



BOOKS BANNED SO FAR

BY MICHAELA BRANT

The following books were published in 2021 or 2022 and have already come under attack from book-banning groups and campaigns, according to PEN America’s Index of School Book Bans, from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022:

- **Allies: Real Talk About Showing Up, Screwing Up, and Trying Again** (DK Children) by Shakirah Bourne and Dana Alison Levy is an anthology of true stories about being an ally to marginalized groups of all kinds.
- **Things We Couldn’t Say** (Scholastic Press) by Jay Coles is a young adult novel about a bisexual Black boy dealing with love, friendship, and family hardships.
- **I’m a Wild Seed** (Street Noise Books) by Sharon Lee De La Cruz is a graphic memoir that explores the intersection of oppression and the discovery of queer identity.
- **I Think I Love You** (Underlined) by Auriane Desombre is a young adult novel about friends entering a film contest and finding love.
- **The Passing Playbook** (Dial Books) by Isaac Fitzsimons is a teen romance about a transgender soccer player fighting for his right to play on the high school team.
- **We Are Not Broken** (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers) by George M. Johnson, author of *All Boys Aren’t Blue*, is a memoir about Black boyhood and family ties.
- **Rise to the Sun** (Scholastic Press) by Leah Johnson is a young adult book about art, grief, and love, against the backdrop of a music festival.
- **The Other Talk: Reckoning with Our White Privilege** (Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books) by Brendan Kiely argues that white kids should get “the talk” about race and racism from their parents along with children of color, countering the idea of whiteness as the default.
- **House of Sky and Breath** (Bloomsbury Publishing) by Sarah J. Maas, published in 2022, is the second installment in the Crescent City fantasy series.
- **Understanding Gender Identity** (ReferencePoint Press) by Don Nardo, published in 2022, brings readers through concepts of gender identity and the ways in which some question and explore their gender identity.

Most of these books share one of two common characteristics: They center on race and racism, gender and sexuality, or both; or they were challenged by an administrator at Collierville school district in Tennessee.

Michaela Brant is an editorial intern at *The Progressive* and a student at Boston College.