


# Intellectual Freedom, Social Justice, and the Signs of the Times

2019

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*The best books for the most people at the least cost.*



*Today indications in many parts of the world  
point to growing intolerance,  
suppression of free speech  
and censorship  
affecting the rights of minorities  
and individuals.*

# Library Bill of Rights, 1938-39

- I. Materials not excluded because of origin, background, or views.
- II. Information not proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship.
- IV. Librarians should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting.
- V. Right to **use** a library should not be denied or abridged....
- VI. Exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available on an **equitable** basis.
- VII. **Privacy (2019)**. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information

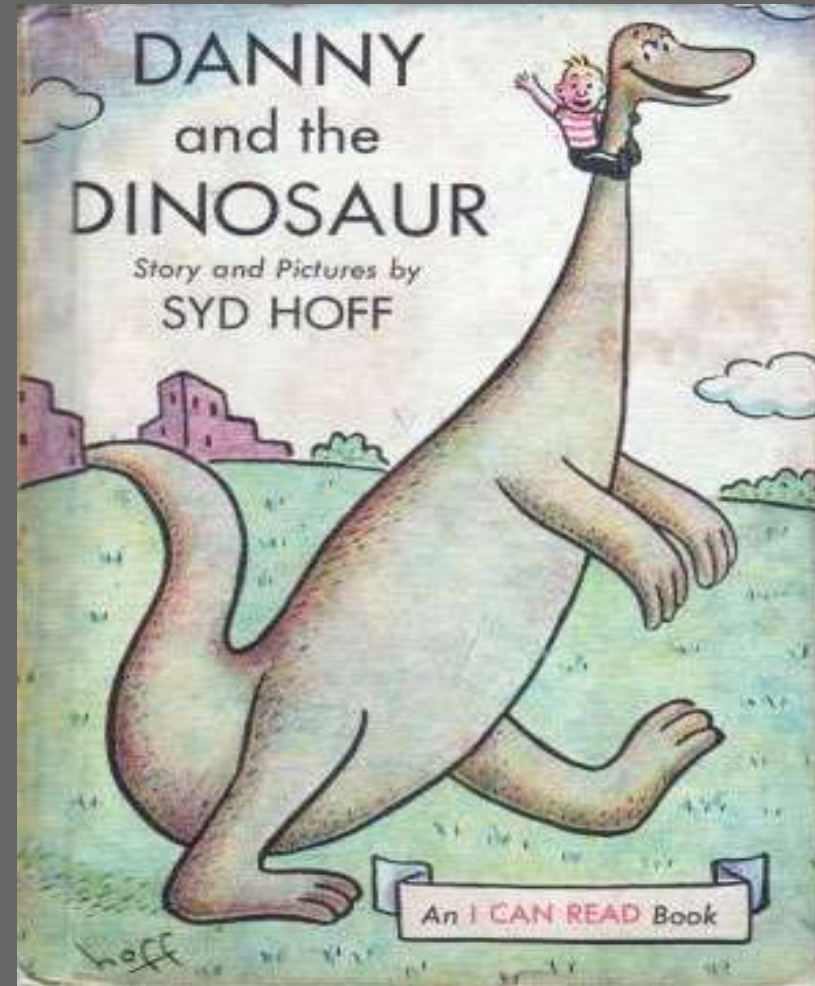
And lots and lots of interpretations! [ala.org](http://ala.org) *interpretations*

# Interpretations dealing with diversity/neutrality

- Access to Library Services and Resources for Minors
- Access to Library Resources and Services Regardless of Sex, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, or Sexual Orientation
- Diversity in Collection Development
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion
- Politics in American Libraries
- **Meeting Rooms (2018) - “hate groups”**

and more....

