENDER QUEER** by Maia Kobabe REASONS: LGBTOIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit





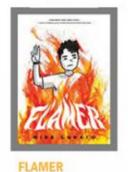
**ALL BOYS** AREN'T BLUE by George M. Johnson REASONS: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit





THE BLUEST EYE by Toni Morrison REASONS: rape, incest, claimed to be sexually explicit, EDI content





by Mike Curato **REASONS: LGBTQIA+** content, claimed to be sexually explicit



**FOR ALASKA** by John Green **REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content

LOOKING



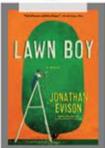
THE PERKS

OF BEING A

5

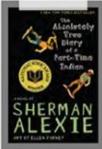
WALLFLOWER by Stephen Chbosky **REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, rape, drugs, profanity





LAWN BOY by Jonathan Evison **REASONS: LGBTOIA+** content, claimed to be sexually explicit





#### THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN

by Sherman Alexie **REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity





### **OUT OF** DARKNESS by Ashley Hope Perez

**REASON:** claimed to be sexually explicit



#### A COURT OF MIST AND FURY

by Sarah J. Maas **REASON:** claimed to be sexually explicit

#### CRANK by Ellen Hopkins

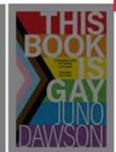
**REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit, drugs



#### ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL

by Jesse Andrews **REASONS:** claimed to be sexually explicit,

profanity



#### THIS BOOK IS GAY

by Juno Dawson

### REASONS:

LGBTQIA+ content, sex education, claimed to be sexually explicit



### America's Public Libraries

## Upholding Your Right To Read

# Tabitha Hogan, Director

thogan@wpl.org







Quick Review of Kansas
Books in

the News



## Transgender books to remain in children's section at Andover Library



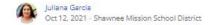
(KWCH)

Published: Feb. 13, 2019 at 9:45 PM CST



Three children's books with transgender characters will remain in the children's section of the Andover Library.

The library's board of directors approved the decision 6 to 1 during its meeting Tuesday night.



### **Shawnee Mission weighs policy** change after some parents raise concerns about book's descriptions of sex

Share this story: **f O O O** 

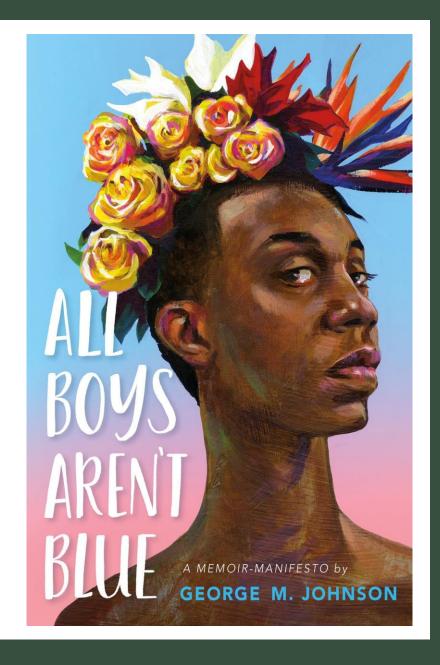








Shawnee Mission will soon consider changing its policy regarding the channel through which parents or patrons can submit complaints about instructional or library resources. Although not explicitly stated as the reasoning, the move comes amid parent concerns about a LGBTQ book by George M. Johnson, "All Boys Aren't Blue." File photo.



News

# Kansas school district reverses decision to pull library books

KMUW | By Suzanne Perez

Published November 10, 2021 at 7:54 PM CST

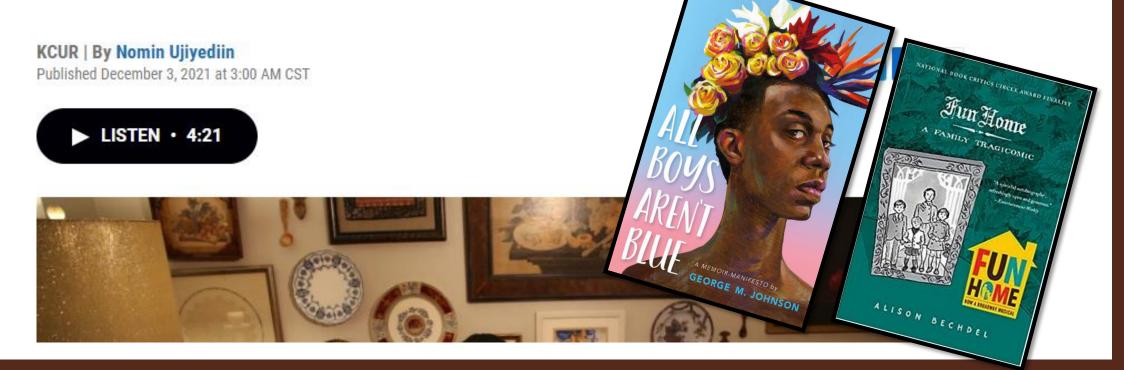


ANGIE THOMAS

IL CORAGGIO DELLA VERITÀ

«Un miracolo editoriale.»
THE GUARDIAN

Conservative parents are trying to ban books in Kansas City schools. Students won't let them.



