

LET BOOKS BE

*THE BOOK
REPORT*

Titles Targeted for Censorship 2025

ALA American Library Association
OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

THE MOST FREQUENTLY TARGETED TITLES IN 2025

In 2025, the American Library Association (ALA) documented attempts to censor 4,235 unique titles, the second highest total on record.¹ This is 15.5 times higher than the national average from 2001–2020 and only five titles fewer than the record set in 2023. Last year had the highest percentage of attempts resulting in censorship ever documented, as well as the highest number of books censored.²

Nearly 92% of the 2025 book censorship attempts came from government decision-makers and pressure groups.³ This dramatic increase follows a surge in politically orchestrated activism that began in 2021.⁴

Partisan book rating websites drive this political movement by identifying censorship targets and manufacturing rationales to silence voices and erase history.⁵ The rating sites flag books with labels such as “discriminatory equity ideology,” “activism,” or “gender ideology,” claiming hundreds of titles are inappropriate for young readers.⁶ The multi-title censorship attempts these sites spurred accounted for 94% of book censorship attempts in 2025.⁷

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly used to accelerate discriminatory censorship. For instance, a prompt employed by a website called the National Book Rating Index directs ChatGPT to use ideologically driven book rating sites to generate book summaries.

Statewide book bans are increasing, fueling censorship in libraries across the nation.⁸ Divergent court rulings, as well as local policy changes, further fracture

access along municipal, county, and state lines, creating confusion for library workers and users alike. The political pressures and confusion chill purchases of books on particular topics.⁹

Censoring library books based upon the identity of their authors, their characters, or the viewpoints expressed is discrimination.¹⁰ Such censorship excludes people based on who they are, where they’re from, what they believe, and what they’ve experienced. This prevents people from finding stories like their own on library shelves. Everyone deserves access to the culture, history, and stories of their people no matter their nationality, ethnicity, religion, skin color, or who they love. To engage in censorship is to betray the promise of the American dream.

Censorship demands divert resources from library users. They require staff to review each book as a whole and assess if it meets objective selection criteria. In some places, library workers must assess materials based on unclear laws and rules that have vague terms. These processes can grind library services to a halt, forcing libraries to close completely in some cases, depriving the public of services on which they depend.¹¹

Censorship infringes upon people’s democratic rights. Voters need access to information to make informed choices among candidates and issues on the ballot. The prevalence of censorship is an indicator of a democracy’s health. Library workers’ ethical opposition to censorship is a bulwark against the tide of tyranny.

Censorship also fragments the American consciousness. It geographically limits what information you can find in libraries, what topics you can research in schools and universities, and what historical and cultural knowledge you can read about in books. The ideas you can encounter in libraries now depend upon where you live.

In democratic societies, people are free to read what they choose. Libraries are the only places that provide free information access to everyone. This freedom is essential so people can form their own opinions and make informed decisions. Loss of access to information is a loss of opportunity for education. Loss of access to education limits earning potential. Every book censored is an opportunity lost. Tyrannical governance functions by denying people the power to make choices and to effect social change.

Knowledge is power. Libraries make that power accessible to all. Those who censor books fear what people might do with the knowledge inside them. The stakes are high and the pressures are daunting. In the face of all this, library workers toil to strengthen their communities. Every book they circulate, every question they answer, every program they provide, and every display they curate makes a difference in people’s lives. Whenever a library worker connects a person with a story, an idea, or someone else in their community, the world grows brighter and kinder. People will always need knowledge, so they will always need libraries and the context, curation, and compassion library workers provide. The degradation of libraries is detrimental to all.

1. ALA documented 8,596 distinct challenges to these 4,235 unique titles. Most challenged titles (68%) were written and reviewed for a young adult audience. Children’s titles made up 14% of the total. The remainder included titles written for an adult audience but frequently included in high school curricula, read in preparation for advanced placement exams, or that are popular with older teens.

2. In 2025, 77% of book censorship attempts resulted in book bans or access restrictions, impacting 6,588 total titles, of which 5,668 were banned. From 2001–2020, a total of 1,395 books were censored in libraries, an average of 70 titles per year and just under 20% of those challenged.

