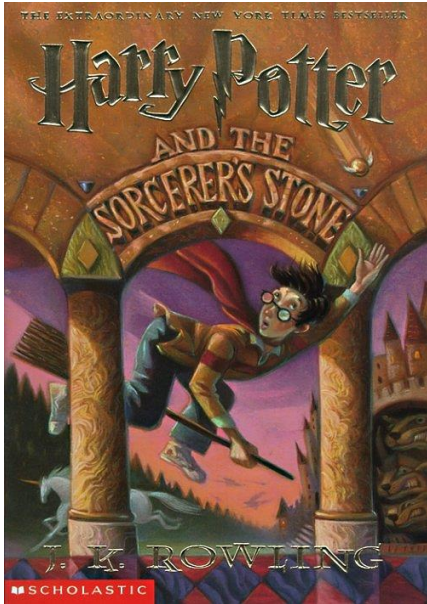


Top 100 Most Banned or Challenged Books of the Last Decade



Harry Potter – J.K. Rowling *

Deemed evil books designed to promote an interest in the occult because the hero is a wizard (Award Winner)

Alice series – Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Banned for sexual content, using offensive language and being unsuited the age group

The Chocolate War – Robert Cormier *

banned due to heavy use of profanity, sexual references, and references to bribery, distortion, and physical violence

And Tango Makes Three – Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

A children's book based on a true story about two male penguins who raised a baby penguin that was banned because it advocates homosexuality

Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck *

Challenged because of concerns about profanity, racial slurs, and the portrayal of Jesus Christ

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou *

Challenged for racism, homosexuality, sexual content, and offensive language. Banned in school districts because of Angelou's account of being raped by her mother's boyfriend

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark – Alvin Schwartz

Banned for occult and Satanism, religious viewpoint, and violence

His Dark Materials Trilogy – Philip Pullman *

The most common book of the series is The Golden Compass. Trilogy banned for its portrayal of the Church and figures from Judeo-Christian tradition

ttyl series– Lauren Myracle

Challenged for nudity, offensive language, drugs, and being sexually explicit

The Perks of Being a Wallflower – Stephen Chbosky *

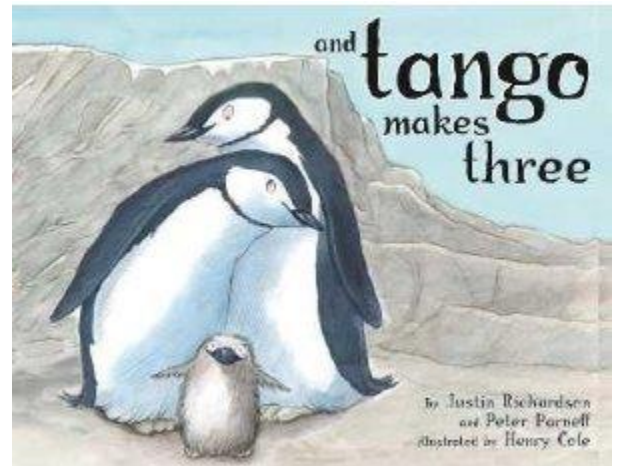
Banned for topics such as homosexuality, drug use, and sexual behavior

Fallen Angels – Walter Dean Myers

Challenged because the book is littered with expletives, including racial epithets and slang terms for homosexuals

It's Perfectly Normal – Robie Harris

Challenged due to sexually explicit content



Captain Underpants series – Dav Pilkey *

Banned for insensitivity to age group, as well as encouraging children to disobey authority

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain *

Banned or challenged because of coarse language and its perceived use of racial stereotypes

The Bluest Eye – Toni Morrison *

Banned or challenged because of inappropriate sexual content and graphic language

Forever – Judy Blume *

Banned because of sexually explicit content

The Color Purple – Alice Walker *

Challenged or banned for offensive language and being sexually explicit (Award Winner)

Go Ask Alice – Anonymous *

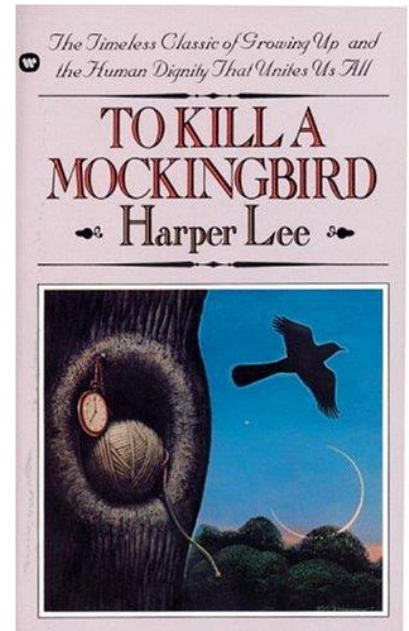
Challenged or banned because of blatant, explicit language using street terms for sex, talk of worms eating body parts, and blasphemy

The Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger *

Challenged or banned for offensive language, being sexually explicit, and unsuited to age group

King and King – Linda de Haan

Challenged because the children's book is about a prince whose true love turns out to be another prince



To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee *

Banned or challenged because the book contains “profanity” and “contains adult themes such as sexual intercourse, rape, and incest.” Claims have been made that the book’s use of racial slurs promotes racial hatred, racial division, racial separation, and promotes white supremacy (Award Winner)

Gossip Girl series – Cecily von Ziegesar *

Banned or challenged for being sexually explicit, being unsuited to age group, and offensive language

The Giver – Lois Lowry *

Banned or challenged for violence, occult themes, and being sexually explicit (Award Winner)

In the Night Kitchen – Maurice Sendak

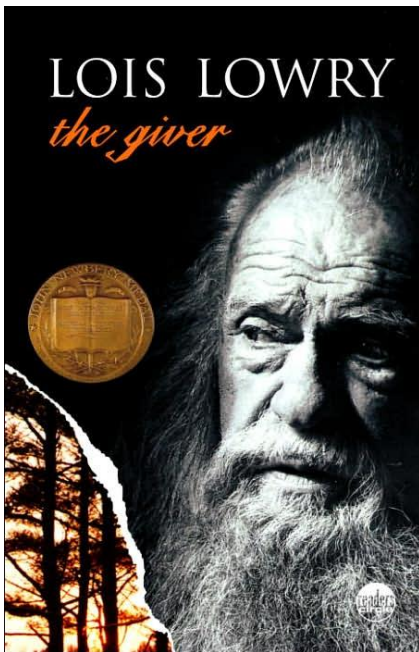
Banned or challenged because of sexual innuendo

Killing Mr. Griffin – Lois Duncan *

Challenged because of the book’s gruesome details

Beloved – Toni Morrison *

Banned or challenged due to depictions of the topics of bestiality, racism, and sex (Award Winner)

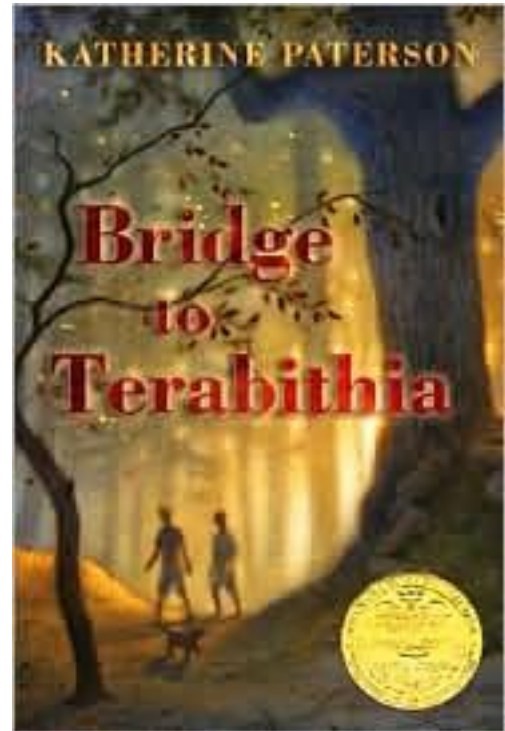


My Brother Sam is Dead – James Lincoln Collier

Challenged because of profanity, excessive violence, alcohol consumption, and unpatriotic views of the American Revolution (Award Winner)

Bridge to Terabithia – Katherine Paterson *

Challenged or banned because of death being a part of the plot, the frequent use of the word “lord” outside of prayer, and for the use of offensive language (Award Winner)



The Face on the Milk Carton – Caroline B. Cooney *

Banned or challenged due to sexual references

We All Fall Down – Robert Cormier

Challenged because of profanity and sexual content

What My Mother Doesn't Know – Sonya Sones

Challenged because of foul language and references to masturbation (Award Winner)

