

Banned in the Big Sky: the new Montana book challenges poster



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April 8, 2010 MLA Annual Conference



Librarians
have not
always
been
champions
of free
speech

First some history ...



ALA founded in 1876 ...



“to enable librarians to do their present work more easily and at less expense.”

ALA President Arthur E. Bostwick said
in his 1908 inaugural address:



“Some are born great; some achieve greatness; some have greatness thrust upon them.” It is in this way that the librarian has become the censor of literature ... Books that directly commend what is wrong, that teach how to sin and how pleasant sin is, sometimes with and sometimes without the added sauce of impropriety, are increasingly popular, tempting the author to imitate them, the publishers to produce, the bookseller to exploit. Thank heaven they do not tempt the librarian.”

ALA/ACLU Censorship Timeline



1925 - ALCU Scopes Trial

1926 - ACLU & the 'Boston Massacre'

1933 - ALA Executive Board declined to take action regarding book burning in Germany

1933 - US vs One book entitled Ulysses

1939 - first ALA Library Bill of Rights

1940 - ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee formed

1957 - Supreme Court overturns conviction of Louis Malle's film *The Lovers* in suit brought by Ohio ACLU

1950's–70's - amendments to *Library Bill of Rights* dealing with political issues, social views, and challenged materials.

1967 - ALA establishes the Office for Intellectual Freedom

1969 - Freedom to Read Foundation founded

1982 - Board of Education v. Pico
- ALA starts Banned Books Week

1990's - Ashcroft v. ACLU

1997 - ACLU v. Reno

Today ...



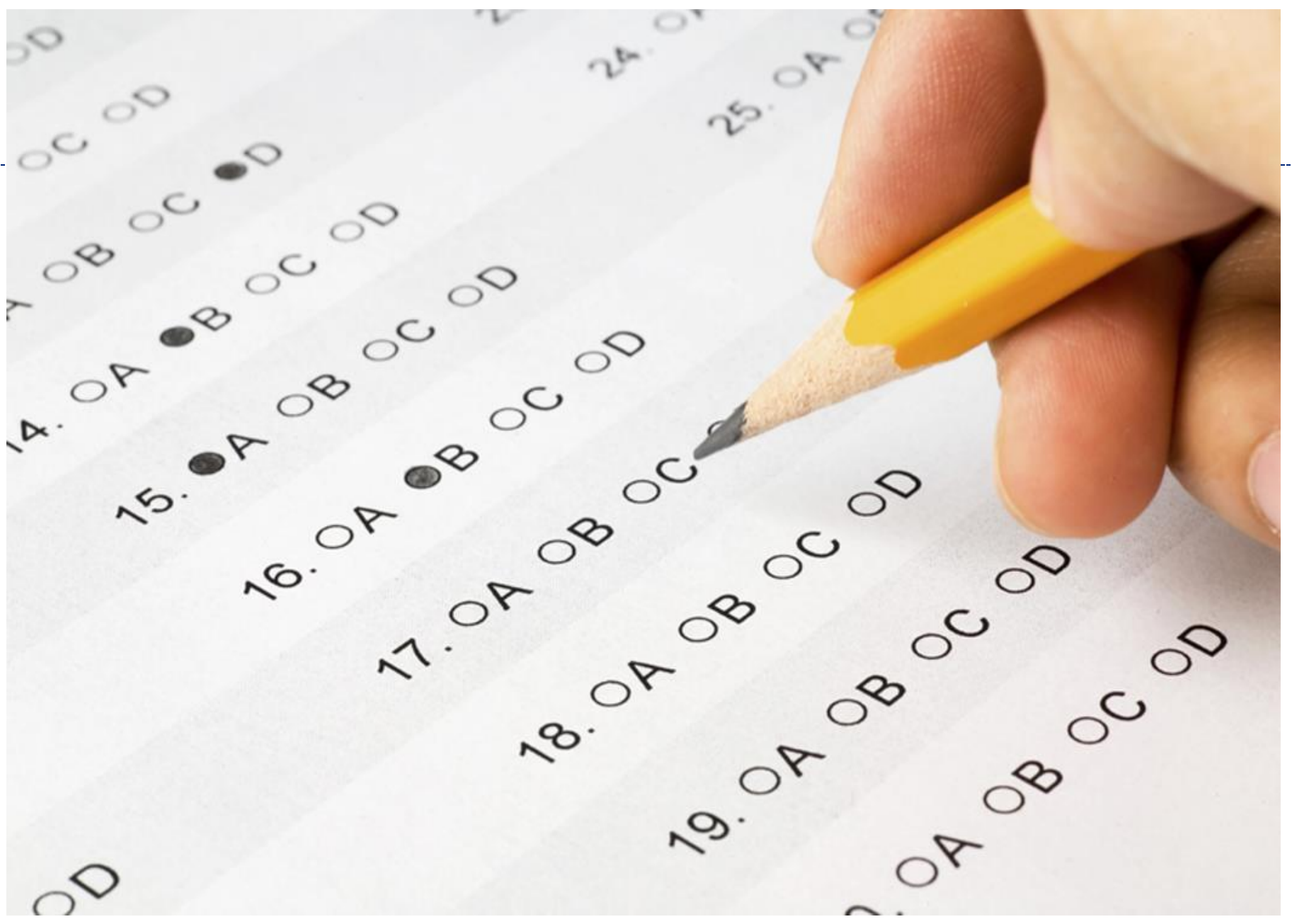
Intellectual Freedom is one
seven “key action areas” for ALA

