

BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter

Why Celebrate Banned Books Week? By Carlie Chapman, Circulation Clerk

Every year, libraries all over the world celebrate Banned Books Week! This year, libraries in the United States celebrate Banned Books Week from September 16 through October 2, 2021. The American Library Association (ALA) defines banning as “the removal of a challenged material” and defines a challenge as “an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group.” In short, a challenge is a formal request to remove an item from a library collection; only a successful challenge results in the banning of a specific title. Only if the challenge is successful does the book become banned. Fortunately, according to the ALA, “most challenges are unsuccessful and most materials are retained in the school curriculum or library collection.”

Banned Books Week affirms that readers of all ages should have the freedom to read books, even if the book is considered offensive or dangerous. Mark Twain has been attributed this quote: Censorship is telling a man he can't have a steak just because a baby can't chew it. S.R. Ranganathan proposed the "Five Laws of Library Science" in 1931. The first three read "Books are for use. Every reader his or her book. Every book its reader." ALA agrees with Twain and Ranganathan. Banning library books is a form of censorship. While not every book is intended for every person, libraries across the world support a reader's choice to read whatever books they desire. ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom tracks challenges to books and offers guidance to librarians. Like the American Library Association, Huntsville Public Library supports all readers' right to read so you can find many “banned” books on our shelves. Here are just a few titles Huntsville Public Library welcomes with open minds and arms:

1. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

Synopsis: This powerful coming of age novel is meant to be a blueprint for survival and healing in the face of various trials, tribulations, and triumphs. Writing to an anonymous friend, Charlie Kelmeckis navigates the hardships of life in high school. His life comes to a crossroad when his best and only friend commits suicide. Facing this tragedy, Charlie learns to make new friends and is inspired to continue pursuing his dream of becoming a writer.

Reasons banned: drugs/alcohol/smoking, sexual content, profanity, suicide

2. *Bone (Series)* by Jeff Smith

Synopsis: Three Bone cousins become lost when they run out of Boneville. Together they embark on an adventure while facing terrifying creatures.

Reasons banned: political viewpoint, racism, violence

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Banned Books, continued from page 1

3. *Goosebumps (Series)* by R.L. Stine

Synopsis: This series follows child characters who encounter frightening and scary situations, usually involving monsters and other supernatural elements.

Reasons banned: "too scary for children," violent, gory, vengeful

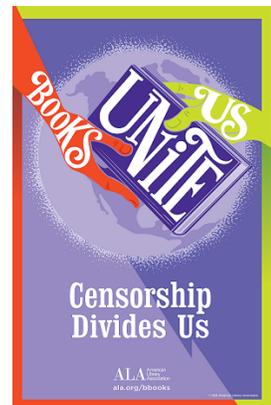
4. *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl

Synopsis: An orphaned British boy named James is forced to live with his two horrid aunts after his parents get eaten by a rhinoceros. One day, an Old Man appears in his backyard and offers James magical green objects. He befriends anthropomorphic bugs who live inside a giant peach that swallowed his aunt's house. James eventually has a city wide parade held in his honor. In the end, he decides to write a book about his adventures and the book he writes turns out to be the one the reader has just read.

Reasons banned: references to alcohol, drugs, violence and suspicious behavior

According to www.ALA.org, listed below is the top 50 most banned and challenged books of the decade through 2010-2019 (for the full list, please visit the website):

- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie
- *Captain Underpants (series)* by Dav Pilkey
- *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher
- *Looking for Alaska* by John Green
- *George* by Alex Gino
- *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
- *Drama* by Raina Telgemeier
- *Fifty Shades of Grey* by E. L. James
- *Internet Girls (series)* by Lauren Myracle
- *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *I Am Jazz* by Jazz Jennings and Jessica Herthel
- *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *Bone (series)* by Jeff Smith
- *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls
- *Two Boys Kissing* by David Levithan
- *A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo* by Jill Twiss
- *Sex is a Funny Word* by Cory Silverberg
- *Alice McKinley (series)* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- *It's Perfectly Normal* by Robie H. Harris
- *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult
- *Scary Stories (series)* by Alvin Schwartz
- *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *A Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
- *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out* by Susan Kuklin
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* by Alison Bechdel
- *It's a Book* by Lane Smith
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
- *What My Mother Doesn't Know* by Sonya Sones
- *A Child Called "It"* by Dave Pelzer
- *Bad Kitty (series)* by Nick Bruel
- *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins
- *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich
- *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi
- *The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby* by Dav Pilkey
- *This Day in June* by Gayle E. Pitman
- *This One Summer* by Mariko Tamaki
- *A Bad Boy Can Be Good For A Girl* by Tanya Lee Stone
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- *Goosebumps (series)* by R.L. Stine
- *In Our Mothers' House* by Patricia Polacco
- *Lush* by Natasha Friend
- *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger
- *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker



via ala.org/bbooks

Download free e-books from your local Huntsville Public Library

By Jalpa Shah, IT Services Coordinator



Over the last several years, tablets and e-readers have become an increasingly popular way to read and enjoy a variety of content. According to a survey, 25% of Americans (1 in 4) have read an e-book in the past year. While e-books have seen a dramatic increase in sales over traditional paper books, many people don't realize they can also borrow e-books from their local library for free.

