



the  
**KIDS'**  
**RIGHT**  
to **READ**  
project

*A collaboration of the*  
American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression  
and the National Coalition Against Censorship

# The Kids' Right to Read Project

## *Background*

A recent collaboration of the **American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression (ABFFE)** and the **National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC)**, the Kids' Right to Read Project offers support, education, and advocacy to people facing book challenges or bans and engages local activists in promoting the freedom to read.

## *The Project provides:*

- Advice and assistance to students, teachers and others opposing book-banning in schools and communities nationwide
- Educational materials to promote community awareness about the right to read, including printed and online resources on the First Amendment in Schools ([www.ncac.org/education/schools](http://www.ncac.org/education/schools)) and a Book Censorship Toolkit ([www.ncac.org/literature/bookcensorshiptoolkit.cfm](http://www.ncac.org/literature/bookcensorshiptoolkit.cfm))
- Support for local activism by reaching out to students, teachers, booksellers, librarians, journalists, and other community members
- Access to a nationwide network of advocates and activists involved in promoting and defending the right to read
- A clearinghouse of information for students, journalists, scholars and others, created by tracking book censorship incidents across the country ([www.ncac.org/literature](http://www.ncac.org/literature); [www.abffe.com/schoolbookchallenges.html](http://www.abffe.com/schoolbookchallenges.html)).

In the past year, the Project has confronted challenges and bans involving  
**47 books** in **22 states**.

In Louisville, KY, a principal removed *Beloved* by Toni Morrison from AP English classes when students were 30 pages from the end of the novel, and class discussions were terminated, because some parents complained about the book's racial and sexual content.

In Grand Rapids, MI, school officials planned to razor out the play, *TopDog/UnderDog* by Suzan Lori-Parks, and any other "objectionable" material in an anthology in the AP curriculum.

In Tuscola, TX, Cormac McCarthy's *Child of God* was removed and a teacher placed on paid administrative leave following complaints from one student's parents.

In cases like these, we contact local reporters, teachers, booksellers, librarians, and others involved in the controversy, write letters to the school board or local newspaper in support of the books, provide educational materials and talking points to local activists, and track cases online. We also respond to student research inquiries about banned books and censorship in schools.

Local community involvement is essential to the work of the Kids' Right to Read Project, and we work directly with teachers, librarians and booksellers to defend the freedom to read. In just the past six months, we have worked with educators in Florida, Illinois, and Colorado, and with booksellers and community members in New York, North Carolina, and Maryland, providing resources and support of their advocacy for the right to read.

### *The Kids' Right to Read Project: By the Numbers*

- **47 titles**
- **22 states:** AL, CA, CO, CT, FL, IL, IN, IA, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, MO, MT, NY, NC, ND, OK, TX, VA, WV
- We have worked with authors Ellen Wittlinger, Carolyn Mackler, Susan Patron, Diana Abu-Jaber, Chris Crutcher, John Green, Julia Alvarez, and Judy Blume.

..... ALABAMA .....

**Brookwood, AL**

*Sandpiper* by Ellen Wittlinger (Simon & Schuster) was challenged in September 2007 at Brookwood High School by a student and her grandmother who objected to sexual content. The student refused to return the book to the school library. A review committee recommended that the book be retained in school libraries. ABFFE and NCAC sent a letter to the school board in support of the book. The board voted to keep *Sandpiper*, but board members promised to consider policies to prevent potentially “offensive” material from being included in library collections.

..... CALIFORNIA .....

**Concord, CA**

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry (Random House) was challenged and reviewed in Mt. Diablo School District in November 2007 for use on the sixth-grade optional reading list and in the school library. We sent a letter to the local newspaper to publicly oppose the challenge.

..... COLORADO .....

**Colorado Springs, CO**

A middle school teacher reported challenges to books in his school library including the removal of *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things* by Carolyn Mackler (Candlewick) in late February 2008. We provided educational resources for the teacher to use as he gathered more information about the challenges.

..... CONNECTICUT .....

**Manchester, CT**

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain (Penguin) was challenged for use in the 11th grade curriculum at Manchester High School in December 2007. One parent objected to racially sensitive language in the book. We wrote a letter to the local newspaper opposing the challenges. The book was returned to classrooms in January 2008.

