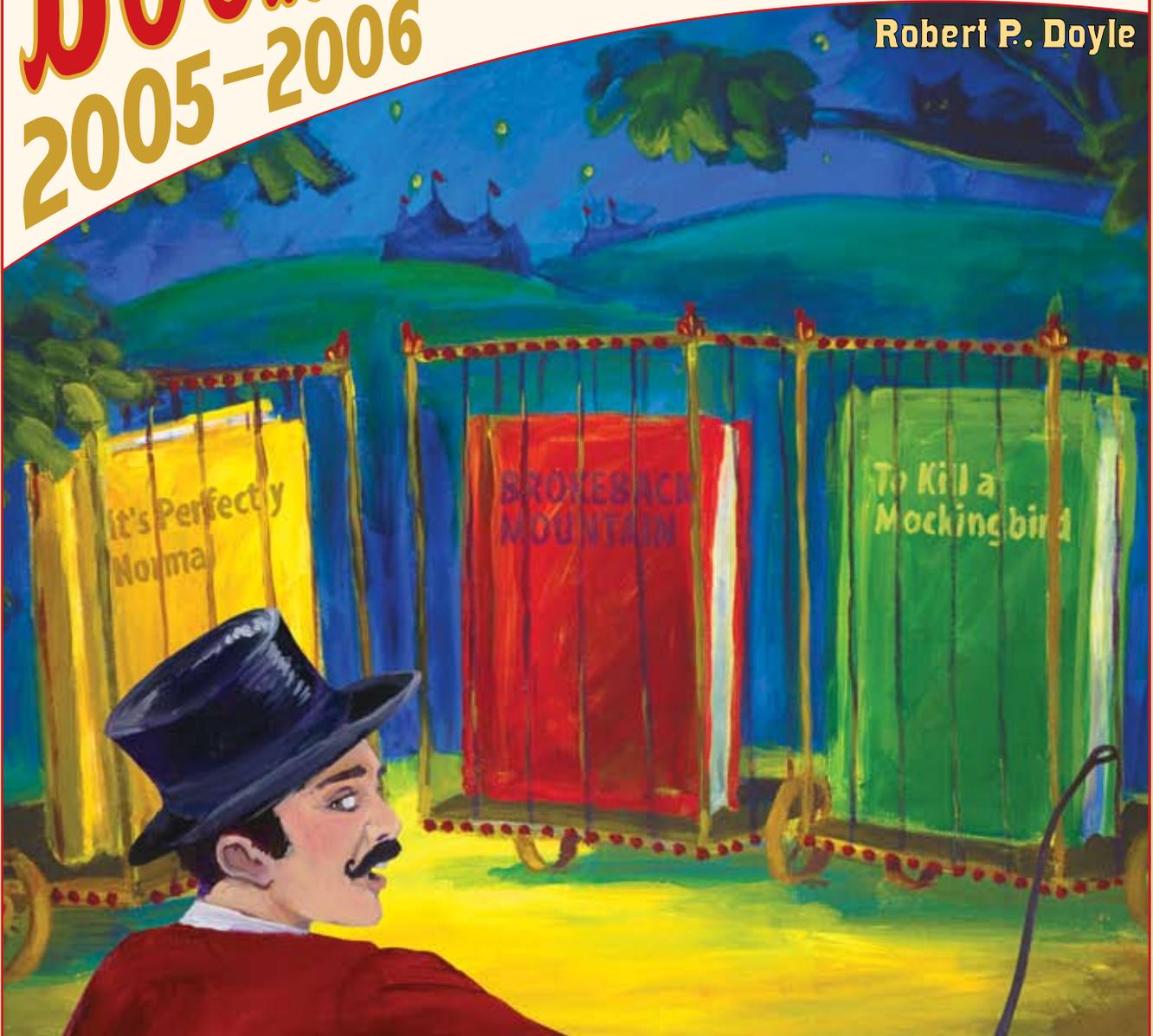


BOOKS CHALLENGED OR BANNED 2005-2006

Robert P. Doyle



Sponsored by: American Booksellers Association, American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, American Library Association, American Society of Journalists and Authors, Association of American Publishers and National Association of College Stores

