

## CENSORSHIP CHALLENGES Q1 FY09

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During Quarter 1 FY09, NCTE responded to 13 challenges, about the same number as it did in both Quarter 1 FY08 and Quarter 1 FY07. Resources, rationales when available, policies and advice were provided for all challenges. NCTE sent 2 letters of support for retaining texts.

No films were challenged this quarter. In Idaho the administration pulled 78 often-taught / used books at the high school and 39 books at the middle school and refuses to allow teachers to teach the books until they produce acceptable rationales for doing so. One challenge to *The Kite Runner* happened locally and has given NCTE the opportunity to participate in person.

Below is a chart comparing the Quarter 1 FY2009 and the Quarter 4 FY2008 challenges and numbers of challenged works. A few things to know as you compare the numbers are the following:

- Number of challenges = number of individuals who reported challenges.
- Number of works challenged is usually higher because often challenges involve more than one work.
- The bimonthly *SLATE Newsletter* features Censorship Challenge Reports by quarter. See <http://wwwdev.ncte.org/action/anti-censorship/reports>

### CENSORSHIP CHALLENGES COMPARISION Q1 FY09 AND Q1 FY08

July 2008	August 2008	September 2008	Q1 FY2008 Totals
<b>1 challenge</b> / 1 book / 2 inquiries	<b>4 challenges</b> / 100+ books	<b>8 challenges</b> / 9 books	<b>13 challenges</b> / 100+ books / 2 inquiries / 2 letters of support written
July 2007	August 2007	September 2007	Q1 FY2007 Totals
<b>2 challenges</b> / 2 books / 2 inquires	<b>5 challenges</b> / 5 books and 1 film	<b>7 challenges</b> / 8++books / 2 letters of support written	<b>14 challenges</b> / 15++ books / 1 film / 2 inquiries / 2 letters of support written

### Listing of 1st Quarter Challenges Reported from July-September, 2008

*Beloved*, Toni Morrison (NC). Sent rationale and resources.

*Beloved*, Toni Morrison (12th grade AP, OR). Sent rationale and resources.

*Bless Me Ultima*, Rudolfo Anaya (pre-freshman AP, TX). Sent rationale and resources.

*The Giver*, Lois Lowry (8th grade English, TN) promoted euthanasia. Sent rationale and resources.

*The Golden Compass*, Philip Pullman (7th grade English, HI) anti-religious, teaching child to be atheist. Sent rationale and resources.

*The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini (sophomore English summer reading requirement, IL) rape scene. Offered assistance; NCTE participated in reconsideration committee meeting with parent.

*The Lottery*, Shirley Jackson (7th grade curriculum, LA) written by a known witch. Sent rationale and resources.

*Ordinary People*, Judith Guest (10<sup>th</sup> grade English, PA) language and sexual content. Sent rationale and resources.

*The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd (, KY). Sent rationale.

*Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes*, Chris Crutcher (10th grade English, IL) real-life problems. Sent rationale and resources.

*The Tenth Circle*, Jodi Picoult (10th grade English, IL) real-life problems. Sent resources and a letter of support.

*The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien (11th grade summer reading assignment--teacher choice, GA) lack of hope; too realistic and graphic. Sent rationale, letter of support.

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee (OK). Sent rationale and resources.

78 Books High School, 39 books Middle School (ID). Sent 2 rationales and resources.