

Censorship Challenge Report – Quarter 2 FY2011
Millie Davis

Challenge reports during Quarter 2 FY2011 numbered about the same as those of Quarter 2 FY2010, including two texts challenged last year that were challenged this year as well: *The Kite Runner* and *Of Mice and Men*. In addition to these texts, other “old favorites” on this quarter’s challenged text list include *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, *Speak*, and *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*. There were also some new titles on our list of challenged texts this quarter, including Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, Jodi Piccoult’s *Nineteen Minutes*, and Yukio Mishima’s *The Sound of Waves*.

Millie Davis fielded two reporter calls about censorship this quarter: one from the Springfield, Missouri, *News-Leader* and *USA Today* for a story spurred by the banning of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* in Missouri, and one from a Florida-based paper inquiring about the censorship case that led to teacher Kym Sheehan’s receiving the Florida NCTE/SLATE Affiliate Intellectual Freedom Award.

In addition, we fielded two challenge reports from teachers who were disciplined for teaching about and from banned books in units in connection with Banned Books Week in October.

Below is a chart comparing the Quarter 2 FY2011 and the Quarter 2 FY2010 challenges and numbers of challenged texts. Below that a list of the works challenged this quarter.

CENSORSHIP CHALLENGES COMPARISION Q2 FY11 AND Q2 FY10
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://www.ncte.org/about/issues/slate/newsletters>*

October 2010	November 2010	December 2010	Q2 FY2011 Totals
2 challenges , 2 texts	8 challenges , 14 texts, 2 challenges to teaching methods, 2 reporter calls	3 challenges , 3+ texts	13 challenges , 19+ texts, 2 challenges to teaching methods, 2 reporter calls
October 2009	November 2009	December 2009	Q2 FY2010 Totals
3 challenges , 9 texts	8 challenges , 9 texts	1 challenge , 1 text/1 request for resources for a student research project	12 challenges , 19 texts/1 request for resources for a student research project

Listing of 2nd Quarter FY2011 Challenges Reported (October-December, 2010)

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie (Sophomore English 2 class as part of the Indian Education for All Curriculum, MT). Language and sexual innuendo. Sent rationale and resources. RETAINED.

Breakfast of Champions, Kurt Vonnegut (12th grade literature class, MI). Pornographic. Sent rationale and resources.

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, Jonathan Safran Foer (10th grade Honors, WA). Language and sexual references.

Handout sheet of literary passages with racial, ethnic, gender slurs, (7th grade, CT). Racial, ethnic and gender slurs. Signed letter with /NCAC & others.

Happy Endings, Margaret Atwood (11 & 12th grade AP Literature, NY). "F" word read aloud Sent resources.

The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini (10th grade English, AZ). Personal views. Sent rationale and resources.

A Long Way Gone, Ishmael Beah (10th grade English, AZ). Personal views. Sent rationale and resources.

Nickel and Dimed, Barbara Ehrenreich (WI). Sent resources.

Nineteen Minutes, Jodi Picoult (MO). Sent rationale and resources.

Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck (11th grade honors, IL). Language. Sent rationale and resources.

An Ordinary Man, Paul Rusesabagina and Tom Zoellner (10th grade English, AZ). Personal views. Sent resources.

Persepolis, Marjane Satrapi (10th grade English, AZ). Personal views. Sent rationale and resources.

So Far From the Bamboo Grove, Yoko Walkins Sent rationale and resources.

The Sound of Waves, Yukio Mishima (9th grade IB class, MA). Sensual scenes. Sent resources.

Slaughterhouse Five, Kurt Vonnegut, (High School, MO) profane language. Sent resources.

Speak, Laurie Anderson, (High School, MO) profane language. Sent rationale and resources.

They Called Themselves the KKK, Susan Campbell Bartoletti (8th grade classroom library, TN). Principal objected to photo in book .

Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe (10th grade English, AZ). Personal views. Sent resources.

Twenty Boy, Sarah Ockler, (High School, MO) profane language. Sent resources.

Unit on Banned Books (8th Grade, NY). Books not appropriate for 8th graders. Offered Advice.

Various texts, (HS, IL). Sent resources.