BANNED BOOKS PETITION

STOP THE BAN

We unequivocally condemn the partisan attack on books in schools and libraries and we are committed to using our voices and resources in the community to support schools and libraries and protect young people's fundamental rights. These book bans are often a result of a single passage taken out of context and represent a blatant disregard for current policies in place meant to handle book challenges. Independent booksellers are deeply concerned about what this means for young people's development and freedom of expression in general.

Independent bookstores are invested in and serve their communities on a daily basis to promote diversity of thought and access to reading material. As booksellers, we believe in protecting the rights of readers and the importance of representation in books. We condemn the current wave of book banning in schools and libraries as threats to both the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

It is critical that young people of all experiences and identities see themselves reflected in books. It's equally important that young people also see experiences and identities different from their own. For example, when books by Black or LGBTQIA+ authors are challenged, ignorance and prejudice are left unchallenged and can reinforce feelings of isolation, marginalization, and shame among young people who identify as members of these or other underrepresented groups. In order to understand people's lived experiences today and shape a better tomorrow, we must acknowledge how these experiences are influenced by institutionalized policies that marginalize certain groups.

Diversity in books promotes empathy, understanding, confidence, and growth — which we all, regardless of politics, want for our young people.

FREE THE BOOKS

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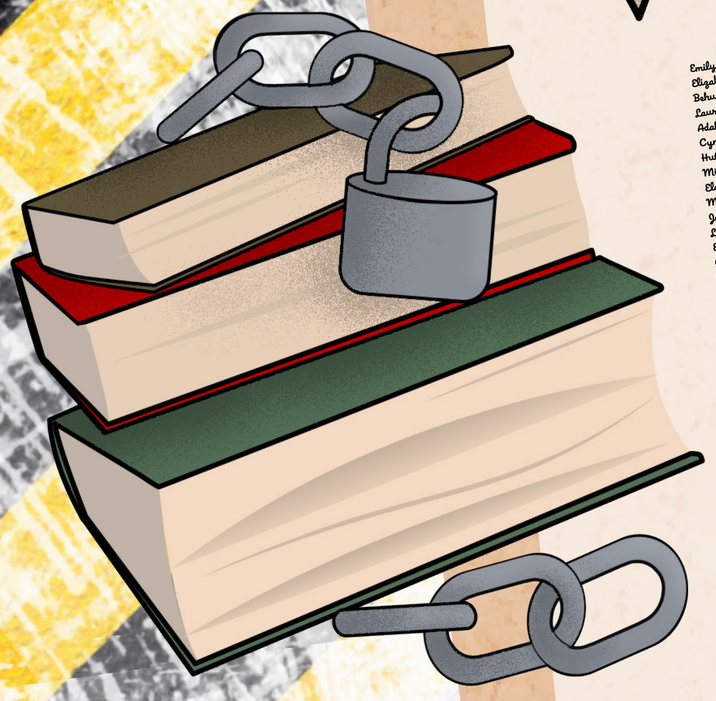

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