# BANNED BOOKS BINGS

**Banned Books Bingo** is designed to be an interactive way for booksellers to engage with customers about banned books. The bingo uses the 25 titles that have appeared on the **American Library Association's (ALA) Top 10 Most Challenged Book Lists** of the last three years (2019, 2020, and 2021).

#### **MATERIALS:**

- Slips of paper with the 25 most challenged titles of the last three years (list of titles included, but need to be cut out)
- List of the top challenged books of the last three years with reasons for why they were challenged (included; not necessary to play bingo, but players may inquire why a certain title was challenged during the course of bingo)
- **Bingo cards** (x variations included with blank cards at the end to create your own)
- Container: hat, bag, or bowl (not included)
- Pens, highlighters, bingo daubers, or chips (not included)

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- **Designate a caller.** The caller is the person who picks a slip of paper out of the bucket/hat/bag/bowl (without looking!) and announces the banned book title to the players.
- **Hand out one bingo card per player.** Make sure each player has a way to mark their board (with a pen, highlighter, bingo dauber, or chips if re-using the cards).
- Have each player mark off the "free space" (the middle space with the book graphic) on each card.
- Place all of the slips of paper with the 25 most challenged titles of the last three years in a container (hat/bag/bowl) and mix them up. The caller should select a title from the bucket/hat/bag/bowl without looking and then announce the banned book title to the players. After the title has been announced, the caller should set aside the slip of paper (not return it to the bucket/hat/bag/bowl).
- Have players mark the box with a pen, highlighter, bingo dauber, or chips when they hear a banned book title that appears on their bingo card.
- **Keep repeating this process until a player(s) shouts "BINGO!"** when they get a full line (vertical, horizontal, or diagonal) or a full card. It's up to you to decide these rules!

#### Full List of Top Challenged Books of the Last Three Years (2019, 2020, & 2021)

List sourced from the American Library Association's Top 10 lists. The year(s) in which the book appeared on the Top 10 list is noted in parentheses.

Cut out each title listed here and place it in a container (hat/bag/bowl). The caller will pick a title from the container (without looking!) and call it out to the players.

| Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe (2021)   |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Lawn Boy</b> by Jonathan Evison (2021)  |                  |
| All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson (2021)   |                  |
| Out of Darkness by Ashley Hope Pérez (2021)  |                  |
| <b>The Hate U Give</b> by Angie Thomas (2020, 2021)  |                  |
| The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie  | e (2020, 2021)   |
| Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews (202   | 1)               |
| The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison (2020, 2021)   |                  |
| This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson (2021)   |                  |
| Beyond Magenta by Susan Kuklin (2019, 2021)  |                  |
| Melissa (previously published as GEORGE) by Alex Gino (2019)   | 9, 2020)         |
| Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason F   | Reynolds (2020)  |
| <b>All American Boys</b> by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely (2  | 2020)            |
| <b>Speak</b> by Laurie Halse Anderson (2020)   |                  |
| Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injus<br>Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Z | •                |
| To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (2020)   |                  |
| Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (2020)   |                  |
| A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo by Jill Twiss, illustrated by EG k   | Keller (2019)    |
| Sex is a Funny Word by Cory Silverberg, illustrated by Fiona Sm  | yth (2019)       |
| Prince & Knight by Daniel Haack, illustrated by Stevie Lewis   | (2019)           |
| I Am Jazz by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, illustrated by Shelagh N   | McNicholas (2019 |
| The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (2019)  |                  |
| <b>Drama</b> written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier (2019   | 9)               |
| Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling (2019)   |                  |
| <b>And Tango Makes Three</b> by Peter Parnell & Justin Richardson, illustrate (2019)   | ed by Henry Cole |
|  |                  |

### Full List of Top Challenged Books of the Last Three Years with Reasons (2019, 2020, & 2021)

List sourced from the American Library Association's Top 10 lists. The year(s) in which the book appeared on the Top 10 list is noted in parentheses. The general reasons the books were challenged are noted below each title.

#### Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe (2021)

**Reasons:** Banned, challenged, and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content, and because it was considered to have sexually explicit images

#### Lawn Boy by Jonathan Evison (2021)

**Reasons:** Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and because it was considered to be sexually explicit

#### All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson (2021)

**Reasons:** Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content, profanity, and because it was considered to be sexually explicit

#### Out of Darkness by Ashley Hope Pérez (2021)

**Reasons:** Banned, challenged, and restricted for depictions of abuse and because it was considered to be sexually explicit

#### The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (2020, 2021)

**Reasons:** Banned and challenged for profanity, violence, and because it was thought to promote an anti-police message and indoctrination of a social agenda

### The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie (2020, 2021)

**Reasons:** Banned and challenged for profanity, sexual references, use of a derogatory term, and allegations of sexual misconduct by the author

#### Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews (2021)

**Reasons:** Banned and challenged because it was considered sexually explicit and degrading to women

#### The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison (2020, 2021)

**Reasons:** Banned and challenged because it depicts child sexual abuse and was considered sexually explicit

#### This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson (2021)

**Reasons:** Banned, challenged, relocated, and restricted for providing sexual education and LGBTQIA+ content.

#### Beyond Magenta by Susan Kuklin (2019, 2021)

**Reasons:** Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content, for "its effect on any young people who would read it," and because it was considered to be sexually explicit and biased.

### Melissa (previously published as GEORGE) by Alex Gino (2019, 2020)

**Reasons:** Challenged, banned, and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content and a transgender character, conflicting with a religious viewpoint and "traditional family structure," and not reflecting "the values of our community"; because schools and libraries should not "put books in a child's hand that require discussion."

### Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds (2020)

**Reasons:** Banned and challenged because of author's public statements, and because of claims that the book contains "selective storytelling incidents" and does not encompass racism against all people

### All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely (2020)

**Reasons:** Banned and challenged for profanity, drug use, and alcoholism, and because it was thought to promote anti-police views, contain divisive topics, and be "too much of a sensitive matter right now"

#### Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson (2020)

**Reasons:** Banned, challenged, and restricted because it was thought to contain a political viewpoint and it was claimed to be biased against male students, and for the novel's inclusion of rape and profanity

# Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin (2020)

**Reasons:** Challenged for "divisive language" and because it was thought to promote anti-police views

#### To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (2020)

**Reasons:** Banned and challenged for racial slurs and their negative effect on students, featuring a "white savior" character, and its perception of the Black experience

#### Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (2020)

Reasons: Banned and challenged for racial slurs and racist stereotypes, and their negative effect on students

### A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo by Jill Twiss, illustrated by EG Keller (2019)

**Reasons:** challenged and vandalized for LGBTQIA+ content and political viewpoints, for concerns that it is "designed to pollute the morals of its readers," and for not including a content warning

### Sex is a Funny Word by Cory Silverberg, illustrated by Fiona Smyth (2019)

**Reasons:** challenged, banned, and relocated for LGBTQIA+ content; for discussing gender identity and sex education; and for concerns that the title and illustrations were "inappropriate"

### Prince & Knight by Daniel Haack, illustrated by Stevie Lewis (2019)

**Reasons:** challenged and restricted for featuring a gay marriage and LGBTQIA+ content; for being "a deliberate attempt to indoctrinate young children" with the potential to cause confusion, curiosity, and gender dysphoria; and for conflicting with a religious viewpoint

### I Am Jazz by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas (2019)

**Reasons:** challenged and relocated for LGBTQIA+ content, for a transgender character, and for confronting a topic that is "sensitive, controversial, and politically charged"

#### The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (2019)

**Reasons:** banned and challenged for profanity and for "vulgarity and sexual overtones"

#### Drama written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier (2019)

**Reasons:** challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and for concerns that it goes against "family values/morals"

#### Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling (2019)

**Reasons:** banned and forbidden from discussion for referring to magic and witchcraft, for containing actual curses and spells, and for characters that use "nefarious means" to attain goals

