BANNED BOOKS

May 2011 – May 2012

Each year, the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom compiles a list of the top ten most frequently challenged books in order to inform the public about censorship in libraries and schools. The ALA condemns censorship and works to ensure free access to information.

A challenge is defined as a formal, written complaint, filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness. The number of challenges reflects only incidents reported. We estimate that for every reported challenge, four or five remain unreported. Therefore, we do not claim comprehensiveness in recording challenges.

The titles below represent banned or challenged books from May 2011 – May 2012 as reported in the American Library Association's Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, by Sherman Alexie

Speak, by Laurie Halse Anderson

To the Wedding, by John Berger

Bhagavad-Gītā as it Is

What's the Big Secret? *Talking about Sex with Girls and Boys*, by Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown

My Mom's Having a Baby, by Dori Hillestad Butler

In Cold Blood, by Truman Capote

Ender's Game, by Orson Scott Card

Betrayed, by P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast

The Perks of Being a Wallflower, by Stephen Chbosky

A Study in Scarlet, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America, by Barbara Ehrenreich

The Wars, by Timothy Findley

Looking for Alaska, by John Green

Water for Elephants, by Sara Gruen

It's Perfectly Normal**:** *A Book about Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health*, by Robie H. Harris

Tintin in the Congo, by Hergé (Georges Remi)

The Kite Runner, By Khaled Hosseini

Stolen Children, by Peg Kehret

Hold Still, by Nina La Cour

Great Soul: Mahatma Gandi and His Struggle with India, by Joseph Letyveld

The Hunt Club, by Bret Lott

Tangled, by Carolyn Mackler

500 Years of Chicano History in Pictures, by Elizabeth Martinez

Beloved, by Toni Morrison

The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison

Norwegian Wood, by Haruki Murakami

Lajja (Shame), by Taslima Nasrin

Lovingly Alice, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Twenty Boy Summer, by Sarah Ockler

The Adventure of Super Diaper Baby, by Dav Pilkey

And Tango Makes Three, by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

Push, by Sapphire (Ramona Lofton)

***Stuck in the Middle**: 17 Comics from an Unpleasant Age*, by Ariel Schrag

Pit Bulls and Tenacious Guard Dogs, by Carl Semencic

No Fear Shakespeare Romeo and Juliet, by William Shakespeare

***Tweak:** Growing Up on Methamphetamines*, by Nic Sheff

Waterland, by Graham Swift

Slaughterhouse-Five, by Kurt Vonnegut

***Only in Your Dreams:** A Gossip Girl Novel*, by Cecily Von Ziegesar

***The Glass Castle:** A Memoir*, by Jeannette Wells

***Montana 1948**: A Novel*, by Larry Watson

For more information on why these books were challenged, visit the Banned Books Week website: http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged