

Banned Books

The books the adults don't want you to read!



TITLE	AUTHOR	LOCATION
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<i>I Know why the Caged Bird Sings</i>	Maya Angelou	921 ANG
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This is the autobiography of poet Maya Angelou. She tells about her broken family and her life with her strong grandmother in Arkansas. Gleaning the strength from her grandmother helps Angelou survive trauma later in life.

<i>The Earth's Children (Series)</i>	Jean Auel	FIC AUE
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This series begins when the Clan of the Cave Bear finds Ayla, the only surviving member of her own clan. Ayla looks very different from the Clan of the Cave Bear, and she also thinks differently- the Clan of the Cave Bear think with the back lobes of their brains, and Ayla thinks with the front lobe of her brain.

<i>On My Honor</i>	Marion Dane Bauer	J BAU
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Joel promised his dad that he would be careful; he promised him that he would not do anything he knew he shouldn't; he promised "on my honor." But, when his best friend, Tony pressures Joel to swim in the dangerous river, Joel finally agrees. Now he has to tell his parents and Joel's parents about the awful accident- alone!

<i>Are You there God? It's Me, Margaret</i>	Judy Blume	J FIC BLU
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11-year-old Margaret is in the sixth grade, and she is dealing with religion and her endless struggle to be normal. Margaret is terrified that there is something wrong with her when all of her friends start to get their periods, but she is still stuck in childhood.

<i>Blubber</i>	Judy Blume	J BLU
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Jill's fifth-grade class has always been mean to her chubby classmate, Linda; but the situation goes from bad to worse when Linda gives an oral presentation in class about whales and is nicknamed "Blubber."

<i>Deenie</i>	Judy Blume	YA BLU
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Thirteen-year-old Deenie is naturally pretty and obsessed with making the cheerleading squad. Something happens in gym class one day that causes Deenie's gym teacher to worry that she might be ill. After numerous doctors' appointments, Deenie is diagnosed with scoliosis, a spinal condition that causes a humped back if it is not corrected early on.

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Forever

Judy Blume

YA BLU

Katherine is an average teen dating a boy named Michael. Katherine believes that she is in love with Michael, and she struggles throughout the book with hormones and her desire to have sex with Michael.

Tiger Eyes

Judy Blume

YA BLU

After her father is murdered in a robbery at his 7-Eleven store, fifteen-year-old Davey moves with her mother to Los Alamos to live with her Aunt Bitsy and Uncle Walter. Davey and her mother both deal with the pain of the loss differently, and Davey also has to learn to live with her odd but well-meaning aunt and uncle.

The Goats

Brock Cole

J COL

Laura and Howie are both outcasts at their summer camp because the two are whiny nerds. The other kids think it will be funny one day to strand Laura and Howie on an island... naked! Terrified, the two must somehow survive!

Asking about Sex and Growing Up

Joanna Cole

J 612.6 COL

This book is written in a question and answer format, and its intended audience is pre-teens. It doesn't bother with explanations about pregnancy because it assumes its audience is already informed about the basics. Instead, it deals with more sensitive issues like puberty, crushes, and homosexuality.

Jump Ship to Freedom

James L. Collier

YA COL

Set in 1787, fourteen-year-old Daniel is the African American slave of a sly merchant ship-owner named Iver. Daniel's father was a war hero and was given government notes for his services. Iver steals the war notes, but Daniel steals them back and escapes so he can cash them.

My Brother Sam Is Dead

James Collier

YA COL

The Revolutionary War has just begun, and young Tim of Redding, Connecticut is confused as to where his allegiance lies. His older brother, Sam, is a radical Patriot, but both his parents support old England.

The Face on the Milk Carton

Caroline Cooney

YA COO

Fifteen-year-old Janie Johnson's memory is jogged one day when she sees a picture on a milk carton of a three-year-old girl who has been missing for twelve years. When Janie sees the dress that the girl is wearing, she recognizes it and realizes that the missing child is her.

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The Terrorist

Caroline Cooney

YA COO

The Williams family was enjoying their chic life abroad as Americans living in London until one day 11-year-old Billy was handed an explosive brown package on the subway. After his death, his teenage sister, Laura, devotes her life to solving the mystery behind the package.

The Chocolate War

Robert Cormier

YA COR

Jerry Renault had just begun his freshman year at Trinity High School when he received a summons from the exclusive secret society, the Vigils. The Vigils are known for handing out assignments to students, and Jerry's assignment is to not sell chocolates for ten days during the school's annual chocolate sale. Jerry follows the assignment- sort of... His lack of complete obedience, however, has angered the dangerous Vigils.