Endorsed by: Center for the Book at the Library of Congress

25th
Anniversary of
Banned Books Week

Read Banned Books
They're Your Ticket to Freedom

Books Challenged or Banned in 2005-2006

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Bantam. Removed as required reading in Annapolis, Md. freshman English curriculum (2006) because the book's rape scenes and other mature content are too advanced for ninth-graders. The freshman English class syllabus is sent home to parents to read at the beginning of each year. It warns them of the book's mature themes and allows parents to ask to have their children read another book instead. Source: May 2006, pp. 132-33.

Atkins, Catherine. *When Jeff Comes Home*. Putnam. Restricted to students with parental permission in the Irving, Tex. schools (2006). The book is about a boy's recovery after being kidnapped and sexually abused by a man. The publisher recommends the book for readers thirteen and older, while *School Library Journal* suggested it for readers in grades ten and above. It was named a best book for young adults by the American Library Association in 2000. Source: March 2006, pp. 72-73.

Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. Fawcett; Houghton; Simon; Hall. The Judson, Tex. school district board overruled (2006) Superintendent Ed Lyman's ban of the novel from an advanced placement English curriculum. Lyman had banned the book after a parent complained it was sexually explicit and offensive to Christians. In doing so, he overruled the recommendation of a committee of teachers, students, and parents. The committee appealed the decision to the school board. Source: May 2006, pp. 154-55.

Blume, Judy. *Forever*. Bradbury Press. Challenged in the Fayetteville, Ark. Middle and

Junior High School libraries (2005). The complainant also submitted a list of more than fifty books, citing the books as too sexually explicit and promoting homosexuality. Source: Sept. 2005, p. 215.

Burgess, Melvin. *Doing It*. Holt. Challenged in the Fayetteville, Ark. High School library (2005). The complainant also submitted a list of more than fifty books, citing the books as too sexually explicit and promoting homosexuality. Source: Sept. 2005, p. 215.

Carter, Judy. *The Homo Handbook: Getting in Touch with Your Inner Homo*. Fireside. Challenged in the Fayetteville, Ark. High School library (2005). The complainant also submitted a list of more than fifty books, citing the books as too sexually explicit and promoting homosexuality. Source: Sept. 2005, p. 215.

Chbosky, Stephen. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. Pocket Bks. Retained in the Arrowhead High School curriculum in Merton, Wis. (2005). Reading the book was optional and parents could choose to have their children read something else. Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction sent a letter (2005) to charter schools and public school principals and district superintendents asking them to make sure that the book is no longer available to minors or any other students. The book contains numerous sexual references, including a scene where a girl is forced to have oral sex with a boy during a party. Source: May 2005, pp. 111-12; Jan. 2006, p. 9.

Cormier, Robert. *We All Fall Down*. Dell. Challenged at the Cherry Hill, N.J. Public Library's

This bibliography represents books challenged, restricted, removed, or banned in 2005–2006 as reported in the Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom from May 2005 through May 2006.

young adult section (2005) by a parent claiming its “deplorable” content was unfit for young minds. The book was retained. Source: Nov. 2005, p. 296.

Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk*. Greenwillow. Removed from all five Limestone County, Ala. high school libraries (2005) because of the book’s use of profanity. Removed from the suggested reading list for a pilot English-literature curriculum by the superintendent of the South Carolina Board of Education (2005). Challenged at the Grand Ledge, Mich. High School (2005). Source: May 2005, p. 107; July 2005, pp. 153–54.

Daldry, Jeremy. *The Teenage Guy’s Survival Guide*. Little. Restricted, but later returned to general circulation shelves with some limits on student access, based on a review committee’s recommendations, at the Holt Middle School parent library in Fayetteville, Ark. (2005) despite a parent’s complaint that it was sexually explicit. Source: Nov. 2005, pp. 295–96.

Dickey, Eric Jerome. *The Other Woman*. Dutton. Challenged in the Fayetteville, Ark. High School library (2005). The complainant also submitted a list of more than fifty books, citing the books as too sexually explicit and promoting homosexuality. Source: Sept. 2005, p. 215.