3. Political and religious pressure groups and government decision-makers challenged 7,884 total titles in 2025. From 2001–2020, they challenged an average of 46 per year. In 2025,

individual parents challenged fewer than 3% of the total titles targeted, and individual library users challenged roughly 1% of the total titles targeted. Prior to the advent of the politically orchestrated censorship movement, parents and library users initiated most challenges.

4. The tactics of the groups behind this surge include pulling excerpts out of context to make popular books appear outrageous and offensive and associating excerpts from books for older teens with lengthy lists that include children’s picture books. Such activity supports a false narrative that books are dangerous and pose a threat to young people. All parents have the right to guide their own children’s reading. No one has the right to deny other parents and families the opportunity to make their own choices. Reading books does not place anyone in harm’s way. Greater understanding of the world helps people of all ages navigate it more safely.

5. These are fundamentally different from professional book review sites. Book review sites are intended to objectively aid in the selection of material based upon the relative merits and intended audience of the books reviewed. Book rating sites are intended to censor or discourage the purchase of books in pursuit of a political agenda. The people behind these sites are political operatives with strong ties to far-right activist organizations such as Moms for Liberty, No Left Turn, the Council for National Policy, the Heritage Foundation, and the Capitol Resource Institute.

6. “Discriminatory equity ideology” and “gender ideology” are jargon created to render censorship more palatable. In practice, they are used to discriminatorily censor any books discussing race, racism, feminism, social justice, and reproductive health, as well as those with LGBTQIA+ characters. The same jargon

"BELIEVE IN TRUTH. *To abandon facts is to abandon freedom. If nothing is true, then no one can criticize power, because there is no basis upon which to do so. If nothing is true, then all is spectacle. The biggest wallet pays for the most blinding lights.*" —TIMOTHY SNYDER, ON TYRANNY

Andrews, Jesse

ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL (2015)

19 challenges, including 18 multi-title challenges

 **BOOK RÉSUMÉ:** bit.ly/earlBR

This acclaimed novel tells the story of two high school outcasts and would-be filmmakers who befriend a young woman dying from leukemia.

At the August 14 board meeting of the West Shore School District (PA), a member of a pressure group read excerpts from four books, including *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*. Another member of the group challenged three of the titles, sending copies of their censorship requests to a lawyer and a state senator.

Members of the group made false claims that school staff were committing felonies by distributing child sexual abuse materials and violating Pennsylvania

statutes related to the corruption of minors and to obscene and sexual materials and performances.



Report censorship attempts to OIF (oif@ala.org) when they happen at your library, school, or university. You don't have to be a librarian or ALA member to get confidential one-on-one help. Find more ways to reach us at ala.org/oif.

The majority of the school board did not waver from their mission, and no books were censored in response to the pressure group's actions. The school board members who were sympathetic to the group's cause were voted off in November.

Armentrout, Jennifer L.

STORM AND FURY (2019)

21 challenges, including 21 multi-title challenges

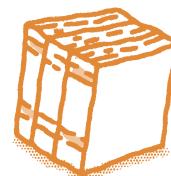
 **BOOK RÉSUMÉ:** bit.ly/stormBR

This spinoff of Armentrout's best-selling Dark Elements series received acclaim from *School Library Journal* and was praised by *Booklist* as "believable, accessible, and riveting."

The week of May 16, Florida's attorney general and education commissioner sent a letter threatening legal action against the Hillsborough School District if it did not remove 55 titles from school libraries. The school removed all of the books, including *Storm and Fury*.

On July 24, Broward School District (FL) administrators also ordered the removal of these titles from all school libraries, threatening disciplinary action for noncompliance. Other districts

throughout the state followed suit, often significantly exceeding the list specified in the Hillsborough letter.



During a meeting, John Palmerini, lawyer for the Orange County School Board said, "While I disagree with [the Board of Education's] determination that these books are pornographic as the law defines it ... I think it would be perilous for this board to allow these books to remain on the shelves." Not one of the thousands of books censored by Florida school administrators during 2025 were determined to meet the statutory definition of material harmful to minors.

