

COUNT 10
DATE 3/10/11
MA HB 454

It's Perfectly Normal - Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, & Sexual Health

Updated for the 21st Century

Note: For ages 10 and up,
& celebrating 15 years in print

Note: **Praises from the Experts** at the front of the book

T. Berry Brazelton, MD, author of *Touchpoints*;

- * Cecile Richards, president, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.;
- * Reverend Mara J. Dowdall, Youth Ministry director, Unitarian Universalist Assoc.;
- Angela Diaz, M.D., MPH, Jean C. and James W. Crystal Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Community Medicine, Mount Sinai school of Medicine, director, Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center;
- Marc H. Morial, president and CEO, National Urban League, Inc.;
- Penelope Leach, PhD, author of *Your Baby & Child* and *Children First*.

Note: **Praise for -**

- ****American Library Association Notable Children's Book**
A Booklist Editors' Choice;
- A Boston Globe – Horn Book Honor Winner; 1995
A Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbon Winner;
A Horn Book Best Book of the Year;
A New York Public Library 100 Titles for reading and sharing Selection;
A New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year;
A Parenting Reading Magic Award Winner;
A Publishers Weekly Best Children's Book of the Year;
A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year *note: Award is for Best of print & media*

Recommended Print & Media ("Best of")

Booklist



Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults

Best Books for Young Adults

The Amelia Bloomer Book List

Booklist Editors' Choice: Adult Books

Booklist Editors' Choice: Books for Youth

Booklist Editors' Choice: Media

Booklist Editors' Choice: Reference Sources

Booklist Editors' Choice: Adult Books for Young Adults

Booklist's Top of the List

Fabulous Films for Young Adults

Great Graphic Novels for Teens

Great Interactive Software for Kids List

Great Web Sites for Kids

Notable Books for Adults

*Notable Children's Books

Notable Children's Recordings

Praise from –

School Library Journal (starred review);

Booklist (starred review);

Publishers Weekly (starred review);

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Book (recommended and starred review);

Kirkus Reviews (pointer review);

*The Horn Book (starred review);

The New York Times Book Review;

Child Magazine;

Parenting;

Los Angeles Times Book Review;

San Francisco Chronicle Book Review;

The Press – Enterprise, Riverside County, California;

USA Today

Note: The Horn Book (starred review) *" The book will serve as a useful 'tool' in the sex education curriculum." 1995[✓]

A 'tool', not a curriculum in itself.

*Note: Praise from Planned Parenthood Federation of America – President Cecile Richards

Note: Praise from Youth Ministry Director of Unitarian Universalist Assoc. - Reverend Mara J. Dowdall

(site: Unitarian Church of Montpelier Our Minister)



The Rev. Mara Dowdall is our minister.

Our Minister

The Reverend Mara J. Dowdall was called to the Unitarian Church of Montpelier in May, 2009. A lifelong Unitarian Universalist and Philadelphia native, Mara came to Vermont from the Boston area, where she served the First Parish in Cambridge, the UU Society of Wellesley Hills, and the Youth Ministry Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Before her call to ministry, Mara lived and worked in Washington D.C., where she attended All Souls Church and had eclectic experiences as (a reproductive-rights organization staffer), a legislative aide to Rep. Lloyd Doggett, a coffee shop barista, and a nanny. Beliefs and Values

Unitarian Universalism is a theologically diverse religion in which members support one another in our individual search for truth and meaning. We have historic roots in the Jewish and Christian traditions, but today individual Unitarian Universalists may identify with Atheism, Agnosticism, Buddhism, Humanism, Paganism, or with other philosophical or religious traditions. Interfaith families often find that Unitarian Universalist congregations are a good fit for them. (site: uua.org/visitors/index.shtml)

It's Perfectly Normal In The book itself:

Note: Introduction chapter pg. 8 in the 4th row of pictures, the big bird is seen 'name calling' the little bee, "You're a chicken." It continues twice more on page 9, in the 4th & 5th pictures. In the 4th picture it shows the little bee saying, "Whew! I was feeling weird. The bigger bird says," I was feeling perfectly normal." The 5th picture shows the little bee saying, "Doesn't sound like that much fun to me. The bigger bird frowning down says, "Maybe you are weird."

This idea of the little bee being abnormal/ 'weird' and the bigger bird being 'perfectly normal' appears to be the running theme. This is a concern, given that pages 8 & 9 are the Introduction chapter, labeled Lots of Questions. These are the first 2 pages that the child is introduced to these characters and their attitudes, thoughts and emotions. Kids look at the pictures in books first, then read.

Note: **Chapter 3** – Strong Feelings Sexual Desire -

Sexual desire is defined on pg. 12 "Sex is also about the desire to be *physically close* to someone, as close as you can be. It is also described as *to really want* or *crave* something. You don't know why you want these things (sexual desires/ cravings/ wants). You just want them. "Sexual desire means you *feel* attracted to someone *in a very strong way...like being pulled by a magnet*. You want to be as physically close to that person as you can be." pg 13 continues with..."sexual desire is mostly the way you *feel* in your body about that person." "And sometimes *these feelings can be very strong.*" "*Often it's hard to stop thinking about* that person, and you may even *think* you are *in love* with him or her. "

4th paragraph on pg. 13 "They (boys and girls), have crushes on people of the same sex, as well as on people of the opposite sex, on people who are the same age, older, or younger. Having a crush on someone is perfectly normal." *The feelings and thoughts you may have about other people and their bodies can make you feel very excited. Some people call this feeling sexy.*"

The concern in this chapter is not what sexual desire is. It is a want, a craving, a desire that has feelings and emotions attached to it. Look at the words used: To really want or crave. To feel pulled by a very strong way. These very exciting feelings and thoughts are called "feeling sexy."

The concern is that there is no discussion about restraint from acting on these feelings and thoughts.

On Pg.13 at the end of 1st & beginning of 2nd paragraph –" And sometimes these feelings can be very strong. Often it's hard to stop thinking about that person", or thinking about love. (Pg. 13) With this book, and with this curriculum, are we setting up the kids at a very early age for a level that they are not prepared to handle? It is hard to stop your thoughts, and your emotions. There is a very strong pull by these thoughts and emotions. Cravings, wants, and desires are very exciting, and have a strong pull. Do we really want to put these sexual desires before our children, before they have matured to a level that can handle them. Restraint is not found in a little child, who lives by mostly 'id', and 'ego' primarily. 'Superego' is the higher level of restraint. Adults don't always achieve this. Why are we expecting our children to accomplish this then, on their own. (Check out Id, ego, & superego – on Wikipedia. Wikipedia defines each of these individually.)

Id, Ego, & Superego

Wikipedia **Id, ego** and **super-ego** are the three parts of the psychic apparatus defined in Sigmund Freud's structural model of the psyche; they are the three theoretical constructs in terms of whose activity and interaction mental life is described. According to this model of the psyche, the **id** is the set of uncoordinated instinctual trends; the **ego** is the organised, realistic part; and the **super-ego** plays the critical and moralising role.^[1]

Even though the model is "structural" and makes reference to an "apparatus", the id, ego and super-ego are functions of the mind rather than parts of the brain and do not correspond one-to-one with actual somatic structures of the kind dealt with by neuroscience.

Note: **Chapter 4** – Making Love Sexual Intercourse -
pg. 14 **Graphic!**

Pg 15 1st bullet point - "It makes sense to wait to have intercourse until you are old enough and responsible enough to make healthy decisions about sex."

(What age is this? Not addressed.)

pg.15 3rd bullet point - "A relationship that includes sexual contact often comes with complicated feelings."

There is no discussion about these feeling or what to do about them. Graphic!

Pg.15 4th bullet point - "Sexual intercourse – "having sex" – can involve the penis and the vagina, or the mouth and the genitals, or the penis and the anus."

Having this degree of intimacy would most certainly involve complicated feelings/ emotions, which involves thoughts as well.

I am amazed at this material, with the idea that it is to be read at age 10, which is 5th grade on average. The three parts of our 'soul' involves our thoughts, feelings, and our choices/will in what we say and do. The eye is the window to our soul. Simply seeing these graphic pictures of nudity is going to bring out these thoughts, and stir these emotions, as early as whatever age it is introduced at. The third part of the soul involves our choices or will. What will a child do with this information once it is received? What will this child say or do concerning this information that is now planted within. "Do not awaken/arouse love", is a warning from the Song of Songs. Our thoughts are being taught something; but what, and by whom, and is it correct? At this age of 10, my son's response is exactly like the little bee's response. He does not want to see or talk about this stuff in a public setting, yet. He is far more interested in learning about rockets, aerodynamics, or science experiments, than about sex. His comment was, "At school this is porn. If they don't like pictures to be drawn of sex and porn at school, then why are they bringing it in now to be taught, saying it is ok for sex and porn? If anyone gets caught in school drawing out pictures of nude, with penises and boobs, and if teachers find out, you get reported and you talk with Miss Tennis, and you do NOT want to do that!"

As a mom, my question is, why would it be necessary to introduce this area of 'health' or 'science', to a child who is clearly not at this level of maturity?

Note: Chapter 5 – Straight & Gay Heterosexuality and Homosexuality – Pg 17 of the 1st paragraph informs that, ("the ancient Greeks thought that love between 2 men was the highest form of love.) It goes on to teach more traditions and myths, and mention them as though they were historical facts. ("In the ancient Greek city-state of Sparta, in about 1000 B.C., it was hoped that male lovers would be in... ", and "People thought that if a warrior was in the same regiment as his lover, he would fight harder, in order to impress him. The Spartan army was one of the most powerful and feared armies in ancient Greece.")

(Is this a fact??? In our curriculum)

(See Wikipedia The Spartan Army – History) The army in the Mycenaean age

The first reference to the Spartans at war is in the Iliad, where they participate among the other Greek contingents.)

(See Wikipedia The Iliad pg. 1) The *Iliad* (sometimes referred to as the *Song of Ilion* or *Song of Ilium*) is an epic poem in dactylic hexameters, traditionally attributed to Homer. Set in the Trojan War, the ten-year siege of Ilium by a coalition of Greek states, it tells of the battles and events during the weeks of a quarrel between King Agamemnon and the warrior Achilles. Although the story covers only a few weeks in the final year of the war, the *Iliad* mentions or alludes to many of the Greek legends about the siege.

Chapter 5 Pg 17 of the 2nd paragraph - This comment to conclude the Historical facts, "There have been gay relationships all through history, even before ancient Greece." 3rd paragraph - " How people **feel** and **think** about homosexuality has a lot to do with the culture and the times in which they live."

Chapter 5 Pg. 17 of the 6th paragraph declares that, "They, (kids), may look at and even touch each other's bodies. This is a normal kind of exploring.....". The 8th paragraph states, "Some people disapprove of gay men and lesbian women. Some even hate homosexuals only because they are homosexuals. People may feel this way toward homosexuals because they think homosexuals are

different from them or that gay relationships are wrong. Usually these people know little or nothing about homosexuals, and their views are often based on fears or misinformation, not on facts. People are often afraid of things they know little or nothing about.”

The concern again is that this is a judgement statement by the author. Anyone disagreeing with the homosexual or bisexual life style,” usually”... “know little or nothing about homosexuals, and their views are often based on fears or misinformation, not on facts.” The author has not addressed these facts. We can be wrong in our thoughts. That is why facts and data in a curriculum are so important.

Paragraphs 4 & 5 start with, “Scientists do not completely understand or agree on why one person grows up to be homosexual..., and, “Some Scientists believe that being homosexual or heterosexual is not something you choose...”

There was research done a few years back testing DNA between homosexual and heterosexual persons. Where are these facts presented in this curriculum? Is curriculum a term used to loosely for this book?

Dictionary.com describes curriculum as: modern coinage from L. curriculum "*a running, course, career,*" from currere (see current). Used in English as a Latin word since 1630s at Scottish universities.