Bless Me, Ultima – Rudolfo Anaya *

Banned or challenged due to profanity and pagan content

Snow Falling on Cedars – David Guterson *

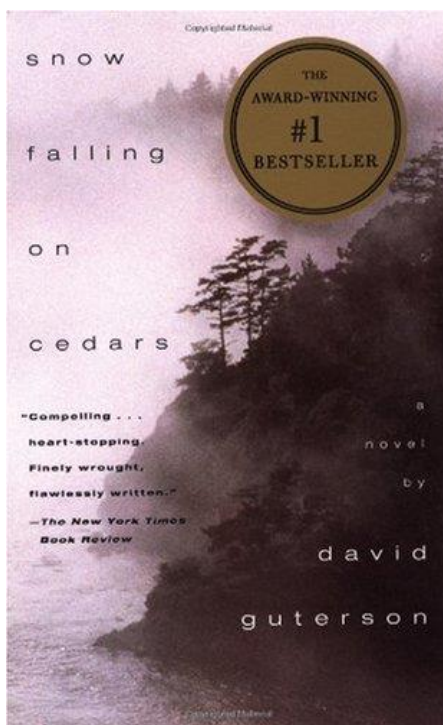
Challenged because of sexual content and profanity

The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things – Carolyn Mackler

Banned or challenged for offensive language, being sexually explicit, and unsuited to age group (Award Winner)

Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging – Louise Rennison

Challenged because of sexual content, profanity, and not age-appropriate (Award Winner)



It's So Amazing – Robie Harris

Challenged because of sexually explicit content

Arming America – Michael Bellasiles

Challenged for inaccuracy and political viewpoint

Kaffir Boy – Mark Mathabane

Banned or challenged due to its sexual content

Life is Funny – E.R. Frank

Banned because of an X – rated passage describing two teens' first experience with sexual intercourse

Whale Talk – Chris Crutcher

Banned or challenged because the book uses racial slurs and profanity

The Fighting Ground – Avi

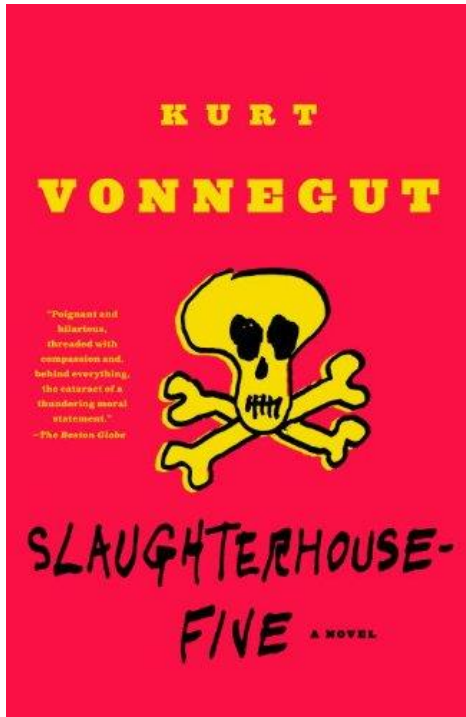
Banned or challenged because of profanities uttered by some soldiers

Blubber – Judy Blume

Banned because characters curse and the mean-spirited ringleader is never punished for her cruelty

Athletic Shorts – Chris Crutcher

Banned for homosexuality and offensive language



Crazy Lady – Jane Leslie Conly

Challenged for offensive language

Slaughterhouse Five – Kurt Vonnegut *

Banned or challenged because of vulgar language, violent imagery, and sexual content

The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby – George Beard

Challenged because of the book's inappropriate scatological storyline

Rainbow Boys – Alex Sanchez *

Banned or challenged citing the book was too sexually explicit and promoted homosexuality

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest – Ken Kesey *

Banned or challenged because of racism, sexism, obscenities, and violence

The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini *

Challenged due to depiction of a sodomy rape in graphic detail and uses vulgar language

Daughters of Eve – Lois Duncan *

Banned or challenged because it promotes risky behavior and violence and seeks to prejudice young, vulnerable minds on several issues

The Great Gilly Hopkins – Katherine Paterson *

Banned or challenged because of its subject matter and the language and conduct of the title characters (Award Winner)

