



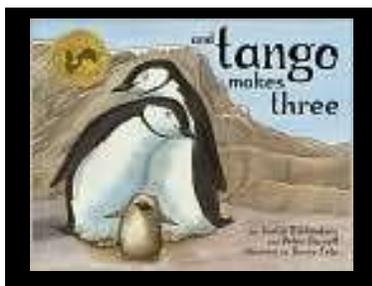
**Banned Books Week Exhibit  
 “Celebrating the Freedom to Read”  
 September 27 – October 4, 2008**

Located on the main level of Ezra Lehman Library, this exhibit featured the ten most challenged books of 2007; a collection of challenged books that are in Lehman Library’s Young People’s Collection; and the Harry Potter series held by our Luhrs Elementary School Library. In addition, a selection of titles from Stephen King’s twenty-two fiction classic novels that have been challenged or banned were on display.

In addition to the book collections on display, several documents were on display to answer questions like these: Why celebrate Banned Books Week? What’s the Difference between a Challenge and a Banning? Who Challenges Books?

The Banned Books Week exhibit was designed and created by Joyce Harding, Library Technician and Exhibits Coordinator for Lehman Library.

**Top Ten Challenged Books of 2007**

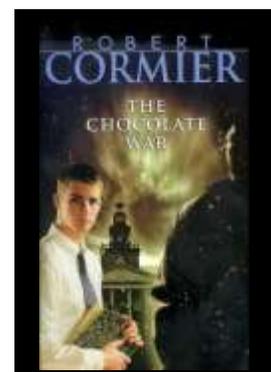


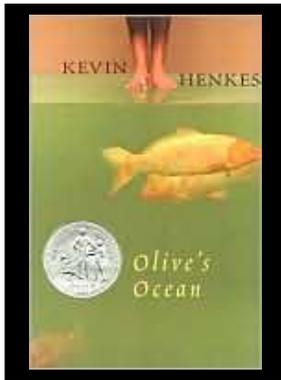
Synopsis: two male chinstrap penguins at New York City’s Central Park Zoo bond, build a nest and—thanks to a helping hand from an observant zookeeper—hatch and raise a penguin chick. (Kirkus Review)

Reasons for Challenging: Anti-ethnic, Sexism, Homosexuality, Anti-Family, Religious Viewpoint, Unsuitable to Age Group

Synopsis: A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school’s annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies. (Google Books)

Reasons for Challenging: Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Violence



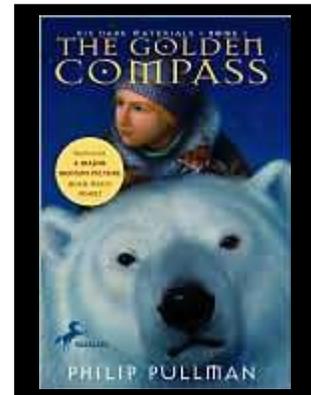


Synopsis: 12 year old Martha Boyle stands on the brink of discovery: about her family, her first love and herself. As her family prepares for the annual visit to her grandmother, Martha is given a journal entry from her classmate, Olive, who was killed in an automobile accident. Martha didn't really know Olive, but the journal entry makes Martha reflect on what might have been if Olive hadn't died. In her two weeks on Cape Cod, Martha learns to deal with the changing emotional landscape that comes with adolescence. (Google Books)

Reasons for Challenging: Sexually Explicit and Offensive Language

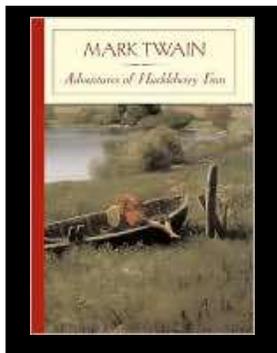
Synopsis: In *The Golden Compass*, readers meet for the first time 11-year-old Lyra Belacqua, a precocious orphan growing up near Jordan College in Oxford, England. It quickly becomes clear that Lyra's Oxford is not precisely like our own—nor is her world. In Lyra's world, everyone has a personal dæmon, a lifelong animal familiar. This is a world in which science, theology and magic are closely intertwined. (Google Books)