Note: Chapter 16 - Pg.48 & 49 Point made by Kristen Hansen asks ‘How do these pages respect other viewpoints? For example, the word ‘but’ is used to negate other viewpoints.’ On page 49, it explains the how-to’s of masturbating and one example mentions looking at sexy pictures, dreaming, and fancizing.

Does this encourage pornography use? If not able to become sexually excited, dreaming, or day dreaming/fancizing, then use the sexy pictures. Again, the eye is the window to the soul.

Note: Chapter 17 weak discussion from 3rd paragraph of why it is difficult having a baby when a person is too young.

Note: Chapter 19 – pg 56 - Graphic!

Pg. 57 3rd paragraph, “Waiting to have sex until one is old enough to take good care of a baby makes good sense. The surest way not to become pregnant is to abstain from - not have – vaginal sex. “However, if a female and a male decide to have sexual intercourse, there are ways – called birth control – that can help protect them from becoming pregnant and having a baby.”, written immediately into a new paragraph.

What determines the age of being old enough to take good care of a baby, and therefore having good sense? If these kids do not know how to have sex before this class, they will certainly know all possible ways to have sex, afterwards. Paragraph 5-7 is an example of this on pg 57, and the graphics on pg.56 will certainly help along the visual learners.

Note: pg 64 2nd paragraph -

Who is defining normal? Nursing school did not define these birth assists as normal. These birth assists are used when the birth is not able to occur on its own, naturally.

Note: American Life League - view video for 'It's Perfectly Normal' on Youtube.com - 8/25/2008 (3 min. long) In this video, Michael Hitchcock reports that:

- * - the State of (Washington Dept of Corrections) rejected featuring centered illustrations from this book in a fundraising letter, stating that the content is obscene or sexually explicit material as defined by policy.
- ALL also point out that though Planned Parenthood is not the publisher of It's Perfectly Normal, they are intimately connected with Planned Parenthood.
- * - The author, Robie H. Harris, was on the Planned Parenthood Natl. Board of Advocates ().

(site- all.org/download/res/id/aHROcDovl3d3dy5wcm9saWzld2Fjby5jb20vdXBsb2Fk)

Discussed on that video – see below

Pro-Life Waco

4200 Grim Ave., Waco, TX 76710 • 254-644-0407 •

News Advisory

**Pro-Life Waco to demonstrate
at local bank which underwrites**

Planned Parenthood Waco.

11:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Central National Bank, 5400 Bosque Blvd.

Central National Bank has had a long-time

- * entanglement (with Planned Parenthood) in Waco, which has operated an abortion facility since 1994 at 1927 Columbus Ave. Since 2007, CNB has been an underwriter and has provided its corporate name in support of Planned Parenthood's Nobody's Fool summer youth event. During this time, Planned Parenthood has committed over 4,000 abortions in our city. Planned Parenthood in Waco, nationally, and worldwide is noted for promoting an "anything go" approach to youth sexuality. In 2003 and 2004 the Nobody's Fool event gave to children the book, **It's Perfectly**
- * **Normal.** This book was rejected for the libraries of the State of Washington prison system on the grounds that it is pornographic. Planned Parenthood Waco web site currently endorses www.takecaredownthere.org (created by a Planned Parenthood affiliate) for Waco's "mature"

children and parents. This shocking and disgusting website deserves rejection—not referrals.

The goal of our demonstration is to convince the leadership of Central National Bank to sever all ties with Planned Parenthood in Waco.

For more information:

John Pisciotta, 254-644-0407, prolifewaco@gmail.com

Note: Frequently challenged books of the 21st century

Each year, the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom compiles a list of the top ten most frequently challenged books in order to inform the public about censorship in libraries and schools. The ALA condemns censorship and works to ensure free access to information.

A challenge is defined as a formal, written complaint, filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness. The number of challenges reflects only incidents reported. We estimate that for every reported challenge, four or five remain unreported. Therefore, we do not claim comprehensiveness in recording challenges.

Background Information from 2001 to 2009

Over the past nine years, American libraries were faced with 4,312 challenges.

- 1,413 challenges due to “sexually explicit” material;
- 1,125 challenges due to “offensive language”;
- 897 challenges due to material deemed “unsuited to age group”;
- 514 challenges due to “violence”
- 344 challenges due to “homosexuality”; and

Further, 109 materials were challenged because they were “anti-family,” and an additional 269 were challenged because of their “religious viewpoints.”

1,502 of these challenges (approximately 34%) were in classrooms; 33% were in school libraries; 23% (or 1,032) took place in public libraries. There were 100 challenges to college classes; and only 29 to academic libraries. There are isolated cases of challenges to materials made available in or by prisons, special libraries, community groups, and student groups. The majority of challenges were initiated by parents (almost exactly 48%), while patrons and administrators followed behind (10% each).

Find out if your favorite book has been banned or challenged by exploring the top ten lists of the 21st century.

Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books: 2000-2009

1. *Harry Potter* (series), by J.K. Rowling
2. *Alice* series, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
3. *The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier
4. *And Tango Makes Three*, by Justin Richardson/Peter Parnell
5. *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck
6. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou
7. *Scary Stories* (series), by Alvin Schwartz
8. *His Dark Materials* (series), by Philip Pullman
9. *ttyl; ttfn; l8r g8r* (series), by Myracle, Lauren
10. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky
11. *Fallen Angels*, by Walter Dean Myers
- *12. *It's Perfectly Normal*, by Robie Harris
13. *Captain Underpants* (series), by Dav Pilkey
14. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain
15. *The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison
16. *Forever*, by Judy Blume
17. *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker
18. *Go Ask Alice*, by Anonymous
19. *Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger
20. *King and King*, by Linda de Haan
21. *To Kill A Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee
22. *Gossip Girl* (series), by Cecily von Ziegesar
23. *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry
24. *In the Night Kitchen*, by Maurice Sendak
25. *Killing Mr. Griffen*, by Lois Duncan
26. *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison
27. *My Brother Sam Is Dead*, by James Lincoln Collier
28. *Bridge To Terabithia*, by Katherine Paterson
29. *The Face on the Milk Carton*, by Caroline B. Cooney
30. *We All Fall Down*, by Robert Cormier
31. *What My Mother Doesn't Know*, by Sonya Sones
32. *Bless Me, Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya
33. *Snow Falling on Cedars*, by David Guterson
34. *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things*, by Carolyn Mackler
35. *Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging*, by Louise Rennison
36. *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley
- *37. *It's So Amazing*, by Robie Harris

Note: American Library Association's Top Ten most frequently challenged books listed

It's Perfectly Normal as 7th out of 458 challenges in 2003, 1st out of 405 challenges in 2005, and 9th out of 420 challenges in 2009. **It's So Amazing** is listed as 10th out of 405 challenges in 2005.

(site:

ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/21stcenturychallenged/2003/index.cfm)

For Immediate Release

March 7, 2006

"It's Perfectly Normal" tops ALA's 2005 list of most challenged books

CHICAGO – One of the most frequently challenged authors of the past decade has two books on the American Library Association's (ALA) list of the most frequently challenged books of 2005. Robie H. Harris' "It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health" heads up the list, while "It's So Amazing! A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families" rounds out the top 10. Both books drew complaints for sexual content.

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom received a total of 405 challenges last year. A challenge is defined as a formal, written complaint, filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness. The majority of challenges are reported by public libraries, schools and school libraries.

According to Judith F. Krug, director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, the number of challenges reflects only incidents reported, and for each reported, four or five likely remain unreported.

The "10 Most Challenged Books of 2005" reflect a range of themes. The books are:

- "It's Perfectly Normal" for homosexuality, nudity, sex education, religious viewpoint, abortion and being unsuited to age group;
- "Forever" by Judy Blume for sexual content and offensive language;
- "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger for sexual content, offensive language and being unsuited to age group;
- "The Chocolate War" by Robert Cormier for sexual content and offensive language;
- "Whale Talk" by Chris Crutcher for racism and offensive language;
- "Detour for Emmy" by Marilyn Reynolds for sexual content;
- "What My Mother Doesn't Know" by Sonya Sones for sexual content and being unsuited to age group;
- Captain Underpants series by Dav Pilkey for anti-family content, being unsuited to age group and violence;
- "Crazy Lady!" by Jane Leslie Conly for offensive language; and

Note: site: marshall.edu/library/bannedbooks/books/itsperfectlynormal.asp) September 26-October 3, 2009 It's Perfectly Normal

2009

Retained in the Lewiston (ME) Public Library after a patron refused to return a book due to her objections to its content. Other patrons donated four copies of the book which remains in circulation at the library.

2008

A Lewiston (ME) patron refused to return the book to the Lewiston and Auburn public libraries because she was "sufficiently horrified by the illustrations and sexually graphic, amoral, abnormal contents." A police investigation found the library did not violate the town ordinance against obscenity and the patron will stand trial for theft.

2006

Restricted, but latter, based upon a review committee's recommendations, returned to general circulation shelves with some limits on student access in the Holt Middle School library in Fayetteville (AR) despite a parent's complaint that it was sexually explicit.

2005

Challenged, but retained at the Holt Middle School library in Fayetteville (AR) despite a parent's complaint that it was sexually explicit.

2004

Moved from the young adult to the adult section of the Fort Bend County Libraries in Richmond (TX). Also moved to the restricted section of the Fort Bend School Districts media centers after a resident complained via email about the book's content.

2003

Challenged, but retained, in Montgomery County (TX) library system after the Republican Leadership Council characterized the book as "vulgar" and trying to "minimize or even negate that homosexuality is a problem".

2002

Restricted in elementary and middle school due to objections of "value statements".

2001 Challenged in Holland (MA) and Marion County (FL) public libraries due to sexually explicit content. Held at Cabell County Public Library

Note: on Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

***It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies,
Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health***



It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health is a children's book about going through puberty. It is written by Robie Harris and illustrated by Michael Emberley. Harris was prompted to write it when an editor asked her to write a children's book about HIV/AIDS, and she felt the subject needed to be treated more generally.^[1] It was first published in 1994, and has since been translated into 30 languages.^[2]

The book is considered highly controversial and is #12 on the American Library Association's Most Challenged Books of 2000-2009 list.^[3] In 2007, a woman in Lewiston, Maine made national news when she checked the local libraries' copies out and refused to return them, claiming the book was 'pornographic'.

- * The book has received awards from at least 10 distinguished publications, including Publisher's Weekly and School Library Journal (both named it "Best Book of the Year"), the American Library Association and the New York Times (both named it "Notable Book of the Year"), and the San Francisco Chronicle (listed among "The Century's Best Children's Books").

It's So Amazing! A book about eggs, sperm, birth, babies, and families

Note: For age 7 and up,
and celebrating 10 years in print

Note: An American Library Association Notable Children's Book

Note: A Horn Book Magazine Fanfare Title

Note: Check out A cooperative Children's Book Center Choice Title &
A *Children's Literature* Choice List Title

Note: Praise from
New York Times;
Time Magazine, Booklist (starred review);
Kirkus Reviews (pointer review);
The Horn Book (starred review);
and School Library Journal (starred review)

Note: Praise from the Experts -

T, Berry Brazelton, M.D., author of *Touchpoints: Your Child's Emotional and Behavioral Development*;
Penelope Leach, Ph.D., author of *Your Baby and Child and Children First*;
Steven Marans, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine Child Study Center;
Alvin F. Poussaint, M.D., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School; coauthor of *Raising Black Children: Two Leading Psychiatrists Confront the Educational, Social and Emotional Problems Facing Black Children*;
Perri Klass, M.D., Professor of Journalism and Pediatrics, New York University; Contributing Editor, *Parenting*;

① Dianne Luby, President/CEO, Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts

Note: For Elaine Markson (Note: Pg. 91 of *It's Perfectly Normal*, in the last paragraph, it states that, "to our agent, Elaine Markson, for her friendship and belief in this book")

Note: text copyright 1999, with first paperback edition 2002

The book itself:

Note: Pg. 11 – the 2 characters are a little bee that does not want to hear this topic discussed, and even says, "it's time to STOP talking about body parts!" The second character is a bigger bird, who does not honor his friend's wish with respect. The bigger friend responds, "well, PART-DON me! This is not humor. This is sarcasm, especially incorporated with the picture of the big bird who looks down on his friend with a wagging finger in front of his own lips, and a 'shush yourself' look on his face. This is a

form of bullying. Kids are taught not to do this to one another, yet this curriculum is teaching through these 2 characters, and this curriculum is praised for its humorous teaching used throughout.