Drill, Esther. *Deal with It! A Whole New Approach to Your Body, Brain, and Life As a Gurl*. Pocket Bks. Challenged in the Fayetteville, Ark. schools libraries (2005). The complainant also submitted a list of more than fifty books, citing the

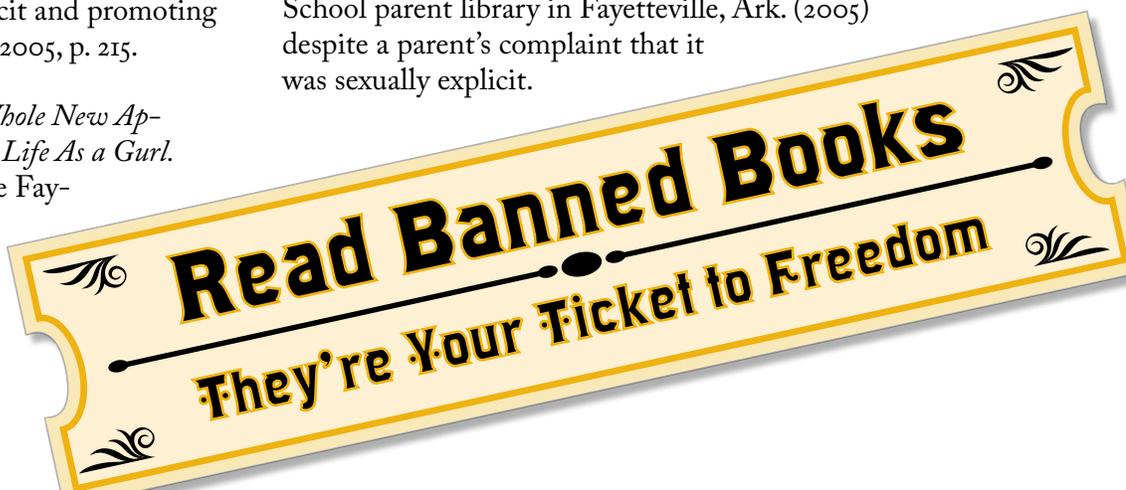
books as too sexually explicit and promoting homosexuality. Source: Nov. 2005, pp. 295–96.

Elish, Dan. *Born Too Short: The Confessions of an Eighth-Grade Basket Case*. Thorndike Press. Banned in Carroll County, Md. schools (2005). No reason stated. Source: March 2006, pp. 70–71.

Grisham, John. *A Time to Kill*. Wynwood Press. Challenged, but retained in the Fargo, N. Dak. North High School advanced English classes (2005) despite complaints about the novel’s graphic rape and murder scenes. Source: July 2005, p. 161; Sept. 2005, p. 239; Jan. 2006, pp. 14–15.

Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Doubleday. Challenged at the Galveston, Tex. County Reads Day (2006) because the book could “pollute” young minds. Source: March 2006, pp. 71–72.

Harris, Robie H. *It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health*. Candlewick Press. Restricted, but later returned to general circulation shelves with some limits on student access, based on a review committee’s recommendations, at the Holt Middle School parent library in Fayetteville, Ark. (2005) despite a parent’s complaint that it was sexually explicit.



BANNED BOOKS WEEK

Source: May 2005, p. 131; Nov. 2005, pp. 295–96.

_____. *It's So Amazing!: A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families*. Candlewick Press. Restricted, but later returned to general circulation shelves with some limits on student access, based on a review committee's recommendations, at the Holt Middle School parent library in Fayetteville, Ark. (2005) despite a parent's complaint that it was sexually explicit. Relocated to the reference section of the Northern Hills Elementary school media center in Onalaska, Wis. (2005) because a parent complained about its frank yet kid-friendly discussion of reproduction topics, including sexual intercourse, masturbation, abortion, and homosexuality. Source: May 2005, p. 131; Nov. 2005, pp. 281–82, 295–96.

