

## **CELEBRATE BANNED BOOKS WEEK READER'S THEATER**

—A prelude to readings from banned and challenged classics

**Narrator I:** Every year in late September we celebrate Banned Books Week, an event that celebrates the freedom to read and the importance of the First Amendment.

**Narrator II:** The First Amendment freedoms that we so often take for granted—the right to read, explore ideas, and express ourselves freely—are at risk . . .

**Narrator III:** . . . and that's why we have Banned Books Week—to celebrate your freedom to access information and express ideas, even if the information and ideas might be considered unorthodox or unpopular.

**Narrator I:** None of us has the right to control or limit another person's ability to read or access information.

**Narrator II:** Yet when individuals or groups demand that libraries and schools remove specific books from the shelves, they are doing just that.

**Narrator III:** The rights and protections of the First Amendment include children as well as adults. While parents have the right—and the responsibility—to guide their own children's reading, that right does not extend to other people's children.

**Narrator I:** Each adult has the right to choose their own reading materials, along with the responsibility to acknowledge and respect the right of others to do the same.

**Narrator II:** When we speak up to protect the right to read, we not only defend our individual right to free expression, we demonstrate tolerance and respect for opposing points of view.

**Narrator III:** And when we take action to preserve our precious freedoms, we become participants in the ongoing evolution of our democratic society.

**Narrator I:** Act now to protect your right to read.

**Narrator II:** Stay informed. Be aware of what's happening—that's best way to fight censorship.

**Narrator III:** When you encounter censorship, be prepared to speak up or let others know.

**Narrator I:** You can fight censorship by attending and participating in public hearings, writing letters to public officials, sending a letter or an op-ed article to local news organizations, and forming a coalition to oppose censorship in your community.

**Narrator II:** You can also fight censorship by seeking assistance from national groups, such as: the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, the First Amendment Center, the Freedom to Read Foundation, the National Coalition Against Censorship, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

**Narrator III:** And support your local schools and libraries and participate in Banned Books Week!

**Narrator I:** *Catcher in the Rye . . . Harry Potter . . . Captain Underpants . . . Of Mice and Men . . . To Kill a Mockingbird . . . Junie B. Jones . . .* Attempts have been made to remove these books from schools and libraries.

**Narrator II:** Whatever your favorite book, chances are good that someone has tried to ban it. Every year there are hundreds of attempts to remove books from schools and libraries.

**Narrator III:** Thanks to the efforts of librarians, teachers, booksellers, and members of the community the majority of challenged books remain unrestricted in library collections

**Narrator I:** Imagine how many more books might be challenged—and possibly banned or restricted—if librarians, teachers, and booksellers across the country did not use Banned Books Week each year to teach the importance of our First Amendment rights and the power of literature, and to draw attention to the danger that exists when restraints are imposed on the availability of information in a free society.

**Narrator II:** It's hard to imagine a library not having Charlotte's Web, My Antonia, The Great Gatsby, Winnie-the-Pooh, The Grapes of Wrath, Gone With the Wind, The Lord of the Rings, and hundreds of other challenged books on their shelves.

**Narrator III:** Celebrate YOUR freedom to read and your right to chose your books during Banned Books Week, September 25<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup> .

**Narrator I:** Here are some of our favorite passages from books that have been banned and challenged . . .

### **Suggested reading selection titles for BBW:**

#### **ALA top ten most frequently challenged books of 2009—**

1. "TTYL; TTFN; L8R, G8R (series), by Lauren Myracle  
Reasons: Nudity, Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Unsuitable to Age Group, Drugs
2. "And Tango Makes Three" by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson  
Reasons: Homosexuality
3. "The Perks of Being A Wallflower," by Stephen Chbosky  
Reasons: Homosexuality, Sexually Explicit, Anti-Family, Offensive Language, Religious Viewpoint, Unsuitable to Age Group, Drugs, Suicide
4. "To Kill A Mockingbird," by Harper Lee  
Reasons: Racism, Offensive Language, Unsuitable to Age Group
5. Twilight (series) by Stephenie Meyer  
Reasons: Sexually Explicit, Religious Viewpoint, Unsuitable to Age Group

6. "Catcher in the Rye," by J.D. Salinger  
Reasons: Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Unsuitable to Age Group
7. "My Sister's Keeper," by Jodi Picoult  
Reasons: Sexism, Homosexuality, Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Religious Viewpoint, Unsuitable to Age Group, Drugs, Suicide, Violence
8. "The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things," by Carolyn Mackler  
Reasons: Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Unsuitable to Age Group
9. "The Color Purple," Alice Walker  
Reasons: Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Unsuitable to Age Group
10. "The Chocolate War," by Robert Cormier  
Reasons: Nudity, Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Unsuitable to Age Group

