



Frequently Banned/Challenged Books

Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library A Selective Annotated Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

| Lexile Score | Title Information | Call Number |
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| EASY | | |
| AD580L | Allard, Harry. <i>The Stupids Take Off</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1989. (Also by author <i>The Stupids Step Out</i>) In an attempt to avoid a visit from Uncle Carbuncle, the Stupids fly off in their airplane and visit several other relatives who are just as stupid as they are. REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Negative behavior, objectionable language. | E AL52ST |
| N/A | Bannerman, Helen. <i>The Story of Little Black Sambo</i> . Brooklyn: Handprint Books, 2003. A retelling of the well-known tale in which a little black boy finally outwits the succession of tigers that want to eat him. REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Racism, objectionable themes. | E B2269ST |
| 240L | Carle, Eric. <i>Draw Me a Star</i> . New York: Philomel Books, 1992. An artist's drawing of a star begins the creation of an entire universe around him as each successive pictured object requests that he draw more. REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, religious viewpoint. | E C192DR |

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| 520L | Cosby, Bill. <i>Hooray for the Dandelion Warriors!</i> New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1999. (<i>Little Bill</i> series) | E C8201H |
| | <p>Little Bill and his teammates are excited to begin baseball practice, but they cannot agree on the team name.</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Because of criminal sexual allegations against the author.</p> | |
| AD730L | DePaola, Tommie. <i>Strega Nona: Her Story.</i> New York: G.P. Putnam's, 1996. | E D44SNH |
| | <p>Grandma Concetta heals everyone with her remedies and advice, and when she retires, she leaves Nona her magic pasta pot with its secret ingredient.</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Witchcraft, magic.</p> | |
| N/A | Haan, Linda de. <i>King and King.</i> Berkley: Tricycle Press, 2002. | E H1113K |
| | <p>When the queen insists that the prince get married and take over as king, the search for a suitable mate does not turn out as expected.</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Homosexuality.</p> | |
| N/A | Handford, Martin. <i>Where's Waldo?</i> Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 1997. | E H19196W |
| | <p>The reader follows Waldo as he hikes around the world and must try to find him in the illustrations of some of the crowded places he visits.</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, unsuited for age group.</p> | |
| N/A | Merriam, Eve. <i>Halloween ABC.</i> New York: Macmillan; London: Collier Macmillan, 1987. | E M551H |
| | <p>Twenty-six poems--one for each letter of the alphabet--make up this playful, shivery collection by noted author Eve Merriam, while spooky illustrations capture perfectly the wit and beauty of the poetry--and the spirit of Halloween.</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Supernatural themes, images of weapons, unsuited for age group.</p> | |
| AD460L | Newman, Lesléa. <i>Heather Has Two Mommies.</i> Boston: Alsyon Wonderland, 1989. | E N4658H |
| | <p>Heather's favorite number is two. She has two arms, two legs, and two pets. And she also has two mommies. When Heather goes to school for the first time, someone asks her about her daddy, but Heather doesn't have a daddy. Then</p> | |

something interesting happens. When Heather and her classmates all draw pictures of their families, not one drawing is the same. It doesn't matter who makes up a family, the teacher says, because "the most important thing about a family is that all the people in it love one another."

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Homosexuality.

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| AD520L | Richardson, Justin. <i>And Tango Makes Three</i> . New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2005. | E R39486A |
| | 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. | |
| | REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Anti-family, homosexuality, political viewpoint, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group. | |
| AD480L | Sendak, Maurice. <i>In the Night Kitchen</i> . New York: Harper & Row, 1970. | E SE55I |
| | A little boy's dream-fantasy in which he helps three fat bakers get milk for their cake batter. | |
| | REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit. | |
| AD740L | Sendak, Maurice. <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> . New York: Harper & Row, 1963. | E SE55W |
| | A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king. | |
| | REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Promotion of witchcraft and supernatural events. | |
| 660L | Steig, William. <i>The Amazing Bone</i> . New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1976. | E ST33AMA |
| | On her way home from school, Pearl finds an unusual bone that has unexpected powers. | |
| | REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Violence, unsuited for age group. | |
| N/A | Wilhoite, Michael. <i>Daddy's Roommate</i> . Boston: Alsyon Wonderland, 1990. | E W6699D |
| | A young boy discusses his divorced father's new living situation, in which the father and his gay roommate share eating, doing chores, playing, loving, and living. | |
| | REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Homosexuality | |

AD630L Winter, Jeanette. *Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan*. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2009. E
W7344N

Based on a true story. After her parents are taken away by the Taliban, young Nasreen stops speaking. But as she spends time in a secret school, she slowly breaks out of her shell.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Religious Viewpoint, unsuited for age group.