Note: pg 13 is graphic!

Note: I like pg. 18-19, and 22-23 for the most part, is easy to grasp drawings of the information spoken about .

Note: Chapter 9 pg.26 What is Sex? Female of Male – Loving – Making Love - Making a Baby

Note: pg 28 is graphic! Picture of a couple in bed with covers up to waist. Not sure why bedcovers are illustrated on. Pages 13, 15, & 17 have illustrated and discussed all physical details by now.

Note: Chapter 10 What's love? Lots of kinds of Love pg. 30- 33

Topic of Love is weak. The word 'love' is used to discuss playing instruments, without explaining that an alternative word 'enjoy', may be used to describe or explain the difference between Love in a relationship vs. joy in an inanimate object. Pg 31 and again on pg.65, speaks to straight, gay, lesbian, heterosexual, and homosexual words. "Although these two words (heterosexual and homosexual), have the word sex in them, they can also be about love."

Note: Pg. 39 "Abstinence is mentioned only in name, once. "The only sure way for people not to have a baby or not to get an infection from sex is not to have sexual intercourse. And that is called "abstinence." Abstinence and birth control can help people choose whether or not to have a baby- or how many children to have – or when to have a baby." There is no definition of it even.

Note: Pg. 42 No discussion as to the emotional impact of this occurring. Abortion is defined, but no statistics to back up the statement that, "most women can become pregnant again and give birth to a strong and healthy baby." This (decreases as the number of abortions increase for a woman. Check on statistics)

Note: Pg. 69 Masturbation is defined and opinions are discussed briefly. Conclusion is written as, "Some people and some religions **think** it's wrong to masturbate. But, most doctors **agree** that masturbation is perfectly healthy and perfectly normal – and cannot hurt you or your body." (Another way to word this sentence - some people and religious people **think** it's wrong, but, most doctors **think/agree** it is perfectly normal.)

Note: pg. 79 Thank you to all these people who all helped with this book! **(It's So Amazing)**

Planned Parenthood involvement are –

- ~ ***Nicki Nichols Gamble, president, Planned Parenthood League of Mass, Boston, Mass**
- ~ ****Suzan Kaitz, chair, The PURPOSE campaign (), Planned Parenthood League of Mass, Boston, Mass**
- ~ ***Leslie M. Kantor, M.P.H., vice president for education, Planned Parenthood of New York City, NY, NY**
- ~ ***Jill Kantrowitz, director of education , Planned Parenthood League of Mass, Boston, Mass**
- ~ ***Carol Lynch, director of education and training, Planned Parenthood League of Mass, Boston, Mass**

Michael McGee, vice president for education, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, NY, NY
Heather Sankey, M.D., obstetrician/ gynecologist, medical director, Planned Parenthood of Mass, Boston and Springfield, Mass.

g *Fran Basche, sexuality education trainer, Watertown, Mass

Family Planning involvement are -

*Tina Alu, Cambridge Family Planning, Mass.

2 Toni Belfield, Director of Information, The Family Planning Association, London England

Gay, Lesbian involvement are -

*Doris B. Held, M. ED., psychotherapist, Harvard Medical School; member of the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth for the Commonwealth of Mass, Cambridge, Mass

Aids involvement are -

*Larry Kessler, executive director, AIDS Action Committee of Mass, Boston, Mass

*Louise Rice, R.N., director of education, AIDS Action Committee of Mass, Boston, MA

Clergy involvement are -

1 Reverend Jory Agate, Unitarian Universalist Assoc., Boston, Mass
Sexuality and Our Faith Authors

The Reverend Jory Agate, co-author of *Sexuality and Our Faith: A Companion to Our Whole Lives Grades 7-9* and *Sexuality and Our Faith: A Companion to Our Whole Lives Grades 10-12* served as director of youth programs at the Unitarian Universalist Association from 1992 to 1997, and was a member of the Sexuality Education Task Force, which developed *Our Whole Lives*. She is currently the minister of religious education at First Parish (Unitarian Universalist) in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Miscellaneous involvement are-

2 *Michael Iskowitz, policy and strategy architect, Washington, D.C.

Hermine Sarkissian, pediatrician, Yerevan, Armenia

Jenifer Lord, social worker, British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, London, England

*Fran Basche, sexuality education trainer, Watertown, Mass

Deborah Chamberlain, research associate, Norwood, Mass

Note: pg. 90 Thank you to all these people who all helped with this book! **(It's Perfectly Normal)**

Planned Parenthood involvement are -

* Fran Basch, professional trainer, Planned Parenthood League of MA, Cambridge, MA

* Leslie Kantor, M.:H., director of education, Planned Parenthood League of New York, NY

* Jill Kantowitz, director of education, Planned Parenthood League of Mass, Boston, Mass

* Carol Lynch, director of counseling, Planned Parenthood Clinic, Brookline, MA

Michael McGee, vice president for education, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, NY, NY

Dian Olson, educator and trainer, Planned Parenthood League of MA, Cambridge, MA

Heather Sankey, M.D., obstetrician/ gynecologist, medical director, Planned Parenthood of Mass, Boston and Springfield, Mass.

| *Nicki Nichols Gamble, consultant, Cambridge, MA

Family Planning involvement are –

*Tina Alu, sexuality education coordinator, Cambridge Family Planning, Cambridge, MA

Gay, Lesbian involvement are –

*Doris B. Held, M. Ed., psychotherapist, Harvard Medical School: member of the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth for the Commonwealth of MA, Cambridge, MA

Aids involvement are –

*Larry Kessler, executive director, AIDS Action Committee of Mass, Boston, Mass; commissioner, U.S. National Commission on AIDS, Washington, D.C.

June E. Osborn, M.D., dean, School of Public Health, University of Michigan; chairman, U.S. National Commission on AIDS, Washington, D.C.

*Louise Rice, R.N., associate director of education, AIDS Action Committee of Mass, Boston, MA

Clergy involvement are –

Miscellaneous involvement are-

Nancy Drooker, sexuality education consultant, San Francisco, CA

Freida Garcia, president, United South End Settlements, Boston, MA

*Michael Iskowitz, chief counsel for poverty, AIDS, and family policy, U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Washington, D.C.

Chris Jagmin, designer, Watertown, MA

Antoinette E. M. Leoney, Esq., parent, Salem, MA

Eli Newberger, M.D., director, Family Development Program, Children's Hospital, Boston, MA

Monica Rodriguez, director of information and education, Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States, New York, NY

Charles D. Roos, consultant, New York, NY

Deborah Rothman, sexuality educator, author , Baltimore, MD

Susan Webber, consultant, Arlington, MA

Donna Yee, Ph. D., consultant, Visions Inc., Cambridge, MA Eye Drs.

**Susan Kaitz, director of health education, Newton Public Schools, Newton, MA

Note: From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

***It's So Amazing: a Book about Eggs,
Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families***

Author Robie Harris

Illustrator Michael Emberley

Preceded by It's Perfectly Normal

Published in 1999, *It's So Amazing: a Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families* is a children's book about pregnancy and childbirth. It is written by Robie Harris and illustrated by Michael Emberley.

It appeared as #37 in the ALA's list of Most Banned Books during the 2000-2009 decade.^[1]

[edit] References

1. [^] "Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books: 2000-2009". American Library Association. http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/challengedbydecade/2000_2009/index.cfm. Retrieved 2010-07-07.

Note: Feb 16 2011

Teen Takes Stand for Purity

by Eric | 55 Comments We were inspired this week by an Indianapolis high school senior who took a stand for purity. This was Caleb Beaverson's response to his school's newspaper article on safe sex ...

Re: Approaches to Sex Fail *Caleb Beaverson*

After reading Hannah's article in the January 21st N the Red, many of my fellow students and I would like to point out that her opinions on sexual education (and sex itself) are not equally shared across our student body. Therefore, I would like to provide some equilibrium to Hannah's article, trusting you will be willing to print this point of view shared by many of my fellow students.

According to Hannah, we should "...get information to the masses so that our generation can improve and move past this time of excessive discretion." What I understand her to be saying

*is that by more broadly and formally presenting the knowledge to teens of how to lose their virginity "safely" before they get married, we are somehow improving society. How is this an improvement to society? Since when is taking the path of least resistance in this aspect of our lives an improvement to society? Furthermore, it is irrational to state, as Hannah's article does, that "more education" is the solution. What she's saying is that there are teens in our midst, having pre-marital sex, who are unaware of the concept that condoms, diaphragms, and pills exist as a method of decreasing their odds of becoming pregnant. (Let's not be so ignorant.) These methods can help reduce teen pregnancies; however it has, in fact, been proven that teens not having sex have a **zero** percent pregnancy rate, and no STDs. Imagine that!*

According to the article, simply because we encourage young men and women to abstain from sex until they are married, we are now, as a society, in a time of excessive discretion. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, discretion is "the quality of having or showing discernment or good judgment". The question to be answered then is this: How is it possible to have too much good judgment?

*Hannah says, "With 22 percent of births in our country occurring in teens between the ages of 13 and 18, there seems to be some sort of lack of education as to how these teens could have prevented unplanned pregnancies." What should be stated here is that, "With 22 percent of births in our country occurring in teens between the ages of 13 and 18, there seems to be some sort of lack of **self control**." As has been the case for many children in our generation, we have been denied very little of whatever it is we wanted since a young age. Even if the decision to have ill advised sexual relationships may hurt others, or even ourselves, our desire is to run straight ahead anyway; for that is what we most desire at the time. Even if our physical intimacy doesn't result in an unplanned pregnancy or other health-related, physically detrimental repercussion, many of the psychological outcomes of these decisions do not manifest themselves until some number of years down the road by way of destructive thoughts and emotions with our future spouse as we attempt to assemble a successful marriage. By giving in to the cultural assumption that "headstrong teens" are given to have uncontrollable sex as the default assumption, we are literally embracing the statistically proven fact that by doing so, we are putting a damper on the odds of having a successful, long lasting marriage – because of our inability to possess appropriate discretion.*

*According to livestrong.com, teenage mothers are more likely to drop out of high school, be and remain single parents, and score lower in math and reading into adolescence. The most certain way of keeping this entire scenario from happening is to abide by the one surefire solution to this dilemma - stay away from sex until marriage. But the best part is that it's **doable!** I'll be a virgin when I'm married. It's a gift I'll give away to one very special woman – no regrets. My mom and dad managed to accomplish this "unavoidable", natural act until they were married. My three uncles and their wives all made it to their marriage vows with*

their virginity intact. And, it's not like they were social misfits without opportunity for their own lack of discretion. Rather, they were all teens who were active and popular students participating in and leading their way through high school and college as cheerleaders, drum majors for state championship marching bands, cross country & track team members, starting varsity baseball players, high school basketball players, collegiate baseball Team Captains, highly achieving academic students, and the list goes on. And from the evidence of what I've seen around me all my life, it is evident that abstinence also provides for more trusting relationships and provides for true intimacy between spouses.

Again, what we need is less societal endorsement on promiscuous, detrimental behavior and more self control. Let's become the generation that bucks the trends, uses our minds before our hormones, and is known for honoring rather than using one another.

Ultimately, the decision on whether or not to have premarital sex is one that is up to each individual, regardless of what is taught in school. The root of the problem with teenage pregnancy stems not from a lack of education about alternative methods of preventing teen pregnancies given the "unavoidable" sexual escapades of teens, but rather from a lack of education in the time tested concept of thoughtful analysis of what is in our own best interest.