Hartinger, Brent. *Geography Club*. Harper-Tempest. Withdrawn from Curtis Junior High and Curtis Senior High school libraries (2005) after a University Place, Wash. couple with children in both schools filed a written complaint. They wrote that the book could result in a “casual and loose approach to sex,” encourage use of Internet porn, and the physical meeting of people through chat-rooms. Source: Jan. 2006, pp. 12–13; March 2006, p. 73.

Huegel, Kelly. *GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Queer and Questioning Teens*. Free Spirit Pub. Challenged in the Fayetteville, Ark. High School library (2005). The complainant also submitted a list of more than fifty books, citing the books as too sexually explicit and

promoting homosexuality. Source: Sept. 2005, p. 215.

Jukes, Mavis. *The Guy Book: An Owner's Manual*. Crown Pub. Challenged in the Lockwood, Mont. Middle School library (2006) by parents who objected to what they believe to be misleading, sexually explicit material in the book. The book was retained. The challenge came on the heels of a December decision by the board to pull three books from the middle school library. Those books were *The Vanishing Hitchhiker: American Urban Legends*, by Jan Brunvand, and *Urban Legends and Alligators in the Sewer*, both by Thomas Craughwell. The same parent brought those titles — and their content — to the attention of the librarian and superintendent. Source: May 2006, pp. 129–30.

Kaysen, Susanna. *Girl, Interrupted*. Vintage. Removed temporarily from the curriculum, pending its review, from the Orono, Maine High School (2006) after a parent complained about strong language and vivid descriptions. Movie stars Angelina Jolie and Winona Ryder brought the book into the limelight when they starred in the 2000 film version. Source: March 2006, pp. 73–74.

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Lippincott/Harper; Popular Library. Challenged at the Brentwood, Tenn. Middle School (2006) because the book contains “profanity” and “contains adult themes such as sexual intercourse, rape, and incest.” The complainants also contend that the book's use of racial slurs promotes “racial hatred, racial division, racial separation, and promotes white supremacy.” Source: March 2006, p. 74.



Anniversary of Banned Books Week

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*. Dell; Houghton. Challenged, but retained at the Seaman, Kans. Unified School District 345 elementary school library (2006). Source: May 2006, p. 153.

Mackler, Carolyn. *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things*. Candlewick Press. Banned by the Carroll County Superintendent in Westminster, Md. (2006), but after protests from students, librarians, national organizations, and the publisher, the book was returned to the high school libraries, but not middle schools. The superintendent objected to the book's use of profanity and its sexual references. The book was named the 2004 Michael L. Printz Honor Book, the American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults, and the International Reading Association's 2005 Young Adults' Choice, among other accolades. Source: March 2006, pp. 70–71.

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*. NAL. Banned from the Littleton, Colo. curriculum and library shelves (2005) after complaints about its explicit sex, including the rape of an eleven-year-old girl by her father. Source: Jan. 2006, p. 13.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels*. Scholastic. Removed from the Blue Valley School District's high school curriculum in Overland Park, Kans. (2005). The book was challenged by parents and community members along with thirteen other titles. Source: Nov. 2005, pp. 282–83.

Nabokov, Vladimir. *Lolita*. Berkley; McGraw–Hill; Putnam. Challenged at the Marion Levy Public Library System in Ocala, Fla. (2006). The Marion County commissioners voted to have the county attorney review the novel that addresses the themes of pedophilia and incest, to determine if it meets the state law's definition of “unsuitable for minors.” Source: March 2006, pp. 69–70.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Alice on the Outside*. Atheneum. Available with parental permission in the librarian's office at Shelbyville, Ky. East Middle School (2005) because the book is “too sexually explicit” for middle-school students. Source: May 2005, p. 108; July 2005, pp. 185–86.

Palahniuk, Chuck. *Choke: A Novel*. Doubleday. Challenged in the Fayetteville, Ark. High School library (2005). The complainant also submitted a list of more than fifty books, citing the books as too sexually explicit and promoting homosexuality. Source: Sept. 2005, p. 215.

Parsons, Alexander. *Leaving Disneyland*. Thomas Dunne Bks. Banned in Carroll County, Md. schools (2005). No reason stated. Source: March 2006, pp. 70–71.