FICTION

600L Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. New York: Little, Brown, 2007. F
AL279A

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Anti-family, cultural insensitivity, drugs/alcohol/smoking, gambling, offensive language, sex education, sexually explicit, unsuited for age group, violence.

HL550L Asher, Jay. *Thirteen Reasons Why: A Novel*. New York: Razorbill, 2007. F
AS353T

When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Discussion of suicide.

HL590L Blume, Judy. *Forever: A Novel*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007. F
B6259FO.A

Two high school seniors believe their love to be so strong that it will last forever.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language, sexual content.

- 720L Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. New York: Pocket Books, 1999. F
C399P
- A tale of adolescence whose hero is Charlie, a high school freshman in Pennsylvania. The novel follows Charlie as he is introduced to love, literature and pot.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Drugs/alcohol/smoking, homosexuality, offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited for age group.
- 860L George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves*. New York: Harper & Row, 1972. F
G2935JO
- While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Unsuited to age group, violence.
- 790L Gino, Alex. *George*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2015. F
G434G
- When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part . . . because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte -- but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Includes a transgender child and the "sexuality was not appropriate at elementary levels."
- 850L Green, John. *Looking for Alaska*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2005. F
G8234L
- Sixteen-year-old Miles' first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Drugs/alcohol/smoking, sexually explicit, offensive language, unsuited to age group.
- 800L Greene, Bette. *Summer of My German Soldier*. New York: Dial Press, 1973. F
G8302S
- When German prisoners of war are brought to her Arkansas town during World War II, twelve-year-old Patty, a Jewish girl, befriends one of them and must deal with the consequences of that friendship.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language, racism, sexually explicit.

1090L Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. New York: Doubleday, 2003. F
H1174C

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group.

680L Henkes, Kevin. *Olive's Ocean*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2003. F
H3893O

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha 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.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language, sexually explicit.

840L Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2005. F
H7949K

An epic tale of fathers and sons, of friendship and betrayal, that takes us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy to the atrocities of the present. The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption, and it is also about the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Includes sexual violence and was thought to “lead to terrorism” and “promote Islam.”

720L Klause, Annette Curtis. *Blood and Chocolate*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2007. F
K668B

Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her packmates and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Sexually explicit, unsuited to age group.

- 790L Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. New York: HarperCollins, 2002. F
L5125T
- The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence, and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina and quiet heroism of one man's struggle for justice.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language, racism.
- HL780L Leviathan, David. *Two Boys Kissing*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. F
L5792T
- A chorus of men who died of AIDS observes and yearns to help a cross-section of today's gay teens who navigate new love, long-term relationships, coming out, self-acceptance, and more in a society that has changed in many ways.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Homosexuality.
- 870L Morrison, Toni. *Beloved: A Novel*. New York: Vintage International, 2004. F
M8345B
- Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe, its protagonist, was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: *Beloved*.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Sexually explicit, religious viewpoint, violence.
- 650L Myers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels*. New York: Scholastic, 2008. F
M9929FAL.A
- Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language.
- 810L Patterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*. New York: Crowell, 1977. F
P2732BRI
- The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Occult/Satanism, offensive language, violence.

- 720L Pilkey, Dav. *The Adventures of Captain Underpants*. New York: Blue Sky Press, 1997. (Series) F
P6442CU1
- When George and Harold hypnotize their principal into thinking that he is the superhero Captain Underpants, he leads them to the lair of the nefarious Dr. Diaper, where they must defeat his evil robot henchmen.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language, unsuited for age group, and violence.
- HL580L Rowell, Rainbow. *Eleanor & Park*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2013. F
R795E
- Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language.
- 880L Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. New York: A.A. Levine Books, 1998. (Series) F
R797H1
- Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Occult/Satanism, violence.
- GN360L Smith, Jeff. *Bone: Out from Boneville*. New York: Graphix/Scholastic, 2005. F
SM613B01
(Series)
- The three Bone cousins, Fone Bone, Phoney Bone, and Smiley Bone, are separated and lost in a vast, uncharted desert. One by one, they find their way into a deep, forested valley filled with wonderful and terrifying creatures. Eventually, the cousins are reunited at a farmstead run by tough Gran'ma Ben and her spirited granddaughter Thorn. But little do the Bones know, there are dark forces conspiring against them, and their adventures are only just beginning!
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Political viewpoint, racism, and violence.
- 920L Sones, Sonya. *What My Mother Doesn't Know*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2001. F
SO57W
- Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit.

