

2024 Booklist: The Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2023

Exercise your right to read! The American Library Association condemns censorship and works to ensure free access to information. The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom documented 4,240 unique book titles targeted for censorship in 2023—a 65% surge over 2022 numbers—as well as 1,247 demands to censor library books, materials, and resources. Pressure groups focused on public libraries in addition to targeting school libraries. The number of titles targeted for censorship at public libraries increased by 92% over the previous year, accounting for about 46% of all book challenges in 2023. Of the record 4,240 unique titles targeted for censorship, the most challenged are listed below. To find out why, visit [Banned Books Week website](#). Some titles may be available in e-formats. Check the catalog or ask a librarian for assistance.

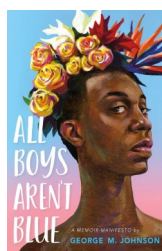


#1 Gender Queer: Memoir

by Maia Kobabe

YA B Kobabe Ko or YA 306.76809 Ko Gr. 9 and up

In *Gender Queer*, Maia Kobabe has crafted an intensely cathartic autobiography about eir path to identifying as non-binary and asexual, and coming out to eir family and society. By addressing questions about gender identity--what it means and how to think about it--the story also doubles as a much-needed, useful and touching guide.

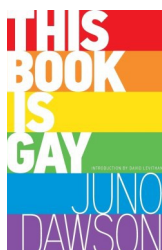


#2 All Boys Aren't Blue

by George M. Johnson

YA B Johnson Jo or YA 306.7662 Jo Gr. 9 and up

In a series of personal essays, prominent journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist George M. Johnson explores his childhood, adolescence, and college years in New Jersey and Virginia. From the memories of getting his teeth kicked out by bullies at age five, to flea marketing with his loving grandmother, to his first sexual relationships, this young-adult memoir weaves together the trials and triumphs faced by Black queer boys.

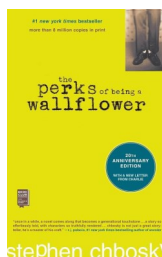


#3 This Book is Gay

by Juno Dawson YA 306.766 Da

Gr. 7 and up

Lesbian. Bisexual. Queer. Transgender. Straight. Curious. This book is for everyone, regardless of gender or sexual preference. This book is for anyone who's ever dared to wonder.

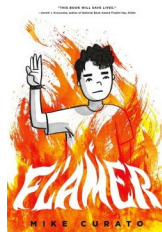


#4 The Perks of Being a Wallflower

by Stephen Chbosky YA Chbosky

Gr. 9 and up

A haunting coming of age novel told in a series of letters to an unknown correspondent reveals the life of Charlie, a freshman in high school who is a wallflower, shy and introspective, and very intelligent, it's a story of what it's like to grow up in high school, tracing a course through uncharted territory in the world of first dates, family dramas and new friends.

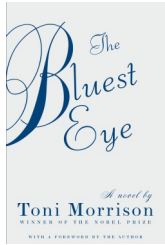


#5 Flamer

By Mike Curato

YA GN Flamer or YA GN Curato Gr. 8 and up

It's the summer between middle school and high school, and Aiden Navarro is away at camp. Everyone's going through changes--but for Aiden, the stakes feel higher. As he navigates friendships, deals with bullies, and spends time with Elias (a boy he can't stop thinking about), he finds himself on a path of self-discovery and acceptance.

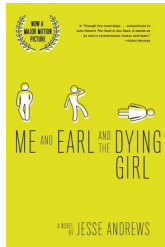


#6 The Bluest Eye

by Toni Morrison

Adult Fiction Morrison or YA Morrison Gr. 9 and up

The bluest eye is the story of eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove. A black girl in an America whose love for its blond, blue-eyed children can devastate all others, who prays for her eyes to turn blue: so that she will be beautiful, so that people will look at her, so that her world will be different.



#7/8 Me and Earl and the Dying Girl (TIE)

by Jesse Andrews

YA Andrews, Gr. 9 and up

Seventeen-year-old Greg has managed to become part of every social group at his Pittsburgh high school without having any friends, but his life changes when his mother forces him to befriend Rachel, a girl he once knew in Hebrew school who has leukemia.

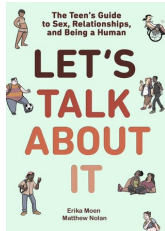


#7/8 Tricks (TIE)

by Ellen Hopkins YA Hopkins

Gr. 9 and up

Five teenagers from different parts of the country. Three girls. Two guys. Four straight. One gay. Some rich. Some poor. Some from great families. Some with no one at all. All living their lives as best they can, but all searching...for freedom, safety, community, family, love.



#9 Let's Talk About It

by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan YA 306.70835 Mo

Gr.9 and up

Covering relationships, friendships, gender, sexuality, anatomy, body image, safe sex, sexting, jealousy, rejection, sex education, and more, *Let's Talk About It* is the go-to handbook for every teen, and the first in graphic novel form.



#10 Sold

By Patricia McCormick YA McCormick

Gr. 9 and up

Thirteen-year-old Lakshmi leaves her poor mountain home in Nepal thinking that she is to work in the city as a maid only to find that she has been sold into the sex slave trade in India and that there is no hope of escape.

"Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2023", American Library Association, April 21, 2023.
<https://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10> (Accessed September 6, 2024)
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Young Adult Librarian
McCully-Mō'i'ili'i Public Library
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