You Hear Me? – Betsy Franco

Challenged because of the book's language and topics

The Facts Speak for Themselves – Brock Cole

Banned or challenged because of its controversial subject matter

Summer of My German Soldier – Bette Greene

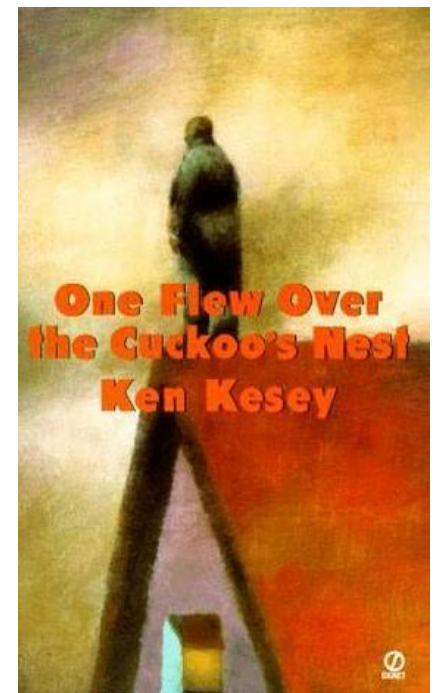
Challenged for racism, offensive language, and being sexually explicit

When Dad Killed Mom – Julius Lester

Challenged for violence and inappropriate content

Blood and Chocolate – Annette Curtis Klause *

Challenged because of language and sexual innuendo (Award Winner)



Fat Kid Rules the World – K.L. Going
Banned because of language, sexual reference, and drug use (Award Winner)

Olive's Ocean – Kevin Henkes
Banned for sexually explicit and offensive language (Award Winner)

Speak – Laurie Halse Anderson *
Banned or challenged because of detailed child rape and sexual abuse (Award Winner)

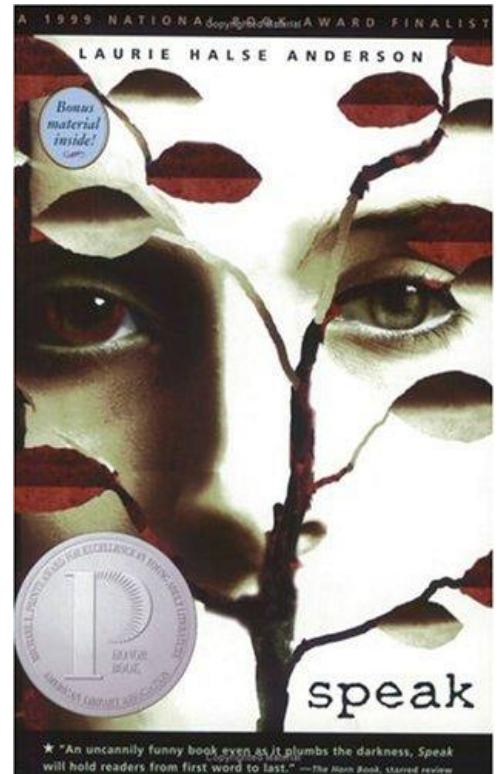
Draw Me a Star – Eric Carle
Challenged because of adult nudity

The Stupids series – Harry Allard
Banned because it promotes negative behavior, reinforces low self-esteem, and use of the word “die” on one of the book series’ titles

The Terrorist – Caroline B. Cooney
Challenged because of its negative portrayal of Islamic religion and Arabs

Mick Harte Was Here – Barbara Park
Challenged due to claims that the book contains themes and language inappropriate for students (Award Winner)

The Things They Carried – Tim O'Brien
Banned or challenged because of profanity (Award Winner)



Roll of Thunder, Hear Me Cry – Mildred Taylor *
Challenged for insensitivity, racism, and offensive language (Award Winner)

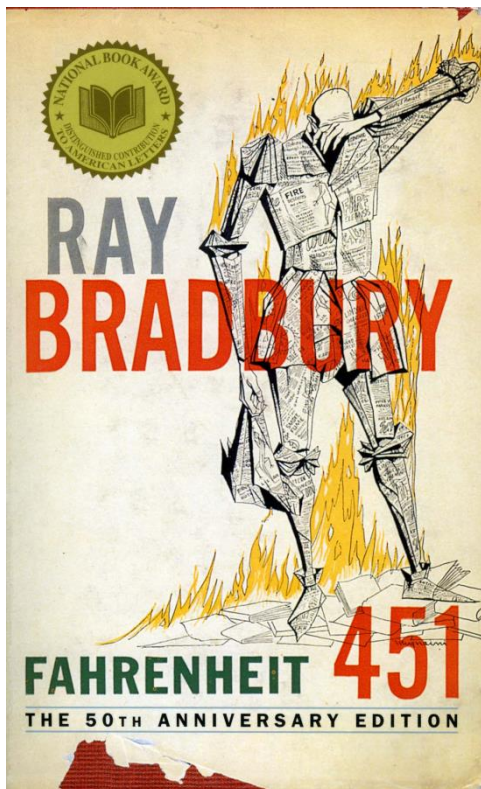
A Time to Kill – John Grisham *
Challenged due to complaints about graphic rape and murder scenes