## **Wilton, CT**

In April 2007, ABFFE and NCAC joined over thirty prominent members of the Dramatists Guild and other free speech advocates in opposing the banning of *Voices in Conflict*, a student play about Iraq. The Wilton High School principal cancelled the show due to questions of political balance and context. According to the Superintendent's press release, the school objected to the students' use of media sources and personal letters and the fact that the students themselves played the roles of the soldiers whose lives they portrayed. The students were welcomed at public theaters in Connecticut and New York, where their performances sold out repeatedly. Each performance was followed by a "talk back" between actors and audience members. In November 2007, the students and their teacher, Bonnie Dickinson, were honored at NCAC's annual *Celebration of Free Speech and Its Defenders* at the Rubin Museum of Art in New York City.

..... FLORIDA .....

## **Miami, FL**

*Vamos A Cuba* by Alta Schreier (Heinemann) was banned in April 2006 by the Miami-Dade County School Board because a local parent complained that the book paints too favorable a picture of Cuba. The school board decided to ban the entire series of travel books, which are intended for children ages 4-8. ABFFE joined an amicus brief in support of the ACLU lawsuit opposing the school board's decision. A three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments in the case on June 6, 2007. A decision was still pending in May 2008.

## **Jacksonville, FL**

In March 2007, *Vegan Virgin Valentine* by Carolyn Mackler (Candlewick) was challenged in Mandarin High School library for language some parents found objectionable. The challengers wanted, at minimum, parental permission to be required for students to check the book out of the library. Also in the Duval County Public Schools, parents challenged four books in the school library at LaVilla School for the Arts, a Jacksonville middle school. They objected to *Lucky* by Eddie de Oliveira (Scholastic), *Beyond the Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier (Random

House), *Tiger Eyes* by Judy Blume (Random House), and *Olive's Ocean* by Kevin Henkes (Harper). Most of the objections concerned the allegedly "offensive" language in the books. In the case of *Lucky*, the critics disliked the protagonist's questioning of his own sexuality. ABFFE and NCAC joined with PEN American Center in writing letters to the school principal and Superintendent urging them to retain the books and to follow a thorough review policy.

### **Lehigh Acres, FL**

*The Amazing Bone* by William Steig (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) was challenged at Sunshine Elementary School in February 2008 by a parent who objected to a scene in the book in which robbers try to steal from the main character (a pig) and brandish pistols and a dagger. The parent wanted the book removed from the library. NCAC and ABFFE worked with the school principal and provided informational resources on the First Amendment in schools to the school's book review committee. In an interview with a local TV station, we emphasized the importance of protecting all parents' First Amendment rights to decide what their children may read. The review committee voted on February 8, 2008 to keep *The Amazing Bone* in the school, and school officials worked with the parent to accommodate the family individually.

### **Tampa, FL**

*Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen (Penguin) was challenged in December 2007 at Armwood High School by a few parents who objected to the book's sexual themes and language and requested that it be removed from the school library. ABFFE and NCAC sent a letter to the *Tampa Tribune* and the Hillsborough County School Board in support of the book. A review committee of teachers, parents, and students voted unanimously to keep the book in the library.

### **New Tampa, FL**

*The Land* by Mildred D. Taylor (Penguin) and *The Starplace* by Vicki Grove (Penguin) were challenged in the Turner Elementary School library in New Tampa in March 2008. One student's parents objected to the authors' use of racial language and wanted the books removed from the elementary school library. A school-based committee reviewed *The Land* and voted to remove it from the library and donate it to a middle school. As of May 2008, *The Starplace* was still under review.

..... ILLINOIS .....

**Deerfield, IL**

*Angels in America* by Tony Kushner (Theatre Communications Group) was challenged at Deerfield High School in March 2008. A community member objected to the play’s sexual, religious, and racial content and wanted it removed from the school’s AP English classes. The school then offered the play as an “opt-in” assignment. In addition, a local organization publicly attacked the play, calling it “pornography.” NCAC, ABFFE, and three organizations sent a letter to the Superintendent and School Board supporting their resolve to stand by First Amendment principles and keep the play in the curriculum. The school board voted unanimously to uphold the principal’s decision to keep the play in classes.