One of ACLU’s many issues includes
Free Speech



Challenges in Montana





14. ○A ○B ○C ○D

15. ●A ○B ○C ○D

16. ○A ○B ○C ○D

17. ○A ○B ○C ○D

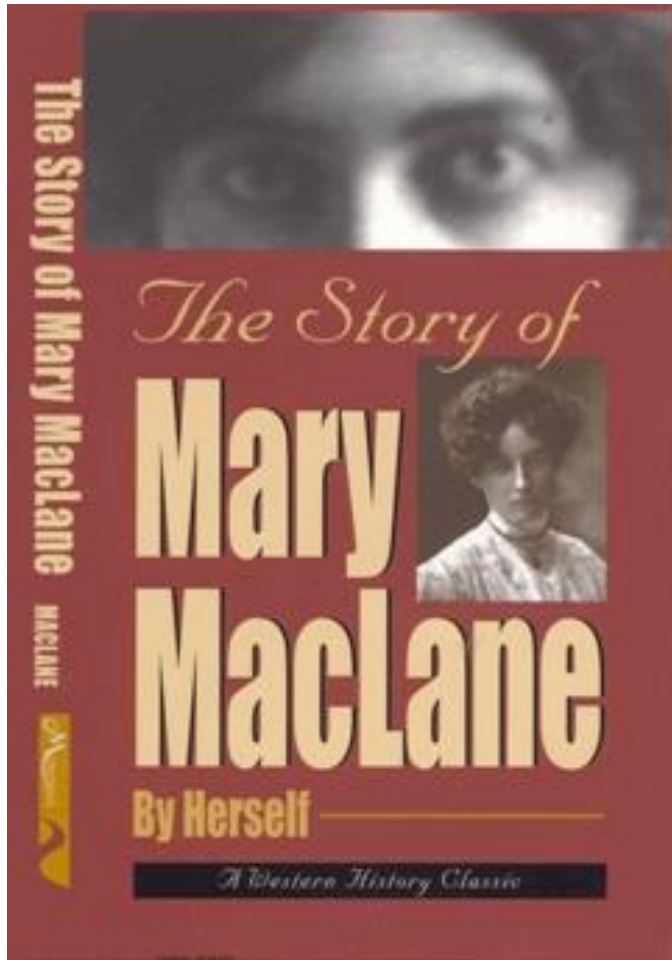
