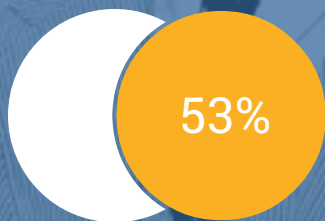


# BANNED BOOKS

2015 - 2016



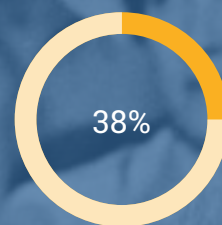
## Response

53% of schools in Texas responded to our open records request



## Challenged

13 books were challenged during the 2015-16 school year



## Banned

5 out of 13 of the challenged books were banned.



## Schools

Challenges came from elementary, middle, high and charter schools.

## SUMMARY

IN 2015-2016, WE RECORDED THIRTEEN BOOK CHALLENGES SUBMITTED TO TEXAS SCHOOLS. THE BOOKS IN QUESTION WERE CHALLENGED FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, INCLUDING HORROR (POE), OFFENSIVENESS (LEE), OR UPSETTING TO RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES (MYERS, CAMUS).

BASED ON RESPONSES TO OUR OPEN RECORDS REQUESTS, TWELVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS LOGGED BOOK CHALLENGES THIS PAST YEAR. IN MANY CASES, LIBRARIANS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS FOUND A WAY TO ACCOMMODATE THE PARENTS' COMPLAINTS WHILE NOT DEPRIVING OTHER STUDENTS OF THE CHALLENGED MATERIAL, EITHER BY DENYING ACCESS TO THE BOOK TO THE CHILD OF THE PARENT WHO FILED THE COMPLAINT, OR BY REQUIRING STUDENTS TO HAVE PARENTAL PERMISSION BEFORE CHECKING OUT THE TEXTS IN QUESTION. TROUBLINGLY, ONE BOOK WAS RECORDED AS "DESTROYED BY THIRD PARTY; SCHOOL REIMBURSED."

FIVE BOOKS WERE BANNED OUTRIGHT, INCLUDING EDGAR ALLEN POE'S "THE TELL TALE HEART" AND WALTER DEAN MYERS'S "MALCOLM X: BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY." ADDITIONALLY, A WORLD GEOGRAPHIC TEXTBOOK THAT DESCRIBED AFRICAN SLAVES AS 'IMMIGRANTS' AND 'WORKERS' WAS ALSO BANNED.



# BANNED

2015 - 16

1

Malcolm X By Any Means Necessary

Walter Dean Myers

2

The Tell  
Tale Heart

Edgar Allan Poe

3-5

Drama

Raina Telgemeier

World  
Geography

McGraw-Hill

The Monkey's  
Paw

W.W. Jacobs

# BREAKDOWN

## **BLUM ISD**

BOOK: MALCOLM X: BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY, BY WALTER DEAN MYERS  
SCHOOL: BLUM HIGH SCHOOL  
REASON CITED: OFFENSIVE TO RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES; POLITICALLY, RACIALLY, OR SOCIALLY OFFENSIVE  
ACTION TAKEN: BANNED

## **KIRBYVILLE CISD**

BOOK: DRAMA, RAINA TELGEMEIER  
SCHOOL: KIRBYVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
REASON CITED: POLITICALLY, RACIALLY, OR SOCIALLY OFFENSIVE  
ACTION TAKEN: BANNED

## **BEAUMONT ISD**

BOOK: WORLD GEOGRAPHY, MCGRAW-HILL  
SCHOOL: PEARLAND HIGH SCHOOL  
REASON CITED: DESCRIBES AFRICAN SLAVES AS "WORKERS" AND "IMMIGRANTS"  
ACTION TAKEN: BANNED

## **POTH ISD**

BOOK: THE TELL TALE HEART, EDGAR ALLAN POE  
SCHOOL: POTH JUNIOR HIGH  
REASON CITED: VIOLENCE OR HORROR; OFFENSIVE TO RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES  
ACTION TAKEN: BANNED  
BOOK: THE MONKEY'S PAW, W.W. JACOBS  
SCHOOL: POTH JUNIOR HIGH  
REASON CITED: VIOLENCE OR HORROR  
ACTION TAKEN: BANNED

**NEW BRAUNFELS ISD**

BOOK: I SURVIVED (THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001), LAUREN TARSHIS  
SCHOOL: MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
REASON CITED: THE WORD TERRORIST BEING USED  
ACTION TAKEN: USE RESTRICTED, ALTERNATE ASSIGNMENT PROVIDED

**NORTHSIDE ISD**

BOOK: HOMEROOM DIARIES, JAMES PATTERSON  
SCHOOL: NORTHSIDE ISD SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
REASON CITED: PROFANITY  
ACTION TAKEN: USE RESTRICTED

**MCKINNEY ISD**

BOOK: THIS ONE SUMMER, MARIKO TAMAKI  
SCHOOL: WEBB ELEMENTARY  
REASON CITED: INAPPROPRIATE FOR GRADE LEVELS  
ACTION TAKEN: USE RESTRICTED;  
BOOKS TRANSFERRED TO HIGH SCHOOLS

**ORENDA CHARTER SCHOOL**

BOOK: THE STRANGER, ALBERT CAMUS  
SCHOOL: GATEWAY COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
REASON CITED: VIOLENCE OR HORROR; OFFENSIVE TO RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES  
ACTION TAKEN: RETAINED

**MONTGOMERY ISD**

BOOK: THE HIGHWAYMAN (POEM), ALFRED NOYES  
SCHOOL: MONTGOMERY JUNIOR HIGH  
REASON CITED: PROFANITY; SEXUAL CONTENT OR NUDITY; VIOLENCE OR HORROR; DRUGS OR ALCOHOL  
ACTION TAKEN: RETAINED

**TAYLOR ISD**

BOOK: TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, HARPER LEE  
SCHOOL: TAYLOR MIDDLE SCHOOL  
REASON CITED: POLITICALLY, RACIALLY, OR SOCIALLY OFFENSIVE  
ACTION TAKEN: RETAINED; NOVEL FOUND TO BE APPROPRIATE ACCORDING TO LOCAL POLICY EFA

**NORTHWEST ISD**

BOOK: PUGDOG, ANDREA U'REN  
SCHOOL: BECK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
REASON CITED: POLITICALLY,  
RACIALLY, OR SOCIALLY OFFENSIVE;  
ABOUT GENDER CONFUSION &  
IDENTITY; ALSO PROMOTES CROSS-  
DRESSING  
ACTION TAKEN: RETAINED

**HARMONY ISD**

BOOK: BLACK BUTLER #5 AND #6,  
YANA TOBOSO  
SCHOOL: HARMONY SCHOOL OF  
ADVANCEMENT  
REASON CITED: OFFENSIVE TO  
RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES;  
WITCHCRAFT, SATANIC, AND OCCULT  
THEMES  
ACTION TAKEN: DESTROYED BY THIRD  
PARTY; SCHOOL REIMBURSED