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Commissioner, Vice-chair

Gary Eichelberger
Commissioner, Secretary

Press Release

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Carolyn Blatchley, executive director

O: 717.240.6175

cblatchley@cumberlandcountylibraries.org

Banned Books Week 2025 – Censorship is so 1984. Read for your rights!

Mechanicsburg, PA – Banned Books Week, taking place from Oct. 5–11, 2025, is a national event celebrating the freedom to read. This year’s theme, *“Censorship Is So 1984. Read for Your Rights,”* was selected by the American Library Association (ALA) and Banned Books Week Coalition. It serves as a reminder that the right to read belongs to all of us, that censorship has no place in contemporary society, and that we must defend our rights.

With the escalation in attempts to ban books in libraries, schools, and bookstores around the country, George Orwell’s cautionary tale “1984” served a prescient warning about the dangers of censorship.

“The 2025 theme of Banned Books Week serves as a reminder that censorship efforts persist to this day,” said American Library Association President Cindy Hohl. “We must always come together to stand up for the right to read.”

“The public library is an institution built on trust. Libraries trust in readers to choose their own paths, in families to guide their children’s learning, and in communities to sustain their libraries with dialogue, participation, and support,” said Cumberland County Library System Executive Director Carolyn Blatchley. “By protecting the right to read, we show that every neighbor’s story matters and that our library belongs to all of us.”

The Top 10 Challenged Books of 2024, along with the reasons for the challenges, are:

1. **All Aren't Blue** by George M. Johnson
 - Challenged for: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit
2. **Gender Queer: A Memoir** by Maia Kobabe
 - Challenged for: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit
3. (TIE) **The Bluest Eye** by Toni Morrison

- Challenged for: depiction of sexual assault, depiction of incest, claimed to be sexually explicit, EDI content
- 4. (TIE) **The Perks of Being a Wallflower** by Stephen Chbosky
 - Challenged for: claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, depiction of sexual assault, depiction of drug use, profanity
- 5. **Tricks** by Ellen Hopkins
 - Challenged for: claimed to be sexually explicit
- 6. (TIE) **Looking for Alaska** by John Green
 - Challenged for: claimed to be sexually explicit
- 7. (TIE) **Me and Earl and the Dying Girl** by Jesse Andrews
 - Challenged for: claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity
- 8. (TIE) **Crank** by Ellen Hopkins
 - Challenged for: claimed to be sexually explicit, depiction of drug use
- 9. (TIE) **Sold** by Patricia McCormick
 - Challenged for: claimed to be sexually explicit, depiction of sexual assault
- 10. **Flamer** by Mike Curato
 - Challenged for: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit

Banned Books Week launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of book challenges in libraries, schools, and bookstores. The books featured during Banned Books Week have all been targeted for removal or restriction in libraries and schools.

Find all your reading materials at the Cumberland County Library System, which consists of seven federated local libraries, one branch facility, a system headquarters office, and an associated non-profit Foundation. The Library System provides support to its member libraries through information technology, securing library materials, older adult services, training opportunities, and administrative and financial services.

For more information, visit: www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org.

The Cumberland County Library System is a federated library system consisting of seven member libraries, one branch facility, an administrative headquarters, and a non-profit foundation. Member libraries include Amelia S. Givin Free Library in Mt. Holly Springs, Bosler Memorial Library in Carlisle, Coy Public Library of Shippensburg, East Pennsboro Branch Library in Enola, Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill, John Graham Library in Newville, New Cumberland Public Library, and Simpson Library in Mechanicsburg.