**NEWS** 

# Salina Public Schools decides not to ban "All Boys Aren't Blue" from the school library

Mary Clarkin Special to the Salina Journal

Published 6:56 p.m. CT March 1, 2022 | Updated 10:05 p.m. CT March 1, 2022

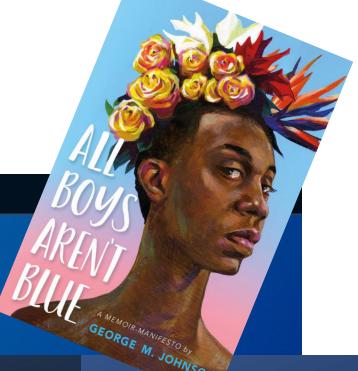








Ad: (0:14) ⑦



HOMEPAGE

## Johnson County school board considers banning LGBTQ-themed books. Here's what's in them

#### BY NATALIE WALLINGTON

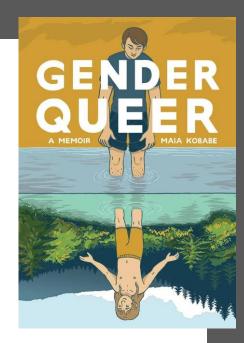
UPDATED JUNE 20, 2022 10:50 AM

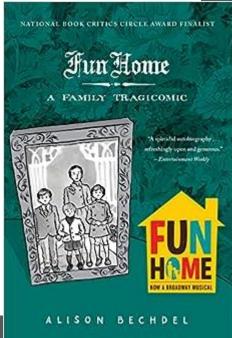




### WHAT'S NEXT FOR THESE BOOKS?

The Blue Valley school board <u>voted 5-2</u> to keep the graphic novels on school library shelves.





now in

Andrew Bahl Top Published 5:35 a.m. CT









debate A Kansas town is threatening again to kick out the public library unless it removes LGBTQ+ books

Kansas Reflector | By Rachel Mipro

Published July 11, 2023 at 1:59 PM CDT











EDUCATION

## Johnson County school district keeps removing books after one mom keeps complaining

BY SARAH RITTER

UPDATED MARCH 24, 2023 9:43 AM



## Kansas school district reviewing Bible ban after student challenge

Syndication / May 9, 2023 / 07:45 PM CDT

The Gardner Edgerton School Board is reviewing the Holy Bible after a student in the district made a formal request.



A Gardner Edgerton mom has challenged several library books, leading the district to pull seven of them. Another three are under review. *Publishers* 

### Board's bigotry, censorship and incompetence revealed in firing of Kansas town's librarians / Opinion



BY DION LEFLER

JULY 12, 2023 5:10 AM





One of the two rainbow pictures that library board members banned from the Sterling Library before firing the director and her top assistant. *Courtesy photo* 

# Book Challenges – A Form of Censorship

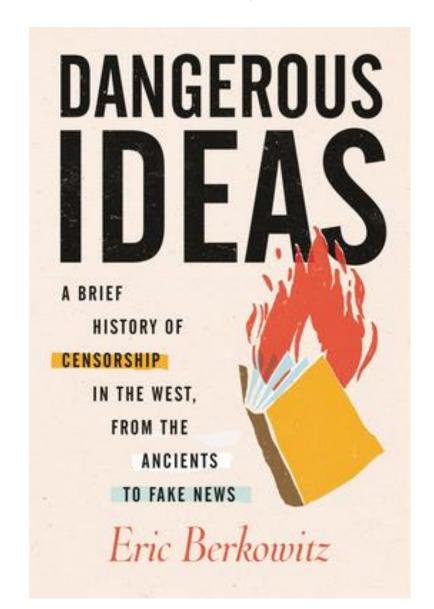
## Censorship:

Who or what comes to mind?

- Joseph McCarthy
- Banning or Burning Books
- Facebook
- Mao Zedung
- 1984
- Cancel Culture
- Facebook



### Censorship – a story as old as time



"Censorship generally involves the use of coercive power to prevent, suppress, or punish expression"

""Censorship is a confession by rulers that they cannot coexist with nonconforming ideas, and therefore it is always a display of weakness."

"What is venomous for persons in one social class is often nourishment for those in another, and class questions pervade most censorship issues".

