

Mira Costa High School Library Banned Books Week Contest

September 30-October 6, 2012 is *Banned Books Week*.

Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read has been observed during the last week of September each year since 1982. This annual event, sponsored by the American Library Association, reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted.

Banned Books Week emphasizes the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them. For more information, please visit the library blog Banned Books Week posting (miracostahighlibrary.edublogs.org)

In honor of Banned Books Week, please visit the Mira Costa High School Library display of recently banned and challenged books and participate in this contest. Answer each of the following questions and return your answer sheet to the library by Wednesday, October 10. Check the library blog for links to sites that will help you with the answers. Everyone with a complete set of correct answers will be entered in a drawing to win a Starbucks Gift Certificate.

1. This book by T.C. Boyle, challenged on the Santa Rosa, Calif. High School reading list (2010), explores hardships faced by illegal immigrants in Southern California and their interactions with well-to-do neighbors. _____
2. This book about a troubled boy whose father died in the World Trade Center on 9/11 has been challenged for profanity, sexual content, and descriptions of violence. What is the title? _____
3. This book was the second most frequently banned book in the 1990s. In 1993, the Mingus, Arizona, Union High School challenged the choice of it as appropriate English curriculum because of "profane language, moral statement, treatment of the retarded and the violent ending." Mainly, though, people want it discontinued due to the "vulgar language throughout." Written by John Steinbeck, what is it called?

4. In 2011, the Richland (WA) School Board voted to prohibit this highly autobiographical book by a Native American writer. Common complaints against the book include violence, sexual content, and language. The Richland School Board later reevaluated and declared this book to be "outstanding" and the decision to ban it was reversed. What is the title? _____
5. This autobiography, published in 1969 and nominated for a National Book award in 1970, has been challenged many times for references to lesbianism, premarital sex and profanity. What is the title? _____



Image courtesy of
the American Library Association

6. This book, the top-selling book of all time, has been challenged as “obscene and pornographic” as well as including “tales of incest and murder.” Many Sunday School teachers and pastors use it for reference and study. We know it as _____
7. This famous book by J. D. Salinger has been challenged many times for language and sexual content. It has been commonly used in English classes. Which book is it?

8. In September 2010, an opinion piece in the News-Leader of Springfield, MO, characterized this book, which contains two rape scenes, as “soft pornography.” When Laurie Halse Anderson, the author, blogged about her outrage at the opinion piece, huge Twitter feed in support of the book immediately followed. What is the book title? _____
9. Two commonly read books by Mark Twain have been subjects of challenges and outright banning in many high schools due to complaints of “racially charged language.” What are they? _____
10. Critics objected to the “grammatically incorrect” language, and to sexual content and questionable sexual behavior in this 2004 book written in instant messaging language. Name the book. _____
11. This section of the Bill of Rights guarantees the freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition. It is called _____.
12. This popular author wrote *Forever*, *Deenie*, and the Fudgeman series. Her books are often the target of proposed bans in schools. What is her name? _____
13. This Philip Pullman novel has been criticized for its “anti-Christian” message?

14. In 2012, under threat of violating state law and losing state funding, the Tucson (AZ) Unified School District voted to cut its Mexican American Studies (MAS) program. This book and numerous other books affiliated with the MAS program were found in violation, removed from the curriculum, and stored in district storehouses. Name the book by Paulo Friere, which challenges traditional relationships between teachers and students: _____

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