### And Tango Makes Three by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson illustrated by Henry Cole (2019)

Reason: challenged and relocated for LGBTQIA+ content

| All Boys Aren't<br>Blue<br>George M. Johnson                                | <b>To Kill a</b><br><b>Mockingbird</b><br>Harper Lee  | And Tango Makes Three  Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, illustrated by Henry Cole | <b>Of Mice and Men</b> John Steinbeck                       | <b>Prince &amp; Knight</b> Daniel Haack illustrated by Stevie Lewis |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Drama</b> written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier                    | Stamped: Racism,<br>Antiracism, and<br>You<br>Ibram X. Kendi and<br>Jason Reynolds  | <b>Me and Earl and the Dying Girl</b> Jesse Andrews                                   | Melissa (previously<br>published as<br>GEORGE)<br>Alex Gino | <b>Out of Darkness</b><br>Ashley Hope Pérez                         |
| The Absolutely<br>True Diary of a<br>Part-Time Indian<br>Sherman Alexie     | <b>Gender Queer</b><br>Maia Kobabe  | T READ DANGEROUSLY  | <b>The Handmaid's Tale</b> Margaret Atwood                  | <b>All American Boys</b> Jason Reynolds and  Brendan Kiely          |
| <b>Speak</b> Laurie Halse Anderson  | Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin | I Am Jazz  Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas       | <b>This Book is Gay</b><br>Juno Dawson                      | <b>Harry Potter series</b> J.K. Rowling                             |
| Sex is a Funny<br>Word<br>Cory Silverberg,<br>illustrated by Fiona<br>Smyth | <b>The Bluest Eye</b><br>Toni Morrison  | <b>The Hate U Give</b><br>Angie Thomas  | <b>Beyond Magenta</b><br>Susan Kuklin                       | <b>Lawn Boy</b><br>Jonathan Evison                                  |

| A Day in the Life of<br>Marlon Bundo<br>Jill Twiss, illustrated by<br>EG Keller | <b>The Handmaid's Tale</b> Margaret Atwood   | <b>Me and Earl and the Dying Girl</b> Jesse Andrews        | Stamped: Racism,<br>Antiracism, and<br>You<br>Ibram X. Kendi and<br>Jason Reynolds  | <b>Gender Queer</b><br>Maia Kobabe                                      |
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| Sex is a Funny<br>Word<br>Cory Silverberg,<br>illustrated by Fiona<br>Smyth     | All American Boys  Jason Reynolds and  Brendan Kiely                                 | T READ  DANGEROUSLY  | <b>Speak</b> Laurie Halse Anderson  | <b>Beyond Magenta</b><br>Susan Kuklin                                   |
| Jessica Herthel<br>and Jazz Jennings,<br>illustrated by Shelagh<br>McNicholas   | <b>Lawn Boy</b><br>Jonathan Evison   | Prince & Knight  Daniel Haack, illustrated by Stevie Lewis | Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin | The Absolutely<br>True Diary of a<br>Part-Time Indian<br>Sherman Alexie |
| Melissa (previously<br>published as<br>GEORGE)<br>Alex Gino                     | <b>Out of Darkness</b><br>Ashley Hope Pérez  | <b>To Kill a</b><br><b>Mockingbird</b><br>Harper Lee       | <b>All Boys Aren't Blue</b> George M. Johnson   | <b>This Book is Gay</b><br>Juno Dawson                                  |

| Harry Potter series  J.K. Rowling                          | All Boys Aren't<br>Blue<br>George M. Johnson                                    | <b>Lawn Boy</b><br>Jonathan Evison                          | Jessica Herthel<br>and Jazz Jennings,<br>illustrated by Shelagh<br>McNicholas      | <b>This Book is Gay</b> Juno Dawson   |
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| <b>Lawn Boy</b><br>Jonathan Evison                                      | J Am Jazz  Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas    | <b>The Hate U Give</b> Angie Thomas   | <b>Beyond Magenta</b><br>Susan Kuklin                   | Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin |

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