

Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2020

The American Library Association tracked 156 challenges to library, school, and university materials and services in 2020. A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials or services based on content. Overall, 273 books were targeted. Here are the “Top 10 Most Challenged Books in 2020,” along with the reasons cited for censoring the books:

1

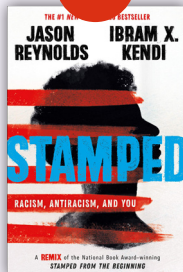


George

by Alex Gino

Challenged, banned, and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content, conflicting with a religious viewpoint, and not reflecting “the values of our community”

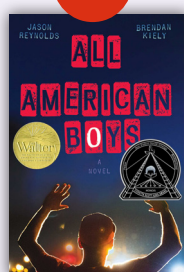
2



Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You

by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
Banned and challenged because of author’s public statements, and because of claims that the book contains “selective storytelling incidents” and does not encompass racism against all people

3



All American Boys

by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

Banned and challenged for profanity, drug use, and alcoholism, and because it was thought to promote anti-police views, contain divisive topics, and be “too much of a sensitive matter right now”

4

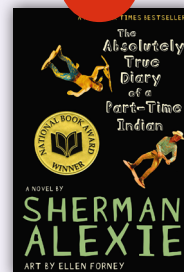


Speak

by Laurie R. King

Banned, challenged, and restricted because it was thought to contain a political viewpoint and it was claimed to be biased against male students, and for the novel’s inclusion of rape and profanity

5



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

by Sherman Alexie
Banned and challenged for profanity, sexual references, and allegations of sexual misconduct by the author

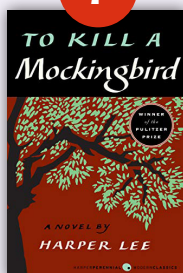
6



Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice

by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin
Challenged for “divisive language” and because it was thought to promote anti-police views

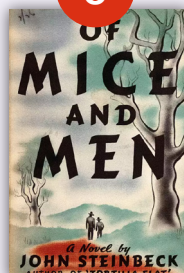
7



To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee
Banned and challenged for racial slurs and their negative effect on students, featuring a “white savior” character, and its perception of the Black experience

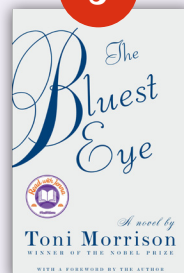
8



Of Mice and Men

by John Steinbeck
Banned and challenged for racial slurs and racist stereotypes, and their negative effect on students

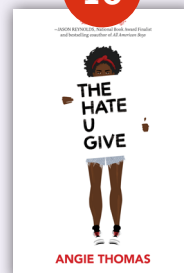
9



The Bluest Eye

by Toni Morrison
Banned and challenged because it was considered sexually explicit and depicts child sexual abuse

10



The Hate U Give

by Angie Thomas
Challenged for profanity, and it was thought to promote an anti-police message



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