

Censorship Challenge Report – Quarter 3 FY2013

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Challenge reports this quarter numbered about the same as those in Quarter 3 FY12, but if publicity and furor are any measure of the effects of banning a book, the Chicago Public Schools’ banning of *Persepolis* as “inappropriate” raised the biggest ruckus we’ve seen in awhile, resulting in students at Lane High school staging a “honk if you love free speech” demonstration and the Chicago Teachers Union angered by this instance of the district not recognizing the expertise of the teachers to teach the graphic novel. Many stories appeared in the press—print and broadcast. On this [radio program](#) with ALA Freedom to Read Foundation Executive Director Barbara Jones, the financial secretary of the Chicago Teachers' Union, and two students from Lane College Prep High School, one student speaking out against the removal of the book and defending the freedom to read said, "Society is allowing us to dumb ourselves down."

For the *Persepolis* challenge, NCTE joined with other anti-censorship and first amendment groups to send a letter objecting the removal of the book, as we did in two additional challenges this quarter. You’ll find links to the letters below in the listing of challenged texts. With the exception of *Oedipus Rex*, the other challenges were of texts we’ve seen challenged before.

Below is a chart comparing the Quarter 3 FY2012 and the Quarter 3 FY2011 challenges and numbers of challenged texts. Below that is a list of the works challenged this quarter.

CENSORSHIP CHALLENGES COMPARISON Q3 FY13 AND Q3 FY12

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 Censorship Challenge Reports by quarter are posted on the NCTE website. See <http://www.ncte.org/action/anti-censorship/reports>*

January 2013	February 2013	March 2013	Q3FY2013 Totals
2 challenges/2 texts	3 challenges/3 texts/1 request for information	2 challenges/2 texts/1 interview with student on censorship	7 challenges/7 texts/1 request for information/1 interview with student on censorship
January 2012	February 2012	March 2012	Q3FY2012 Totals
3 challenges/ 8+ texts	3 challenges/ 4 texts	0 challenges/ 1 request to fill out student interview	6 challenges/ 12+ texts / 1 request to fill out student interview

Listing of 3rd Quarter Challenges Reported January-March, 2012

Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Then, Sherman Alexie (11-12th grade, CO). Language, sexual references, religious references. Retained

Alice Series, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (Elementary through Middle School). Sexual and other "Objectionable" content. [Signed on letter with NCAC and Others](#). Retained

Glass Castle, The, Jeanette Walls (Pre-AP, KS). [Signed on letter with NCAC and Others against "red flagging" texts to be used in the curriculum](#).

Kite Runner, The, Khaled Hosseini (10th grade, OH). Content. Sent rationale & resources.

Lesson Before Dying, A, Ernest J. Gaines (9th grade, FL). Pornographic, full of sex. Board Mtg, 2/12/13.

Oedipus Rex, Sophocles (VA).

Persepolis, Marjane Satrapi (7th-10th Grade,). Graphic language and images. [Signed on letter with NCAC and Others](#).