# The rights of minors



# Schools

*Be*loved

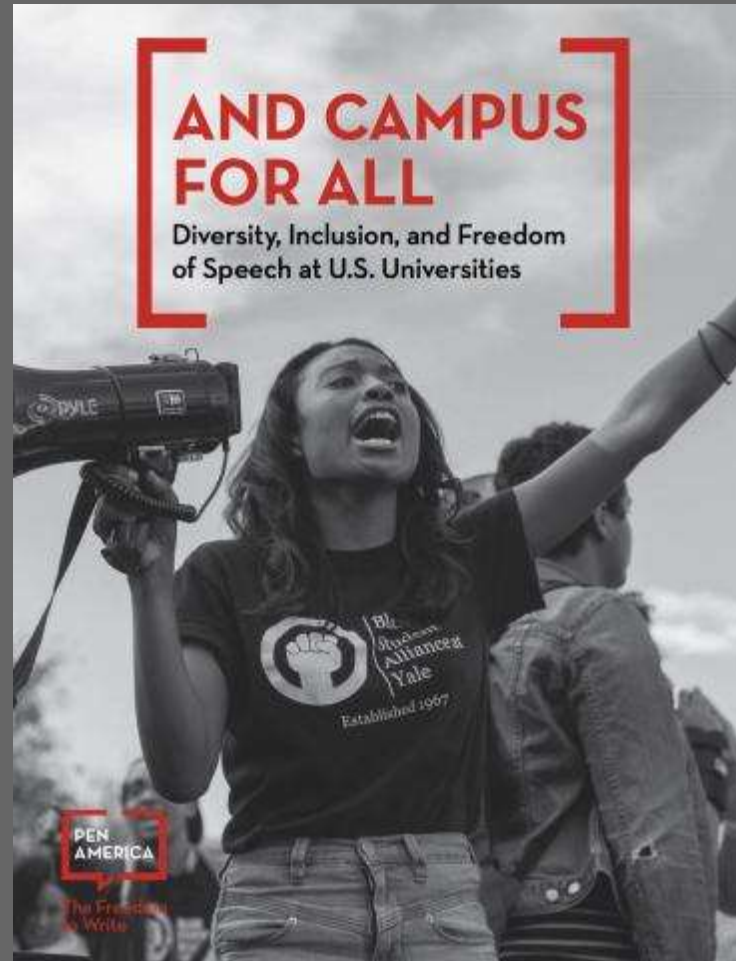
*A novel by*  
**Toni Morrison**

WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE

—WITH A NEW FOREWORD BY THE AUTHOR—

## PEN America study

- *Support for intellectual freedom is declining*
- *Support for social justice is rising*