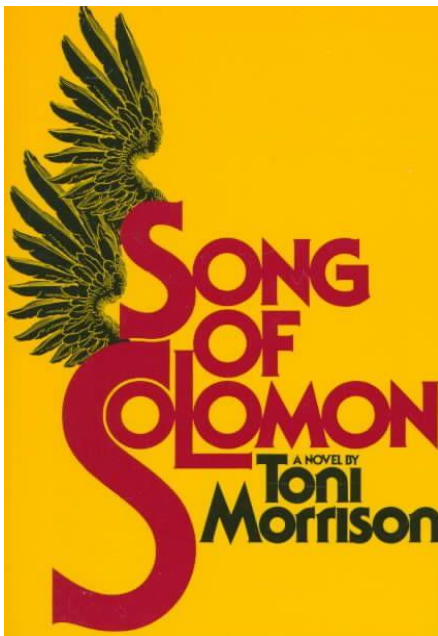
Always Running – Luis Rodriguez
Banned or challenged because of graphic passages depicting violence and sex

Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury *
Banned because it deals with themes of freedom of expression, censorship, freedom of thought, exchange of information, and questioning the government and authority figures (Award Winner)

Harris and Me – Gary Paulsen
Banned because of profanity

Junie B. Jones series – Barbara Park
Challenged due to claims that the book series’ mission is to promote and defend shared family values





Song of Solomon – Toni Morrison

Banned or challenged because of language degrading to African Americans, violent imagery, sexually explicit/profane language, and depictions of sexuality (Award Winner)

What's Happening to My Body – Lynda Madaras

Challenged or banned because it discusses the changes that take place in a boy's body during puberty

The Lovely Bones – Alice Sebold *

Challenged because the content was deemed too frightening for adolescents

The Anastasia series – Lois Lowry

Challenged because of references to beer, Playboy Magazine, and a causal reference to a character wanting to kill herself

A Prayer for Owen Meany – John Irving *

Banned or challenged because of the novel's objectionable language and sexuality

Crazy – Benjamin Lebert

Banned or challenged because of sexually explicit content and profanity

The Joy of Gay Sex – Charles Silverstein

Challenged due to objections over its content

The Upstairs Room – Johanna Reiss

Banned or challenged on the basis of profanity

A Day No Pigs Would Die – Robert Newton Peck

Banned or challenged because the novel is too violent in its depiction of birth and death on a farm

Black Boy – Richard Wright *

Challenged because of the book's strong sexual content

Deal With It! – Esther Drill

Challenged as being "pornographic and worse than an R-rated movie"

Detour for Emmy – Marilyn Reynolds

Challenged because it talks very vividly about the sexual encounters of a fifteen-year-old (Award Winner)

So Far from the Bamboo Grove – Yoko Watkins

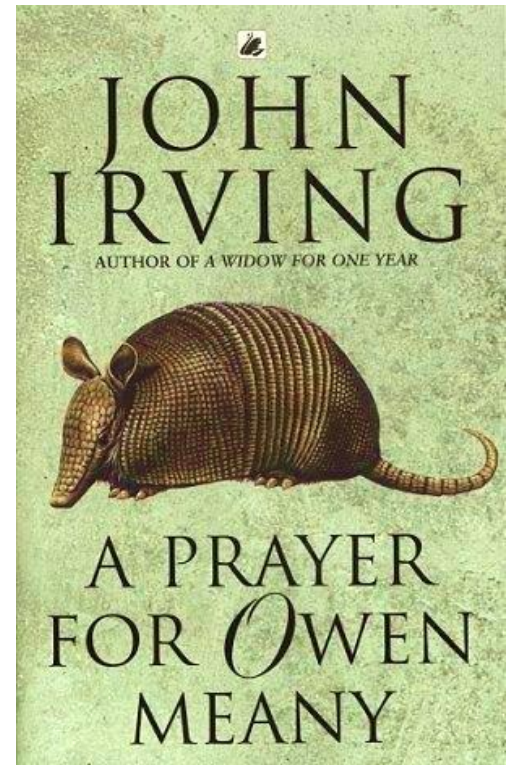
Banned due to scenes hinting at rape, violence against women by Korean men, and a distorted presentation of history