Thursday, March 3, 2011 (Laura Ingraham radio show – note Hour 3)

- **Hour 1:**

The Obama style of leadership: "escape the moment"

The Obama style of leadership: "escape the moment"

While oil prices skyrocket and the administration blocks any new domestic oil production, President Obama can't stop partying. An arts ceremony at the White House yesterday gave him another opportunity to mingle with celebrities.

Alabama Republican Senator Jeff Sessions talks with Laura about Obama's never-ending playdates, the Islamic terrorist who gunned down two American soldiers in Germany, and Obama's bizarre budget

- **Hour 2:**

Obama's all too willing to jump to conclusions when it comes to conservatives...

Obama's all too willing to jump to conclusions when it comes to conservatives...

...but when it's Islamic terrorism, labels and motivations are left unmentioned. Pakistan's most senior Christian government official was assassinated yesterday at the hands of pro-Sharia Muslims. Minister for Minority Affairs Shahbaz Bhatti was gunned down for being Catholic and opposing the blasphemy law--but all Obama can do is muster vague references to mysterious forces of intolerance (otherwise known as Islamic terrorists). Meanwhile, the President claims the tea party's opposition to his policies is motivated by

racism.

Then: the Republican National Committee's new chairman, Reince Priebus, talks with Laura about the union protests going on in his home state of Wisconsin and Obama's Big Labor-dependent reelection campaign.

- **Hour 3:**
What is Planned Parenthood up to in your community?
What is Planned Parenthood up to in your community?

Montana families are under assault by Planned Parenthood--in public school classrooms. A new sex ed curriculum there is foisting adult material on the young. Dr. Miriam Grossman, Montana State Representative Cary Smith, president of the Montana Family Foundation Jeff Laszloffy, and a Planned Parenthood representative all join Laura by phone for an epic showdown on the matter

To all **LAURA365 MEMBERS**: Listen to Laura **LIVE** every week day 9 am 'til noon ET!

Call The Laura Ingraham Show LIVE on the air with your question or comment! Call **1-800-876-4123** from 9am 'til Noon ET!



ROBIE H. HARRIS began her career as a teacher at the Bank Street College of Education's School for Children. She started writing books for children in the 1970s and has numerous titles to her credit. Among them are the award-winning and internationally acclaimed books about sexual health for older children: **IT'S SO AMAZING! A BOOK ABOUT EGGS, SPERM, BIRTH, BABIES, AND FAMILIES** for children age seven and up and **IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL: CHANGING BODIES, GROWING UP, SEX, AND SEXUAL HEALTH** for children age ten and up, which won her the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association Award for Outstanding Educator. She is also the well-known author of **HAPPY BIRTH DAY!**, **HI NEW BABY!**, and three picture books in the Growing Up series, all illustrated by Michael Emberley, as well as **GOODBYE MOUSIE**, illustrated by Jan Ormerod, and **DON'T FORGET TO COME BACK!**, illustrated by Harry Bliss. (Fresh fiction. Com)

The National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA) represents the broad spectrum of family planning administrators and clinicians serving the nation's low-income and uninsured.

NFPRHA serves its members by providing advocacy, education and training to those in the family planning and reproductive health care fields. (NFPRHA intro.)

[Home](#) :: Join NFPRHA Today!

Family Planning's Professional Association

The National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA) represents the broad spectrum of family planning administrators and clinicians serving the nation's low-income and uninsured women and men. NFPRHA's core members are federally funded family planning organizations serving those without access to care. NFPRHA represents:

- Service and training grantees of Title X, the nation's only federally-funded family planning program dedicated to serving low-income and uninsured women, men and adolescents,
- Administrators of Medicaid Family Planning Expansions, which extend family planning coverage to millions of women and men,
- Administrators of family planning programs housed in state, county and local health departments,
- Family Planning Councils, Planned Parenthood affiliates and other family planning organizations in integrated and freestanding sites across the country.

NFPRHA advocates on its members' behalf with Congress to increase funding for and improve family planning services delivered by a diverse group of federally-funded providers. Our Washington, DC based office, fosters productive working relationships with key federal regulatory agencies, including the Office of Population Affairs, and is informed by members' experiences and concerns. Our experienced policy team also collaborates with a range of professional associations and advocacy organizations addressing women's health and reproductive health care issues.

As the only national membership organization in the United States dedicated to increasing family planning access, NFPRHA provides essential and exclusive benefits, including timely and in-depth information on legislative and regulatory actions that affect family planning providers. NFPRHA also facilitates regular in-person and virtual opportunities for information exchange and best practice sharing with the broadest spectrum of family planning administrators and clinicians serving the underserved.

Robie H. Harris has written many award-winning books for children of all ages, including the definitive Family Library about sexuality: *IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL, IT'S SO AMAZING!*, and *IT'S NOT THE STORK!* She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Michael Emberley is the illustrator of numerous books for children, including the Family Library. He lives in Wicklow, Ireland.

Note: (Robie H. Harris - Pen American Center)



photo by Susan Kuklin

Robie H. Harris was born in Buffalo, New York and has written over twenty-five children's books.

Harris writes picture books and nonfiction and is known for writing about serious issues with honesty and humor. Her most recent picture books, *Maybe A Bear Ate It!*, *Mail Harry To The Moon!*, and *The Day Leo Said, I Hate You!* all garnered starred reviews and awards. Her picture book *Goodbye Mousie* was a *Publisher's Weekly* Best Children's Book of the Year, and *Happy Birth Day* was a *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year. Her internationally acclaimed book *It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health*, was a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Book, and a New York Times Best Book of the Year, as was her book *It's So Amazing! A Book About Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families*. Her book *It's Not the Stork! A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families, and Friends*, was an American Library Association Notable Book.

In 2005, *It's Perfectly Normal* was # 1 and *It's So Amazing!* was # 10 on the American Library Association's list of most frequently challenged books in America. Most recently, *It's Perfectly Normal* was listed as #7 on the American Library Association's list of most frequently challenged books of the 21st century.

Robie H. Harris is a member of the Council of PEN New England, where she created and then chaired the Children's Book Caucus for a number of years. She has served on a number of non-profit boards, and received an honorary doctorate from Lesley University for her writing about sexual health.

Harris lives in the Boston area with her husband and is a grandparent.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
American Library Association

ALA Logo

Abbreviation	ALA
Formation	1876
Type	<u>Non-profit</u> <u>NGO</u>
Purpose/focus	"To provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all." ^[1]
Headquarters	<u>Chicago, Illinois</u>
Location	<u>Chicago, Illinois</u> and <u>Washington, DC</u>
Region served	<u>United States</u>
Membership	62,251
CEO	<u>Keith Michael Fiels</u>
President	Roberta Stevens
Budget	\$33.5 million ^[2]
Staff	approx. 300
Website	<u>American Library Association</u>

* The **American Library Association (ALA)** is a non-profit organization based in the United States that promotes libraries and library education internationally. It is the oldest and largest library association in the world,^[3] with more than 62,000 members.^[4]

Membership

* **ALA membership is open to any person or organization, though most of its members are libraries or librarians.** Most members live and work in the United States, with international members comprising 3.5% of total membership.^[8] The ALA is governed by an elected council and an executive board. Since 2002, Keith Michael Fiels has been the ALA executive director

(CEO).¹²¹ Policies and programs are administered by various committees and round tables. One of the organization's most visible tasks is overseen by the Office for Accreditation, which formally reviews and authorizes American and Canadian academic institutions that offer degree programs in library and information science. The ALA's current President is Roberta Stevens.¹¹⁰¹ Notable past presidents include Loriene Roy (2007-8) and Michael Gorman (2005-6).

Activities

✱ **The official purpose of the association is "to promote library service and librarianship."**

Members may join one or more of eleven membership divisions that deal with specialized topics such as academic, school, or public libraries, technical or reference services, and library administration. Members may also join any of seventeen round tables that are grouped around more specific interests and issues than the broader set of ALA divisions.

Notable divisions

- American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
- Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS)
- Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)
- Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
- Library Information Technology Association (LITA)
- Public Library Association (PLA)
- Reference and User Services Association (RUSA)
- Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)
- ALA Editions (book publishing)¹¹¹¹

In 1970, the ALA founded the first *lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender* professional organization, called the "Task Force on Gay Liberation", now known as the GLBT Round Table.

=====

(<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/glbtrt/index.cfm>)

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT)



The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
and Transgender Round Table

GLBTRT

of the American Library Association

Responsibilities

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table of the American Library Association shall:

#7 (out of 10) bullet points - remind the membership and leadership of the Association as often as necessary that many librarians, archivists, other information specialists, and library users are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender people; support other minority groups working for adequate representation and equal opportunity within the Association;

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It's So Amazing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It's_So_Amazing)

It's So Amazing

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

It's So Amazing: a Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families

Author	Robie Harris
Illustrator	Michael Emberley
Country	USA
Language	English
Subject(s)	Human sexuality
Publisher	Candlewick Press
Publication date	1999
Pages	81
ISBN	0763600512 9780763600518
OCLC Number	40433137
Preceded by	It's Perfectly Normal

Published in 1999, *It's So Amazing: a Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families* is a children's book about pregnancy and childbirth. It is written by [Robie Harris](#) and illustrated by [Michael Emberley](#).

It appeared as #37 in the [ALA's](#) list of Most Banned Books during the 2000-2009 decade.^[1]

[edit] References

- [^] ["Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books: 2000-2009". American Library Association.](#)
http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/challengedbydecade/2000_2009/index.cfm. Retrieved 2010-07-07.

Retrieved from "[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It%27s So Amazing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It%27s_So_Amazing)"

Categories: [1999 books](#) | [Sex education](#) | [American children's books](#)

Hidden categories: [Articles to be merged from July 2010](#) | [All articles to be merged](#) | [Articles needing additional references from July 2010](#) | [All articles needing additional references](#)

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It's Perfectly Normal

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health

Author	Robie Harris
Illustrator	Michael Emberley
Country	USA
Language	English
Subject(s)	Human sexuality
Publisher	Candlewick Press
Publication date	1994
Pages	89
ISBN	9781564021595
Followed by	It's so Amazing

It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health is a children's book about going through [puberty](#). It is written by [Robie Harris](#) and illustrated by [Michael Emberley](#). Harris was prompted to write it when an editor asked her to write a children's book about [HIV/AIDS](#), and she felt the subject needed to be treated more generally.^[1] It was first published in 1994, and has since been translated into 30 languages.^[2]

The book is considered highly controversial and is #12 on the [American Library Association's Most Challenged Books of 2000–2009 list](#).^[3] In 2007, a woman in [Lewiston, Maine](#) made national news when she checked the local libraries' copies out and refused to return them, claiming the book was 'pornographic'.^[4]

The book has received awards from at least 10 distinguished publications, including *Publisher's Weekly* and *School Library Journal* (both named it "Best Book of the Year"), the American Library Association and the *New York Times* (both named it "Notable Book of the Year"), and the *San Francisco Chronicle* (listed among "The Century's Best Children's Books").^[5]

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It%27s_Perfectly_Normal"

Categories: [1994 books](#) | [Sex education](#) | [American children's books](#)

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Top ten most frequently challenged books of 2003

Out of 458 challenges reported to the

1. *Alice* (series), by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Reasons: sexual content, offensive language, unsuited to age group
2. *Harry Potter* (series), by J.K. Rowling
Reasons: occult/Satanism
3. *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck
Reason: offensive language
4. *Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture*, by Michael Bellesiles
Reason: inaccuracy
5. *Fallen Angels*, by Walter Dean Myers
Reason: drugs, offensive language, racism, sexual content, violence
6. *Go Ask Alice*, by Anonymous
Reason: drugs
- *[#]7. ***It's Perfectly Normal*, by Robie Harris**
Reason: homosexuality, nudity, sexual content, sex education
8. *We All Fall Down*, by Robert Cormier
Reason: offensive language, sexual content
9. *King & King*, by Linda de Haan
Reason: homosexuality
10. *Bridge to Terabithia*, by Katherine Paterson
Reason: occult/Satanism, offensive language