### **ALA Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books: 2000-2009**

- 1 Harry Potter (series), by J.K. Rowling
- 2 Alice series, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- 3 The Chocolate War, by Robert Cormier
- 4 And Tango Makes Three, by Justin Richardson/Peter Parnell
- 5 Of Mice and Men, by John Steinbeck
- 6 I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou
- 7 Scary Stories (series), by Alvin Schwartz
- 8 His Dark Materials (series), by Philip Pullman
- 9 TTYL; TTFN; L8R, G8R (series), by Myracle, Lauren
- 10 The Perks of Being a Wallflower, by Stephen Chbosky
- 11 Fallen Angels, by Walter Dean Myers
- 12 It's Perfectly Normal, by Robie Harris
- 13 Captain Underpants (series), by Dav Pilkey
- 14 The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain
- 15 The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison
- 16 Forever, by Judy Blume
- 17 The Color Purple, by Alice Walker
- 18 Go Ask Alice, by Anonymous
- 19 Catcher in the Rye, by J.D. Salinger
- 20 King and King, by Linda de Haan
- 21 To Kill A Mockingbird, by Harper Lee
- 22 Gossip Girl (series), by Cecily von Ziegesar
- 23 The Giver, by Lois Lowry
- 24 In the Night Kitchen, by Maurice Sendak
- 25 Killing Mr. Griffen, by Lois Duncan
- 26 Beloved, by Toni Morrison
- 27 My Brother Sam Is Dead, by James Lincoln Collier
- 28 Bridge To Terabithia, by Katherine Paterson
- 29 The Face on the Milk Carton, by Caroline B. Cooney
- 30 We All Fall Down, by Robert Cormier
- 31 What My Mother Doesn't Know, by Sonya Sones
- 32 Bless Me, Ultima, by Rudolfo Anaya
- 33 Snow Falling on Cedars, by David Guterson
- 34 The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things, by Carolyn Mackler
- 35 Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging, by Louise Rennison
- 36 Brave New World, by Aldous Huxley
- 37 It's So Amazing, by Robie Harris

- 38 Arming America, by Michael Bellasiles
- 39 Kaffir Boy, by Mark Mathabane
- 40 Life is Funny, by E.R. Frank
- 41 Whale Talk, by Chris Crutcher
- 42 The Fighting Ground, by Avi
- 43 Blubber, by Judy Blume
- 44 Athletic Shorts, by Chris Crutcher
- 45 Crazy Lady, by Jane Leslie Conly
- 46 Slaughterhouse-Five, by Kurt Vonnegut
- 47 The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby, by George Beard
- 48 Rainboy Boys, by Alex Sanchez
- 49 One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, by Ken Kesey
- 50 The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini
- 51 Daughters of Eve, by Lois Duncan
- 52 The Great Gilly Hopkins, by Katherine Paterson
- 53 You Hear Me?, by Betsy Franco
- 54 The Facts Speak for Themselves, by Brock Cole
- 55 Summer of My German Soldier, by Bette Green
- 56 When Dad Killed Mom, by Julius Lester
- 57 Blood and Chocolate, by Annette Curtis Klause
- 58 Fat Kid Rules the World, by K.L. Going
- 59 Olive's Ocean, by Kevin Henkes
- 60 Speak, by Laurie Halse Anderson
- 61 Draw Me A Star, by Eric Carle
- 62 The Stupids (series), by Harry Allard
- 63 The Terrorist, by Caroline B. Cooney
- 64 Mick Harte Was Here, by Barbara Park
- 65 The Things They Carried, by Tim O'Brien
- 66 Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred Taylor
- 67 A Time to Kill, by John Grisham
- 68 Always Running, by Luis Rodriguez
- 69 Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury
- 70 Harris and Me, by Gary Paulsen
- 71 Junie B. Jones (series), by Barbara Park
- 72 Song of Solomon, by Toni Morrison
- 73 What's Happening to My Body Book, by Lynda Madaras
- 74 The Lovely Bones, by Alice Sebold
- 75 Anastasia (series), by Lois Lowry
- 76 A Prayer for Owen Meany, by John Irving
- 77 Crazy: A Novel, by Benjamin Lebert
- 78 The Joy of Gay Sex, by Dr. Charles Silverstein
- 79 The Upstairs Room, by Johanna Reiss
- 80 A Day No Pigs Would Die, by Robert Newton Peck
- 81 Black Boy, by Richard Wright
- 82 Deal With It!, by Esther Drill
- 83 Detour for Emmy, by Marilyn Reynolds
- 84 So Far From the Bamboo Grove, by Yoko Watkins
- 85 Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes, by Chris Crutcher
- 86 Cut, by Patricia McCormick
- 87 Tiger Eyes, by Judy Blume
- 88 The Handmaid's Tale, by Margaret Atwood

