



**What is on your nightstand?
Books Discussed on 10.1.2020**

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie - This title is available in the library (Call Number: YA Fic Ale) and on [OverDrive/Bridges](#) and may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

This has been a [banned or challenged](#) book for the following reasons: offensive language, racism, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit and unsuited to age group.

America in so many words by David Barnhart and Allan Metcalf - This title is available in the library (Call Number: YA Fic Ale) and on [OverDrive/Bridges](#) and may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: America in So Many Words presents a unique and fascinating historical view of this country's language. It chronicles, year by year, the contributions we have made to the vocabulary of English and the words we have embraced as the nation has evolved. From canoe (1555), and corn (1608), to newbie (1993), and Ebonics (1997), a prominent word for nearly every year in the history of our nation is analyzed and discussed in its historical context. The result is an engaging survey of American linguistic culture through the centuries.

The Halloween by Ray Bradbury - This title is in the library (Call Number: J Fic Bra) and may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: "A fast-moving, eerie...tale set on Halloween night. Eight costumed boys running to meet their friend Pipkin at the haunted house outside town encounter instead the huge and cadaverous Mr. Moundshroud. As Pipkin scrambles to join them, he is swept away by a dark Something, and Moundshroud leads the boys on the tail of a kite through time and space to search the past for their friend and the meaning of Halloween. After witnessing a funeral procession in ancient Egypt, cavemen discovering fire, Druid rites, the persecution of witches in the Dark Ages, and the gargoyles of Notre Dame, they catch up with the elusive Pipkin in the catacombs of Mexico, where each boy gives one year from the end of his life to save Pipkin's. Enhanced by appropriately haunting black-and-white drawings."--Booklist

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas - This title is available in the library (Call Number: YA Fic Tho and Dvd Hat) and on [OverDrive/Bridges](#) and may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

This book has been [banned and challenged](#) because it was deemed "anti-cop," and for profanity, drug use, and sexual references.

The Hike by Alison Farrell - This title may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: The Hike is about how fun it can be to explore nature in your own backyard. This book is a must-have for budding scientists, best friends and all adventurers in preschool and kindergarten!

Home: A memoir of my early years by Julie Andrews – This is available at the library (Call Number: LP B And and CD B And) and may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: In *Home: A Memoir of My Early Years*, Julie takes her listeners on a warm, moving, and often humorous journey from a difficult upbringing in war-torn Britain to the brink of international stardom in America. Her memoir begins in 1935, when Julie was born to an aspiring vaudevillian mother and a teacher father, and takes listeners to 1962, when Walt Disney himself saw her on Broadway and cast her as the world's most famous nanny.

The House of the Scorpion by – This may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: National Book Award Winner for Young People's Literature, Newbery Honor Book, Printz Honor Book

Matteo Alacrán was not born; he was harvested.

His DNA came from El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium--a strip of poppy fields lying between the United States and what was once called Mexico. Matt's first cell split and divided inside a petri dish. Then he was placed in the womb of a cow, where he continued the miraculous journey from embryo to fetus to baby. He is a boy now, but most consider him a monster--except for El Patrón. El Patrón loves Matt as he loves himself, because Matt is himself.

This book has been banned in churches and schools because of drugs and profane language.

Looking for Alaska by John Green - This title may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library) and on [OverDrive/Bridges](#).

Summary: Miles Halter is fascinated by famous last words—and tired of his safe life at home. He leaves for boarding school to seek what the dying poet François Rabelais called the “Great Perhaps.” Much awaits Miles at Culver Creek, including Alaska Young, who will pull Miles into her labyrinth and catapult him into the Great Perhaps.

Looking for Alaska brilliantly chronicles the indelible impact one life can have on another. A modern classic, this stunning debut marked #1 bestselling author John Green's arrival as a groundbreaking new voice in contemporary fiction.

This book has been [challenged](#) for a sexually explicit scene that may lead a student to “sexual experimentation”.

The Lord of Opium (Book 2 in the House of Scorpion Series) by Nancy Farmer – Not currently available at the library or through OverDrive/Bridges, but may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: As the teenage ruler of his own country, Matt must cope with clones and cartels in this “electric blend of horrors and beauty” (*Publishers Weekly*), the riveting sequel to the modern classic *House of the Scorpion*, winner of the National Book Award, a Newbery Honor, and a Printz Honor.

Matt has always been nothing but a clone—grown from a strip of old El Patron’s skin. Now, at age fourteen, he finds himself suddenly thrust into the position of ruling over his own country. The Land of Opium is the largest territory of the Dope Confederacy, which ranges on the map like an intestine from the ruins of San Diego to the ruins of Matamoros. But while Opium thrives, the rest of the world has been devastated by ecological disaster—and hidden in Opium is the cure.

My Uncle Fulton Sheen by Jean Sheen Cunningham – Not currently available at the library or through OverDrive/Bridges, but may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Joan Sheen Cunningham was happily growing up with her family in Illinois when her uncle Bishop Fulton Sheen offered her the opportunity of a lifetime: to attend a private school in New York City. With the blessing of her parents, she eagerly accepted, and Fulton Sheen became a second father, a role model, and a lifelong friend.