Reason for Challenging: Religious Viewpoint



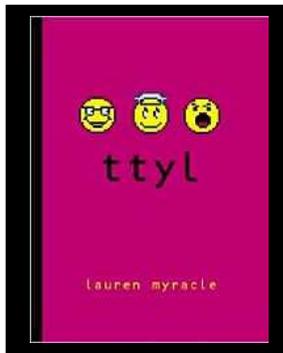
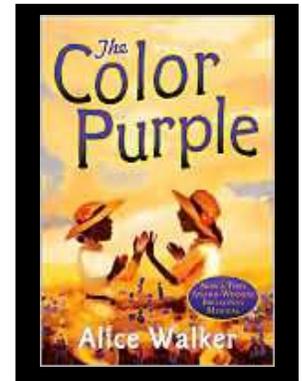
Synopsis: Hilariously picaresque, epic in scope, alive with the poetry and vigor of the American people, Mark Twain's story about a young boy and his journey down the Mississippi was the first great novel to speak in a truly American voice. "Huckleberry Finn," like the river which flows through its pages, is one of the great sources which nourished and still nourishes the literature of America. (Google Books)

Reason for Challenging: Racism



Synopsis: Celie is a poor black woman whose letters tell the story of 20 years of her life, starting at age 14 when she is being abused and raped by her father and attempting to protect her sister from the same fate, and continuing over the course of her marriage to "Mister," a brutal man who terrorizes her. Celie eventually learns that her abusive husband has been keeping her sister's letters from her and the rage she feels, combined with an example of love and independence provided by her close friend, Shrug pushes her finally toward an awakening of her creative and loving self. (Google Books)

Reasons for Challenging: Homosexuality, Sexually explicit, offensive language

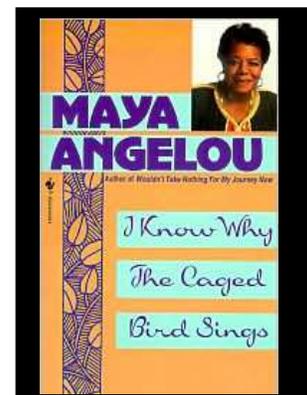


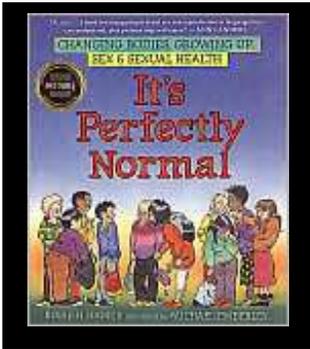
An epistolary novel for the 21st century, this sharp, funny, and true-to-life breakout hit about friendship is told entirely in instant messages. And Internet-savvy teens have fallen in love with flirty Angela (SnowAngel), moody Maddie (mad maddie), and good girl Zoe (zoegirl) and their frank perceptions about a tumultuous tenth-grade semester. (Google Books)

Reasons for Challenging: Sexually explicit, Offensive language, Unsuitable to age group

Synopsis: Filled with images and recollections that point to the dignity and courage of black men and women, Angelou paints a sometimes disquieting, but always affecting picture of the people--and the times--that touched her life. (Google Books)

Reasons for Challenging: Sexually explicit



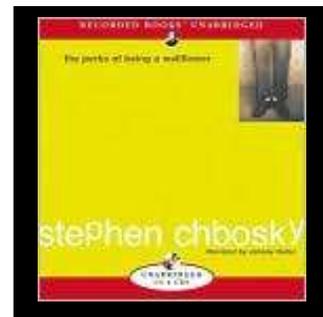


Synopsis: Providing accurate, lucid, unbiased answers to nearly every conceivable question children may have about sexuality, *“It’s Perfectly Normal”* is here to help. Packed with warm, age-appropriate illustrations, often humorous but always scientifically correct, this book offers children the reassurance that the changes and emotions they experience while growing up are perfectly normal. (Google Books)