- 89 Friday Night Lights, by H.G. Bissenger
- 90 A Wrinkle in Time, by Madeline L'Engle
- 91 Julie of the Wolves, by Jean Craighead George
- 92 The Boy Who Lost His Face, by Louis Sachar
- 93 Bumps in the Night, by Harry Allard
- 94 Goosebumps (series), by R.L. Stine
- 95 Shade's Children, by Garth Nix
- 96 Grendel, by John Gardner
- 97 The House of the Spirits, by Isabel Allende
- 98 I Saw Esau, by Iona Opte
- 99 Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret, by Judy Blume
- 100 America: A Novel, by Frank, E.R.

### **ALA 20<sup>th</sup> Century Banned and Challenged Classics—**

1. The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
2. The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
3. The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
4. To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
5. The Color Purple by Alice Walker
6. Ulysses by James Joyce
7. Beloved by Toni Morrison
8. The Lord of the Flies by William Golding
9. 1984 by George Orwell
10. The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner
11. Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov
12. Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
13. Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
14. A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce
15. Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
16. Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
17. Animal Farm by George Orwell
18. The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway
19. As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner
20. A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway
21. Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
22. Winnie-the-Pooh by A. A. Milne
23. Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
24. Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
25. Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison
26. Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell
27. Native Son by Richard Wright
28. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey
29. Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut
30. For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway
31. On the Road by Jack Kerouac
32. The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
33. The Call of the Wild by Jack London
34. To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf
35. Portrait of a Lady by Henry James
36. Go Tell it on the Mountain by James Baldwin

37. The World According to Garp by John Irving
38. All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren
39. A Room with a View by E. M. Forster
40. The Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien
41. Schindler's List by Thomas Keneally
42. The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton
43. The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand
44. Finnegans Wake by James Joyce
45. The Jungle by Upton Sinclair
46. Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf
47. The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum
48. Lady Chatterley's Lover by D. H. Lawrence
49. A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess
50. The Awakening by Kate Chopin
51. My Antonia by Willa Cather
52. Howards End by E. M. Forster
53. In Cold Blood by Truman Capote
54. Franny and Zooey by J.D. Salinger
55. The Satanic Verses by Salman Rushdie
56. Jazz by Toni Morrison
57. Sophie's Choice by William Styron
58. Absalom, Absalom! by William Faulkner
59. A Passage to India by E. M. Forster
60. Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton
61. A Good Man Is Hard to Find by Flannery O'Connor
62. Tender Is the Night by F. Scott Fitzgerald
63. Orlando by Virginia Woolf
64. Sons and Lovers by D. H. Lawrence
65. Bonfire of the Vanities by Tom Wolfe
66. Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut
67. A Separate Peace by John Knowles
68. Light in August by William Faulkner
69. The Wings of the Dove by Henry James
70. Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
71. Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier
72. A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams
73. Naked Lunch by William S. Burroughs
74. Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh
75. Women in Love by D. H. Lawrence
76. Look Homeward, Angel by Thomas Wolfe
77. In Our Time by Ernest Hemingway
78. The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas by Gertrude Stein
79. The Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett
80. The Naked and the Dead by Norman Mailer
81. Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys
82. White Noise by Don DeLillo
83. O Pioneers! by Willa Cather
84. Tropic of Cancer by Henry Miller
85. The War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells
86. Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad
87. The Bostonians by Henry James

88. An American Tragedy by Theodore Dreiser
89. Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather
90. The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
91. This Side of Paradise by F. Scott Fitzgerald
92. Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand
93. The French Lieutenant's Woman by John Fowles
94. Babbitt by Sinclair Lewis
95. Kim by Rudyard Kipling
96. The Beautiful and the Damned by F. Scott Fitzgerald
97. Rabbit, Run by John Updike
98. Where Angels Fear to Tread by E. M. Forster
99. Main Street by Sinclair Lewis
100. Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie

Sources:

ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/index.cfm>

**Banned Books** by Robert P. Doyle, an ALA Publication

The First Amendment Center <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/>

**Think for Yourself and Let Others Do the Same: Books Challenged or Banned in 2009-2010** by Robert P. Doyle <http://www.ila.org/pdf/2010banned.pdf>