Peters, Lisa Westberg. *Our Family Tree: An Evolution Story*. Harcourt. Retained in the Seaman, Kans. Unified School District 345 elementary school library (2006). Objections were raised because the book is about the scientific theory of evolution. Source: May 2006, p. 153.

Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read is observed during the last week of September each year. Observed since 1982, the annual event reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted.

Proulx, Annie. *Brokeback Mountain*. Scribner. Retained at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Austin, Tex. (2005). The private school returned a three million dollar donation rather than submit to the donor's request that the short story be removed from the school's list of optional reading for twelfth graders. Source: Jan. 2006, p. 37.

Rapp, Adam. *The Buffalo Tree*. HarperCollins. Banned from the Muhlenberg, Pa. High School (2005). Several months later the board reversed that decision and determined that a reading list be made available to parents including a rating system, plot summaries of all assigned books, and the identification of any potentially objectionable content. Source: July 2005, pp. 161–62.

Reynolds, Marilyn. *Detour for Emmy*. Morning Glory Press. Challenged in the Action Middle School library in Granbury, Tex. (2005) because it “talks very vividly about sexual encounters of a fifteen-year-old.” The book was cited as one of the American Library Association's Best Books for Young Adults in 1993. Source: Nov. 2005, pp. 280–81; Jan. 2006, pp. 10–11.

Richardson, Justin and Peter Parnell. *And Tango Makes Three*. Simon. Moved from the children's fiction section to children's nonfiction at two Rolling Hill's Consolidated Library's branches in Savannah and St. Joseph, Mo. (2006) after parents complained it had homosexual undertones. The illustrated book is based on a true story of two male penguins who adopted an abandoned egg at New York

City's Central Park in the late 1990s. Source: May 2006, p. 129.

Rowling, J. K. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Scholastic. Removed by the Wilsona School District trustees from a list recommended by a parent–teacher committee for the Vista San Gabriel, Calif. Elementary School library (2006) along with twenty-three other books. Trustees said one rejected book contained an unsavory hero who made a bad role model for children; another was about a warlock, which they said was inappropriate; and others were books with which they were unfamiliar and didn't know whether they promoted good character or conflicted with textbooks. Rejected titles included three bilingual Clifford the Big Red Dog books, Disney's Christmas Storybook, two books from the Artemis Fowl series, *Beauty is a Beast*, *Welcome to the USA California*, and *The Eye of the Warlock*. Source: May 2006, p. 127.

Sanchez, Alex. *Rainbow Boys*. Simon. Challenged in the Fayetteville, Ark. High School library (2005). The complainant also submitted a list of more than fifty books, citing the books as too sexually explicit and promoting homosexuality. Source: Sept. 2005, p. 215.

Sidhwa, Bapsi. *Cracking India*. Milkweed Eds. Challenged at Deland High School, near Daytona Beach, Fla. (2005) as part of the school's International Baccalaureate Program, whose curriculum is college-level. In a letter sent home, parents were offered the option of having their children assigned an alternate book. A parent objected to a