# Banned Books Week

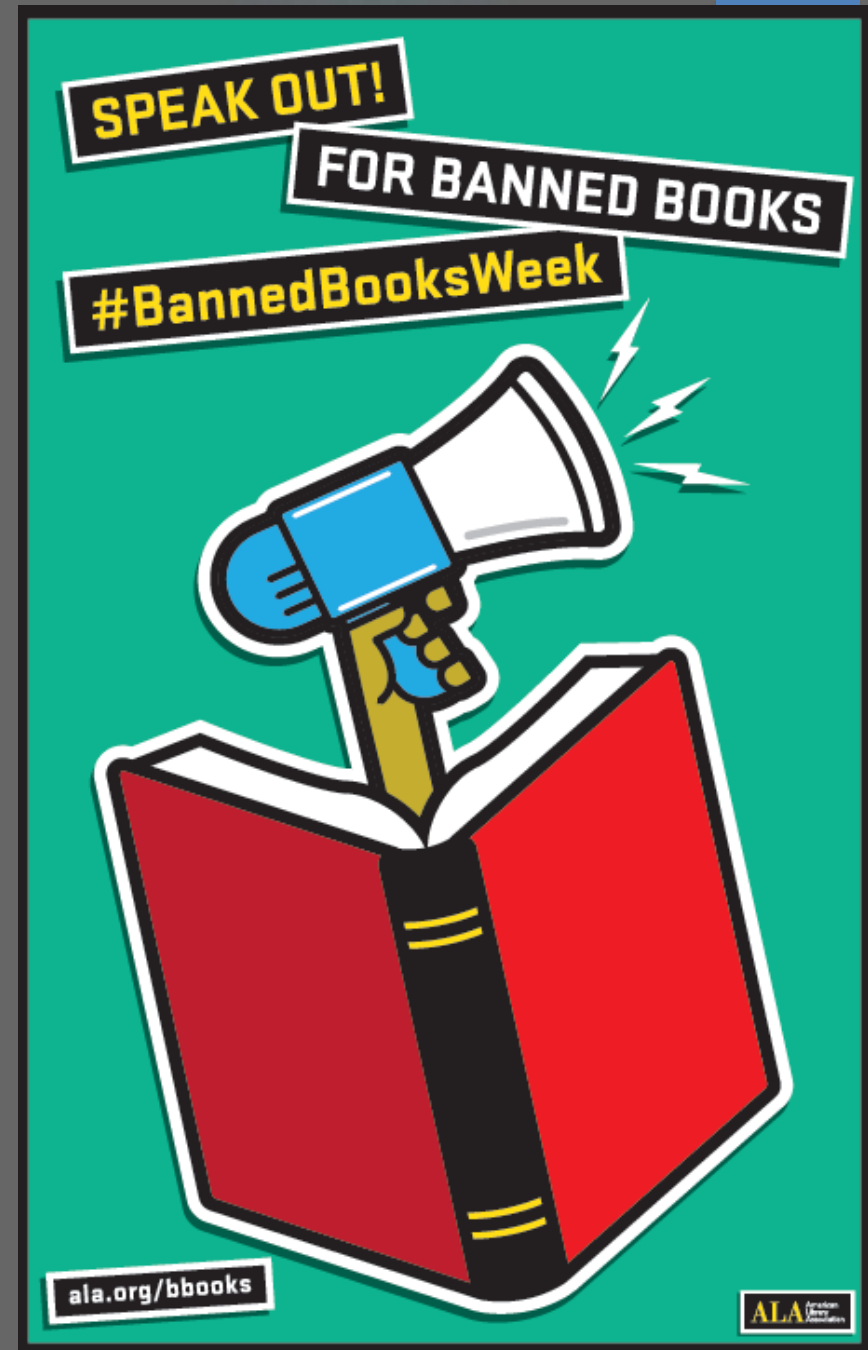
Most common theme: diversity

*Two Boys Kissing*

*Drama*

*George*

LGBT, but also Muslim, or People of Color



BY RAMIN GANESHRAM ILLUSTRATIONS BY VANESSA BRANTLEY-NEWTON

# A BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR *George Washington*

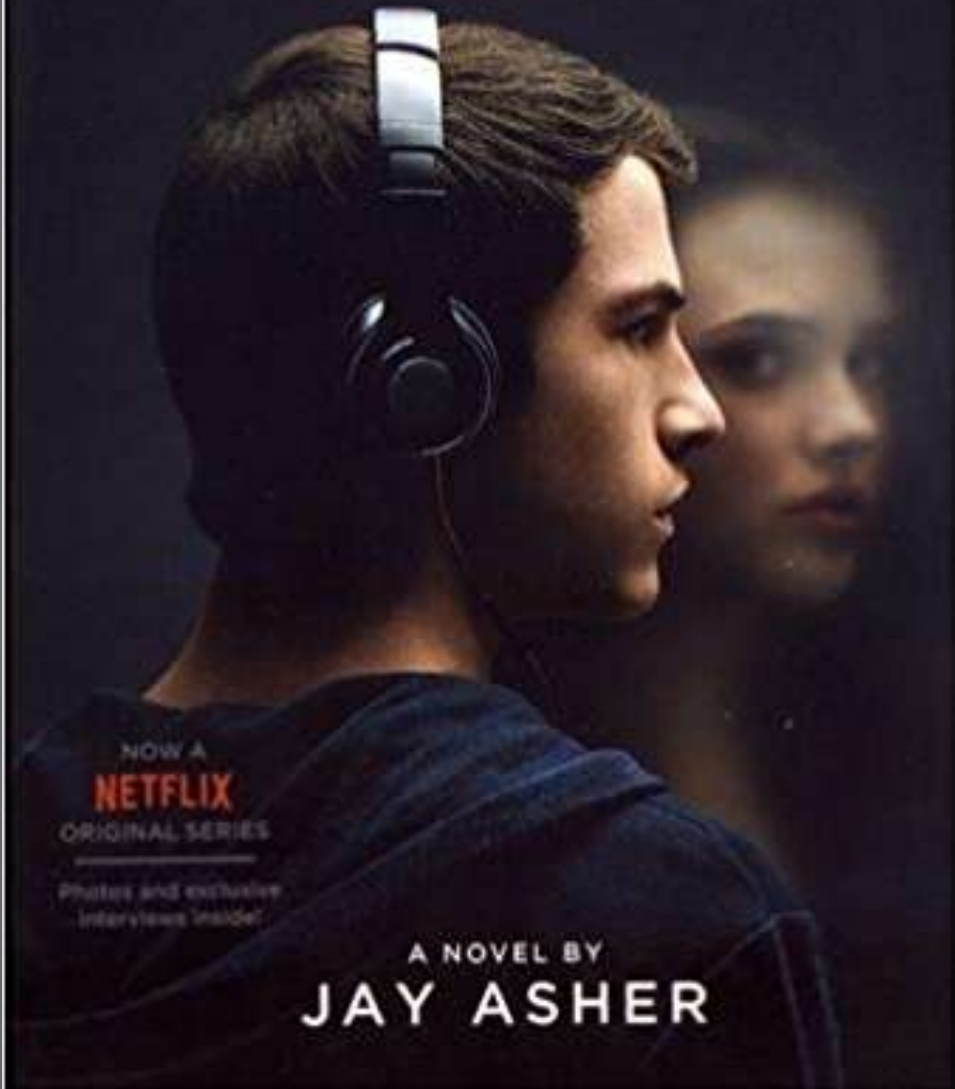


 SCHOLASTIC

THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES AND INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

# 13 REASONS WHY ▶

IF YOU'RE LISTENING,  
YOU'RE TOO LATE.