Arnold, Elana K.

DAMSEL (2018)

20 challenges, including 20 multi-title challenges

 **BOOK RÉSUMÉ:** bit.ly/damselBR

This acclaimed and award-winning young adult novel eviscerates damsel-in-distress stereotypes, supplanting them with a modern incisive feminist fairy tale.

In 2023, the pressure group Daviess County Citizens for Decency (DCC4D)

appears in Executive Orders 14151 and 14168, both issued by President Trump on January 20, 2025, and both cited to justify broad censorship of school and public library books nationwide.

7. Titles flagged for censorship on book rating sites were targeted 3,117 times in 2025. These titles represent 36.3% of the total documented book challenges in 2025. Of the 100 titles most frequently challenged during 2025, 99 are targeted for censorship on partisan book rating sites.

8. Legislation in both South Carolina and Utah resulted in dozens of titles being banned from all school districts in those states. The secretaries of state in Kansas and Tennessee both issued threatening letters to all public libraries in their respective states in an effort to compel censorship of LGBTQIA+ representation. Florida's attorney general and education commissioner threatened legal action if the Hillsborough County School District didn't immediately remove 55 titles from school libraries.

This resulted in districts statewide purging those and countless other books from their libraries without receiving similar threats or seeing if such threats would hold up in the courts. Representatives of Hillsborough Schools said they removed not only the 55 titles listed in the letter, but hundreds of additional titles. They promised to remove more.

9. No school or public library book was ever determined by a court of law to meet the legal definition of obscenity for minors. However, false claims that books contained illegal obscenity for minors were cited in attempts to censor 5,653 titles in 2025. The next most common grievances from book banners centered on the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ representation; discussions of race, racism, equity, and social justice; and political or religious viewpoints they disfavored. Demands to censor Palestinian representation, immigrant representation, and books by women also increased.

10. Of the titles targeted, 39% prominently feature the voices and lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals or those who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color. These books make up a disproportionately small portion of library collections. See: edtrust.org/series/representation-in-books

11. An average of 18 titles were challenged at a time during 2025, nearly double the highest level previously recorded (9.5 titles per censorship attempt in 2023). Of the 8,596 book challenges ALA documented in 2025, 8,048 titles were part of multi-title challenges (93.6%). Of the 7,224 book challenges ALA documented from 2001–2020, 471 titles were part of multi-title challenges (6.5%). In most years, the average number of titles challenged in a censorship attempt is one.



"Challenges" are not just complaints about books, but willful attempts to remove or restrict access. No one has the right to censor books or abridge the rights of others.

began demanding the censorship of hundreds of titles from the collection of the Daviess County Public Library (KY). According to their website, DCC4D "are unabapologetically Christian conservatives." They submitted challenges to 234 titles in 2023 and continue to harass and threaten library workers and board members.

During the period from 2023–2025, as board members' terms expired, Daviess County Judge-Executive Charlie Castlen rejected candidates who were historians, librarians, archivists, and professors, instead appointing DCC4D-backed candidates. After a conservative pastor's appointment on October 2, 2025, the board began censoring library material without following policy. They restricted access by relocating 34 young adult titles to the adult section of the library. The relocated books included *Damsel* and 20 other titles that were challenged and retained without restriction in 2023.

Visit your local library to check out materials from an array of perspectives, attend programs, and take advantage of the library's many resources!



Atwood, Margaret

THE HANDMAID'S TALE (1985)

20 challenges, including 20 multi-title challenges

 **BOOK RÉSUMÉ:** bit.ly/handmaidsBR

This award-winning, bestselling, and widely acclaimed dystopian novel explores a fundamentalist theocratic United States where women are enslaved by the powerful elite.

During a 20-minute special session of the Garrett-Keyser-Butler (IN) school board on September 5, six books were removed from the curriculum. The censored titles included *The Handmaid's Tale*, which a board member had previously attempted to ban from district libraries.

The board claimed Indiana law SEA 442 necessitated removing these novels from the English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. The law pertains to sex education materials used in health classes and has no bearing on novels or ELA instruction.