Fade

Robert Cormier

YA FIC COR

13-year-old Paul did not realize at first that his ability to become invisible was a family trait. When Paul discovered the gift, his long-lost uncle appeared to him to warn him of the dangers. Paul enjoys the ability at first, but he soon learns the dangers of fading.

We All Fall Down

Robert Cormier

YA COR

On April Fools Day, four bored high school senior boys decided to enter an empty cottage and trash it. 14-year-old Karen returned from her friend's house early that night, and the boys panicked and attacked. Now Karen is in a coma, and her older sister, Jane is unknowingly falling for one of the vandals.

Athletic Shorts

Chris Crutcher

YA CRU

Crutcher selected many of the lead characters in his long novels to create this collection of short stories. Each story is independent from the other, but each of them has a strong lead male character. The stories cover issues like father-son relationships, romance, and insecurity.

Running Loose

Chris Crutcher

YA CRU

Louie's senior year of high school was anything but easy. He finally made the football team, but then he got kicked off when he stood up to his racist coach. His short-lived football fame won him his gorgeous cheerleader girlfriend, Becky, but Louie is stunned when Becky is killed in a car accident.

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Whale Talk

Chris Crutcher

YA CRU

TJ's got everything going for him- he's smart, good-looking, and very athletic. The only problem is that he despises the jocks that make up the teams in organized sports. He refuses to play on any of his high school sports teams, until his English teacher asks him to personally recruit students for a swim team.

The Witches

Roald Dahl

J DAH

Dahl was seven-years-old when he traveled with his peculiar grandmother to the Bournemouth hotel. His wise grandmother told Dahl that you could spot a witch in a crowd because she wears a wig and has an itchy scalp. Consequently, when Dahl noticed that the ladies in the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children were all scratching their heads incessantly, he realized they were witches. He just didn't realize it fast enough...

James and the Giant Peach

Roald Dahl

J DAH

After the death of his parents, young James is sent to live with his two wicked aunts. One day, a magic potion causes a peach to grow to an absolutely enormous size. Anxious to escape his aunts' cruelty, James crawls inside the peach and discovers another world.

Annie on My Mind

Nancy Garden

YA FIC GAR

Liza met Annie at the Metropolitan Museum and was infatuated by Annie's charming and wild take on life. Although she was uncomfortable with the situation at first, Liza falls in love with Annie. As President of her conservative school's student council, however, Liza must keep her relationship with Annie a secret.

Julie of the Wolves

Jean George

YA GEO

13-year-old Julie runs away from her Eskimo family in Alaska when her parents try to force her to marry Donald. Unable to survive alone, Julie very carefully observes the habits of a pack of wolves and manages to join them by mimicking the observed rituals.

Go Ask Alice

Anonymous

YA FIC GO

This is the diary of an anonymous girl who is struggling with a drug addiction. Her demanding and perfect parents put too much pressure on her, and she escapes into the world of drugs.

Lord of the Flies

William Golding

FIC PBK GOL

A plane crash leaves a young group of British boys aged 6-12 stranded on an uninhabited island. Ralph is appointed leader, and the group of boys build huts and a fire to survive, but soon some of the older boys in the group become rebellious and turn on their leader.

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Summer of My German Soldier

Bette Greene

YA GRE

12-year-old Patty was a Jewish American during World War II. Patty was neglected by her mother and abused by her father, and she had very few friends. When a group of captured German soldiers arrive at her hometown one day to pick cotton, Patty befriends the only English speaking soldier, Anton.

Ordinary People

Judith Guest

FIC GUE

17-year-old Conrad Jarrett tried to commit suicide after his brother's tragic death, and he was placed in a mental institution. Conrad has now returned home, but his inattentive mother and overprotective father are not making the situation any easier for him.

It's Perfectly Normal

Robie Harris

YA 306 .73 HAR

Each page of this book is illustrated with a cartoon bird and a cartoon bee, and they tell both the biological and psychological facts about sexuality and the body. The book covers topics such as puberty, conception, STDs, birth, etc.

It's So Amazing!

Robie Harris

J 612.6 HAR

Harris wrote this book to accommodate a younger audience than *It's Perfectly Normal* does. The cartoon bird and cartoon bee are still present on each page, but they appear to be younger now. Instead of going in depth about some of the physical and psychological results of being sexually active, this book focuses primarily on the biological process of conception.

Brave New World

Aldous Huxley

FIC HUX

In this futuristic society there is no violence, and everything appears to be perfect. The problem, however, is that violence was removed from society at the cost of emotions. When Bernard Marx becomes attached to a woman in a way that he cannot understand, he begins to explore the limitations of his orderly world.