### Changing Dynamics in Censorship

Censorship benefits the governing body at the expense of the powerless Internet & Social Media Platforms achieving power and information suppression



Ancient Greece & Rome

Plato's Republic – a system of censorship on behalf of Youth

Athens – a haven for debate and dissention



# Ancient Isreal & Early Christianity

- •10 Commandments
- Torah

 Early Christen Writers Apostles Paul & John

• As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:21

### China

- 213: Burning of the Books & Burying of the Scholars
- Confucius
- 18<sup>th</sup> Century Aisin Gioro Controlling a Future Generations Thoughts
- Mao Zedung Books Bans & Death Tolls
- Xi Jinping Book Bans / Internet Controls





## Medieval Christendom

- SpanishInquisition
- Catholic Church's Index Librorum
   Prohibitorum

# Lost Mayan Writings

- Writings Dated back to 100 BC
- Only a few remain



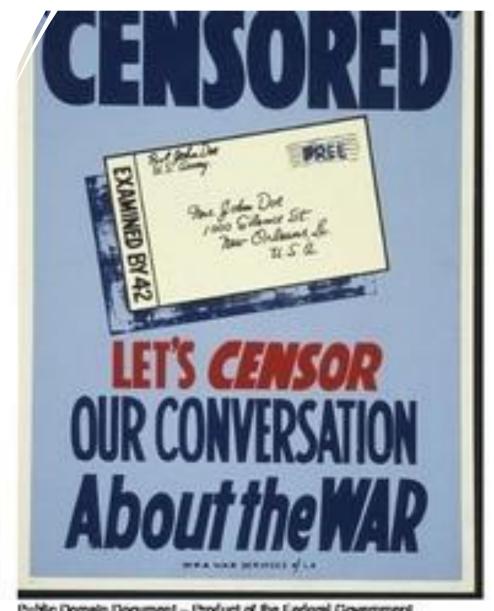


## The 17th and 18th centuries

- John Milton's Areopagitica
  - Freedom of Press (Against Pre-Publication Censorship)
    - Questioning Licensing (Previous Restraint)
- United States Bill of Rights

### United States

- Sedition Act of 1798 & Benjamin Franklin Bache
- Sedition Act of 1918
  - -1920



Public Domain Document - Product of the Federal Covernment.

## First Known Book Burning



• William Pynchon's, "A Meritorious Price of Our Redemption." 1650

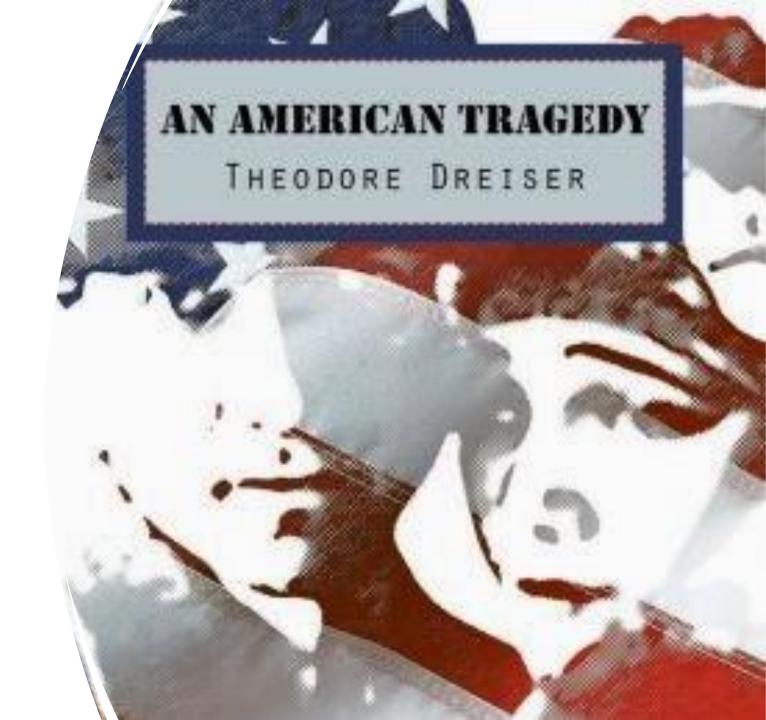
New York Society for The Suppression of Vice

The Canterbury Tales
Margaret Sanger's
Birth Control
Materials
James Joyce



## An American Tragedy

Library Board Burns Book for "Leftist" ideas





Don't join the book burners. Don't think you're going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed. Don't be afraid to go in your library and read every book...