..... INDIANA .....

**Indianapolis, IN**

*The Freedom Writers Diary* by Erin Gruwell (Random House) was removed from English 11 classes at Perry Meridian High School in February 2008 while students were in the process of reading it. No formal complaint process against the book was initiated, students’ parents had signed permission slips indicating their approval of the book’s use, and the book is freely available in the high school library. ABFFE and NCAC were joined by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) in sending a letter to the school board opposing the book’s removal.

..... IOWA .....

**Missouri Valley, IA**

In early March 2007, *Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher (Random House) was challenged in tenth grade English classes at Missouri Valley High School by a local pastor who complained about the book’s “objectionable language.” Following a letter from ABFFE and NCAC, the book reconsideration committee recommended that the school board vote to keep the book, and the books were subsequently returned to classrooms.

..... KENTUCKY .....

**Louisville, KY**

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison (Random House) was removed from Advanced Placement English classrooms at Eastern High School in Louisville, KY, in March 2007 because some parents complained about the book's racial and sexual content. Students were told to stop reading the book within 30 pages from the end of the novel, and class discussions were terminated. ABFFE and NCAC were joined by PEN American Center and the National Council of Teachers of English in opposing the book's removal. We also worked with the local chapter of the ACLU and local activists. We have received no response to date.

**Winchester, KY**

*The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman (Random House) was challenged in October 2007 by parents and some local Christian leaders who believed it to be anti-Christian. The school board appointed a review committee to read the book and make recommendations to the board. ABFFE and NCAC sent letters to the committee and the school board in support of the book. In addition, the Catholic League, a national advocacy organization, is urging parents to keep their children from seeing the new film, *The Golden Compass*, for fear that it will encourage kids to read the book, which they condemn as anti-Christian. We created a web page to track challenges to the book and provide resources for opposing them.

..... MAINE .....

**Lewiston, ME**

In September 2007, a woman refused to return *It's Perfectly Normal* written by Robie H. Harris and illustrated by Michael Emberley (Candlewick) to the Lewiston public library and filed obscenity charges against the library because she objected to the book's sexual content. The patron was issued a civil complaint summons for refusing to return the library book after she was asked to return it. We contacted the librarian to offer support and resources in dealing with the controversy. Ellen Richmond of Children's Book Cellar in Waterville, ME, alerted us to this incident, and we worked with her to monitor the controversy as the case was reviewed by the library board.

..... MARYLAND .....

**Bel Air, MD**

In April 2007, *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier (Random House) was removed from the ninth grade Social Studies curriculum in Harford County Public Schools. Parents challenged the book because they objected to language, sexual content, and references to homosexuality. ABFFE and NCAC were joined by the National Council of Teachers of English, the Association of American Publishers Freedom to Read, the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom, and PEN American Center in sending a letter opposing the ban. The Superintendent reversed her decision, and *The Chocolate War* was returned to classrooms in November 2007.

..... MASSACHUSETTS .....

**Dover/Sherborn, MA**

*So Far from the Bamboo Grove* by Yoko Kawashima Watkins (Harper) was challenged in Dover-Sherborn Middle School in December 2006 by parents who found its depiction of Koreans during World War II offensive, calling this work of fiction “historically inaccurate.” The challengers also sought to bar the author from visiting the school to meet with students, though her annual presentation had been an integral part of the sixth grade English Language Arts unit on “survival” for years. Partly in response to a letter from ABFFE, NCAC, and other free expression groups, the school board reversed a committee decision that had recommended removing the book. This incident was brought to our attention by Carol Chittenden of Eight Cousins Bookstore in Falmouth, MA, with whom we worked in responding to the controversy.

..... MICHIGAN .....

**Howell, MI**

*Black Boy* by Richard Wright (Harper), *Running with Scissors* by Augusten Burroughs (Macmillan), *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison (Random House), *Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut (Random House), and *The Freedom Writers Diary* by Erin Gruwell (Random House) were challenged in Howell High School in February 2007 for sexual themes and profanity by members of the Livingston Organization for Values in

Education (LOVE) with assistance from the Michigan chapter of the American Family Association. ABFFE and NCAC were joined by nine free expression groups in a letter to the school board urging them to keep the books. The school board voted 5-2 to retain all of them. Dissatisfied with this result, the AFA also assisted LOVE in filing a complaint with the State Attorney General and the U.S. Department of Justice, claiming that the books violate laws against child pornography and sexual abuse. The U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan referred the matter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. However, federal, state, and local prosecutors alike declared the complaints to be without merit.