Flowers for Algernon

David Keyes

FIC KEY

Charlie Gordon loves education and longs to be intelligent, but his IQ is below average, and he is a slow learner. When Charlie hears about a new kind of brain surgery that is being tested, he decides to become a test subject.

Carrie

Stephen King

FIC KIN

Introverted due to a lifetime of abuse, Carrie is shunned by her high school classmates. Unbeknownst to her peers, however, Carrie has the power of telekinesis. When the classmates take their taunting too far, Carrie snaps and tragedy is unleashed.

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Cujo

Stephen King

FIC KIN

Charity, Joe, and son Brett live in a small town in Maine and have a 200 pound St. Bernard named Cujo. When Charity takes Brett to visit her parents, Cujo gets bit by a bat with rabies, and Joe is left to defend his house against the insane and enormous dog.

The Dead Zone

Stephen King

FIC KIN

After four years in a coma, Johnnie Smith awakens to discover that he now has a psychic power of seeing into the future. The only exceptions to his power are what Johnnie refers to as the “dead zones.” Johnnie must save the world when he realizes that the new presidential candidate is actually the devil incarnate and will destroy the world if he is not stopped.

To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee

FIC LEE

This classic novel spans a time period of three years and follows Scout from eight to eleven years old. Scout and her brother live in Alabama and are obsessed with *Dracula*. They believe their neighbor is a bogeyman. Reality hits hard, however, when an African American man in her town is accused of raping a white woman.

A Wrinkle in Time

Madeleine L’Engle

YA L’EN

When Meg’s and Charlie’s father mysteriously disappears leaving them with only their brilliant scientist mother, the two decide to journey through time to find him. They meet Mrs. Whatsit and Calvin prior to their departure, and the four travel together.

Anastasia Krupnik

Lois Lowry

J LOW

10-year-old Anastasia is having a very eventful year. She falls in and out of love with a cool sixth-grade boy; she develops a stronger relationship with her grandmother; and her parents inform her that she will soon have a new baby brother. Anastasia is not happy about the baby brother, so when her parents tell her that she can choose his name, she picks a cruel name that she won’t tell her parents until he is born.

The Giver

Lois Lowry

YA LOW

Young Jonas is growing up in a society where strict rules are enforced. For example, when he turns twelve, he has to start taking a pill to control the “urges” (chemical feelings that draw him to the opposite sex). When he is assigned the job of “Giver”, Jonas has to learn the truth about his society so that he can hold their history in his head, but the truth far more shocking than Jonas could have ever imagined!

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<i>What's Happening to My Body?</i>	Lynda Madaras	YA 613.9 MAD
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Madaras wrote two books in this series, one for boys only and one for girls only. In a straightforward voice, she explains the changes that both boys and girls go through during puberty.

<i>Kaffir Boy</i>	Mark Mathabane	968.004 MAT
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This is the true story of Johannes Mathabane, an African boy who lived in the Johannesburg ghettos during Apartheid in Africa. Johannes struggled to make something of himself in a corrupt and racist society violently plagued by war. Through the encouragement of his mother and grandmother, Johannes is able to beat the odds.

<i>Where Did I Come From?</i>	Peter Mayle	612.6 MAY
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This is a facts of life book about sex, conception, birth, and everything that goes along with it. The illustrations are cute, and the text is very straightforward, attempting to explain the feelings of sex and why adults engage in it.

<i>Beloved</i>	Toni Morrison	FIC MOR
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At the end of the civil war, a former slave named Sethe has recurring nightmares and visions about the daughter that she murdered in defiance. When Sethe's attempt to escape slavery with her daughter was thwarted, she murdered her baby to save her from the life of imprisonment.

<i>The Bluest Eye</i>	Toni Morrison	FIC MOR
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12-year-old Pecora is abused sexually and verbally at home and shunned by a racist society. She longs to be beautiful and loved. Pecora believes that the key to being accepted and loved is to have blue eyes.

<i>Song of Solomon</i>	Toni Morrison	FIC MOR
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Third generation "Macon Dead" (the name that a drunk white man gave to his freed slave who had lost his true identity), young Macon Dead, dubbed Milkman, is callused and bitter with the world. When his father discovers a secret murder that may be connected to the family, young Milkman decides to make the journey from Michigan into the south to learn more about his lost family name.

<i>Fallen Angels</i>	Walter Dean Meyers	YA MYE
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17-year-old Richie is an African American in Harlem. He enlists in the army at the end of his senior year and is sent directly to Vietnam to fight in the war in 1967.

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<i>Alice (Series)</i>	Phyllis Naylor	J NAY and YA NAY
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This series starts with Alice at age eleven and continues up. Alice's mother died when she was young, and she is constantly trying to find women to talk to who can help her understand her adolescent years.