Dwight D. Eisenhower

McCarthyism

Subservice & Leftist Books Banned in Overseas Libraries

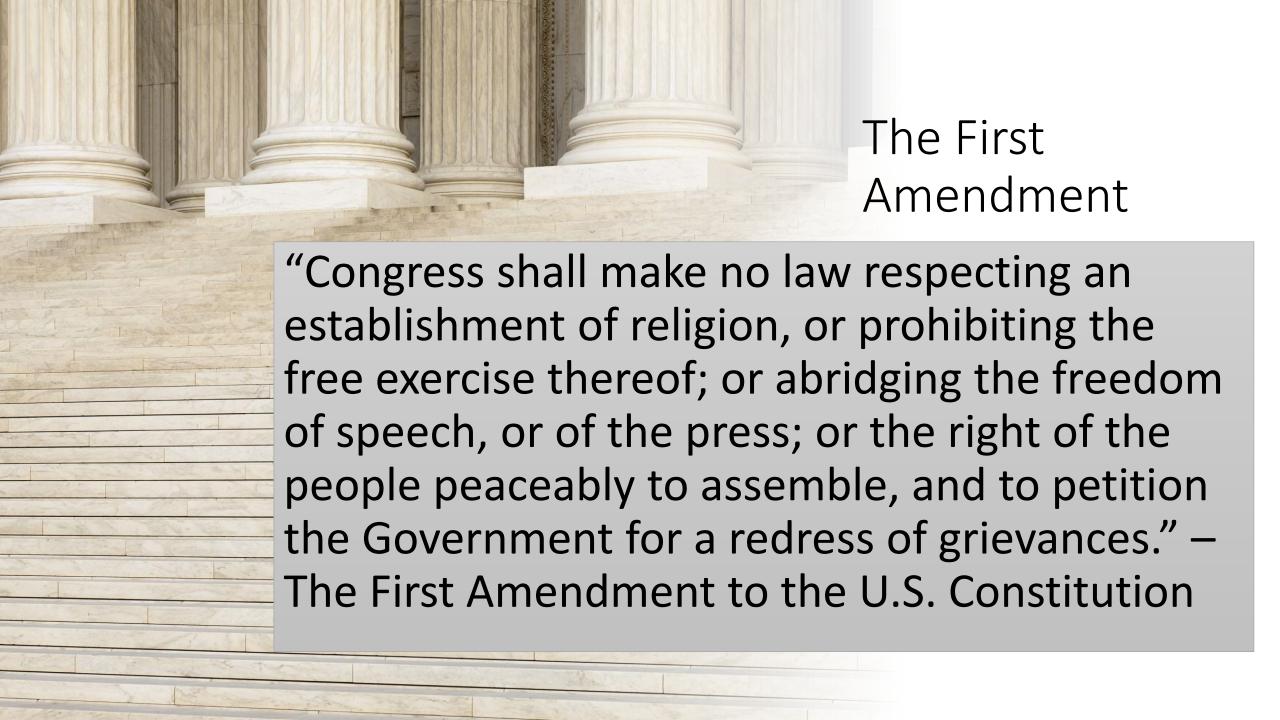
### Drake Public School – North Dakota

"I read in the newspaper that your community is mystified by the outcry from all over the country about what you have done.

Well, you have discovered that Drake is a part of American civilization, and your fellow Americans can't stand it that you have behaved in such an uncivilized way. Perhaps you will learn from this that books are sacred to free men for very good reasons, and that wars have been fought against nations which hate books and burn them.

If you are an American, you must allow all ideas to circulate freely in your community, not merely your own."

