

CENSORSHIP CHALLENGES COMPARISON Q4 FY09 AND Q4 FY08 (July 2009)

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There was nothing significant about Quarter 4 FY2009 with regard to censorship challenges: 10 books total were challenged for sexual content, racial epithets, or for featuring gay and lesbian issues. We don't yet have results on the dispositions of the challenges.

The number of challenges for this year, however, is notable as the lowest number since we became active in our anti-censorship work in the early 1990's: **31 challenges** /134++texts/2 inquiries / 3 letters of support/, 1 request to obtain rationales, 1 request for classroom library policy, testimony before Champaign School Board/ 1 interview with student doing an I-Search paper n challenged books. I wish I could say that this means fewer books are being challenged nationally, but that is not true as the American Library Association and National Coalition Against Censorship lists attest. We'll be looking into this and taking measures to insure that those with classroom challenges know they can find help through NCTE.

Below is a chart comparing the Quarter 4 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 Anti-Censorship Center features [Censorship Challenge Reports](#) that feature descriptions of each challenge and its disposition at the time of printing. These reports are also often run in the SLATE Newsletter which goes bimonthly to all NCTE members with emails.

April 2009	May 2009	June 2009	Q4 FY2009 Totals
5 challenges / 5 works	4 challenges / 4 works	1 challenge / 1 works	10 challenges / 10 works
April 2008	May 2008	June 2008	Q4 FY2008 Totals
6 challenges / 5 works and 1 student newspaper challenge / 1 inquiry	7 challenges / 8 works / 1 inquiry	1 challenge / 1 work / 3 inquiries	14 challenges / 14 works + 1 student newspaper / 5 inquiries

Listing of 4th Quarter Challenges Reported April-June, 2009

Anne Frank: Definitive Edition, Anne Frank (LA). No action at this time

Anthem, Ayn Rand, (9-12 community read summer, FL). Sent resources.

Baby Be-Bop, Francesca Lia Block, (public library, WI) gay and lesbian issues. Offered assistance.

Flowers for Algernon, Daniel Keyes, (8th grade High Performance Class, MN) adult scenes and sexual content. Sent rationale and resources.

Hoops, Walter Dean Myers, (6th grade, IA) racial slurs, drugs, gambling, point shaving, violence, sex. Sent rationale and resources.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Ken Kessey, (11th and 12 th grade, PA) racial epithets. Sent rationale and resources.

Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson, (10th grade honors English, MI). Sent rationale and resources.

Song of Soloman, Toni Morrison, (12th grade AP English, MI) adult content, profanity, sexually explicit discussions, violence, vulgarity, and racial slurs. Sent rationae and resources.

Song of Soloman, Toni Morrison, (10th grade honors, NJ) sexual language and content. Sent rationale and resources.

Water for Elephants, Sara Gruen, (GA) sexual content. No action at this time.