

**CENSORSHIP CHALLENGES**  
**Q3 FY09 up through March 25 Compared to First 10 Weeks of Q3 FY08**  
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Quarter 3 FY2009, even with only one week left to go, has been considerably slower than Quarter 3 of FY08 with regard to challenges. There have been only 6 challenge reports on 6 individual texts versus 17 total reports on 27 texts in FY08.

Things of note this quarter are as follows:

- 5 of the 6 challenges were against texts taught in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade (the other challenge was against a 6<sup>th</sup> grade text).
- 3 of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade challenges occurred in AP/Honors classes.
- 2 of the challenges were against Toni Morrison's *Beloved*.
- At the end this report, along with a listing of challenges reported this quarter, you'll find a listing of the outcomes we know for challenges made during the fiscal year. Out of the 29 challenges reported this year, we know the results of 20. *In all but 1 challenge, the text has been retained and/or remains in use.*

Below is a chart comparing the Quarter 3 FY2009 challenges as of March 25 and numbers of challenged texts to the first 10 weeks of Quarter 3 FY2008.

A few things to know as you compare the numbers are the following:

1. Number of challenges = number of individuals who reported challenges.
2. Number of works challenged is usually higher because often challenges involve more than one work.
3. The bimonthly SLATE Newsletter often features Censorship Challenge Reports by quarter. See <http://www.ncte.org/action/slate>

January 2009	February 2009	March 2009	Q3 FY2009 Totals
<b>1 challenge</b> / 1 text	<b>3 challenges</b> / 3 texts / 1 interview with student doing an I-Search paper on challenged books.	<b>2 challenges</b> / 2 texts	<b>6 challenges</b> / 6 texts / 1 interview with student doing an I-Search paper on challenged books
January 2008	February 2008	March 2008	Q3 FY2008 Totals
<b>8 challenges</b> / 16 texts / 1 letter of support / 5 requests for rationales or policies	<b>8 challenges</b> / 11 texts / 2 letters of support / 4 requests for rationales or policies / 1 reporter interview	<b>1 challenge</b> / 1 text / 1 letter of support / 1 request for interview and 1 request fo help with a student protest case	<b>17 challenges</b> / 27 texts / 4 letters of support (three with NCAC) / 9 requests for rationales or policies / 1 reporter interview, 1 request for interview with student, 1 request for help on student protest case

### **Listing of 3rd Quarter Challenges Reported January–March 25, 2009**

*Beloved*, Toni Morrison (11th grade AP English, AL), language and sexual content. Sent rationale and resources.

*Beloved*, Toni Morrison (11th grade AP English, PA), language and sexual references. Sent rationale and resources.

*The Bookseller of Kabul*, Asne Seierstad (11th grade honors, MI), sexually explicit passages. Sent resources.

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Ken Kessey (11th grade, CA), language and sexual references. Sent rationale and resources.

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky (11th grade all-level optional summer reading list, NJ), events and language. Sent rationale and resources.

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, Mildred Taylor (6<sup>th</sup> grade, CA), Sent rationale and resources.

### **Outcome of Previous Challenges July 2008–March 25, 2009**

*Beloved*, Toni Morrison (NC). Retained.

*Beloved*, Toni Morrison, (AP English, NC). Books not officially challenged and remains in use.

*Blithe Spirit Play*, Noel Coward (High School Play, FL). Remains as literary text in library, but will not be performed as a school play.

*The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison (AP English, NC). Book not officially challenged and remains in use.

*The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison (11th grade AP English, IN). Retained.

*The Catcher in the Rye*, J. D. Salinger (AP English, NC). Book not officially challenged and remains in use.

*Chinese Handcuffs*, Chris Crutcher (11th grade AP English, IN). Retained.

*The Color Purple*, Alice Walker (AP English, NC). Book not officially challenged and remains in use.

*The Giver*, Lois Lowry (7th grade, IA). Book not officially challenged and remains in use.

*The Giver*, Lois Lowry (8th grade class, MI). Book retained in curriculum. Students will be given alternate reading options during this part of the English/Language Arts curriculum.

*Going After Cacciato*, Tim O'Brien (AP English, NC). Book not officially challenged and remains in use.

*The Golden Compass*, Philip Pullman (7th grade English, HI). Retained.

*In Country*, Bobbie Ann Mason (11th grade AP English, IN). Retained.

*The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini (AP English, NC). Book not officially challenged and remains in use.

*The Lottery*, Shirley Jackson (7th grade curriculum, LA). Retained.

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Ken Kessey (11 grade English curriculum, PA). Retained.

*Ordinary People*, Judith Guest (10th grade English, PA). Retained book on the list of approved reading material.

*The Tenth Circle*, Jodi Picoult (10th grade English, IL). Retained in the English curriculum and in the library, but the limitation is that unofficially it cannot be required reading. "Since our book challenge, we have created a 'reading curriculum committee' to look at future choices and the books.

*The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien (AP English, NC). Book not officially challenged and remains in use.

*To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee (OK). Remains in curriculum alternate book provided.