Kurt Vonnegut



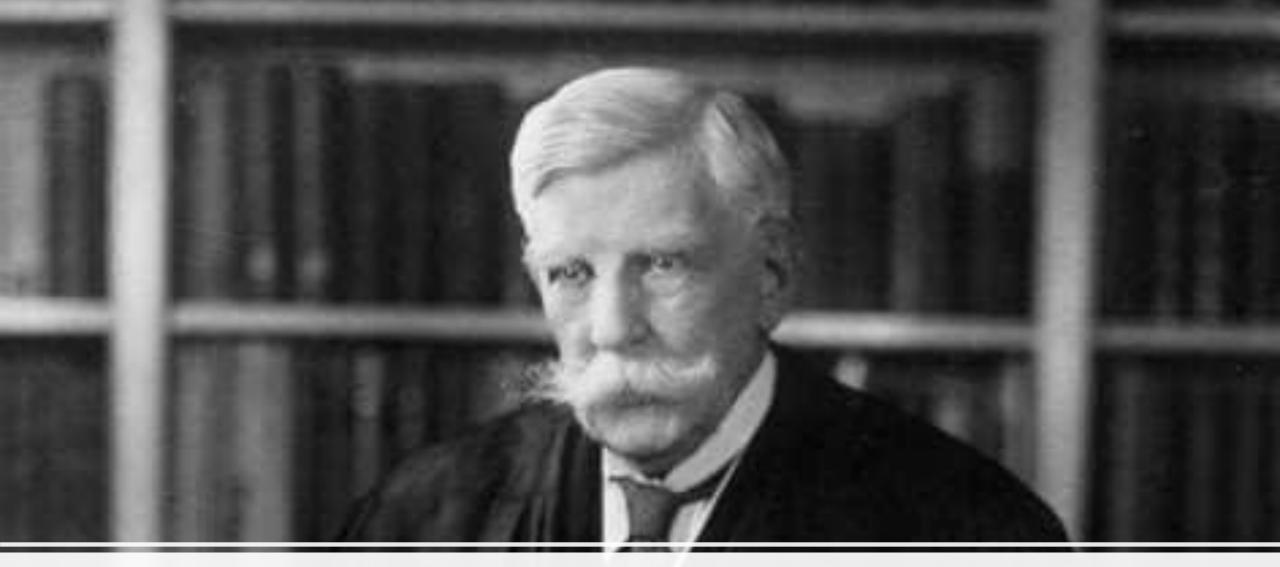


# 1931: Symbolic Speech Protected

In Stromberg vs. California, the Court determined that "symbolic speech" is protected under the Constitution.

\*GRAPHIC NOVELS\*

Yetta Stromberg. February 21, 1931 (Getty/Bettman)



"freedom for the thought that we hate"

## 1957 - Obscenity Convictions Constitutional

Roth vs. United States

## venus tannhäuser



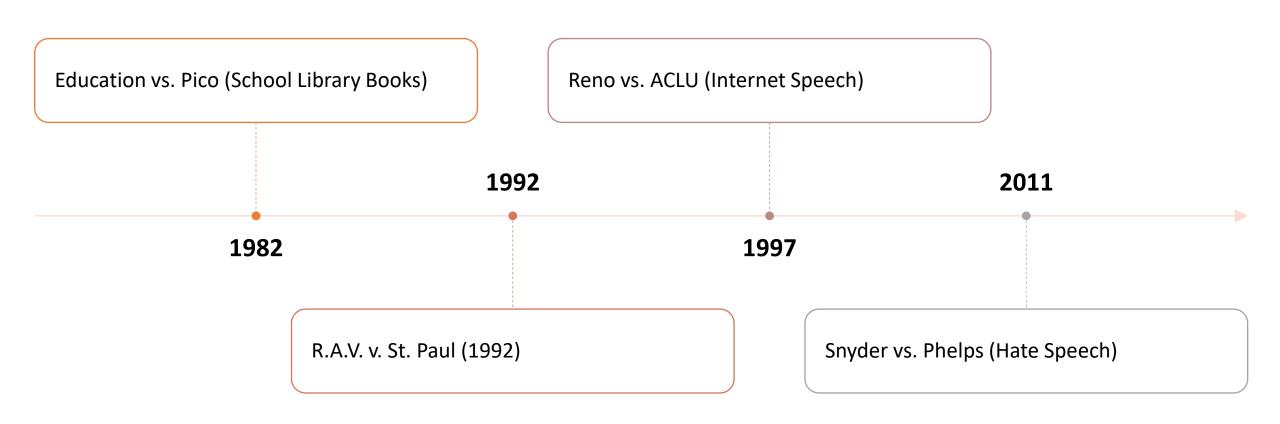
An Erotic Tale by AUBREY BEARDSLEY

With Drawings

### 1973 – Obscenity Three Pronged Test

- whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest
- whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law
- whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value