18. ○A ○B ○C ○D

19. ○A ○B ○C ○D

24. ○A ○B ○C ○D

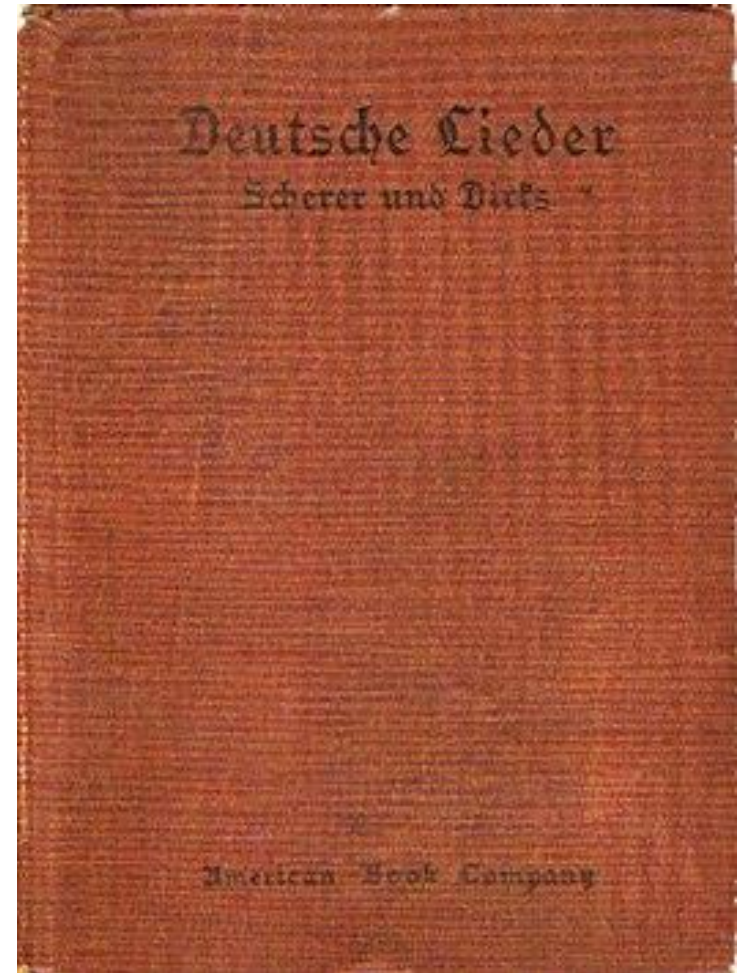
25. ○A ○B ○C ○D

1902



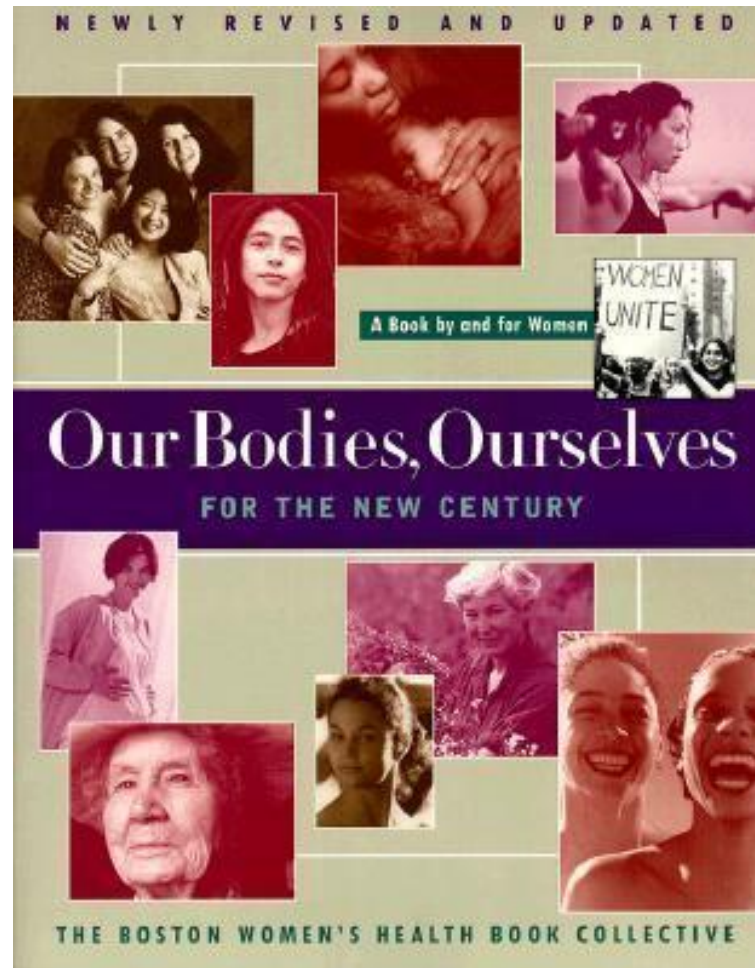
A “storm of controversy”