..... MISSOURI .....

**St. Louis County, MO**

Local residents concerned about efforts to restrict access to books in the Daniel Boone branch of the St. Louis County Public Library contacted us to report challenges to several books for young adults. *Growing Up Gay in America* by Jason R. Rich (Franklin Rich), *Homosexuality: What Does It Mean?*(Perspectives on Healthy Sexuality) by Julie K. Endersbe (Capstone Press), *Making Sexual Decisions: The Ultimate Teen Guide* (It Happened to Me, No. 4) by L. Kris Gowen (The Scarecrow Press), and *A-List #6, Some Like It Hot* by Zoey Dean (Poppy) were challenged by a community member who called them “obscene” and spoke against the books at a City Council meeting. We wrote a letter to the City Council and a local newspaper opposing the challenges.

..... MONTANA .....

**Helena, MT**

*Fool’s Crow* by James Welch (Penguin) was challenged for use in the tenth grade English curriculum in Helena Public Schools in April 2007. One parent objected to violence and sexual content in the book. The parent said she would be satisfied with an alternative assignment for her son, but the school district said it never offered him one because he never asked. NCAC and ABFFE sent a letter to the school board opposing the challenge and advising the school district about ways to deal with challenges of this nature to avoid public hearings and further controversy. *Fool’s Crow* was kept in the high school curriculum.

..... NEW YORK .....

**Westhampton Beach, NY**

*The Tenth Circle* by Jodi Picoult (Simon & Schuster) and *Cradle and All* by James Patterson (Hachette) were challenged in November 2007 by some parents who objected to sexual content in the books and requested that they be removed from the ninth grade optional reading list at Westhampton Beach High School. Terry Lucas of The Open Book bookstore in Westhampton Beach, NY, was one of four people who spoke in support of the books at the school board's initial meeting on the challenges; parents opposing the books had gathered over 75 signatures on their side. Terry wrote a letter to the school board, and we helped her to assemble a petition in support of the books and gave her talking points and assisted with plans for her store's banned book "Read-In." ABFFE and NCAC sent a letter to the school board in support of the books. The board voted 4-3 to remove the books from the optional reading list, although they will remain available in the library. In a press release, ABFFE and NCAC condemned the board's decision.

**Depew, NY**

*Looking for Alaska* by John Green (Penguin) was challenged at Depew High School in February 2008 by some parents who objected to sexual content and graphic language in the book and requested that it be removed from the 11th grade English curriculum. ABFFE and NCAC sent a letter to the *Buffalo Times*, and we were joined by Jonathon Welch of Talking Leaves... Books in Buffalo, NY, in sending a letter to the school board opposing the challenges. The school board appointed a committee to review *Looking for Alaska* and with the committee's recommendations, voted unanimously to keep the book.

..... NORTH CAROLINA .....

**Smithfield, NC**

*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez (Penguin) was removed from Johnston County Schools in December 2007 following challenges by a few parents who objected to sexual themes in the book. Although their daughter was offered an alternative assignment, the parents continued to press for the book's removal. A review committee recommended that the book be kept in school classrooms and libraries,

but a district committee decided to ban it. In addition, the district began using lists of challenged books to “weed out” potentially offensive materials. NCAC, ABFFE, and PEN American Center sent a letter to the school board condemning both decisions. We also conducted an exclusive interview with Julia Alvarez.

### **Morganton, NC**

*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (Penguin) was challenged at Freedom High School in February 2008 by a community member who objected to sexual content and graphic language in the book. A school board member also strongly objected to the book and moved to have the board circumvent the normal procedures for dealing with book challenges. The same board member also proposed amending the district’s media policy to apply standards for audio and visual materials to all materials including books. In direct violation of district policy, the Superintendent told all schools in the district to suspend use of the book pending a review by a Media Advisory Committee. ABFFE and NCAC were joined by PEN American Center, the Association of American Publishers, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom in sending a letter to the school board and superintendent opposing the challenges. The school-based media and technology committee recommended that the book be kept and that a policy be created for future reading assignments involving books with “mature content.” The policy would require that the school send written notification to parents warning them of the content of the book.

