

## CENSORSHIP CHALLENGES Q1 FY10

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During Quarter 1 FY10, NCTE responded to 12 challenges, about the same number as it did in both Quarter 1 FY09, Quarter 1 FY08, and Quarter 1 FY07. Resources, rationales when available, policies and advice were provided for all challenges.

With the exception of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and the modern classic, *The Things They Carried*, no classic works were challenged this quarter. Challenges did include one short story, one award-winning website, and one mandated curriculum. All the texts in a New Jersey high school have come under fire with the challengers requesting that the school develop a matrix-based rating chart that would identify violence, graphic sex, rape/incest, suicide, drug/alcohol use, and profanity. We had one request for resources.

Below is a chart comparing the Quarter 1 FY2010 and the Quarter 4 FY2009 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 bimonthly *SLATE Newsletter* features Censorship Challenge Reports by quarter. See <http://www.ncte.org/about/issues/slate/newsletters>

### CENSORSHIP CHALLENGES COMPARISON Q1 FY10 AND Q1 FY09

July 2008	August 2008	September 2008	Q1 FY2009 Totals
<b>0 challenges</b>	<b>4 challenges</b> / 2 books, 1 website, 1 nonuse of mandated curriculum / 1 request for information	<b>8 challenges</b> / 50+ books	<b>12 challenges</b> / 50+ books, 1 short story, 1 website, 1 nonuse of mandated curriculum / 1 request for information
July 2008	August 2008	September 2008	Q1 FY2008 Totals
<b>1 challenge</b> / 1 book / 2 inquiries	<b>4 challenges</b> / 100+ books	<b>8 challenges</b> / 9 books	<b>13 challenges</b> / 100+ books / 2 inquiries / 2 letters of support written

### Listing of 1st Quarter Challenges Reported from July-September, 2010

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain, (11th grade English, IL). Racist words. Sent rationales and resources.

*The Crack Cocaine Diet*, Laura Lippman, (11th & 12th grade, NH). Controversial subject matter and explicit language. Sent resources.

Curriculum -Teacher reprimanded for not focusing on the mandated curriculum (kindergarten, CA). Sent NCTE policy statements.

*The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls (10th grade accelerated English summer reading, NY). Teacher bowdlerized book by blacked out curse words and removed pages. Sent resources. NCAC wrote a letter of support. School will remove the expurgated copies of the book.

*Hills Like White Elephants*, Ernest Hemingway, (11th & 12th grade, NH). Controversial subject matter and explicit language. Sent resources.

<http://www.susanohanian.org> - George Orwell for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language award Award winner. (TX Schools restricting computer access by filtering). Several NCTE members complained. Access restored.

*I Like Guys*, David Sedaris, (11th & 12th grade, NH). Controversial subject matter and explicit language. Sent resources.

*Jesus Land*, Julia Scheeres, (10th grade advanced English class reading, MO). Graphic sexual description. Sent resources.

*The Things they Carried*, Tim O'Brien, (11th Grade AP English Language and Composition, OK). Language, use of drugs, violence. Sent rationales and resources.

Various Classroom texts. High school, NJ. Parent group proposed matrix-based rating chart to identify violence, graphic sex, rape/incest, suicide, drug/alcohol use, profanity. Sent resources.

*Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?* Joyce Carol Oates, (11th & 12th grade, NH). Controversial subject matter and explicit language. Sent resources.

*A Wizard of Earthsea*, Ursula Leguin, (6th grade). Inappropriate content. Sent resources.