- The book (2007)
- The Netflix series (2017)
- Probably mostly challenged - and most removed (2017)
- Allegations against the author (2018) #MeToo

The logo for the Florida Citizens' Alliance features the word "Florida" in a large, blue, serif font with a white outline. The letter "o" is replaced by a bright yellow sun with a blue circular border. Below "Florida" is the phrase "Citizens' Alliance" in a smaller, blue, cursive font with a white outline. The background is a dark gray gradient with a faint circular watermark of the Florida state outline. A solid blue rectangle is positioned in the top right corner.

# Florida *Citizens' Alliance*

“We complained that they were teaching evolution. We complained that they were teaching climate change and they wouldn't listen to us. So that's why we need this new law,”



Helping Library Readers  
Muslim Journeys

### Muslim Journeys and Your Community: Managing Controversy, Maximizing Impact

October 24, 2013, 2 p.m. Central

Speakers:

Martin Garner  
Chair, ALA Committee on Professional Ethics  
Reference Services Librarian and Professor of Library Science, Regis University

Lesley Williams  
Head of Adult Services and Muslim Journeys Project Director, Evanston (Ill.) Public Library

Presented by the ALA Public Programs Office and the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom.

#Programming Librarians CCF ALA American Library Association



Wendy  
Campbell

Samir  
Bitar





And yet

- Disinvited speakers (Ann Coulter)
- Violent protests (Yiannopoulos)
- Do not “give voice” to hate
- Punch a Nazi!
- Meeting Room Interpretation #nohateALA

# Beyond Books

- EBSCO and Gale
- Displays, exhibits
- Drag Queen story times
- “In God We Trust” - Freeport IL
- Administrators shunning controversy

# Policies and procedures

Your greatest single defense. *Not just books.*

- Statement of values and mission (LBoR)
- Collection or Selection Development
- Request for Reconsideration protocol
  - Review item or resource in entirety
  - Consider in light of policy
  - Recommendation
- Patron Behavior



# The importance of service

## In person

- Don't be defensive
- Apologize
- Listen
- Repeat in your words
- Offer service
- Refer

## In writing

- Thank you
- The issue
- The context
- The decision
- Possibility of appeal
- Thank you



Respect  
and  
*service*  
you can  
be proud of



OIF blog and weekly  
newsletter:

<http://www.oif.ala.org/oif/>

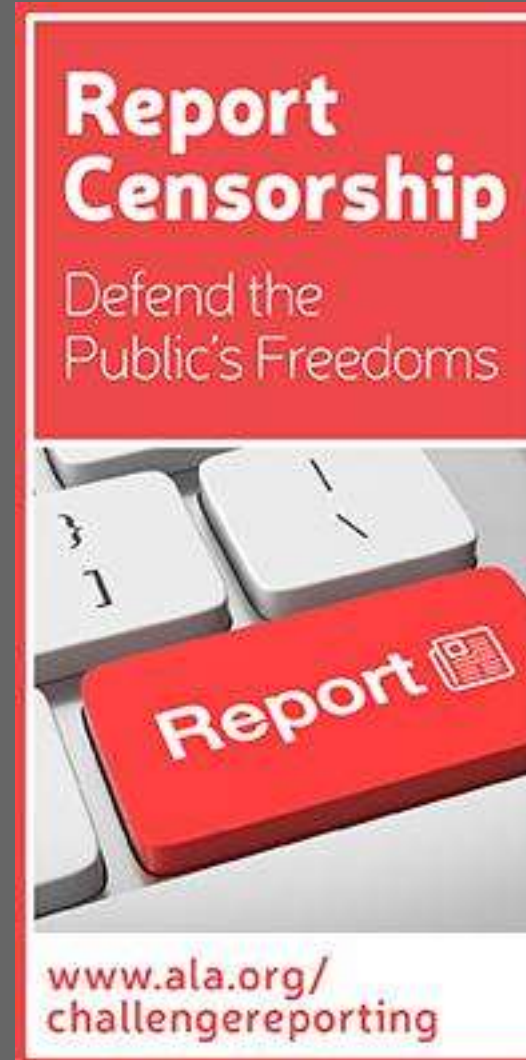
# Challenge support

(312) 280-4220

E-mail: [oif@ala.org](mailto:oif@ala.org)

New form! And new issue tracking...

*It's your responsibility.*



# Questions?



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