<i>Bridge to Terabithia</i>	Katherine Paterson	J FIC PAT
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10-year-old Jess decided to make it his goal to be the fastest kid at school, but when Jess finally raced the other kids, he was beaten by a newcomer who happened to also be a girl! Leslie, the winner of the race, befriends Jess immediately, and the two create a secret hideaway that they call Terabithia.

<i>A Day No Pigs Would Die</i>	Robert Peck	YA PEC
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Robert lives on a pig farm in Vermont. His father is a stern man with little time for frivolous whims. Robert takes a small pig as his pet and names it Pinky, but when the pig fails to produce a litter, there is only one other use for "Pinky."

<i>Captain Underpants Series</i>	Dav Pilkey	J PIL
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Harold and George hypnotize their high school teacher into believing that he is a ridiculous superhero named Captain Underpants. Captain Underpants is in constant battle with the evil, Dr. Diaper.

<i>How to Eat Fried Worms</i>	Thomas Rockwell	J ROC
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After he agrees to the fifty dollar bet, Billy must eat fifteen night crawlers in fifteen days. Each day Billy tries to find new ways to make the slimy worms taste more appetizing. Alan, the friend who made the bet with Billy, knows that his father won't allow him to use the money that way, and he is determined to psych Billy out from completing the bet.

<i>Harry Potter (Series)</i>	J. K. Rowling	J ROW
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This popular series chronicles the life of Harry Potter from age 12 onward. On his twelfth birthday, a half giant arrived at Harry's home to inform him that he was a wizard and invited him to attend Hogwarts School of Wizardry. Harry soon learns that his name is quite famous as he is the only wizard who has ever survived the horrible death curse.

<i>The Boy who Lost His Face</i>	Louis Sachar	J SAC
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David's best friend, Scott, ditched him when Scott wanted to join a crowd that was too cool for David. All David wanted after that was to fit in, and that's why he didn't say anything when the group of kids attacked the old lady.

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The Catcher in the Rye

J.D. Salinger

FIC SAL

17-year-old Holden Caulfield is extremely cynical about life. When he gets expelled from his wealthy prep school, he decides to go to New York City to make it on his own.

Scary Stories (Series)

Alvin Schwartz

J 398.2 SCH

This series is a collection of scary stories and songs. Schwartz covers all the scary creatures that lurk in the corners from ghosts to vampires to witches!

A Light in the Attic

Shel Silverstein

J 811 SIL

This is a collection of witty and humorous poems. Silverstein has a natural ability to make absurd situations sound almost natural. Many of his poems capture the emotions of childhood.

The Headless Cupid

Zilpha K. Snyder

J SNY

When 11-year-old David's father remarries, his new stepsister, Amanda, comes to live with them. Amanda is part of the cult, and she arrives at David's house with her pet crow. Amanda enlists David and his three siblings to join the cult with her, but when the head of mysterious Cupid statue suddenly appears one day, even highly trained Amanda loses her cool.

What My Mother Doesn't Know

Sonya Sones

YA FIC SON

Written as a series of poems, 14-year-old Sophie fights constantly with her mom, and she's dealing with typical boy issues. Sophie has a crush on the handsome Dylan, but he turns out to be a lot different than she expected.

Of Mice and Men

John Steinbeck

FIC STE

Short yet devastatingly jolting, this is the story of two runaway farm hands who absolutely depend on each other. George is smart and quick, but Lennie is developmentally challenged. Lennie is a very large man, and he and George seem to make a good team. But, Lennie's incompetence could make him dangerous.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Mark Twain

J TWA

Young Huckleberry Finn is a homeless outcast with an abusive alcoholic father. He escapes his Mississippi town where the townspeople are attempting to refine him, and he travels down the Mississippi river with a runaway slave named Jim.

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The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Mark Twain

J TWA

Young Tom Sawyer is a mischievous, fun-loving young boy who grows up in a 19th century Mississippi river town. The novel is a comical collection of anecdotes combined to create one cohesive tale about the life of young Tom.

The Color Purple

Alice Walker

FIC WAL

Sisters Nettie and Celie were separated from each other when they were young. Nettie is taken to Africa with a group of missionaries, and Celie becomes the young bride of an older widower. The sisters correspond through mail for thirty dreary and difficult years.

The Pigman

Paul Zindel

YA ZIN

The Pigman is an old man who pretends his wife isn't dead and whose best friend is a monkey at the zoo. John and Lorraine both come from unhappy homes, and they make fun of the Pigman behind his back. Somehow, they all become friends, but tragedy is foreshadowed throughout when John and Lorraine betray the Pigman's trust.

Compiled by Beth Blood 2006

Marshall District Library

<http://www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org>