• Top ten most frequently challenged books of 2005

Out of 405 challenges reported to the [Office for Intellectual Freedom](#)

- *[#]1. ***It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health*, by Robie H. Harris**
Reasons: abortion, homosexuality, nudity, religious viewpoint, sex education, unsuited to age group
2. *Forever*, by Judy Blume
Reasons: offensive language, sexual content
3. *The Catcher in the Rye*, by J. D. Salinger
Reasons: sexual content, offensive language, unsuited to age group
4. *The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier
Reasons: sexual content, offensive language
5. *Whale Talk*, by Chris Crutcher
Reasons: racism, offensive language
6. *Detour for Emmy*, by Marilyn Reynolds
Reason: sexual content

7. *What My Mother Doesn't Know*, by Sonya Sones
Reasons: sexual content, being unsuited to age group
 8. *Captain Underpants* (series), by Dav Pilkey
Reasons: anti-family content, unsuited to age group, violence
 9. *Crazy Lady!*, by Jane Leslie Conly
Reason: offensive language
- * 10. ***It's So Amazing! A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families***, by Robie H. Harris
Reasons: sex education, sexual content

Top ten most frequently challenged books of 2007

Out of 420 challenges reported to the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1. *And Tango Makes Three*, by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
Reasons: anti-ethnic, anti-family, homosexuality, religious viewpoint, sexism, and unsuited to age group
 2. *The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, violence
 3. *Olive's Ocean*, by Kevin Henkes
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit
 4. *The Golden Compass*, by Philip Pullman
Reason: religious viewpoint
 5. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain
Reason: racism
 6. *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker
Reasons: homosexuality, offensive language, sexually explicit
 7. *Ityl*, by Lauren Myracle
Reasons: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
 8. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou
Reason: sexually explicit
- # 9. ***It's Perfectly Normal***, by Robie Harris
Reasons: sex education and sexually explicit
10. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky
Reasons: homosexuality, offensive language, sexually explicit, and unsuited to age group

100 most frequently challenged books: 1990–1999

1. *Scary Stories* (series), by Alvin Schwartz
 2. *Daddy's Roommate*, by Michael Willhoite
 3. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou
 4. *The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier
 5. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain
 6. *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck
 7. *Forever*, by Judy Blume
 8. *Bridge to Terabithia*, by Katherine Paterson
 9. *Heather Has Two Mommies*, by Leslea Newman
 10. *The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger
 11. *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry
 12. *My Brother Sam is Dead*, by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier
- # 13. ***It's Perfectly Normal***, by Robie Harris
14. *Alice* (series), by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
 15. *Goosebumps* (series), by R.L. Stine

Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books: 2000-2009

1. *Harry Potter* (series), by J.K. Rowling
 2. *Alice* series, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
 3. *The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier
 4. *And Tango Makes Three*, by Justin Richardson/Peter Parnell
 5. *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck
 6. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou
 7. *Scary Stories* (series), by Alvin Schwartz
 8. *His Dark Materials* (series), by Philip Pullman
 9. *ttyl; ttfn; l8r g8r* (series), by Myracle, Lauren
 10. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky
 11. *Fallen Angels*, by Walter Dean Myers
 - # 12. ***It's Perfectly Normal*, by Robie Harris**
 13. *Captain Underpants* (series), by Dav Pilkey
 14. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain
 15. *The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison
 16. *Forever*, by Judy Blume
 17. *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker
 18. *Go Ask Alice*, by Anonymous
 19. *Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger
 20. *King and King*, by Linda de Haan
 21. *To Kill A Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee
 22. *Gossip Girl* (series), by Cecily von Ziegesar
 23. *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry
 24. *In the Night Kitchen*, by Maurice Sendak
 25. *Killing Mr. Griffen*, by Lois Duncan
 26. *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison
 27. *My Brother Sam Is Dead*, by James Lincoln Collier
 28. *Bridge To Terabithia*, by Katherine Paterson
 29. *The Face on the Milk Carton*, by Caroline B. Cooney
 30. *We All Fall Down*, by Robert Cormier
 31. *What My Mother Doesn't Know*, by Sonya Sones
 32. *Bless Me, Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya
 33. *Snow Falling on Cedars*, by David Guterson
 34. *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things*, by Carolyn Mackler
 35. *Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging*, by Louise Rennison
 36. *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley
 - # 37. ***It's So Amazing*, by Robie Harris**
 38. *Arming America*, by Michael Bellasiles
 39. *Kaffir Boy*, by Mark Mathabane
 40. *Life is Funny*, by E.R. Frank
- etc,

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Most frequently challenged authors of the 21st century

Please note that the most frequently challenged authors may not appear in the list of most frequently challenged books. For example, if every one of Judy Blume's books was challenged—but only once—not one of her books would make the top 10 list, but she herself would make the most challenged author list. Five of Judy Blume's books are on the list of The 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books of 1990 to 1999: Forever (7), Blubber (30), Deenie (42), Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret (60), and Tiger Eyes (89).

See also the most frequently challenged authors of color list.

2009: Lauren Myracle, Alex Sanchez, P.C. Cast, Robert Cormier, Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, Stephen Chbosky, Chris Crutcher, Ellen Hopkins, Richelle Mead, John Steinbeck

2008: Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, Philip Pullman, Lauren Myracle, Jim Pipe, Alvin Schwartz, Chris Crutcher, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Rudolfo Anaya, Stephen Chbosky, Cecily Von Ziegesar

2007: Robert Cormier, Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson, Mark Twain, Toni Morrison, Philip Pullman, Kevin Henkes, Lois Lowry, Chris Crutcher, Lauren Myracle, Joann Sfar

2006: Chris Crutcher, Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, Toni Morrison, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Cecily von Ziegesar, Carolyn Mackler, Alvin Schwartz, Stephen Chbosky, Alex Sanchez, Judy Blume

2005: Judy Blume, Robert Cormier, Chris Crutcher, Robie Harris, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Toni Morrison, J. D. Salinger, Lois Lowry, Marilyn Reynolds, and Sonya Sones.

2004: Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Robert Cormier, Judy Blume, Toni Morrison, Chris Lynch, Barbara Park, Gary Paulsen, Dav Pilkey, Maurice Sendak, and Sonya Sones.

#2 *** 2003:** Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, J. K. Rowling, Robert Cormier, Judy Blume, Katherine Paterson, John Steinbeck, Walter Dean Myers, **Robie Harris**, Stephen King, and Louise Rennison.

2002: J.K. Rowling, Judy Blume, Robert Cormier, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Stephen King, Lois Duncan, S.E. Hinton, Alvin Schwartz, Maya Angelou, Roald Dahl, and Toni Morrison.

#6 *** 2001:** J. K. Rowling, Robert Cormier, John Steinbeck, Judy Blume, Maya Angelou, **Robie Harris**, Gary Paulsen, Walter Dean Myers, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, and Bette Greene.

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(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/list_of_most-commonly_challenged_books_in_the_United_States)

List of most-commonly challenged books in the United States

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

* This list of most-commonly challenged books in the United States lists some of the books challenged from 1990 to 1999 in the United States.^[1]

In the United States, many books have been challenged by a variety of groups and agencies to prevent a particular work from being read by the general public.^[*citation needed*] In recent years, it has become more common for those challenging the availability of a book to do so on a local level, targeting public libraries and school libraries. Many communities have a formal process by which a citizen may challenge the public availability of a work.

[edit] List

List of most commonly-challenged books in the United States^{[1][2]}

Title	Author	Source
<i><u>Nineteen Eighty-four (1984)</u></i>	<u>George Orwell</u>	Rad
<i><u>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</u></i>	<u>Mark Twain</u>	ALA [11]
<i><u>The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby</u></i>	<u>Dav Pilkey</u>	ALA [47]
<i><u>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</u></i>	<u>Mark Twain</u>	ALA
<i><u>Alice series</u></i>	<u>Phyllis Reynolds Naylor</u>	ALA [2]

<u>All the King's Men</u>	<u>Robert Penn Warren</u>	Rad
<u>Always Running</u>	<u>Luis J. Rodriguez</u>	ALA [66]
<u>American Psycho</u>	<u>Bret Easton Ellis</u>	ALA
<u>An American Tragedy</u>	<u>Theodore Dreiser</u>	Rad
<u>The Anarchist Cookbook</u>	<u>William Powell</u>	ALA
<u>Anastasia Again!</u>	<u>Lois Lowry</u>	ALA [81]
<u>And Tango Makes Three</u>	<u>Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell</u>	ALA [9]
<u>Anus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging</u>	<u>Louise Rennison</u>	ALA [32]
<u>Annie on My Mind</u>	<u>Nancy Garden</u>	ALA
<u>Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret</u>	<u>Judy Blume</u>	ALA [82]
<u>Arming America</u>	<u>Michael Bellasiles</u>	ALA [34]
<u>Arizona Kid</u>	<u>Ron Koertge</u>	ALA
<u>As I Lay Dying</u>	<u>William Faulkner</u>	Rad
<u>Asking About Sex and Growing Up</u>	<u>Joanna Cole</u>	ALA
<u>Athletic Shorts</u>	<u>Chris Crutcher</u>	ALA [38]
<u>Beloved</u>	<u>Toni Morrison</u>	ALA [24] /Rad
<u>Black Boy</u>	<u>Richard Wright</u>	ALA [67]

<u>Bless Me, Ultima</u>	<u>Rudolfo A. Anaya</u>	ALA [39]
<u>Blood and Chocolate</u>	<u>Annette Curtis Klause</u>	ALA [54]
<u>Blubber</u>	<u>Judy Blume</u>	ALA [36]
<u>The Bluest Eye</u>	<u>Toni Morrison</u>	ALA [12]
<u>The Boy Who Lost His Face</u>	<u>Louis Sachar</u>	ALA [79]
<u>Boys and Sex</u>	<u>Wardell Pomeroy</u>	ALA
<u>Brave New World</u>	<u>Aldous Huxley</u>	ALA [37] /Rad
<u>Bridae to Terabithia</u>	<u>Katherine Paterson</u>	ALA [20]
<u>Bumps in the Night</u>	<u>Harry Allard</u>	ALA [83]
<u>The Call of the Wild</u>	<u>Jack London</u>	Rad
<u>Captain Underpants</u>	<u>Dav Pilkey</u>	ALA [10]
<u>Carrie</u>	<u>Stephen King</u>	ALA
<u>The Catcher in the Rye</u>	<u>J. D. Salinger</u>	ALA [19] /Rad
<u>Catch-22</u>	<u>Joseph Heller</u>	Rad
<u>Cat's Cradle</u>	<u>Kurt Vonnegut</u>	Rad
<u>The Chocolate War</u>	<u>Robert Cormier</u>	ALA [3]
<u>Christine</u>	<u>Stephen King</u>	ALA

<u><i>A Clockwork Orange</i></u>	<u>Anthony Burgess</u>	Rad
<u><i>The Color Purple</i></u>	<u>Alice Walker</u>	ALA [14] /Rad
<u><i>Crazy Lady!</i></u>	<u>Jane Conly</u>	ALA [42]
<u><i>Cross Your Fingers, Spit in Your Hat</i></u>	<u>Alvin Schwartz</u>	ALA
<u><i>Cujo</i></u>	<u>Stephen King</u>	ALA
<u><i>Curses, Hexes and Spells</i></u>	<u>Daniel Cohen</u>	ALA
<u><i>Cut</i></u>	<u>Patricia McCormick</u>	ALA [86]
<u><i>Daddy's Roommate</i></u>	<u>Michael Willhoite</u>	ALA
<u><i>A Day No Pigs Would Die</i></u>	<u>Robert Newton Peck</u>	ALA
<u><i>The Dead Zone</i></u>	<u>Stephen King</u>	ALA
<u><i>Deenie</i></u>	<u>Judy Blume</u>	ALA
<u><i>Detour for Emmy</i></u>	<u>Marilyn Revnolds</u>	ALA
<u><i>The Drowning of Stephan Jones</i></u>	<u>Bette Greene</u>	ALA
<u><i>Earth's Children</i> (series)</u>	<u>Jean M. Auel</u>	ALA
<u><i>The Exorcist</i></u>	<u>William Peter Blatty</u>	ALA
<u><i>The Face on the Milk Carton</i></u>	<u>Caroline B. Cooney</u>	ALA
<u><i>Fade</i></u>	<u>Robert Cormier</u>	ALA