To help you find free e-books and audiobooks, here are some options. Libby is an app that lets you search multiple libraries for free e-books. All you need is a library card.

Step 1. Getting started with Libby

You'll need your library card and internet access to view the e-books available at the library.

- Download and install the Libby app from your device's app store (Apple App Store, Google Play, Windows Store)
- Or visit libbyapp.com in your Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Edge browser.
- In Libby, follow the prompts to find "Huntsville Public Library." You can search by name or location.
- Under Piney Woods Digital Consortium, select "Huntsville Public Library."
- Select Huntsville Public Library once again. Then, enter your library card number and 4 digit PIN number.
- Once you're signed in, you can click on "library" to search for a book or explore the collection to find what you are looking for.

Step 2. Find what you want

Now that you know how to use your library's e-book catalog, you're ready to start browsing! Exploring titles in an e-book catalog can feel a little confusing at first, especially since you may see books that you can't download yet. Just like the physical books at your library, there are a limited number of copies that can be loaned out at the same time for each book. Whenever you see a book you'd like to download later, sign up for a hold on that title and you'll be notified as soon as it's available.

If you're looking for something right away, we recommend browsing through titles that have been recently returned, which makes it easy to find some of the most circulated and popular selections at your library.

Step 3. Download and enjoy

Once you've found an e-book you want to read, you're just a few clicks away from downloading the title to your device. Depending on the type of e-reader or tablet you have, you'll need to download an application (like Kindle for PC or Adobe Digital Editions) to transfer the e-book.

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E-Books, continued from page 3

Most e-books can be checked out just as long as a regular library book (between one and two weeks), usually with an option to extend the loan period, as well. But here's our favorite part about borrowing e-books: you never have to remember to return the book to the library! Once your lending period has expired, the e-book will simply disappear from your e-reader. It's an easy way to check out cool and interesting books, and it's completely free.

Hit the Trail

By Linda Huff, Resource Coordinator



One of my favorite things to do on the weekend is hiking. Currently, with the weather being in the high 90's most of the time, it is a daunting activity. But...I have found a new way to hit the trails while still enjoying air conditioning! I have been exploring the Texas Forest Trail in our car! Likely you have seen these signs on Hwy 19 and Hwy 30 as you drive through Huntsville.

The Texas Heritage Trail System was started in 1968. This particular trail spans 35 counties from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arkansas-Oklahoma border. Originally, it was the "Gateway to Texas" for Native Americans of our region, as well as European explorers and pioneers.

There are some great historical sights to visit along the Texas Forest Trail. As we like to complete our automotive "hikes" in an afternoon, we often start here at the Sam Houston National Forest and travel north towards the Davy Crockett National Forest. As you pass through Trinity, you can take in the sights along the Trinity River and even drop a fishing line in at the Public Boat Ramp that is right at the bridge. Passing through Lovelady, Yelp suggests stopping in at Mimsy's Barbeque for authentic Texas brisket. ody text

There are some beautiful historic homes along the Forest Trail as it winds through Crocket. If you need to stretch your legs you can take a short hike along the 4C Trail and maybe even catch a glimpse of one of the local flying squirrels!

The Texas Heritage Trail System is a wonderful way to learn about our great state, local attractions and history. Before you hit the trail, be sure to stop by the Huntsville Public Library and check out one of our books on CD. We have over 10 titles that are set in Texas such as *Texas! Lucky* by Sandra Brown, or *Texas Outlaw* by James Patterson. Any of these audible books would be a great addition to your road trip. Happy trails to you!

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Come Celebrate!
**HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH**

Thursday, September 16
5:30 PM TO 6:30 PM

Huntsville Public Library, Staggs Community Room
Register online at myhuntsvillelibrary.com

For more information contact Linda Huff, Resource Coordinator at (936)291-5918.



 Celebrate 30 Days
of Kindergarten
at the Library!

Saturday, September 18
At 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Rex Children's Room

Make Kinder mementos
(Memory Shirt and a time capsule)
while we enjoy some yummy snacks!