Outraged parents and community members flooded the September 22 school board meeting, claiming this censorship would harm students and impair their college-readiness. They also challenged the board's interpretation of the law and questioned why the district's legal counsel wasn't consulted.

Board vice-president Matt Freeze flatly rejected parents' concerns, insisting his opinion and perspective provided sufficient justification.

Burgess, Anthony

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE (1962)

21 challenges, including 21 multi-title challenges

 **BOOK RÉSUMÉ:** bit.ly/clockworkorangeBR

This influential dystopian novel delves into youth subculture, state-forced reform, and the meaning of human freedom.

In September, Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (TX) removed 277 titles from its libraries,

including *A Clockwork Orange*, other literary classics, and popular children's fiction. Administrators claimed this was necessary to comply with HB 900.

Approximately 450 additional titles were placed on a list of books prohibited from use or purchase in the district. This list included books approved under the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills state standards for use in lesson plans.

Chbosky, Stephen

THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER (1999)

33 challenges, including 28 multi-title challenges

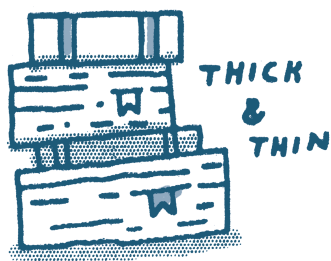
 **BOOK RÉSUMÉ:** bit.ly/wallflowerBR

Reviewers characterized this novel set during freshman year at a suburban Pittsburgh high school as a latter-day *Catcher in the Rye*.

On May 12, two board members for Vicksburg Community Schools (MI) challenged four books, including *Perks*, at the high school library. Those board members also belong to a local Moms for Liberty chapter. They presented materials from Take Back the Classroom, a partisan pro-censorship website, during the board meeting. A committee reviewed the books in their entirety and unanimously voted that all should remain in the library collection.

The board members who initiated the challenge appealed the decision. The full board then voted 5–2 to uphold the review committee's findings and retain the books. The only votes against retention were from the Moms for Liberty members who initiated the challenges and did not recuse themselves, despite the conflict of interest.





When legislation adverse to public and school libraries is introduced, contact your representatives and share your concerns. If you need talking points, contact your state library association or ALA. When school and library board members are on the ballot, use the candidate questionnaire at uniteagainstbookbans.org/vote to find out where they stand on censorship.

Green, John

LOOKING FOR ALASKA (2005)

21 challenges, including 16 multi-title challenges

BOOK RÉSUMÉ: bit.ly/alaskaBR

This coming-of-age story, which interweaves themes of grief and hope, won the 2006 Michael L. Printz Award and was named best book of the year by *School Library Journal* and *Kirkus Reviews*.

In April, Oak Ridge School District (TN) announced they removed 298 titles from their libraries in order to comply with Tennessee's Age-Appropriate Materials Act, which was amended in 2024.

The removed books included *Looking for Alaska*, *A Light in the Attic* by Shel Silverstein, and *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank. Materials related to medicine, ancient history, mythology, and art from the Renaissance era through the 20th century were also removed.

Hopkins, Ellen

TRICKS (2009)

23 challenges, including 21 multi-title challenges

BOOK RÉSUMÉ: bit.ly/tricksBR

IDENTICAL (2008)

21 challenges, including 20 multi-title challenges

BOOK RÉSUMÉ: bit.ly/identicalBR

TILT (2012)

20 challenges, including 20 multi-title challenges

BOOK RÉSUMÉ: bit.ly/tiltBR

Nevada Writers Hall of Fame inductee Ellen Hopkins explores teenagers' experiences with drug addiction, mental illness, violence, and prostitution in her bestselling young adult novels.

On October 13, the board of New Braunfels Independent School District (TX) voted unanimously to suspend all secondary school library services until the superintendent could ensure they were in compliance with Senate Bill 13. The bill prohibited "harmful material," "indecent content," and "profane content" from school libraries, but did not define those terms. No other district in Texas took this extreme measure.