- GN300L Tamaki, Mariko. *This One Summer*. New York: First Second, 2014. F
T15T
- Rose and her parents have been going to Awago Beach since she was a little girl. It's her summer getaway, her refuge. Her friend Windy is always there, too, like the little sister she never had, completing her summer family. But this summer is different. Rose's mom and dad won't stop fighting, and Rose and Windy have gotten tangled up in a tragedy-in-the-making in the small town of Awago Beach. It's a summer of secrets and heartache, and it's a good thing Rose and Windy have each other.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Includes LGBT characters, drug use and profanity, and it was considered sexually explicit with mature themes.
- GN320L Telgemeier, Raina. *Drama*. New York: Graphix/Scholastic, 2012. F
T237D
- Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of *Moon over Mississippi* as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Includes LGBT characters, was deemed sexually explicit, considered "confusing," and was considered to have an offensive political viewpoint.
- 920L Taylor, Mildred D. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. New York: Dial Books, 2001. F
T216ROL
- A black family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which its children do not understand.
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language.
- HL590L Thomas, Angie. *The Hate U Give*. New York: Balzer + Bray, 2017. F
T3614H
- Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does or does not say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life
- REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Considered "pervasively vulgar" and because of drug use, profanity, and offensive language.

NONFICTION

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| HL600L | <p>Kuklin, Susan. <i>Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out</i>. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2014.</p> <p>Author and photographer Susan Kuklin met and interviewed six transgender or gender-neutral young adults and represents them before, during, and after their personal acknowledgment of gender preference.</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Anti-family, offensive language, homosexuality, sex education, political viewpoint, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group.</p> | <p>306.76 K958B</p> |
| 640L | <p>Schwartz, Alvin. <i>Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark: Collected from Folklore</i>. New York: Harper, 2010.</p> <p>Tapped from the oral traditions of American folklore, these ghost stories and tales of weird happenings, witches, and graveyards have startling, funny, or surprising endings.</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Unsuited for age group, violence.</p> | <p>398.25 SCH951SO.A</p> |
| N/A | <p>Harris, Robie. <i>It's Perfectly Normal: A Book About Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health</i>. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2004.</p> <p>Providing accurate and up-to-date answers to nearly every imaginable question, from conception and puberty to birth control and STDs, <i>It's Perfectly Normal</i> offers young people the information they need—now more than ever—to make responsible decisions and stay healthy.</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, sex education, sexually explicit, unsuited to age.</p> | <p>613.907 H243I.A</p> |
| 710L | <p>Silverberg, Cory. <i>Sex is a Funny Word</i>. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2015.</p> <p>A comic book for kids that includes children and families of all makeups, orientations, and gender identities, <i>Sex Is a Funny Word</i> is an essential resource about bodies, gender, and sexuality for children ages 8 to 10 as well as their parents and caregivers. Much more than the "facts of life" or "the birds and the bees," <i>Sex Is a Funny Word</i> opens up conversations between young people and their caregivers in a way that allows adults to convey their values and beliefs while providing information about boundaries, safety, and joy.</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Addresses sex education and is believed to lead children to "want to have sex or ask questions about sex."</p> | <p>613.9071 SI394S</p> |

NP Silverstein, Shel. *A Light in the Attic*. New York: Harper & Row, 1981. 811.54
SI398L

A collection of humorous poems.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Promotes violence and disrespect.

1020L Frank, Anne. *The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition*. New York: 940.53
Doubleday, 1995. F851D

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Inappropriate sexual and homosexual themes.

BIOGRAPHY

1330L Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. New York: Random B
House, 1969. AN43I

Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right.

REASONS FOR CHALLENGE: Sexually explicit.

N/A Bechdel, Alison. *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*. Boston, MA: Houghton B
Mifflin, 2006. B3872B

Meet Alison's father, a historic preservation expert and obsessive restorer of the family's Victorian house, a third-generation funeral home director, a high school English teacher, an icily distant parent, and a closeted homosexual who, as it turns out, is involved with male students and a family babysitter. Through narrative that is alternately heartbreaking and fiercely funny, we are drawn into a daughter's complex yearning for her father. And yet, apart from assigned stints dusting caskets at the family-owned 'fun home,' as Alison and her brothers call it, the relationship achieves its most intimate expression through the shared code of books. When Alison comes out as homosexual herself in late adolescence, the denouement is swift, graphic, and redemptive.

REASONS FOR CHALLENGE: Violence and other (“graphic images”).

N/A

Herthel, Jessica. *I am Jazz*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), LLC, 2014.

B
J444H

Presents the story of a transgender child who traces her early awareness that she is a girl in spite of male anatomy and the acceptance she finds through a wise doctor who explains her natural transgender status.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Inaccurate, homosexuality, sex education, religious viewpoint, and unsuited for age group.

Last Updated Aug-18 ES