



Books under Fire: A Hit List of Banned and Challenged Children's Books

By Pat R. Scales, Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF)



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Many things have changed since ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) was founded in 1967, but not everything: the most beloved and popular children's books are still among the most frequent targets of censorship and outright bans. Limiting access to controversial titles such as *Captain Underpants*, *The Dirty Cowboy*, *Blubber*, or *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* or leaving them out of a library's collection altogether is not the answer to challenges. In this important book, Scales gives librarians the information and guidance they need to defend challenged books with an informed response while ensuring access to young book lovers. Spotlighting dozens of hot button titles written for young children through teens, this book

- Gives a profile of each book that covers its plot, characters, published reviews, awards and prizes, and author resources
- Recounts past challenges and how they were faced, providing valuable lessons for handling future situations, plus a list of other books challenged for similar reasons
- Provides discussion ideas for planning programming around banned books, whether in reading groups, classrooms, or other settings
- Includes an appendix of additional resources for librarians who find themselves enmeshed in a challenge

With this guide at hand, library managers, children's and YA librarians, and other library staff will be prepared to champion intellectual freedom for young people.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

A resource for librarians looking to connect kids with challenged books and discuss the issues behind challenges. Thirty-four challenged titles are presented with clear and concise summaries which include several quotes from reviewers; straightforward, factual, and fascinating challenge details; awards and accolades; connections to a wealth of further reading, listening or viewing; well-constructed discussion questions to use with students; and a few related books. Titles include classics such as Judy Blume's *Blubber* (Bradbury, 1974), Avi's *The Fighting Ground* (HarperCollins, 1984), and Betty Greene's *Summer of My German Soldier* (Dial, 1973) as well as newer titles such as Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games* (Scholastic, 2008), Dav Pilkey's "Captain Underpants" series (Scholastic), and Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (Little, Brown, 2007). Appendices include resources for teaching kids about the first amendment, a bibliography of professional titles about censorship, the rankings of children's and young adult books in the top 100 most challenged books from 2000 to 2009, lists of children's classics, and a list of Caldecott and Newbery books and why they have been challenged. VERDICT Any youth librarian that has this title within easy reach will be ready to program with challenged materials, discuss intellectual freedom issues with kids and grown ups, and respond intelligently to book challenges.—Heather Acerro, Rochester Public Library, MN

Review

This is an excellent directory, guiding professionals to articles, books, and websites that will assist in helping to protect that right, providing an arsenal of information from creating a display to raise awareness to having a conversation with a concerned reader. Concise and clear, this 'hit list' is a must-have for any professional collection and also an inspiration for reading some titles never explored before controversy will always make a title more enticing." --VOYA Magazine

About the Author

Pat Scales is a retired middle school and high school librarian whose programs have been featured on the Today Show and in various professional journals. She received the ALA/Grolier Award in 1997, and has served as chair of the prestigious Newberry, Caldecott, and Wilder Award committees. She is a past president of the Association of Library Service for Children, a division of the American Library Association. Scales has been actively involved with ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee for a number of years, is a member of the Freedom to Read Foundation, serves on the Council of Advisers of the National Coalition Against Censorship, and acts as a spokesperson for First Amendment issues as they relate to children and young adults. She is the author of *Teaching Banned Books: Twelve Guides for Young Readers* and *Protecting Intellectual Freedom in Your Library*. She writes a bimonthly column for *School Library Journal*, a monthly column for the Random House website, and is a regular contributor to *Book Links* magazine.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

George Nygaard:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take

a go walking, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or even read a book eligible Books under Fire: A Hit List of Banned and Challenged Children's Books? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other opinion?

Anita Winn:

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Marvin Boyer:

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Peter Singleton:

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