



Selecting a book for your reading program is an important decision. To help you select the right book for your young readers and your community, we are providing the following context related to potentially sensitive content to help make a well-informed decision. As always, we encourage and recommend that book selections come after a full read of the book by multiple decision-makers or stakeholders.

Ban This Book
by Alan Gratz

Read This Book to Discover...

A book in which students are constructively rebellious: challenging authority and learning to navigate the world of adult concerns. Amy Anne clearly loves literature - she begins her project when she learns her favorite book, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, has been removed from the school library. Her quest, efforts, and arguments are a love letter to appreciating literature and wanting to ensure readers have access to it. Along the way, she also learns why and how adults strive to create a policy to protect students and preserve constructive literature in school libraries: “Nobody has the right to tell you what you can and can’t read. Except your parents.” (p. 242)

What to Watch Out For...

The book is about challenging authority. The protagonist finds her favorite books removed from the school library and lends them to schoolmates herself. Eventually she attends school board meetings to try to change the policy on how books are considered and/or removed from the library. Some of the banned books contain sexual content although the protagonist, Amy Anne, is pointedly not interested in this stuff. At a school board meeting, adults make reference to the fact that some books are about “S-E-X” (pp. 35, 53) and to “adult magazines.” (p. 53)



There is a very brief discussion among a few students about *Frog and Toad Are Friends* and whether it can be interpreted to promote “gay lifestyles.” (p. 195)