Following community protests, the board voted to renew library service during its October 27 meeting. AI was used to continue reviewing library books, resulting in the censorship of well over 100 titles. *Tricks*, *Identical*, and *Tilt* were among those banned.

Hosseini, Khaled

THE KITE RUNNER (2014)

19 challenges, including 17 multi-title challenges

Hosseini's bestselling novel spans four decades of the recent history of Afghanistan and its people. It received numerous accolades, including the 2004 Alex Award.

BOOK RÉSUMÉ: bit.ly/kiteBR

In early February, the Department of Defense instructed administrators and staff of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) to ban all classroom instruction and library books related to "gender ideology" and "discriminatory equity ideology."

DoDEA operates 161 schools across 11 countries, seven states, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Nearly 600 unique titles were removed from all DoDEA school libraries as a result, including *The Kite Runner*. Executive orders on gender and diversity signed by President Trump in January were cited as justification.

On April 15, ACLU of Virginia and ACLU of Kentucky filed a lawsuit on behalf of 12 DoDEA students and their families. The students ranged from pre-K through 11th grade, and their parents included active duty servicemembers stationed in Virginia, Kentucky, Italy, and Japan. On October 20, Judge Patricia Tolliver Giles ruled DoDEA must return all books to library shelves.

Keplinger, Kody

THE DUFF: DESIGNATED UGLY FAT FRIEND (2010)

20 challenges, including 20 multi-title challenges

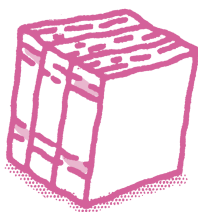
Written when she was 17, Keplinger's debut young adult novel received critical acclaim for the authenticity of characters' voices and experiences.

On March 11, the Rockingham County School Board (VA) voted to remove six books from school libraries, including *The DUFF*. School Superintendent Larry Shifflett cited a school policy barring "sexually explicit content" as justification. A reporter covering the meeting noted the banned books were about Black and LGBTQIA+ youth, persons with disabilities, and teenage pregnancy.

These books were among 57 titles the board suspended from use in early 2024 because



How can you and your community stand together for libraries and the freedom to read? Join the Unite Against Book Bans campaign and use the action toolkit at uniteagainstbookbans.org/toolkit.



Created in partnership with dozens of publishers, Book Résumés are free resources from Unite Against Book Bans supporting access to books targeted for censorship. Find them at bit.ly/BookResumes.

they were flagged on a partisan book rating website. The March bans brought the number of books banned in the district to 19, with most of the remaining titles still suspended while awaiting review.

Kobabe, Maia

GENDER QUEER: A MEMOIR (2019)

25 challenges, including 17 multi-title challenges

BOOK RÉSUMÉ: bit.ly/genderBR

Kobabe wrote and illustrated this tender, visually complex, and painfully honest graphic novel to help friends and family understand what it means to be asexual and nonbinary.

On March 31, the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) removed 381 books, including *Gender Queer*, from its library in response to executive orders on gender and diversity issued by President Trump in January.

The removed books dealt with the lived experiences of those who are Black and/or LGBTQIA+, including their contributions to U.S. military history.



When a challenge occurs in your community, attend a local board meeting and explain why you think the resource should remain in the library.

Even titles written and taught by USNA professors were banned. While books about the Holocaust were removed, copies of Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* remained available.

On May 21, USNA returned most of the books to the library. On July 17, USNA announced that 21 titles would be permanently removed, including nine from the original list of 381. The U.S. Air Force Academy also removed dozens of titles from its libraries.

Lo, Melinda

LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB (2021)

23 challenges, including 23 multi-title challenges

BOOK RÉSUMÉ: bit.ly/telegraphclubBR

A winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, this novel tells the story of Lily Hu, the lesbian daughter of Chinese immigrants in 1950s San Francisco.

On May 6, the South Carolina Board of Education (SCBOE) voted to ban 10 books, including *Last Night at the Telegraph Club*, from all school libraries under the authority of Regulation 43-170. This brought the total number of books banned statewide by SCBOE to 22, of which 19 were written by women.