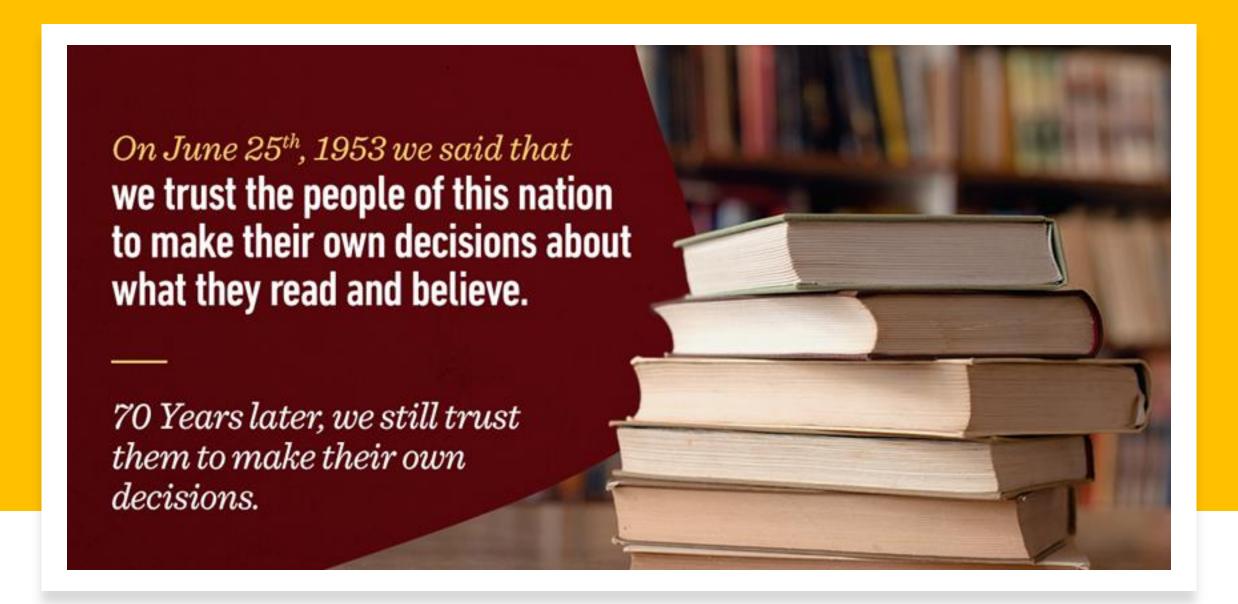
### Other Rulings of Interest



### The Technological Age

- Information Firehose can be manipulated and restricted
- Access Algorithms
- Social Media Viewpoints Restricted
- Book Ban increases





## Banned Books Week

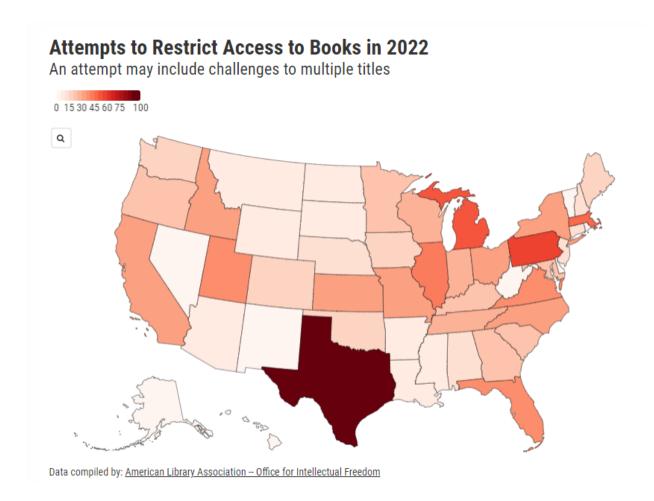


Number of Attempts to Ban or Restrict Library Materials in the U.S. by Year

ALAAmericanLibraryAssociation

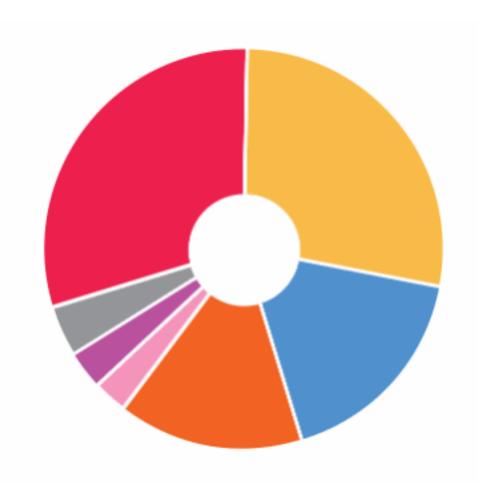
1,269





## 2022 Book Challenges (Interactive Map on ALA site)

## Who Initiates the Challenges?



30% Parents

28% Patrons

17% Political/Religious Groups

15% Board/Administration

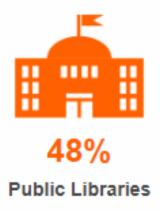
3% Librarians/Teachers

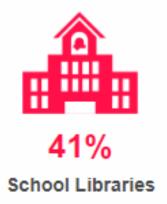
3% Elected Officials

4% Other (includes non-custodial relatives, nonresidents, community members without library cards, etc.)

## Where Do Challenges Take Place?

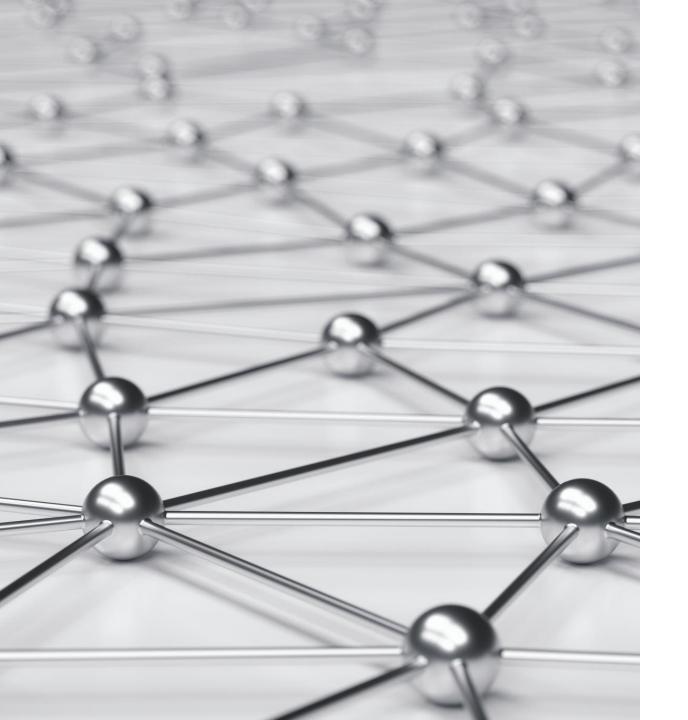
In 2022, nearly 51% of the demands to censor books targeted books, programs, displays, and other materials in school libraries and schools; 48% of book challenges targeted materials in public libraries.