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes – Chris Crutcher

Challenged because of language, pornographic and sexual content, and negative portrayal of Christians (Award Winner)

Cut – Patricia McCormick

Banned or challenged because it broaches the sensitive topic of self-mutilation



Tiger Eyes – Judy Blume *

Banned or challenged because of sexual situations, underage drinking, and profanities

The Handmaid’s Tale – Margaret Atwood *

Challenged because of claims that it is anti-Christian and pornographic (Award Winner)

Friday Night Lights – H.G. Bissinger *

Banned due to profanity, sexual situations, and racist terms

A Wrinkle in Time – Madeline L’Engle *

Banned because it includes witchcraft and other elements that make up a classic fantasy novel (Award Winner)

Julie of the Wolves – Jean Craighead George

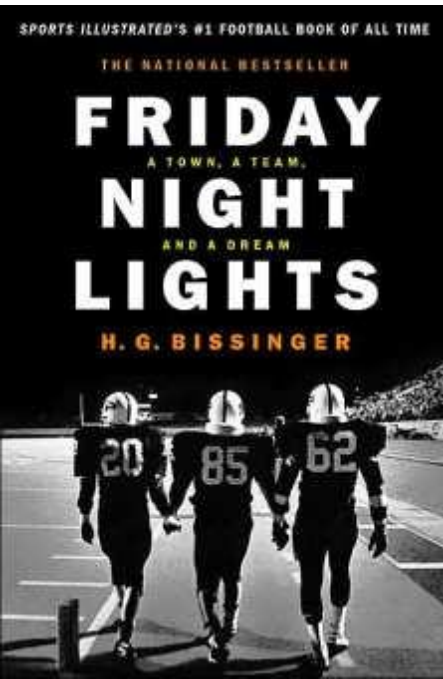
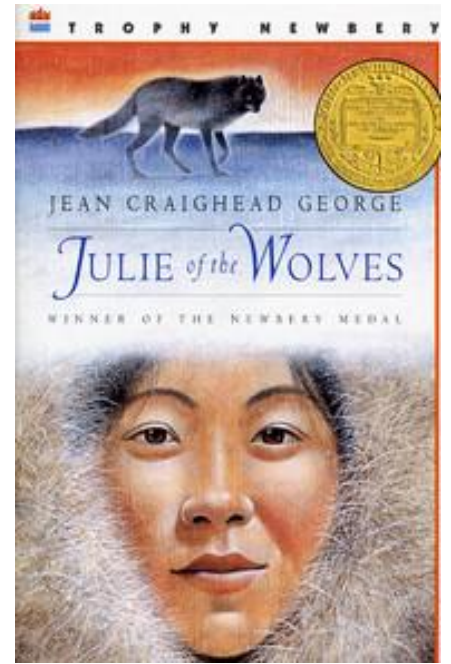
Challenged for sexual content, offensive language, violence, and being unsuited to age group (Award Winner)

The Boy Who Lost His Face – Louis Sachar

Banned or challenged because of profanity

Bumps in the Night – Harry Allard

Challenged because a séance is held in the book



The Goosebumps series – R.L. Stine *

Challenged because they “provoke harmful thought or behavior and erode respect for people and property”

Shade’s Children – Garth Nix

Banned or challenged because of vulgarity and obscenity

Grendel – John Gardner

Challenged because of concerns about some of the novel’s scenes describing torture and mutilation

The House of the Spirits – Isabel Allende

Challenged because of claims that the book was immoral and sexually depraved (Award Winner)

I Saw Esau – Iona Opte

Challenged because the book of poetry included illustrations that were offensive” (Award Winner)

Are You There, God? It’s Me, Margaret – Judy Blume

Banned due to blunt treatment of adolescent sexuality and religion

America: A Novel – E.R. Frank

Challenged because of sexual content and profanity

Titles listed in **blue** indicate books that are also part of the NCTE’s list of Top 25 Most Commonly Taught Books in Secondary English

Titles listed in **green** indicate books that are also part of the NCTE’s list of Commonly Taught Books in Secondary English – Notable Titles

Titles listed with a (*) beside them indicate books that have been adapted into either a movie version, television version, or both