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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexile Score</th>
<th>Title Information</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>EASY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Negative behavior, objectionable language.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A retelling of the well-known tale in which a little black boy finally outwits the succession of tigers that want to eat him.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Racism, objectionable themes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, religious viewpoint.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Little Bill and his teammates are excited to begin baseball practice, but they cannot agree on the team name.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Because of criminal sexual allegations against the author.

Grandma Concetta heals everyone with her remedies and advice, and when she retires, she leaves Nona her magic pasta pot with its secret ingredient.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Witchcraft, magic.

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.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Homosexuality.

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.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, unsuited for age group.

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.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Supernatural themes, images of weapons, unsuited for age group.

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
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>REASON FOR CHALLENGE:</strong> Anti-family, homosexuality, political viewpoint, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A little boy's dream-fantasy in which he helps three fat bakers get milk for their cake batter.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>REASON FOR CHALLENGE:</strong> Nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>REASON FOR CHALLENGE:</strong> Promotion of witchcraft and supernatural events.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On her way home from school, Pearl finds an unusual bone that has unexpected powers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>REASON FOR CHALLENGE:</strong> Violence, unsuited for age group.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>REASON FOR CHALLENGE:</strong> Homosexuality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**


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.


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.


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

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language, sexual content.

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.


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: Unsuitable to age group, violence.


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.”


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.


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.


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.


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.


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.”


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.

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.


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.


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.


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.


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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language, unsuited for age group, and violence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Offensive language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Occult/Satanism, violence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Political viewpoint, racism, and violence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.


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.


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.


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


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.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Anti-family, offensive language, homosexuality, sex education, political viewpoint, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group.


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.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Unsuitable for age group, violence.


Providing accurate and up-to-date answers to nearly every imaginable question, from conception and puberty to birth control and STDs, It’s Perfectly Normal offers young people the information they need—now more than ever—to make responsible decisions and stay healthy.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Nudity, sex education, sexually explicit, unsuited to age.


A comic book for kids that includes children and families of all makeups, orientations, and gender identities, Sex Is a Funny Word 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," Sex Is a Funny Word 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.

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Addresses sex education and is believed to lead children to “want to have sex or ask questions about sex.”
     SI398L
    A collection of humorous poems.
    REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Promotes violence and disrespect.

     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**

    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.

    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").

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.