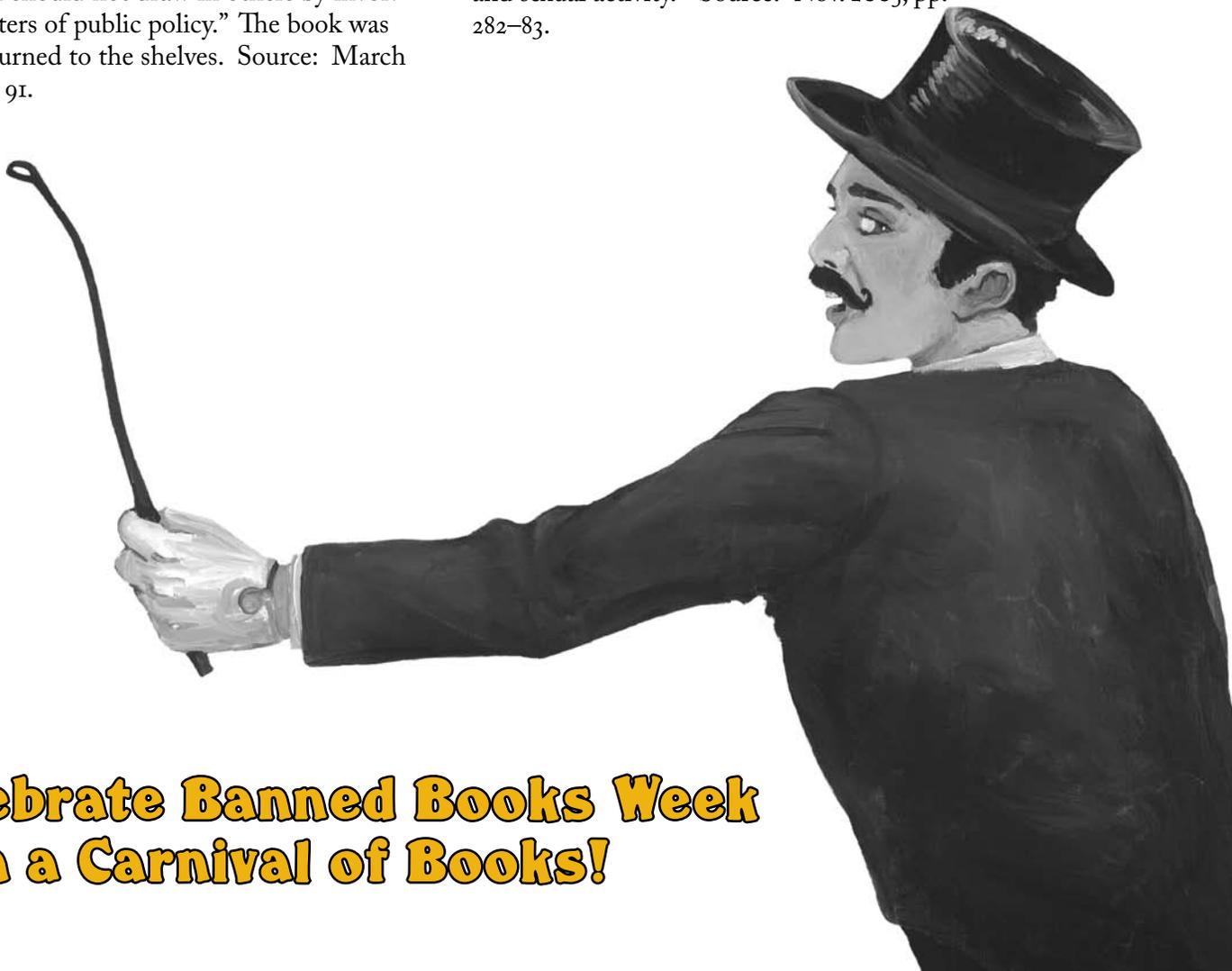
Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those viewpoints to all who wish to read them. After all, intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met.

two-page scene in which the narrator brushes off an older cousin's attempt to trick her into performing oral sex. Source: Jan. 2006, pp. 13-14.

Touchette, Charleen. *It Stops With Me: Memoir of a Canuck Girl.* Touch Arts Bks. Removed from the Woonsocket Harris, R.I. Public Library shelves (2005) after the book was challenged by the author's father. He wrote, "If members of a family wish to harm one another, those actions should be kept private and should not draw in others by involving matters of public policy." The book was later returned to the shelves. Source: March 2006, p. 91.

Wersba, Barbara. *Whistle Me Home.* Holt. Banned in Carroll County, Md. schools (2005). No reason stated. Source: March 2006, pp. 70-71.

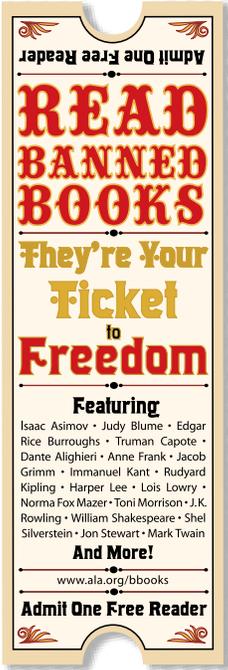
Wolff, Tobias. *This Boy's Life: A Memoir.* Atlantic Monthly Press.; Perennial Library. Removed from the Blue Valley School District's high school curriculum in Overland Park, Kans. (2005). The book was challenged by parents and community members because of "foul language, and references to alcohol and sexual activity." Source: Nov. 2005, pp. 282-83.



