



# Book Challenges

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Don't Panic, you've got this!



Finally, as a trustee advocate, you will be a defender of intellectual freedom, defined by the American Library Association as the “the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction.” Once the board has established a collection development policy and library resources are purchased which respond to community needs, trustee advocates must recognize a sacrosanct responsibility to permit people access to those materials.

~From the [Iowa Library Trustee’s Handbook](#)

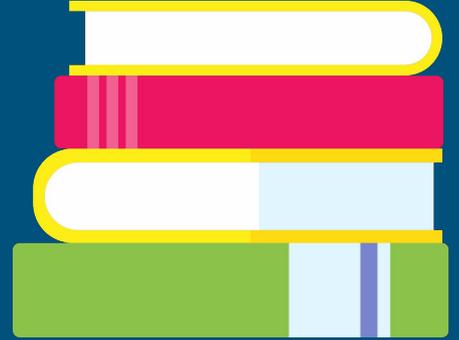


One of the most frequent questions asked of trustee advocates (**usually in front of an audience**) is whether a particular book or other item should be in the library's collection. The response must be unequivocal in defense of intellectual freedom

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# Intellectual Freedom

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Library boards protect and defend intellectual freedom

It is imperative that library boards read, discuss, and become familiar with intellectual freedom issues and include their endorsement of these principles in library policies

Good job, library board members, because this endorsement is indeed outlined under “Access” in our [Collection Development policy!](#)

# But I don't want to "ban" a book I just...



## Concerned parent

I mean, I would just hate for this book to end up in the wrong hands



## Angry Citizen

But my tax dollars! I don't want my tax dollars paying your salary or for this filth!!

(who doesn't have a library card)



## Gate-keeping librarian

This book doesn't meet my moral code so I won't buy it!

This book might offend someone so I won't buy it!



## Lenny Lawmaker

I'm not telling you to remove a book, but...I'm telling you to remove a book or I'll get you fired. Or charged with a felony.

# Parents. Can. Freak. Out.

## I'm a parent, I freak out

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about many, many things (curfew, dishes, disappearing socks, i could go on...)

However, I do not freak out about these issues with my son's friends. Why?

Because they have their own parents who are in charge of them...

## I'm also a Librarian

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My duty is NOT to act as a parent to a child or teen in the library.

While I can understand, as a parent, why a grandma might be angry their 6 year old grandchild checked out an R rated movie, as a Librarian, I cannot prevent that child from checking out that movie.

# School People. Can. Freak. Out.

## Annie on My Mind

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My first experience with a book challenge.

It went all the way to court!

## Superintendents

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Ron Wimmer, superintendent of the Olathe School District decided to pull these books and write his own Book Donations Guideline without consulting librarians or staff, overriding the librarians decision to keep the books on the shelves. 3 copies had been on the shelves for 10 years...

# Elected officials. Can. Freak. Out.

## Kim Reynolds

Reynolds wants the process to review books streamlined for school boards, who she wants to respond to parents within thirty days and have an appeals process to the State Board of Education.

When asked why the book can't just sit on the shelf, and be checked out by kids and families who want to read it, the governor says that's not appropriate.

"That would be rated 'R' if it was in a movie theater," she said. "I've had school districts that the parent that read that out loud took it down because they themselves said it was inappropriate. And if you're a parent and that's something that you decide is important for your child to, to know and to talk about them, that is up to you as a parent."

## Senator Jake Chapman (R)

## and Brad Zaun (R)

### Iowa Code 728

Both want to create legislation to “charge teachers with felonies for for allowing students to read books that include characters or the authors discovering and exploring their identities and sexualities”

FYI:

Public libraries are exempted from Iowa obscenity laws, so there's that.

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# So what do we do?

(hint) stay informed

[National Coalition Against Censorship](#)

Think about adding an “[Intellectual Freedom](#)” statement to our [collection development policy](#)

Contact the school board officials to let them know the library’s stance on intellectual freedom issues, **before** a challenge comes before them

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# So what do we do?

(continued)

Contact our local state representatives and let them know how much you value the library and support intellectual freedom

[Lobby from home with us on Feb. 8th!](#)

Get your friends involved as well

Read the Iowa Library Association's [joint statement](#) with Iowa Association of School Libraries on Book Challenges across the state

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And also...

When a challenge occurs, make sure we stick to our procedures.

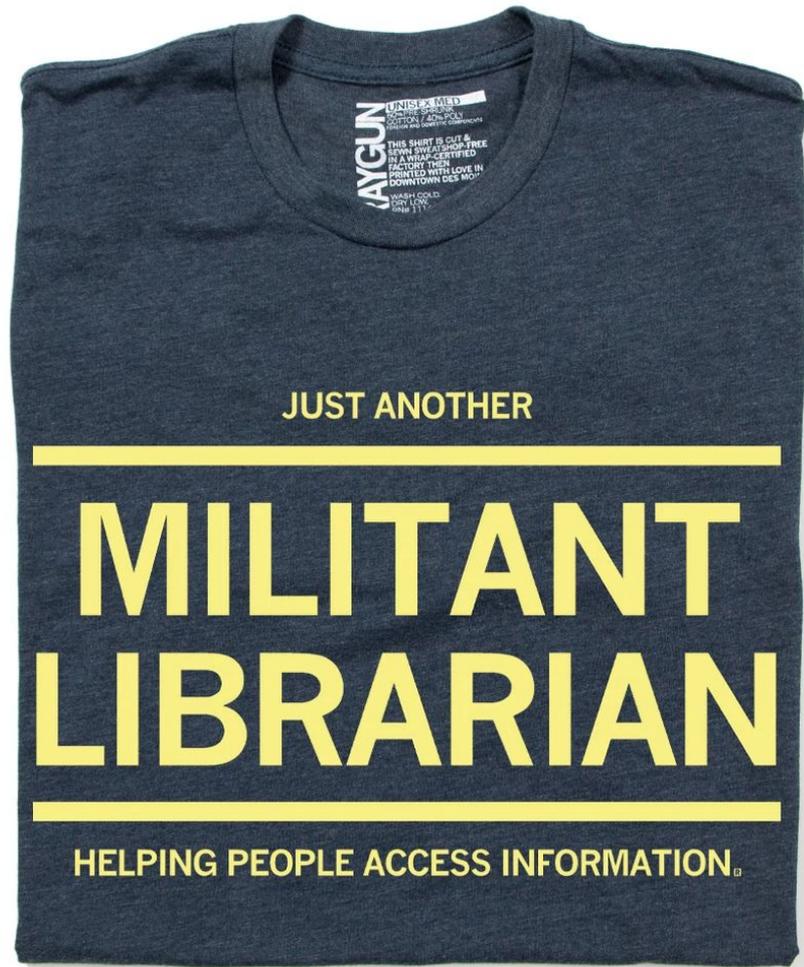
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What's the book's  
main message?  
Use this slide to  
concisely state it.

# Review



Would you recommend this book?  
Write your review here.



In case there is any confusion on where I stand...