<u>Fallen Angels</u>	<u>Walter Dean Myers</u>	ALA
<u>Family Secrets</u>	<u>Norma Klein</u>	ALA
<u>A Farewell to Arms</u>	<u>Ernest Hemingway</u>	Rad
<u>Final Exit</u>	<u>Derek Humphry</u>	ALA
<u>Flowers for Algernon</u>	<u>Daniel Keyes</u>	ALA
<u>For Whom the Bell Tolls</u>	<u>Ernest Hemingway</u>	Rad
<u>Forever</u>	<u>Judy Blume</u>	ALA
<u>Girls and Sex</u>	<u>Wardell Pomeroy</u>	ALA
<u>The Giver</u>	<u>Lois Lowry</u>	ALA [014]
<u>Go Ask Alice</u>	<u>Anonymous</u>	ALA
<u>Go Tell It on the Mountain</u>	<u>James Baldwin</u>	Rad
<u>The Goats</u>	<u>Brock Cole</u>	ALA
<u>Gone with the Wind</u>	<u>Margaret Mitchell</u>	Rad
<u>Goosebumps (series)</u>	<u>R. L. Stine</u>	ALA
<u>The Grapes of Wrath</u>	<u>John Steinbeck</u>	Rad
<u>The Great Gatsby</u>	<u>F. Scott Fitzgerald</u>	Rad
<u>The Great Gilly Hopkins</u>	<u>Katherine Paterson</u>	ALA

<u>Guess What?</u>	<u>Mem Fox</u>	ALA
<u>Halloween ABC</u>	<u>Eve Merriam</u>	ALA
<u>The Handmaid's Tale</u>	<u>Margaret Atwood</u>	ALA
<u>Harry Potter (series)</u>	<u>J. K. Rowling</u>	ALA
<u>Heart of Darkness</u>	<u>Joseph Conrad</u>	Rad
<u>Heather Has Two Mommies</u>	<u>Lesléa Newman</u>	ALA
<u>The House of the Spirits</u>	<u>Isabel Allende</u>	ALA
<u>How to Eat Fried Worms</u>	<u>Thomas Rockwell</u>	ALA
<u>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</u>	<u>Maya Angelou</u>	ALA
<u>In Cold Blood</u>	<u>Truman Capote</u>	Rad
<u>In the Night Kitchen</u>	<u>Maurice Sendak</u>	ALA
<u>Invisible Man</u>	<u>Ralph Ellison</u>	Rad
<u>It's Perfectly Normal</u>	<u>Robie Harris</u>	ALA
<u>It's So Amazing</u>	<u>Robie Harris</u>	ALA

1. ^{^ a b} "100 Most Frequently Challenged Books: 1990–1999". American Library Association. 2009-07-29.
2. http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/challengedbydecade/1990_1999/index.cfm. Retrieved 2010-04-01.

^ "Banned and/or Challenged Books from the Radcliffe Publishing Course top 100 novels of the 20th

century".

<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/challengedclassics/index.cfm>.

Retrieved 2010-09-29.

1.

Retrieved from "[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of most-commonly challenged books in the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_most-commonly_challenged_books_in_the_United_States)"

Categories: Lists of books | Lists of controversial books | Freedom of expression

Hidden categories: Articles slanted towards recent events from February 2010 | This page was last modified on 29 September 2010 at 06:18.

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Banned Book Week

September 26–October 3, 2009

* It's Perfectly Normal

2009

Retained in the Lewiston (ME) Public Library after a patron refused to return a book due to her (objections to its content.) Other patrons donated four copies of the book which remains in circulation at the library.

2008

A Lewiston (ME) patron refused to return the book to the Lewiston and Auburn public libraries because she was "sufficiently horrified by the illustrations and sexually graphic, amoral, abnormal contents." A police investigation found the library did not violate the town ordinance against obscenity and the patron will stand trial for theft.

2006

Restricted, but later, based upon a review committee's recommendations, returned to general circulation shelves with some limits on student access in the Holt Middle School library in Fayetteville (AR) despite a parent's complaint that it was (sexually explicit.)

2005

Challenged, but retained at the Holt Middle School library in Fayetteville (AR) despite a parent's complaint that it was (sexually explicit.)

2004

Moved from the young adult to the adult section of the Fort Bend County Libraries in Richmond (TX). Also moved to the restricted section of the Fort Bend School Districts media centers after a resident complained via email about the book's content.

2003

Challenged, but retained, in Montgomery County (TX) library system after the Republican Leadership Council characterized the book as ("vulgar") and trying to "minimize or even negate that homosexuality is a problem".

2002

Restricted in elementary and middle school due to (objections of "value statements".)

2001

Challenged in Holland (MA) and Marion County (FL) public libraries due to (sexually explicit content.)

Held at Cabell County Public Library

Return to [Author](#) or [Title Banned Book List](#)
[Homepage](#)

[Banned Books](#)
For more information contact [Ron Titus](#)

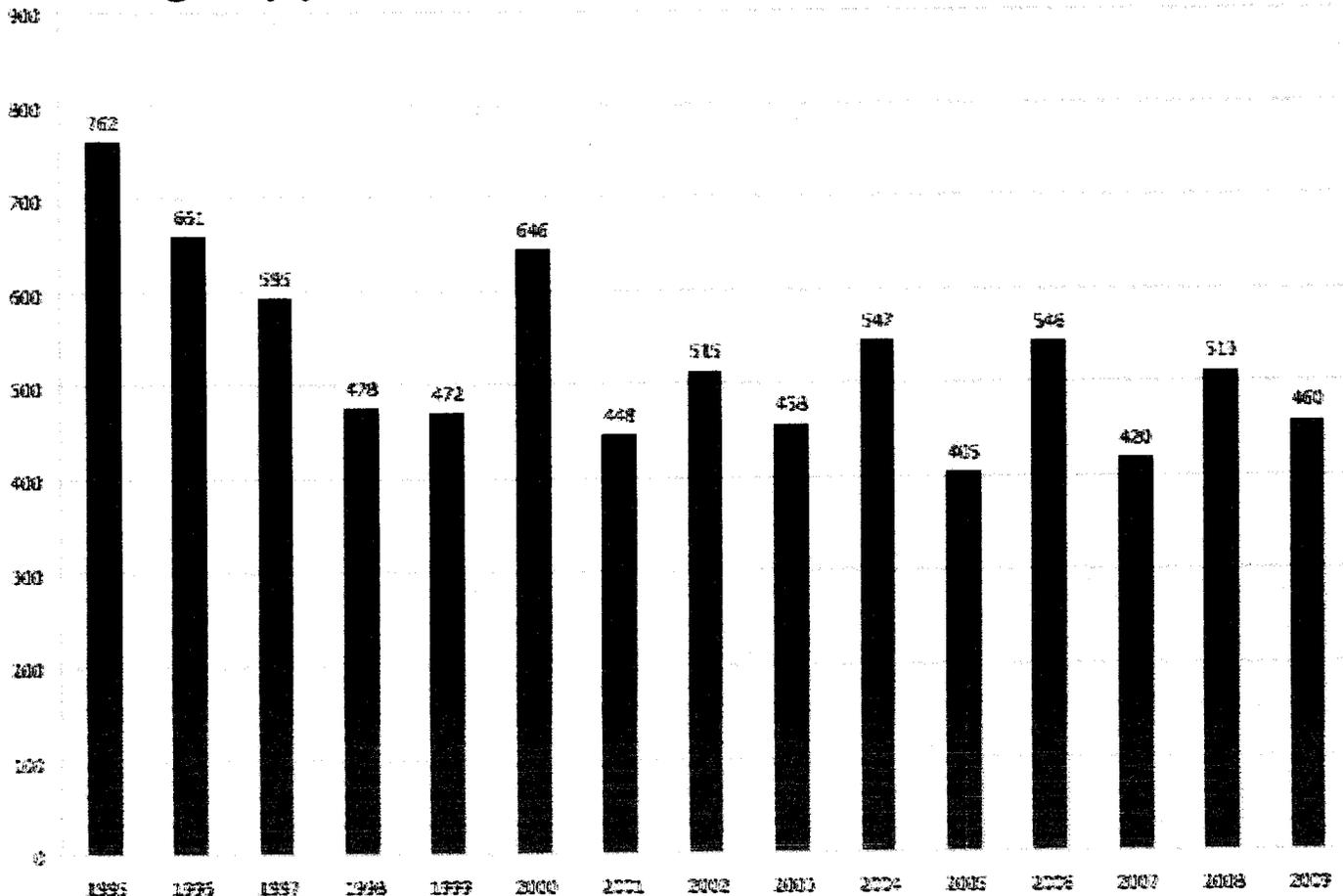
Site last modified August 6, 2010

Marshall University Libraries | One John Marshall Drive | Huntington, WV 25755-2100
304.696.6320 | [EMAIL](#)

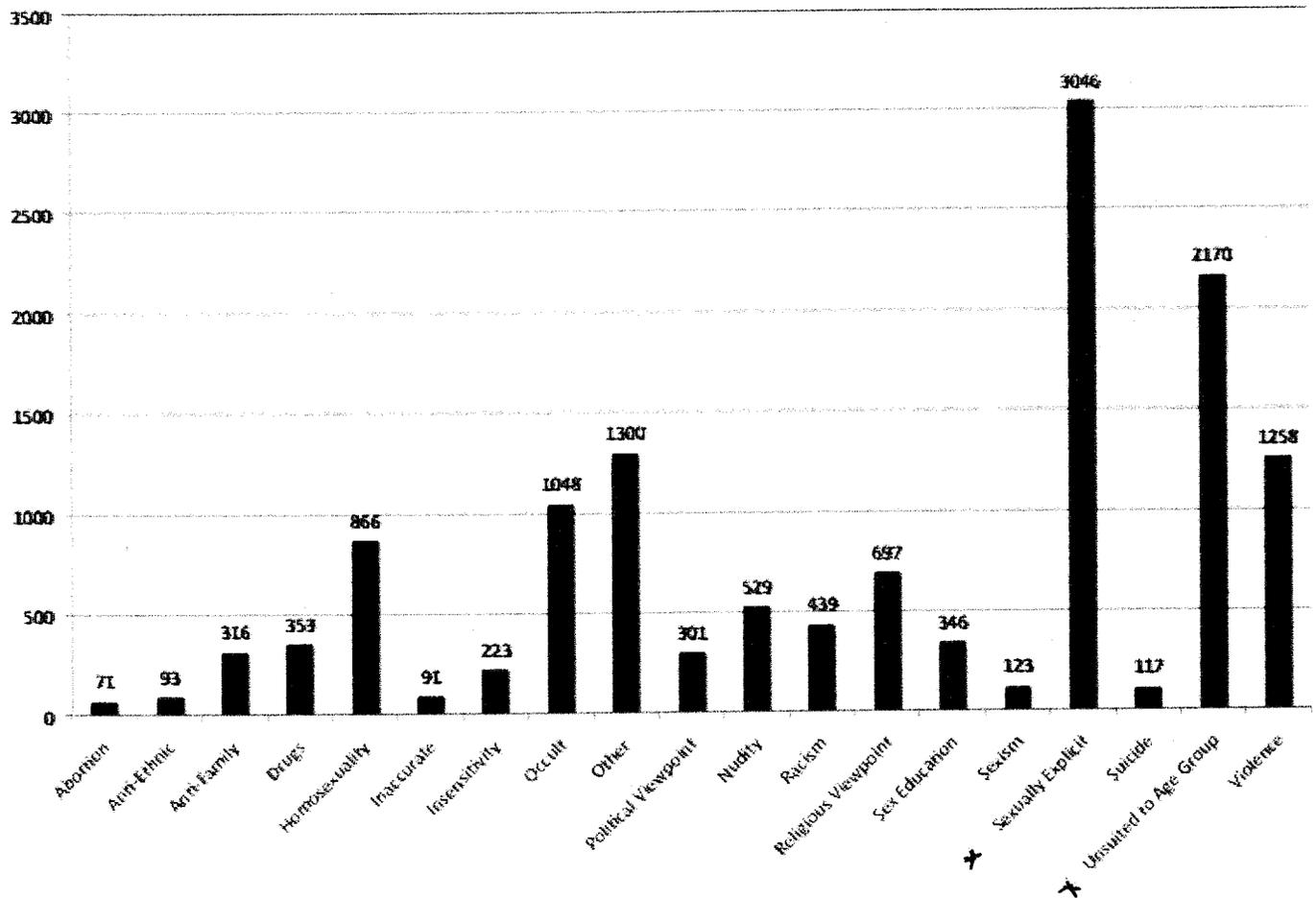
Number of Challenges by Year, Reason, Initiator & Institution (1990 - 2009)