1918

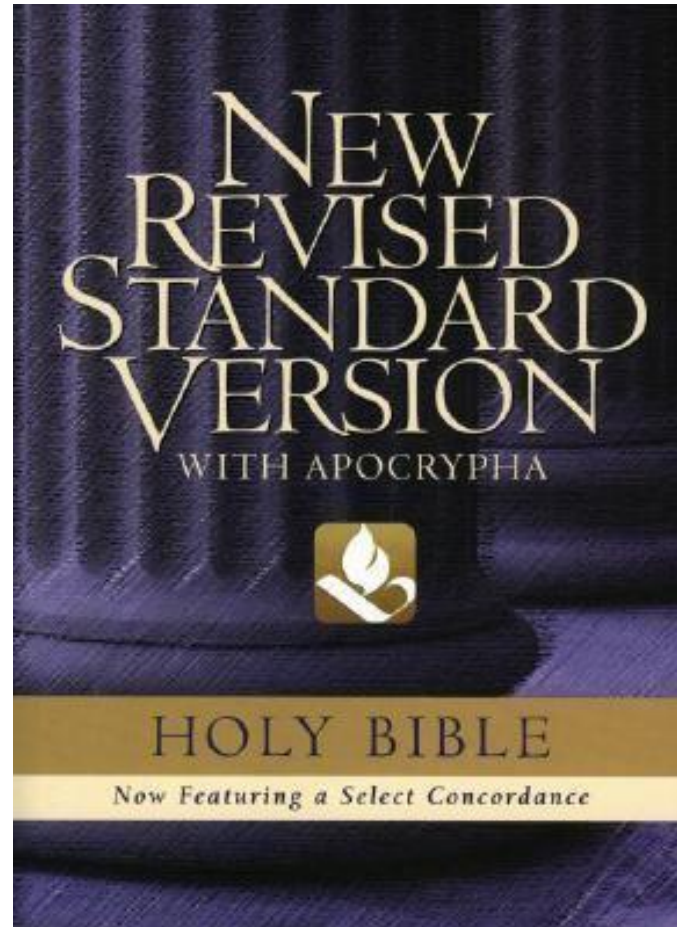


Sedition!