## **Organized Groups**

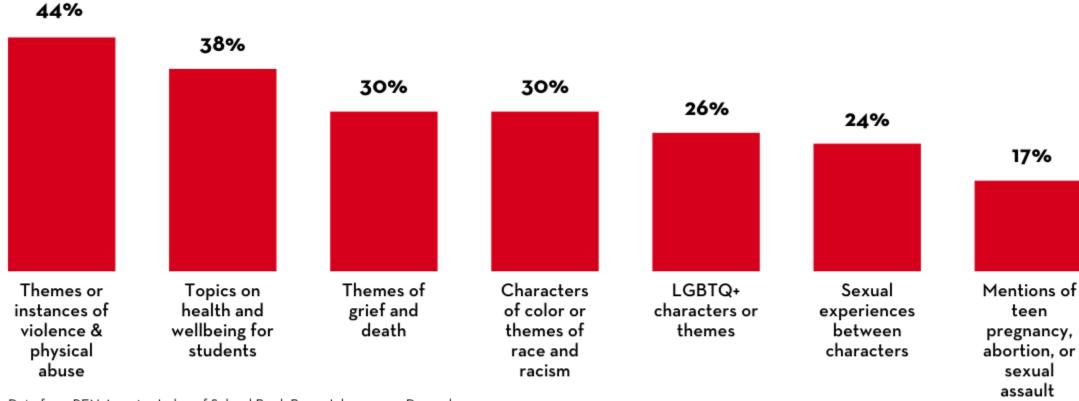
- Moms for Liberty
- No Left Turn in Education
- Local Social Media
   Groups connected to larger organizations

#### Subject matter of banned content

of the 874 unique titles banned July 1, 2022 - December 1, 2022

Note: many titles contain more than one type of content.





Data from PEN America Index of School Book Bans, July 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022.

©CBS NEWS POLL | YouGov

## **SHOULD BOOKS EVER BE BANNED FOR...?**

	YES	NO
CRITICIZING U.S. HISTORY	17*	83*
POLITICAL IDEAS YOU DISAGREE WITH	15*	85*
DEPICTING SLAVERY	13*	87*
DISCUSSING RACE	13*	87*

FEBRUARY 15-18, 2022 | MOE: +/- 2.3 PTS

# Can Libraries Maintain Neutrality?

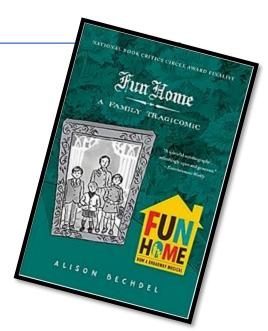
- Develop Diverse
   Collections
- Representing all the opinions, viewpoints, and values of our community.



# Missouri

Missouri passes law to banning sexually explicit books from libraries.

School Library Association Lawsuit (ACLU)



# Arkansas

Crawford County Library Establishes "Social Section"

Law is passed (Under Injunction) that would criminalize the distribution of books to minors that are deemed "obscene".

# Texas

Texas House Bill 900, the Readers (Ratings) Act

#1 in Nation for Banned Books

(Rep Matt Krause effect – 850 Books)

# Indiana

CHITISE & TREM

# John Green criticizes public library for removing his novel from young adult section

Green called the decision "ludicrous" in a tweet on Wednesday.