Reasons for Challenging: Sex education, Sexually explicit

Synopsis: This haunting novel about the dilemma of passivity vs. passion marks the stunning debut of a provocative new voice in contemporary fiction: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. In this coming of age story, the main character, Charlie writes a series of letters about what it’s like to grow up in high school. Charlie’s letters are singular and unique, hilarious and devastating – about the world of first dates and mixed tapes, family dramas, new friends, the world of sex and drugs, and suicide. (Google Books)

Reasons for Challenging: Homosexuality, Sexually explicit, Offensive language, Unsuitable to age group



# **Banned Books Week**

**“Celebrating the Freedom to Read”**

**September 27–October 4, 2008**

**Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read** is observed during the last week of September each year. Observed since 1982, this annual ALA event reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted. This year, 2008, marks BBW's 27th anniversary from September 27 through October 4.

**BBW** 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 unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them. After all, intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met.

**BBW** is sponsored by the American Booksellers Association, American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, American Library Association, American Society of Journalists and Authors, Association of American Publishers, National Association of College Stores, and is endorsed by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

- From ALA's website, [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org).

# Ten Most Challenged Books of 2007

1. And Tango Makes Three, by Justin Richardson/Peter Parnell

**Reasons:** Anti-Ethnic, Sexism, Homosexuality, Anti-Family, Religious Viewpoint, Unsuitable to Age Group

2. The Chocolate War, by Robert Cormier

**Reasons:** Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Violence

3. Olive's Ocean, by Kevin Henkes

**Reasons:** Sexually Explicit and Offensive Language

4. The Golden Compass, by Philip Pullman

**Reasons:** Religious Viewpoint

5. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain

**Reasons:** Racism

6. The Color Purple, by Alice Walker

**Reasons:** Homosexuality, Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language

7. TTYL, by Lauren Myracle

**Reasons:** Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Unsuitable to Age Group

8. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou

**Reasons:** Sexually Explicit

9. It's Perfectly Normal, by Robie Harris

**Reasons:** Sex Education, Sexually Explicit

10. The Perks of Being A Wallflower, by Stephen Chbosky

**Reasons:** Homosexuality, Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Unsuitable to Age Group

# Who Challenges Books?

Throughout history, more and different kinds of people and groups of all persuasions than you might first suppose, who, for all sorts of reasons, have attempted—and continue to attempt—to suppress anything that conflicts with or anyone who disagrees with their own beliefs.

In his book, *Free Speech for Me—But Not for Thee: How the American Left and Right Relentlessly Censor Each Other*, Nat Hentoff writes that “the lust to suppress can come from any direction.” He quotes Phil Kerby, a former editor of the Los Angeles Times, as saying, “Censorship is the strongest drive in human nature; sex is a weak second.”

According to *The 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books: Challenges by Initiator, Institution, Type, and Year*, parents challenge materials more often than any other group.

# What's the Difference between a Challenge and a Banning?

A **challenge** is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group.

A **banning** is the removal of those materials.

Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others.

The positive message of **Banned Books Week: Celebrating Your Freedom to Read** is that due to the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents, students and other concerned citizens, most challenges are unsuccessful and most materials are retained in the school curriculum or library collection.

## **Challenged Books in Lehman Library's Young Peoples Collection**

**Colfer, Eoin. The Supernatural**

**Reason: because it deals with the occult**

**Going, K. L. Fat Kid Rules the World**

**Reason: explicit language, sexual references, drug use, profanity, mature content**

**Green, John. Looking for Alaska**

**Reason: graphic language, sexual content**

**Grove, Vicki. The Starplace**

**Reason: racism**

**Kingsolver, Barbara. Animal Dreams**

**Reason: sexual references**

**Nixon, Joan Lowery. Whispers from the Dead**

**Reason: because it deals with the occult**

**Stroud, Jonathan. The Amulet of Samarkand**

**Reason: because it deals with the occult**