

## Most Frequently Challenged Teen Books of 2016

**This One Summer** YA COMIX TAMAKI (K)  
Rose and her parents have been going to Awago Beach since she was a little girl. This year, as her parents fight, Rose and her friend Windy become fascinated with some older kids who are in serious trouble.

**Drama** YA COMIX DRAMA (K/W)  
Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of Moon Over Mississippi. Various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going.

**Two Boys Kissing** YA FIC LEVITHAN (K/W)  
A chorus of men who died of AIDS observes and yearns to help a cross-section of today's gay teens who navigate new love, long-term relationships, coming out, self-acceptance, and more in a society that has changed in many ways.

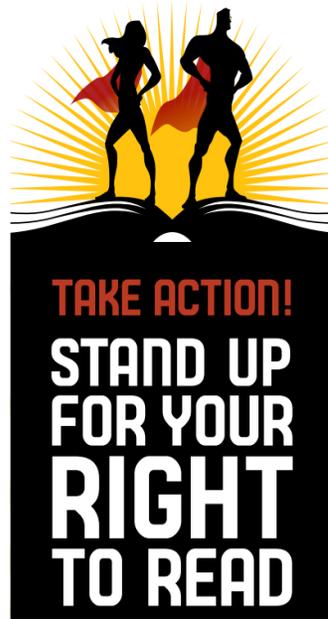
**Looking for Alaska** YA FIC GREEN (K/W)  
First prank, first friend, first girl, last words. Miles becomes encircled at boarding school by friends whose lives are everything but safe and boring. When tragedy strikes the close-knit group, Miles discovers the value of living and loving unconditionally.

**Eleanor & Park** YA FIC ROWELL (K/W)  
Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits—smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.

To see the complete list of most challenged books, please visit: <http://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10>.

## Banned Books Week Information

**Banned Books Week** is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. Held during the last week of September, **Banned Books Week** highlights the benefits of free and open access to information, while drawing attention to the harms of censorship.



A **challenge** is an attempt to remove or restrict materials based on the objections of a person or group. A **banning** is the removal of those materials.

The top 3 reasons cited for challenging materials are:

1. Considered sexually explicit
2. Contained offensive language
3. Unsuitable to any age group

When we speak up to protect the right to read, we demonstrate tolerance and respect for opposing points of view, while defending our individual right to free expression.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ala.org/bbooks>

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Piscataway Public Library

Kennedy Library (K): 500 Hoes Lane, 732-463-1633  
Westergard Library (W): 20 Murray Ave, 732-752-1166

<http://www.piscatawaylibrary.org/teenscene>

July 2017

# Beware of the Book



## Piscataway Public Library Teen Services Department

(Many annotations are from the library's catalog; Banned Books Week images are from <http://www.ala.org/bbooks>)

## Frequently Challenged Teen Books

*In order by author's last name in the Teen Spaces (YA) at Kennedy (K) and/or Westergard (W).*

### **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian** YA FIC ALEXIE (K/W)

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

### **The Perks of Being a Wallflower** YA FIC CHBOSKY (K/W)

This book follows observant “wallflower” Charlie, who is caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it. First dates, family, drama, and new friends—Charlie must learn to navigate growing up.

### **Al Capone Does My Shirts** YA FIC CHOLDENKO (K/W)

A 12-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

**The Chocolate War** YA FIC CORMIER (K/W)  
Jerry is forced into a psychological showdown with Trinity School's gang leader, Archie, for refusing to be bullied into selling chocolates for the annual fundraising event.

### **Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes** YA FIC CRUTCHER (K/W)

When Sarah was 3 years old, her face and hands were badly burned. Eric passed through his early years on a steady diet of junk food and sports the girth to prove it. The two misfits are now friends and have become true masters in the art of underhanded revenge directed at anyone who dares to offend them. This is a darkly funny, suspenseful novel about friendship, fear, and making the best of a bad situation.

### **The Miseducation of Cameron Post** YA FIC DANFORTH (W)

In the early 1990s, when gay teenager Cameron Post rebels against her conservative Montana ranch town, her family sends her to a gay conversion therapy center.

**This Book is Gay** YA 306.766 DAWSON (K)  
Offers basic information about the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience, including terms, religious issues, and coming out for people of all orientations, including the merely curious.

**Just One Day** YA FIC FORMAN (K)  
Sparks fly when American good girl Allyson encounters laid-back Dutch actor Willem. She follows him on a whirlwind trip to Paris, prompting a year of self-discovery and the search for true love.

**An Abundance of Katherines** YA FIC GREEN (K/W)  
After he is dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to find a new direction in life, while trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.



*As always, we're here to help you find any information you're looking for. Speak with a Librarian or text a question to 732-474-8864.*

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** YA FIC HADDON (K/W)  
Narrated by a 15-year-old autistic savant obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, this novel weaves together a mystery, a coming-of-age story, and a fascinating excursion into a mind incapable of processing emotions.

**The Outsiders** YA FIC HINTON (K/W)  
The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parent's death and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.

**Glass** YA FIC HOPKINS (K)  
18-year-old Kristina is determined to manage her crystal meth addiction in order to take care of her newborn son. But, what will happen when the pull of the drug becomes too strong?

**The Bermudez Triangle** YA FIC JOHNSON (K)  
The friendship of three high school girls and their relationships with their friends and families are tested when two of them fall in love with each other.

**Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out** YA 306.768 KUKLIN (K)  
Kuklin interviewed 6 transgender or gender-neutral young adults. Portraits, family photographs, and candid images augment the emotional and physical journey each youth has taken.

**Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood** YA COMIX PERSEPOLIS (K/W)  
This is Marjane Satrapi's wise, funny, and heartbreaking memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution.

**Unwind** YA FIC SHUSTERMAN (K/W)  
In a future world where those between the ages of 13 and 18 can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to survive.