

TOP 10 FREQUENTLY BANNED BOOKS OF 2019

available at Your Ruby Sisson Library



The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 377 challenges to library, school, and university materials and services in 2019. Of the 566 books that were targeted, the titles below are the most challenged, along with the reasons cited for censoring the books.

In parentheses beside each title, is the call number or note about how to obtain a copy through Your Ruby Sisson Library.

***George* by Alex Gino (JF GINO, A)**

Reasons: challenged, banned, restricted, and hidden to avoid controversy; for LGBTQIA+ content and a transgender character; because schools and libraries should not “put books in a child’s hand that require discussion”; for sexual references; and for conflicting with a religious viewpoint and “traditional family structure”

***Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out* by Susan Kuklin (YA 306.76 KUK, S)**

Reasons: challenged for LGBTQIA+ content, for “its effect on any young people who would read it,” and for concerns that it was sexually explicit and biased

***A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo* by Jill Twiss, illustrated by EG Keller (Available from another library)**

Reasons: Challenged and vandalized for LGBTQIA+ content and political viewpoints, for concerns that it is “designed to pollute the morals of its readers,” and for not including a content warning

***Sex is a Funny Word* by Cory Silverberg, illustrated by Fiona Smyth (Available from another library)**

Reasons: Challenged, banned, and relocated for LGBTQIA+ content; for discussing gender identity and sex education; and for concerns that the title and illustrations were “inappropriate”

***Prince & Knight* by Daniel Haack, illustrated by Stevie Lewis (Available from another library)**

Reasons: Challenged and restricted for featuring a gay marriage and LGBTQIA+ content; for being “a deliberate attempt to indoctrinate young children” with the potential to cause confusion, curiosity, and gender dysphoria; and for conflicting with a religious viewpoint

***I Am Jazz* by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas (GROWING UP, H)**

Reasons: Challenged and relocated for LGBTQIA+ content, for a transgender character, and for confronting a topic that is “sensitive, controversial, and politically charged”

***The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood (FIC ATWO, M)**

Reasons: Banned and challenged for profanity and for “vulgarity and sexual overtones”

***Drama* written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier (J GRAPHIC DRAM)**

Reasons: Challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and for concerns that it goes against “family values/morals”

***Harry Potter series* by J. K. Rowling (YA FIC ROWL, J)**

Reasons: Banned and forbidden from discussion for referring to magic and witchcraft, for containing actual curses and spells, and for characters that use “nefarious means” to attain goals

***And Tango Makes Three* by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson illustrated by Henry Cole (ANIMALS, R)**

Reason: Challenged and relocated for LGBTQIA+ content