Author John Green in 2017. Kelly Sullivan / Getty Images file



Aug. 9, 2023, 2:51 PM CDT / Updated Aug. 10, 2023, 1:45 PM CD By Daysia Tolentino

Author and YouTuber John Green spoke out against an Indiana



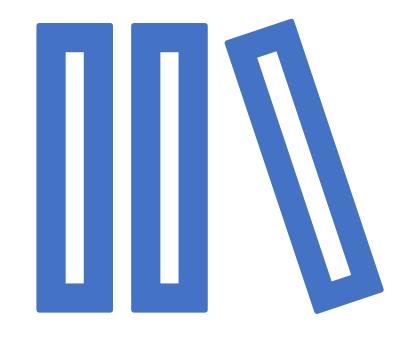
# Illinois

"Book bans are about censorship; marginalizing people, marginalizing ideas and facts. Regimes ban books, not democracies"

Gov. JB Pritzker

# Kansas

- Parental Bill of Rights
- Kansas Public Library
   Systems Support



## Keywords to Note

- Parental Rights / Parents Rights (you will pick up legislation related to family matters, so know this going in)
- Obscenity, pornography, sexuality, sexually explicit
- Comprehensive Sex Education
- Critical Race Theory
- Social Emotional Learning
- Sensitive Materials
- Gender

## Banned Books Week



#### **Books Unbanned**



Brooklyn Public Library joins those fighting for the rights of teens nationwide to read what they like, discover themselves, and form their own opinions. Inspired by the American Library Association's Freedom to Read Statement, BPL's Books Unbanned initiative is a response to an increasingly coordinated and effective effort to remove books tackling a wide range of topics from library shelves.

BPL is proud to celebrate **Seattle Public Library's Books Unbanned** as a crucial partner in defending and expanding the freedom to read.

The American Library Association documented 1,269 demands to censor library books and resources in 2022, the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago. The tally is nearly double that of the 729 book challenges

#### National Teen BPL eCard

We invite individuals ages 13-21 to apply for a free BPL eCard, providing access to our full eBook collection as well as our learning databases. To apply, email

booksunbanned@bklynlibrary.org.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{BPl's}}$  eCard is always free to teenagers in New York State. Apply  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{here}}$  .

Teens: Contact Us!

# Library of Congress

The Library preserves and provides access to a rich, diverse and enduring source of knowledge to inform, inspire and engage you in your intellectual and creative endeavors.

# WPL Mission

Winfield Public Library's mission is to **support everyone** in their enjoyment of reading and the pursuit of lifelong learning.

We connect and enrich our community with welcoming spaces, relevant programs, and friendly, knowledgeable staff.

We provide **equitable access** to information through books, programs, and resources.

#### Core Values

To be a welcoming, accessible community space & resource for all

To empower individuals to meet their living & learning goals

To uphold the freedom to read, to learn, to discover

To continuously seek and implement improvements

To be responsible stewards of the library as a community resource

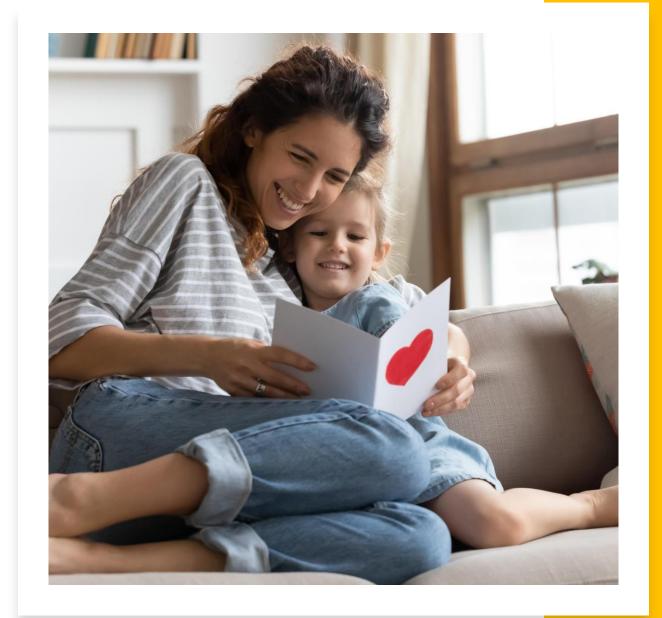
To adhere to the ALA Code of Ethics

# Upholding Your Right to Read (LEARN)

- Collection Development with Community Approach
- Challenge policies & procedures
- Interlibrary Loan
- Advocacy through Professional Associations & Community Conversations
- Programs & Events that allow for diversity in perspective and voice

# Family Rights & Parental Authority

- Modeling Literacy Practices
- Parental access to child records
- Encouraging family outings to the library
- Offering diverse collections



"it is also this freedom — to contest and exchange, to critique and comment, to inquire and imagine, and yes, to speak — that is at the heart of all advance, advance in scientific and human knowledge, as well as political equity"

AYAD AKHTAR (Novelist & Playwright)

## What can you do?



PEN AMERICA "TAKE ACTION"



COUNTER CENSORSHIP WITH ADVOCACY



READ CHALLENGED BOOKS AND TALK ABOUT THEM



WORD CHOICE
MATTERS

# Ray Bradbury

"There are worse crimes than burning books.

One of them is not reading them."

## Questions?



#### But what about Dr. Seuss? Is this removal censorship?



## What about European Hate Speech Laws?

