

Censorship Challenge Report – Quarter 4 FY2013

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Quarter 4 of FY2013 was notable for continued challenges to three works (*Absolutely True Diary*, *Perks*, and *Persepolis*), a challenge to a new edition of an old work (*Diary of a Young Girl*), and a challenge to a not often taught work of an oft-challenged author (John Steinbeck). NCTE’s work with the Kids Right to Read Project of the National Coalition Against Censorship and with other First Amendment groups focused on the *Persepolis* banning in the Chicago Public Schools, a challenge to the just-released new, complete edition of Anne Frank’s diary, and on a challenge to Stephen Chbosky’s *Perks of Being a Wallflower*. NCTE responded to challenges to Sherman Alexie’s *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* and John Steinbeck’s *East of Eden*.

Below is a chart comparing the Quarter 4 FY2013 and the Quarter 4 FY2012 challenges and numbers of challenged texts. Below that a list of the works challenged this quarter.

CENSORSHIP CHALLENGES COMPARISON Q2 FY13 AND Q2 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>*

April 2013	May 2013	June 2013	Q4 FY2013 Totals
1 challenge/1 work	2 challenges/2 works	2 challenges/2 works	5 challenges/5works
April 2012	May 2012	June 2012	Q4 FY2012 Totals
3 challenges/4 works	0 challenges	4 challenges/4 works	7 challenges/8 works

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian, Sherman Alexie (10th Grade, 6/3/2013). Language and masturbation references and anti-Native American bias.

The Diary of a Young Girl, Anne Frank (7th Grade, 5/2/2013). An anatomical description in the book. Signed on [letter with NCAC and others](#). Retained

East of Eden, John Steinbeck (10th Grade, 5/29/2013). Objector finds work without literary value.

Perks of Being a Wallflower, Stephen Chbosky (8th grade, 6/4/2013). Not age appropriate. Signed on [letter with NCAC and others](#). Also used Twitter and Facebook to broadcast [Chbosky video](#). [Retained](#)

Persepolis, Maryjane Satrapi, ([4/10/13 response](#) to Chicago Public Schools Response to March letter from First Amendment Groups including NCTE). Book continues to be removed from 7th grade and teachers of other grades must follow a CPS manual for teaching the book.