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Irin Carmon – This is available at the library (Call Number: B Gin) but may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has become an icon to millions. Her tireless fight for equality and women’s rights has inspired not only great strides in the workforce but has impacted the law of the land. And now, perfect for a younger generation, comes an accessible biography of this fierce woman, detailing her searing dissents and powerful jurisprudence. This entertaining and insightful young listeners’ edition mixes pop culture, humor, and expert analysis for a remarkable account of the indomitable Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Heroine. Trailblazer. Pioneer.

Prince & Knight by Daniel Haack - This title may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: In this modern fairy tale, a noble prince and a brave knight come together to defeat a terrible monster and in the process find true love in a most unexpected place.

This book has been [challenged and restricted](#) for featuring a gay marriage and LGBTQIA+ content; for being “a deliberate attempt to indoctrinate young children” with the potential to cause confusion, curiosity, and gender dysphoria; and for conflicting with a religious viewpoint.

Rage by Bob Woodward - This title may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Bob Woodward's new book, *Rage*, is an unprecedented and intimate tour de force of new reporting on the Trump presidency facing a global pandemic, economic disaster, and racial unrest. Woodward, the number-one international best-selling author of *Fear: Trump in the White House*, has uncovered the precise moment the president was warned that the Covid-19 epidemic would be the biggest national security threat to his presidency. In dramatic detail, Woodward takes listeners into the Oval Office as Trump's head pops up when he is told in January 2020 that the pandemic could reach the scale of the 1918 Spanish Flu that killed 675,000 Americans.

Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan - This title is available on [OverDrive/Bridges](#) and may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Based on true events—*Two Boys Kissing* follows Harry and Craig, two seventeen-year-olds who are about to take part in a 32-hour marathon of kissing to set a new Guinness World Record. While the two increasingly dehydrated and sleep-deprived boys are locking lips, they become a focal point in the lives of other teens dealing with universal questions of love, identity, and belonging.

Named to the National Book Award Longlist
A Lambda Literary Award Winner
A Stonewall Honor Book

This book has been [challenged and burned](#) for including LGBTQIA+ content.

We Ride Upon Sticks by Quan Barry – This may be available through InterLibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Set in the coastal town of Danvers, Massachusetts, where the accusations began that led to the 1692 witch trials, *We Ride Upon Sticks* follows the 1989 Danvers High School Falcons field hockey team, who will do anything to make it to the state finals—even if it means tapping into some devilishly dark powers. In chapters dense with 1980s iconography—from *Heathers* to "big hair"—Barry expertly weaves together the individual and collective progress of this enchanted team as they storm their way through an unforgettable season.

[Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2019](#)

Find more shareable statistics on the [Free Downloads webpage](#).

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 377 challenges to library, school, and university materials and services in 2019. Of the 566 books that were targeted, here are the most challenged, along with the reasons cited for censoring the books:

1. *George* by Alex Gino
Reasons: challenged, banned, restricted, and hidden to avoid controversy; for LGBTQIA+ content and a transgender character; because schools and libraries should not “put books in a child’s hand that require discussion”; for sexual references; and for conflicting with a religious viewpoint and “traditional family structure”
2. *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out* by Susan Kuklin
Reasons: challenged for LGBTQIA+ content, for “its effect on any young people who would read it,” and for concerns that it was sexually explicit and biased
3. *A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo* by Jill Twiss, illustrated by EG Keller
Reasons: Challenged and vandalized for LGBTQIA+ content and political viewpoints, for concerns that it is “designed to pollute the morals of its readers,” and for not including a content warning
4. *Sex is a Funny Word* by Cory Silverberg, illustrated by Fiona Smyth
Reasons: Challenged, banned, and relocated for LGBTQIA+ content; for discussing gender identity and sex education; and for concerns that the title and illustrations were “inappropriate”
5. *Prince & Knight* by Daniel Haack, illustrated by Stevie Lewis
Reasons: Challenged and restricted for featuring a gay marriage and LGBTQIA+ content; for being “a deliberate attempt to indoctrinate young children” with the potential to cause confusion, curiosity, and gender dysphoria; and for conflicting with a religious viewpoint

6. *I Am Jazz* by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas
Reasons: Challenged and relocated for LGBTQIA+ content, for a transgender character, and for confronting a topic that is “sensitive, controversial, and politically charged”
7. *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood
Reasons: Banned and challenged for profanity and for “vulgarity and sexual overtones”
8. *Drama* written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier
Reasons: Challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and for concerns that it goes against “family values/morals”
9. *Harry Potter series* by J. K. Rowling
Reasons: Banned and forbidden from discussion for referring to magic and witchcraft, for containing actual curses and spells, and for characters that use “nefarious means” to attain goals
10. *And Tango Makes Three* by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson illustrated by Henry Cole
Reason: Challenged and relocated for LGBTQIA+ content

Source: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10>

Special Note: The movie discussed at the group meeting was [Storm Center](#).

Storm Center is a 1956 American film noir drama directed by Daniel Taradash. The screenplay by Taradash and Elick Moll focuses on what were at the time two very controversial subjects - Communism and book banning - and took a strong stance against censorship. The film stars Bette Davis, and was the first overtly anti-McCarthyism film to be produced in Hollywood.



Report censorship (report a banned or challenged books or programs):
<http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report>