### **Raleigh, NC**

In April 2008, a third grade teacher reported objections in her elementary school to *What’s Happening to Me? A Guide to Puberty* by Peter Mayle (Lyle Stuart). We provided educational resources and support as she obtained more information about the challenges and worked to make policies about book challenges more widely known in her district.

..... NORTH DAKOTA .....

### **Fargo, ND**

*Finding Laura Buggs* and *Until They Bring the Streetcars Back*, both by Stanley Gordon West (both Lexington-Marshall Publishing) were challenged in May 2007 for use in the Fargo public schools because

of one parent's objections to violence and sexual content. The complaining parent demanded that the school district ban the books despite district policy explicitly stating that only parents with children in classes assigned to read the books may file formal complaints; her child was not assigned to read either of the books. NCAC and ABFFE sent a letter to the Superintendent and book reconsideration committee, who decided to retain the books.

..... OKLAHOMA .....

**Bartlesville, OK**

*The Bermudez Triangle* by Maureen Johnson (Penguin) was removed from circulation in the school library at Bartlesville Mid-High in May 2007. The book was removed following complaints from one parent about homosexual themes and underage drinking in the book. ABFFE and NCAC sent a letter to the Superintendent and Board of Education opposing the book's removal.

..... TEXAS .....

**Tuscola, TX**

*Child of God* by Cormac McCarthy (Random House) was removed from Jim Ned High School in Tuscola in October 2007 and cancelled from the school library's order list following complaints by parents of one student, who also filed an official complaint against a teacher with the local sheriff. The book was included in an optional reading list from which students chose books to read for a class assignment. One student's parents objected to violence, sexual themes including sexual violence, and profanity in the book. They met with the school principal and their daughter's English teacher. Dissatisfied, they registered an official complaint with the sheriff's office, charging the teacher with providing material "harmful to minors" to their daughter under Texas Penal Code 43.24. The teacher was placed on paid administrative leave in early October 2007, and the investigation was ongoing as of May 2008.

..... VIRGINIA .....

**Appomattox, VA**

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck (Penguin) was challenged in January

2008 at Appomattox High School by a parent who objected to graphic language in the book. Though her son was given an alternative Steinbeck book to read, the parent insisted that the book was inappropriate for other students and asked that it be removed altogether from the 10th grade English curriculum. We wrote a letter to the review committee opposing the challenges.

### **Williamsburg, VA**

*Tripping Over the Lunch Lady: And Other School Stories* ed. by Nancy E. Mercado (Penguin) was challenged in Magruder Elementary School in October 2007 by some parents who objected to war references in one of the stories. We wrote a letter to the local newspaper applauding the school district's decision to keep the book in the school library and in Magruder's optional, school-wide "One Book for All" reading program which encourages students and parents to read together.

### **Loudoun County, VA**

*And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell (Simon & Schuster) was placed on restricted access in all elementary school libraries throughout Loudoun County in February 2008. The book was challenged by one parent who objected to the story of two male penguins who parent a chick as an attack on families headed by heterosexuals. The book was reviewed by two committees of librarians, teachers, principals, parents, and administrators at the school and district levels. Both committees recommended against any restrictions on the book. Despite these recommendations, the Superintendent decided to restrict student access to the book, which was made available only to teachers or parents. ABFFE and NCAC sent a letter to the Superintendent urging him to reverse his decision. We also provided resources on book challenge policies and the First Amendment in schools to members of the school board. The Superintendent later returned the book to circulation based on "procedural errors" in the review process.

..... WEST VIRGINIA .....

