

Book Ban Threats Make Good Reading Lists



Texas' classroom censorship law (SB 3) goes into effect on December 2. Along with it, state leaders are ruffling feathers about almost 850 certain books that are possibly accessible to students in school. And while the books are not officially banned, the freedom to read is still harmed by the chilling effect that follows.

IDRA is highlighting some of our favorite books on the list of almost 850. If you decide to buy some of these books on Amazon, we invite you to use Amazon Smile to send Amazon's donations our way!





A is for Activist

By Innosanto Nagara

ABC board book encourages children to grow up with confidence in themselves and to be proactive citizens. Named a Best Children's Book of the Year and The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection. Grade level: Preschool-2.



And Tango Makes Three

by Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell
Tells the story of two male penguins, Roy and Silo, who create a family together. ALA Notable
Children's Book Nominee, ASPCA Henry Bergh
Book Award, and named one of the Bank Street
Best Books of the Year. Grade level: Preschool-Kindergarten.



My Two Uncles

by Judith Vigna

Children's book to introduce topic the topic of LQBTQ rights. Lambda Literary Award Nominee and CCBC Choices list. Grade level: 1-2.



Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation

by Duncan Tonatiuh

Children's book on a family's push for a California court ruling against school segregation. Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal recipient. Grade level: 1-4.



Antonio's Card / La tarjeta de Antonio

by Rigoberto Gonzalez

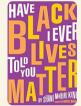
Teen book about concerns children in nontraditional families may experience. Lambda Literary Award. Grade level: 2-3.



The Indian Removal Act and the Trail of Tears

by Susan E Hamen

Explores the Indian Removal Act and its effects. Authoritative text, colorful illustrations, illuminating sidebars, and a Voices from the Past feature make this book an exciting, informative read. Grade level: 4-6.



Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter

by Shani King

A tender and powerful affirmation that Black lives have always mattered. Grade level: 4-7.



It's Perfectly Normal

by Robie Harris

An illustrated guide for young people to understand their changing bodies, healthy habits, and topics of puberty, sex, sexuality and reproduction. It displays people with diverse bodies and different types of relationships, and presents clear, fact-based information. Named American Literature Association Notable Children's Book, Booklist Editor's Choice, The New York Times Best Book of the Year and others. Grade level: 5-6.



This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do The Work

by Tiffany Jewell

With this book, be empowered to actively defy racism to create a community (large and small) that truly honors everyone. Jane Addams Children's Book Award finalist, We Are Kid Lit Collective Summer Reading List, School Library Journal Best Books of the Year, #1 New York Times Best Seller. Grade level: 6-10.

The God Box

by Alex Sánchez

Teen novel about two boys balancing their homosexuality and their religious beliefs. Named NYPL Best Books for Teens and ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults - Top Ten. Grade level: 7-9.



Award winner / Special recognition











Nevertheless, We Persisted: 48 Voices of Defiance, Strength, and Courage

Edited by In This Together Media

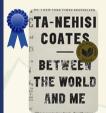
A collection of essays from actors, activists, athletes, politicians, musicians, writers, and teens, each writing about a time in their youth when they were held back because of their race, gender or sexual identity – but persisted. An International Latino Book Award Winner and A National Council for Social Studies Selection. Reading age: 12 years and up.



Quinceañera

llan Stavans (ed)

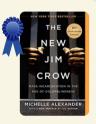
Examines the importance of ritual, celebration and the quinceañera celebration's growing social importance to in the Latino community, particularly in the United States. The essays explore the quinceañera and the coming-of-age ritual from various angles. Age level: 15-17.



Between the World and Me

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

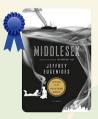
Framed as a letter to his son, this book powerfully conveys the author's reflections as a Black man in America. It indicts the racist foundations of U.S. democracy from a position of love, hope and redemption. Pulitzer Prize finalist, National Book Award Winner, Named One of Time's Ten Best Nonfiction Books of The Decade, National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist, NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work, Grade level: 11-12.



The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

by Michelle Alexander

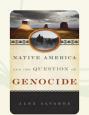
Acclaimed book that draws on data, social science, history and narrative to explain how the carceral system acts as state-sponsored racial punishment, disfranchisement, and segregation. Named one of the most important nonfiction books of the 21st century by Entertainment Weekly, Slate, Chronicle of Higher Education, Literary Hub, Book Riot, and Zora.



Middlesex

by Jeffrey Eugenides

A touching book on a child understanding their intersex identity. This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is beautifully written and a captivating read.



Native America and the Question of Genocide: Religion, History and Human Rights

by Alex Alvarez

Destructive beliefs of the European settlers, topics include disease, war, and education through the lens of genocide.



Multicultural Education: Issues and Perspectives

by James A. Banks & Cherry A. McGee Banks Good foundation book on multicultural education now in its 10th edition. Helps educators respond to the ways race, social class, and gender interact to influence student behavior and learning.



An African American & Latinx History of the United States

by Paul Ortiz

Discusses ways that people of the diaspora have addressed issues still plaguing the United States today. 2018 PEN Oakland-Josephine Miles Award for Literary Excellence.



And Still I Rise: Black America Since MLK: An Illustrated Chronology

By Kevin M. Burke & Henry Gates

A companion to a PBS series chronicling 50 years of black history in the United States. Gates takes readers through the major historical events and untold stories of the 60 years that have irrevocably shaped both the African American experience and the nation as a whole.



Bonus! Just released in book form:

The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story

The New York Times Magazine's Pulitzer Prize award-winning "1619 Project" issue reframed understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This new book substantially expands on that work, weaving together 18 essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with 36 poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle and resistance.



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