Under 43-170, any parent of a student attending a South Carolina school district can submit a book complaint, which will result in a statewide ban if the book includes any description of "sexual conduct." This was the fourth round of book bans since June 2024, when 43-170 was enacted without undergoing the standard legislative vetting process.



Maas, Sarah J.

EMPIRE OF STORMS (2016)

24 challenges, including 24 multi-title challenges

BOOK RÉSUMÉ: bit.ly/empireofstormsBR

A COURT OF THORNS AND ROSES (2015)

22 challenges, including 21 multi-title challenges

BOOK RÉSUMÉ: bit.ly/thornsBR

KINGDOM OF ASH (2019)

20 challenges, including 20 multi-title challenges

Maas's award-winning fantasy series sold tens of millions of copies and were translated into 38 languages.

In July, the Pinellas County School District (FL) removed 38 titles from school libraries following threats issued to the Hillsborough County School District by the state board of education. Administrators acted without formal review or board approval. No district parent submitted a complaint about any of the banned books. The district would go on to ban an additional 48 titles by January, including *Empire of Storms*, *A Court of Thorns and Roses*, and *Kingdom of Ash*.

McCormick, Patricia

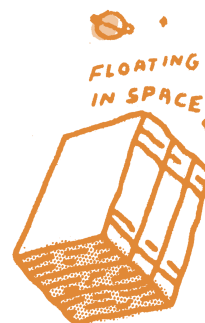
SOLD (2006)

36 challenges, including 35 multi-title challenges

BOOK RÉSUMÉ: bit.ly/soldBR

This National Book Award finalist tells the story of a 13-year-old Nepalese girl sold into sexual slavery by her stepfather.

In December, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District (OH) removed 36 titles from school library collections. An additional 94 titles were relocated



Suggest an enlightening banned or challenged book as your next book club read.

from intermediate and middle school collections to the high school library. Content warning labels indicating either “gender ideology” or “sexual content” were applied to the relocated titles. Parental permission is required for students to access titles labeled with content warnings.

Restricted titles include *Sold*, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, and *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead.

The district indicated that this censorship was undertaken to comply with Ohio House Bill 8, the “Parents’ Bill of Rights.” HB8 makes no mention of school libraries. It pertains solely to materials used in classroom instruction.

Want to know if the freedom to read a book or author you love has ever been jeopardized? You can use our Censorship Search Portal to find out!
ala.org/searchportal



Morrison, Toni

THE BLUEST EYE (1994)

20 challenges, including 20 multi-title challenges

BOOK RÉSUMÉ: bit.ly/bluestBR

The debut novel from Nobel laureate Toni Morrison deals with questions about race, class, and gender while examining beauty and conformity.

In September, Jim Finch, Superintendent of Monroe County Schools (GA), ordered the removal of 24 titles from the high school library, including *The Bluest Eye*.

If there’s a local challenge reported in the news, write a letter to the editor or decision-makers. Your letter could touch on the benefits of unrestricted reading, defend your right to read, or share your personal experience with reading a banned book. Find tips here: uniteagainstbookbans.org/toolkit.



No written complaints were received regarding any of the 24 titles.

Georgia Code 20-2-324.6 is the section of state law codifying how districts handle complaints about school library materials. It requires submission of a written complaint from the parent or guardian of a current student before undertaking a review process or restricting access. It also requires that the material “when taken as a whole, [is] lacking in serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.”

The reasons Finch provided for banning the books included: “LGBTQ themes,” “LGBTQ ideology,” “gender fluidity,” “inflammatory racial and social commentary,” “alternative sexualities,” and “inflammatory racial and religious commentary.” None of Finch’s reasons are permissible grounds for removing school library material under GA Code 20-2-324.6.

themes of good and evil, propaganda, authoritarianism, and terrorism.

In 2025, *Wicked* was removed from the school districts in Tooele, Davis, and Washington Counties in Utah. This triggered a statewide ban of the book from all schools as required under Utah HB 29 (“Sensitive Material Review Amendments”), bringing the total to 22 books banned throughout the state over complaints in a handful of counties. The complaints in Tooele County came from an individual who is neither a staff member nor the parent of a student.