These figures are pulled from our Challenge Database, which currently has 10,676 challenges on record. You will notice that if you add up the numbers of challenges by reason or initiator, the total will be greater than 10,676. This is because many challenges have multiple reasons or initiators. Please contact the Office for Intellectual Freedom (800-545-2433, ext. 4220; oif@ala.org) if you have any questions regarding the graphs below.

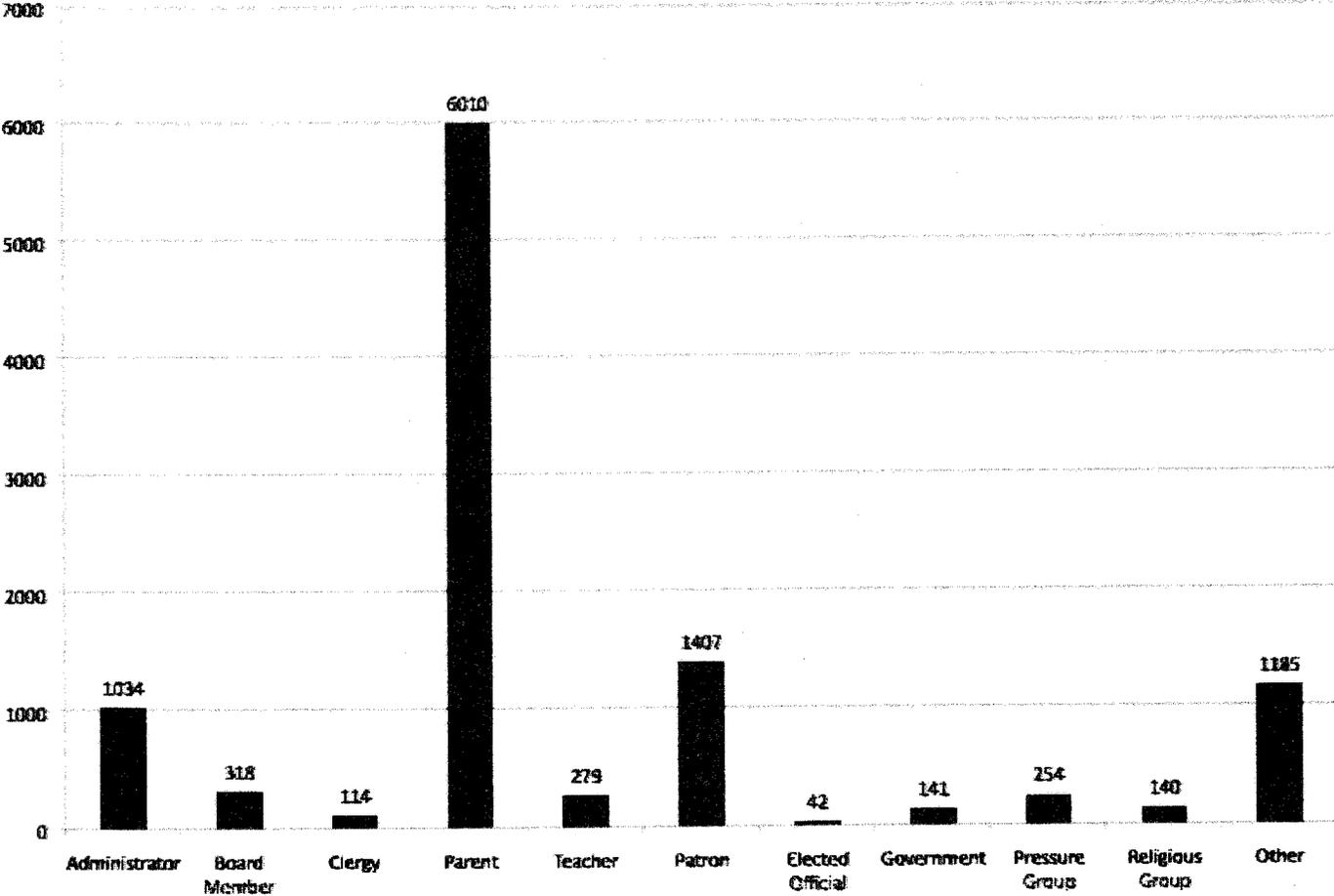
Challenges by year



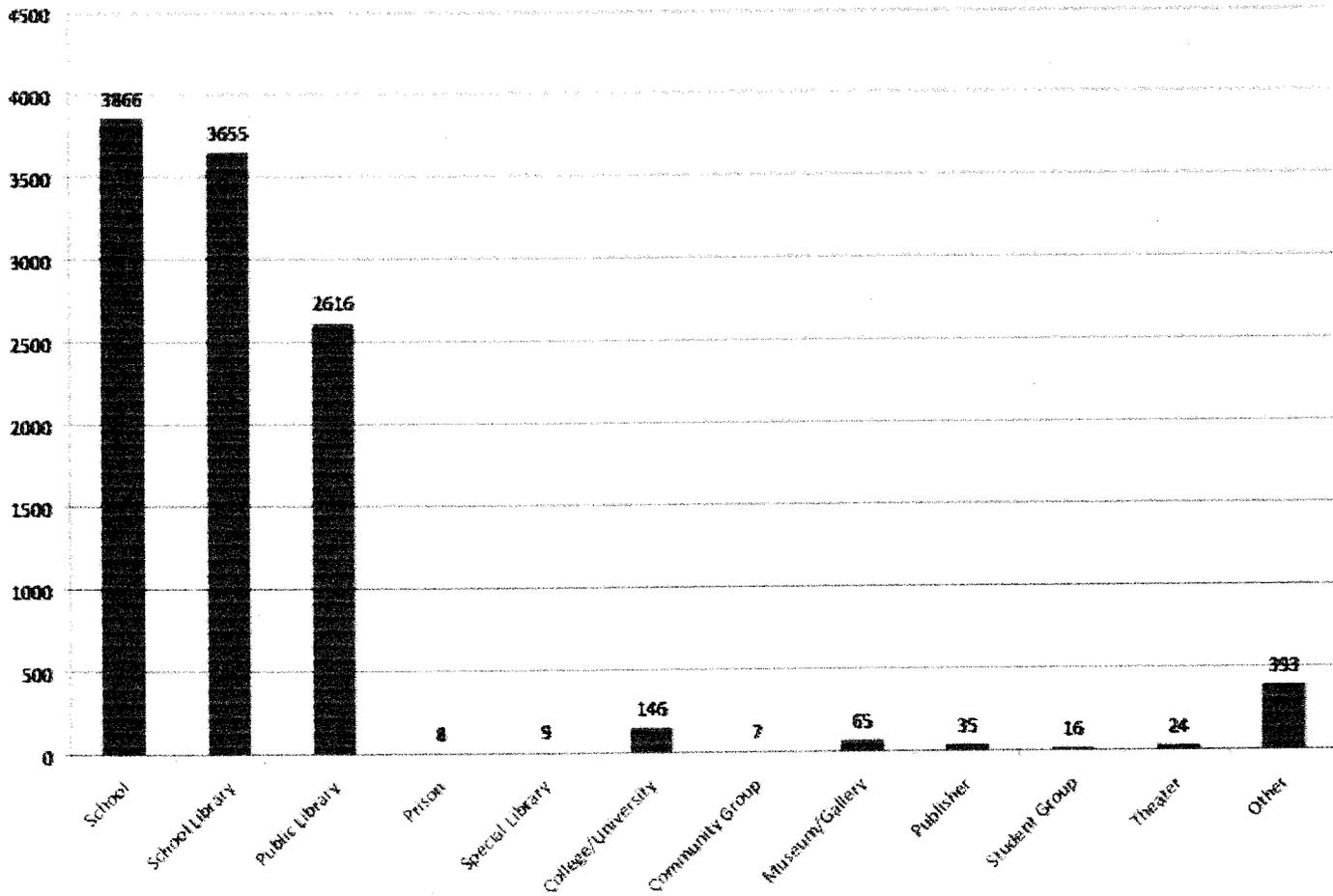
Challenges by reason



Challenges by initiator



Challenges by institution



and *The Great Fire* by Jim Murphy (Scholastic)

Picture Book

John Henry retold by Julius Lester, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (Dial)

Honor Book *Swamp Angel* written by Anne Isaacs, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky (Dutton)

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(<http://www.xuite101.com/content/popular-book-provides-sex-education-for-youth--a122627>)

Popular Book Provides Sex Education for Youth

Experts Answer Questions About Pregnancy, Puberty, and Sex

Jun 3, 2009 Michael Jung

✱ *It's Perfectly Normal* - Michael Emberley, Candlewick Press

Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley's *It's Perfectly Normal* helps facilitate sex education in schools and aids parents in answering their kids' pregnancy questions.

Providing kids with an effective sex education is an important task for parents – yet often this vital part of parenting is downplayed or put off entirely. Parents may not know what kinds of sex education resources are appropriate for different age groups, or even the best way to present the kinds of pregnancy information kids need.

For the last fifteen years, however, child development specialist Robie H. Harris and illustrator Michael Emberley's popular yet **controversial book** *It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex & Sexual Health* has been providing frank explanations about pregnancy, sex, and puberty that parents, teachers, and teenagers in over twenty countries have used in their sex education.

Created through consultations with parents, teachers, librarians, nurses, doctors, social workers, psychologists, scientists and clergy, *It's Perfectly Normal* has received accolades from many sources including *Parenting* and *Child* magazine. At the same time, the book has been the ✱ **subject of controversy, primarily for its anatomically correct illustrations**, making its use a matter of personal choice for parents and teenagers.

PlanningFamily.com

It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex & Sexual Health

Recommended for ages ten and up, *It's Perfectly Normal* provides in-depth explanations of sex and conception through a combination of textual explanations written by Harris and cartoon-style illustrations drawn by Emberley of developing bodies, female periods, sperm productions, fertilization, and birth.

Narrated by Bird and Bee, two cartoon animals who reflect different views on sex (Bird enjoys learning about sexual health while Bee is squeamish about sex education), the book answers questions about pregnancy, puberty, and sexual health for preteens and teenagers. While early chapters cover the basics of developing bodies and pregnancy, later sections also go into more **controversial** yet relevant topics such as masturbation, birth control, in vitro fertilization, artificial insemination, and abortion.

Notably, some of the chapters also deal with the social aspects of relationships – including sections that cover heterosexual, homosexual, and bisexual relationships, as well as building families through adoption.