### **Kanawha County, WV**

In October 2007, two novels by Pat Conroy, *The Prince of Tides* and *Beach Music* (both Random House), were challenged for use in the Advanced Placement English curriculum at Nitro High School in Kanawha County,

WV, because some parents objected to graphic violence including sexual violence in the books. The books were pulled from classrooms, and many students protested the books' removal. NCAC and ABFFE sent a letter to the school board, who referred the matter to a book review committee. In addition, Pat Conroy wrote a letter to the local newspaper, the *Charleston Gazette*, which covered the controversy. Following the review committee's vote in favor of both books, *Beach Music* and *The Prince of Tides* were returned to classrooms. The school board subsequently passed an alternative reading policy requiring teachers using supplemental materials to send home a copy of the syllabus and to notify parents through a form of any materials that may be considered objectionable. The letter from NCAC, ABFFE, and four other free speech groups opposing the policy was published in the *Charleston Gazette* in December 2007.

..... NATIONWIDE .....

The word "scrotum" in February 2007 made the Newbery Award-winning novel *The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron (Simon & Schuster) the subject of controversy among authors and librarians across the country. Following a report in the *New York Times*, the story of Patron's challenged book received national attention, and many school librarians hesitated to purchase the book for their collections. Susan Patron is the Juvenile Materials Collection Manager at the Los Angeles Public Library and the author of five other books for children. In an interview with Patron, we asked her about the controversy over *The Higher Power of Lucky* and librarians' role in defending the First Amendment. NCAC and ABFFE also disseminated information about book censorship and worked with publishers and others to build awareness and draw attention to the issue.

*What You Can Do About Book Censorship:*

**WATCH FOR CENSORSHIP AND LET US KNOW!**

E-mail Rebecca Zeidel, [rebecca@ncac.org](mailto:rebecca@ncac.org); [rebecca@abffe.com](mailto:rebecca@abffe.com)

**FACED WITH CENSORSHIP IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**

Use the Book Censorship Toolkit for responding to book challenges:

[www.ncac.org/bookcensorshiptoolkit.cfm](http://www.ncac.org/bookcensorshiptoolkit.cfm)

**CELEBRATE BANNED BOOKS WEEK!**

Read ABFFE's online Banned Books Week Handbook to learn more about this annual week-long celebration of the right to read:

[www.abffe.com/banned2007.htm](http://www.abffe.com/banned2007.htm).

**SUPPORT THE KIDS' RIGHT TO READ PROJECT**

You can make a tax-deductible gift online:

[www.ncac.org](http://www.ncac.org) or [www.abffe.com](http://www.abffe.com)

**EXERCISE YOUR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS —  
READ A BANNED BOOK!**

## *Additional Resources and Links*

The National Coalition Against Censorship, “Censorship in Schools: Learning, Speaking, and Thinking Freely: The First Amendment in Schools.” Available online:

at [www.ncac.org/education/schools](http://www.ncac.org/education/schools)

The National Council of Teachers of English, “The Student’s Right to Read.” Available online:

[www.ncte.org/about/over/positions/category/cens/107616.htm](http://www.ncte.org/about/over/positions/category/cens/107616.htm)

The National Coalition Against Censorship, in collaboration with the National Education Association, “The Ideas that Define and Unite Us: Public Education, Democracy, and Free Speech.” Available in print by request to NCAC, and online:

[www.ncac.org/education/nea\\_ncac.pdf](http://www.ncac.org/education/nea_ncac.pdf)

The American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, “Banned Books Week Handbook.” Available online:

[www.abffe.com/banned2007.htm](http://www.abffe.com/banned2007.htm)

The American Library Association Office of Intellectual Freedom, Banned Books Week Resources:

[www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.cfm)

PEN American Center, Freedom to Write

[www.pen.org/page.php/prmID/172](http://www.pen.org/page.php/prmID/172)

## The Kids' Right to Read Project

is a collaboration of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and the National Coalition Against Censorship



[www.ncac.org](http://www.ncac.org)



[www.abffe.com](http://www.abffe.com)

For more information, please contact **Rebecca Zeidel**:  
[rebecca@ncac.org](mailto:rebecca@ncac.org) / [rebecca@abffe.com](mailto:rebecca@abffe.com)

© 2008, ABFFE and NCAC. Permission is granted to reprint, with credit.

Cover art by Eric Wirick, Dayton Metro Library ([www.daytonmetrolibrary.org](http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org))  
Reprinted with permission of the artist.