On January 6, 2026, the ACLU of Utah filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of provisions of HB 29 on behalf of two high school students; the Kurt Vonnegut estate; and authors Elana K. Arnold, Ellen Hopkins, and Amy Reed.

Maquire, Gregory

WICKED: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST (1995)

19 challenges, including 19 multi-title challenges

BOOK RÉSUMÉ: bit.ly/witchBR

A critically-acclaimed reimaging of L. Frank Baum’s Oz series told from the perspective of the Wicked Witch of the West, this novel engages with



Celebrate Banned Books Week® (Oct. 4–10, 2026) by attending local programs or organizing your own event. Learn more at ala.org/bbooks.



freedom as embodied in the Library Bill of Rights. The goal of the office is to educate librarians and the general public about the nature and importance of intellectual freedom in libraries.

OIF Staff: Sarah Lamdan, Executive Director; Eric Stroshane, Associate Director; Betsy Gomez, Assistant Director; Joyce McIntosh, Assistant Program Director; Karen Gianni, Program Coordinator

The Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) is charged with implementing ALA policies concerning the concept of intellectual

Credits: Eric Stroshane, writer and editor; Betsy Gomez, editor; ALA Production Services, layout and design

Illustrations by Mikey Burton.

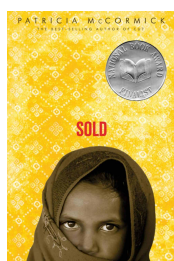
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TOP 11 MOST CHALLENGED BOOKS OF 2025

The American Library Association documented **487 attempts to censor** books at libraries, schools, and universities in 2025. The reasons most commonly cited for censorship were false claims of illegal obscenity for minors; inclusion of LGBTQIA+ representation; covering topics of race, racism, social justice, and diversity; and presenting political or religious views with which the challengers disagreed. Of the **4,235 unique titles** that were challenged or banned in 2025, here are the top 11 most frequently targeted.

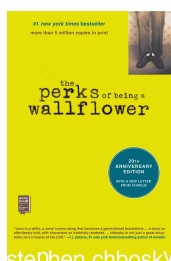
1



SOLD
by Patricia McCormick

Why this book matters:
bit.ly/soldBR

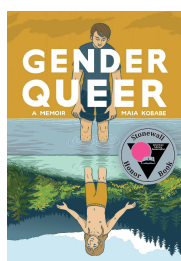
2



THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER
by Stephen Chbosky

Why this book matters:
bit.ly/wallflowerBR

3



GENDER QUEER: A MEMOIR
by Maia Kobabe

Why this book matters:
bit.ly/genderBR

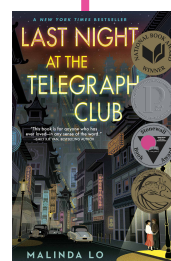
4



EMPIRE OF STORMS
by Sarah J. Maas

Why this book matters:
bit.ly/empireofstormsBR

5
(TIE)



LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB
by Malinda Lo

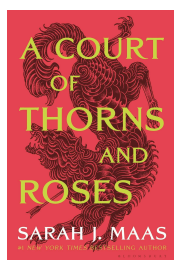
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/telegraphclubBR



TRICKS
by Ellen Hopkins

Why this book matters:
bit.ly/tricksBR

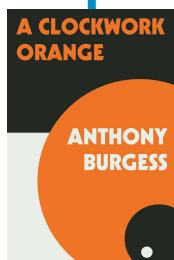
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A COURT OF THORNS AND ROSES
by Sarah J. Maas

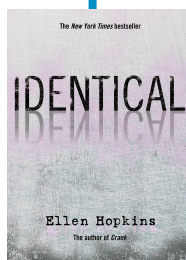
Why this book matters:
bit.ly/thornsBR

8
(TIE)



A CLOCKWORK ORANGE
by Anthony Burgess

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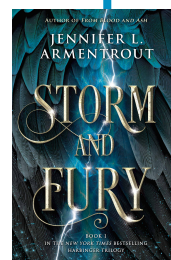
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by Ellen Hopkins

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