Read on:

- [Talking About Sex With Children](#)
- [Teenage Pregnancy Online Resources](#)
- [Teens and STDs](#)

In general, Harris and Emberley promote a positive, healthy attitude toward sex, encouraging mutual respect and personal responsibility in nonsexual and sexual relationships, while noting **abstinence** remains the surest way to prevent infection from sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Sexual abuse and harassment is also addressed, and the author and illustrator make sure to devote a section to what constitutes sexual abuse and how to deal with these issues.

As a resource that has been published since the 1990s, Harris has promised that later editions will be updated as new health and science information becomes available, including information on STDs; such as HIV, hepatitis, and syphilis; and STD treatment. The 15th edition released in 2009 also includes a new chapter on Internet safety, reflecting the different concerns of the 21st century.

A Controversial Book

For all of the accolades and awards that *It's Perfectly Normal* has received, this resource has also been a **subject of controversy**. In 2005, the book even topped the American Library Association's list of most challenged books (ironic considering *It's Perfectly Normal* is also an American Library Association Notable Children's Book).

✦ **Chief among the criticisms** is the book's free use of nudity in its illustrations, which include **scenes of sexual intercourse and two scenes of masturbation**. Others have criticized the book on religious grounds or even accused the book of **promoting sexual relations among minors** (despite the fact that Harris gives many physiological, financial, and emotional reasons why young people should not rush into sexual intercourse).

Ultimately, while *It's Perfectly Normal* is a good sex education resource for parents and teachers, its value can only be realized if parents and teachers take the time to read through the book prior to sharing it with their kids. Although **the guide** is recommended for kids ten and up, **its age appropriateness can only be determined by those who know the maturity level of their kids or students.**

Likewise, as well-written as this resource is, it cannot substitute for honest and open discussions about sexual health – although it can certainly provide good motivation for such discussions, as well as a welcome reference for information both adults and children are not familiar with. **Overall then, the book is an excellent resource and supplement to sex education – so long as its readers know how to use it properly.**

Read about Robie H. Harris' other sex education books at [Sex Education Books for Children](#).

Harris, Robie H. and Michael Emberley. *It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex & Sexual Health*. Massachusetts: Candlewick Press. 2004. ISBN: 978-0-7636-2433-0

Read more at Suite101: [Popular Book Provides Sex Education for Youth: Experts Answer Questions About Pregnancy, Puberty, and Sex](http://www.suite101.com/content/popular-book-provides-sex-education-for-youth-a122627#ixzz1GBO4hVDy) <http://www.suite101.com/content/popular-book-provides-sex-education-for-youth-a122627#ixzz1GBO4hVDy>

Frequently Challenged Books

The ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) receives reports from libraries, schools, and the media on attempts to ban books in communities across the country. We compile lists of challenged books in order to inform the public about censorship efforts that affect libraries and schools. The ALA condemns censorship and works to ensure free access to information. For more information on ALA's efforts to raise awareness of censorship and promote the freedom to read, please explore Banned Books Week.

We do not claim comprehensiveness in recording challenges as research suggests that for each challenge reported there are as many as four or five that go unreported. In addition, OIF has only been collecting data about banned books since 1990, so we do not have any lists of frequently challenged books or authors before that date.

How is the list of most challenged books tabulated?

The Office for Intellectual Freedom collects information from two sources: newspapers and reports submitted by individuals, some of whom use the Challenge Reporting Form. All challenges are compiled into a database. Reports of challenges culled from newspapers across the country are compiled in the bimonthly Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom (published by the ALA, \$40 per year); those reports are then compiled in the Banned Books Week Resource Guide. Challenges reported to the ALA by individuals are kept confidential. In these cases, ALA will release only the title of the book being challenged, the state and the type of institution (school, public library). The name of the institution and its town will not be disclosed.

Where can you find more information on why a particular book was banned?

- Visit your local public library and ask your librarian.
- Find or purchase the latest Banned Books Week Resource Guide, updated every three years, which may be available at or through your local public library.
- E-mail the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom to ask about a specific book. A staff member will reply with any information the office has on file. Please limit your inquiry to one book. If you would like information on more than one book, please consider purchasing the Banned Books Week Resource Guide.
- See Banned and Challenged Classics.
- Check out the Banned Books Week > Ideas & Resources > Free Downloads page where you can find the yearly Books Challenged or Banned Lists that contain more information on why a book was challenged.

If the information you need is not listed in the links to the left, please feel free to contact the Office for Intellectual Freedom at (800) 545-2433, ext. 4220, or oif@ala.org.

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About Banned & Challenged Books

What's the difference between a challenge and a banning?

A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the removal of those materials. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others. Due to the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents, students and other concerned citizens, most challenges are unsuccessful and most materials are retained in the school curriculum or library collection.

Why are books challenged?

Books usually are challenged with the best intentions—to protect others, frequently children, from difficult ideas and information. See Notable First Amendment Cases.

Censorship can be subtle, almost imperceptible, as well as blatant and overt, but, nonetheless, harmful. As John Stuart Mill wrote in *On Liberty*:

If all mankind minus one, were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind. Were an opinion a personal possession of no value except to the owner; if to be obstructed in the enjoyment of it were simply a private injury, it would make some difference whether the injury was inflicted only on a few persons or on many. But the peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is, that it is robbing the human race; posterity as well as the existing generation; those who dissent from the opinion, still more than those who hold it. If the opinion is right, they are deprived of the opportunity of exchanging error for truth: if wrong, they lose, what is almost as great a benefit, the clearer perception and livelier impression of truth, produced by its collision with error.

— *On Liberty*, John Stuart Mill

* **Often challenges are motivated by a desire to protect children from “inappropriate” sexual content or “offensive” language. The following were the top three reasons cited for challenging materials as reported to the Office of Intellectual Freedom:**

1. the material was considered to be "sexually explicit"
2. the material contained "offensive language"
3. the materials was "unsuited to any age group"

Although this is a commendable motivation, Free Access to Libraries for Minors, an interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (ALA's basic policy concerning access to information) states that, "Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents—and only parents—have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children—and only their children—to library resources." Censorship by librarians of constitutionally protected speech, whether for protection or for any other reason, violates the First Amendment.

As Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., in *Texas v. Johnson*, said most eloquently:

If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable.

If we are to continue to protect our First Amendment, we would do well to keep in mind these words of Noam Chomsky:

If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don't believe in it at all.

Or these words of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas (" The One Un-American Act." *Nieman Reports*, vol. 7, no. 1, Jan. 1953, p. 20):

Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us.

Who Challenges Books?

Throughout history, more and different kinds of people and groups of all persuasions than you might first suppose, who, for all sorts of reasons, have attempted—and continue to attempt—to suppress anything that conflicts with or anyone who disagrees with their own beliefs.

In his book *Free Speech for Me—But Not for Thee: How the American Left and Right Relentlessly Censor Each Other*, Nat Hentoff writes that “the lust to suppress can come from any direction.” He quotes Phil Kerby, a former editor of the Los Angeles Times, as saying, “Censorship is the strongest drive in human nature; sex is a weak second.”

✱ According to the Challenges by Initiator, Institution, Type, and Year, parents challenge materials more often than any other group.

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(<http://www.hbook.com/bghb/past/past.asp>)

Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards

Winners and Honor Books 1967 to present

✱ 1995

Fiction

Some of the Kinder Planets by Tim Wynne-Jones (Kroupa/Orchard)

Honor Books *Jericho* by Janet Hickman (Greenwillow); and *Earthshine* by Theresa Nelson (Jackson/Orchard)

Nonfiction

Abigail Adams: Witness to a Revolution by Natalie S. Bober (Atheneum)

✱ **Honor Books** *It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health* written by Robie H. Harris, illustrated by Michael Emberley (Candlewick);

Montana Accreditation Standards for Health Enhancement

Montana Accreditation Standards are curricular requirements for schools and are adopted by the Board of Public Education as administrative rules under the laws of Montana.

Health Enhancement Standards are requirements for school curriculum specific to Health Enhancement. Schools are accountable for meeting the standards, but the standards are designed with flexibility because curricular content is the prerogative of the local district. In other words, schools must provide a curriculum-based Health Enhancement program that meets the standards but the content of what is in the curriculum is up to the local district. Benchmarks are provided to guide local districts in developing and implementing curricula that will meet the standards.

Content Standards are broad statements of the knowledge and skill concepts that are to be addressed. For example, Health Enhancement Content Standard 1 is: *Have a basic knowledge and understanding of concepts that promote comprehensive health.*

Benchmarks indicate what students should know and be able to do at certain grade levels.

How is a sexuality education component of a Health Enhancement program addressed in the Standards?

Content Standard 1 *Have a basic knowledge and understanding of concepts that promote comprehensive health.*

Benchmark by end of Grade 4 – identify personal health enhancing strategies that encompass disease prevention

Benchmark by end of Grade 8 – explain relationship between positive behaviors and the prevention of disease; explain personal health enhancing strategies that encompass sexual activity and disease prevention

Benchmark by the end of Grade 12 – analyze how attitudes and behaviors can impact health and disease prevention; explain impact of personal health on body systems, including the reproductive system; develop personal health enhancing strategies that encompass sexual activity and disease prevention.

Program Content

The content of the human sexuality component of a Health Enhancement program is a decision for the local school. The content should reflect the values of the community. Whether the approach is abstinence-based, abstinence until marriage or abstinence only, the materials used should be age-appropriate and medically and scientifically accurate. Public health supports a program that is age-appropriate, abstinence-based, and includes strategies and skills practice in refusal skills, negotiation skills, communication skills and resistance to peer pressure. Further, the program public health supports is designed to: (a) support youth who have not had sexual intercourse to continue to postpone the initiation of sexual intercourse, (b) help youth who have had sexual intercourse to re-establish abstinence, and (c) present information on disease prevention methods for those unable or unwilling to refrain from sexual intercourse. Persons who may become sexually active at a later or more appropriate time in their lives can use the information to make healthy decisions when they do become sexually active. The content should explain the health reasons for refraining from sexual intercourse as well as the health consequences for engaging in sexual intercourse.

★ Materials

Materials should include (age-appropriate,) (clear, medically and scientifically correct,) up-to-date information regarding sexual activity prior to and including a monogamous relationship through marriage. As can be seen by the benchmark for (Grade 4,) sexuality education is not stated as part of the curriculum. The first benchmark where sexuality education is mentioned is the (by-the-end-of-Grade-8) benchmark. It is important to remember that curricular content (i.e., what is taught and when it is taught) is a local control decision made by the local school board.

Materials used in the sexuality education component of a Health Enhancement program should meet three areas of consideration. These are:

- ★ - Do the materials reflect the (values and wishes of the community?)
It is unlikely that no material will reflect the values of each individual person or family in a community, but the materials used can reflect the values of the community as a whole. The materials should be considered in view of the school as an extension of the community and not as an extension of an individual family. Reasonable questions to ask include: Is the material offensive to the community as a whole? Is the material discriminatory? Is the material presenting information the community thinks is important?
- Is the information presented in an educational manner?
Several questions can be asked in this instance: Is the information presented by a person trained and skilled in providing the information? Is the information developmentally and age appropriate for the intended audience? Is the information current? Does the information contain sex role stereotypes? Is the information culturally sensitive?
- Is the information presented correct and accurate?
In the case of human sexuality education, is the information based on current scientific, medical and public health knowledge? Is the information biased or discriminatory? Some videos become outdated and are either incorrect, incomplete or confusing. Many times it is left to the discretion of individual teachers as to whether supplementary materials fit within the parameters of the district's health education program. Health educators have current information in this area and public health professionals (such as local health departments, physicians and nurses) can assist in determining if the information is current and accurate.

Summary Statement

The Office of Public Instruction firmly endorses the concept of local control for schools. Although the sexuality education provided by a local school should be consistent with the most reasoned approach of public health and health education professionals, the content of curriculum is a decision to be made by the local school board with input from the community.