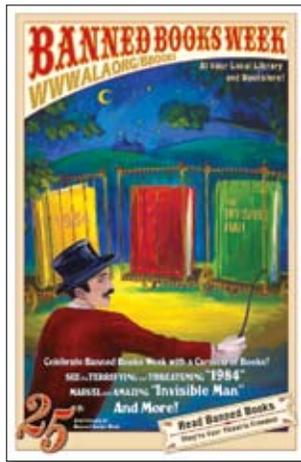
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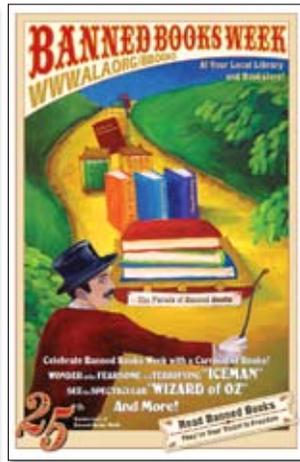
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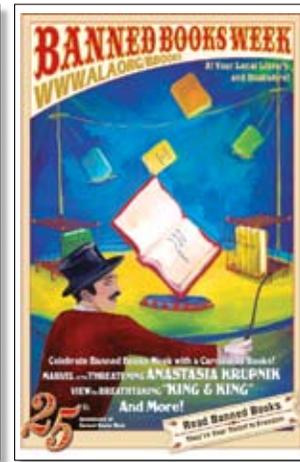
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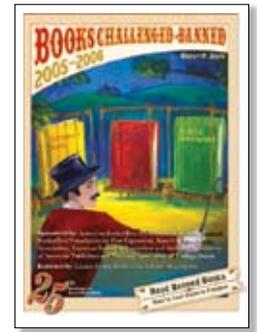
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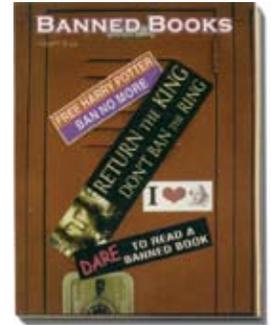
Children's Poster



List of Books Challenged or Banned in 2005-2006



2004 Banned Books Resource Guide



Ticket to Freedom Button



Purple Button



T-Shirt Front



T-Shirt Back



| | | |
|--|-------|-----------------|
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| ADDRESS | | |
| CITY | STATE | ZIP CODE |
| PHONE | FAX | E-MAIL |
| ALA MEMBER # (entitles you to a 10% discount) | | |
| CREDIT CARD NUMBER (Visa, MasterCard, or American Express) | | EXPIRATION DATE |
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| Young Adult Poster | X | \$10.00 | |
| Children's Poster | X | \$10.00 | |
| Bookmarks (per 100) | X | \$10.00 | |
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| List of Books Challenged or Banned in 2004-2005 (packet of 50) | X | \$35.00 | |
| (single copy) | X | \$1.00 | |
| Ticket to Freedom Button (1-10 per piece cost) | X | \$2.00 | |
| Ticket to Freedom Button (11-50 per piece cost) | X | \$1.50 | |
| Ticket to Freedom Button (51 or more per piece cost) | X | \$1.25 | |
| Purple Button (1-10 per piece cost) | X | \$2.00 | |
| Purple Button (11-50 per piece cost) | X | \$1.50 | |
| Purple Button (51 or more per piece cost) | X | \$1.25 | |
| T-Shirts: List quantity next to sizes preferred: ___M + ___L + ___XL + ___XXL = | X | \$20.00 | |

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| \$150 - \$199.99 \$11.00 | | |
| \$200 and up 8% of total | | |
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