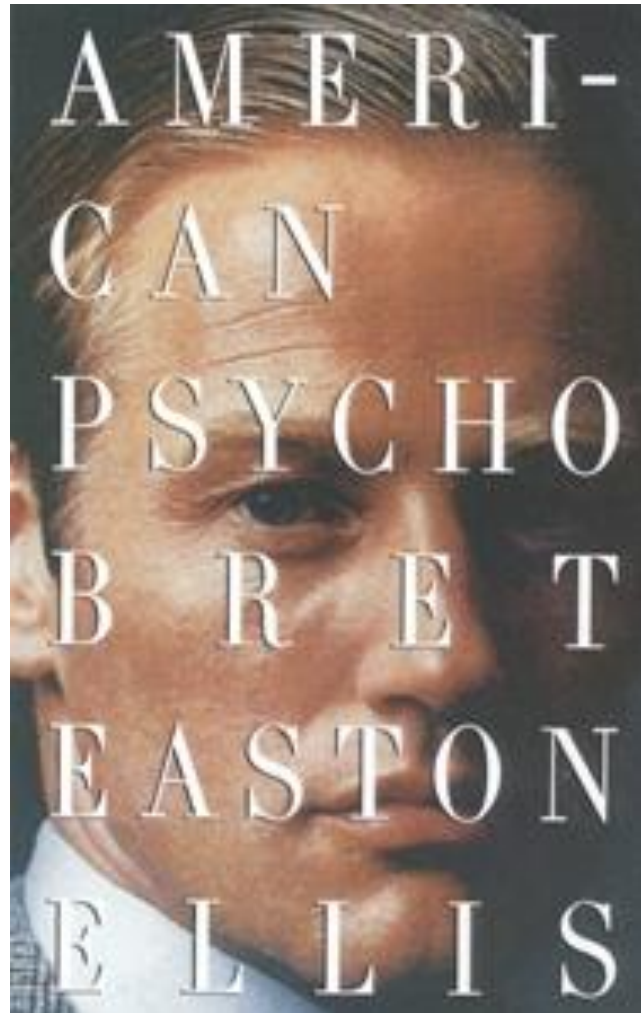
1978



1989

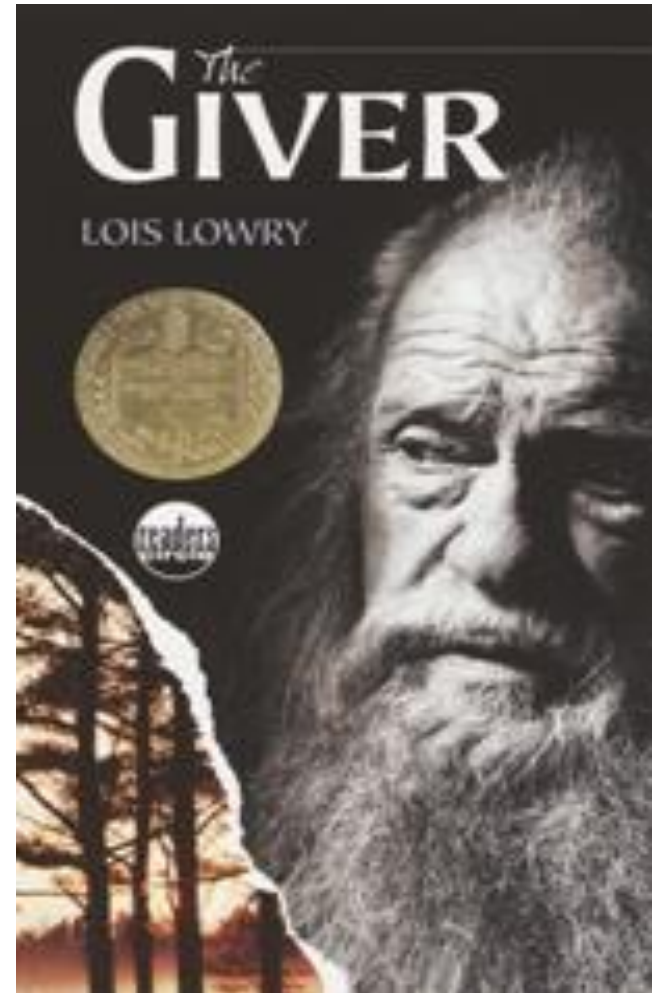


1991



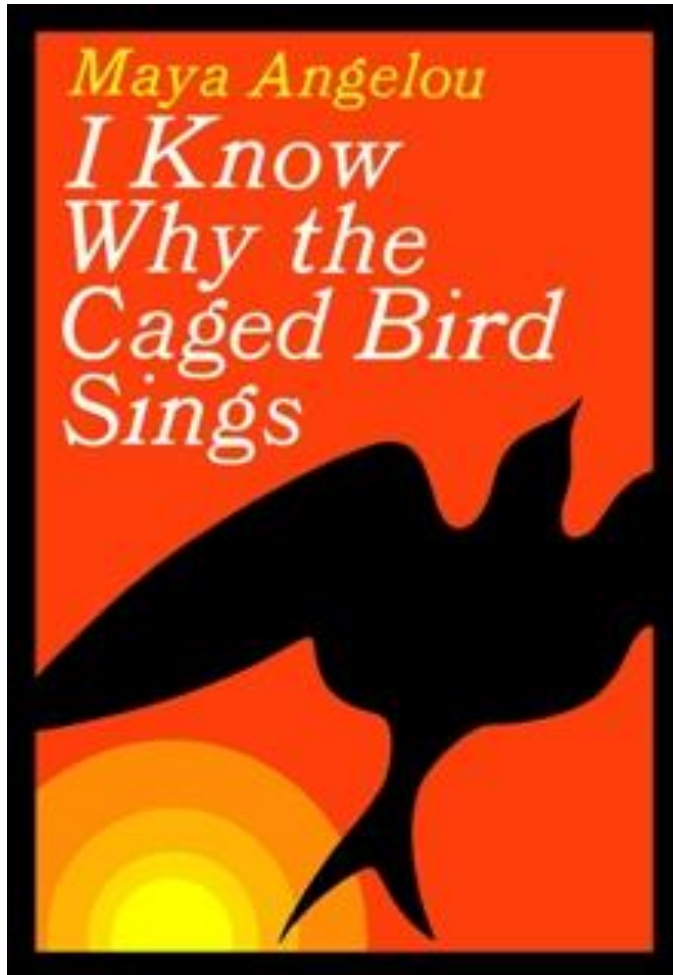
“...badly written,
even boring, but
not pornographic...”

1996



Inappropriate for
some age groups?

2002

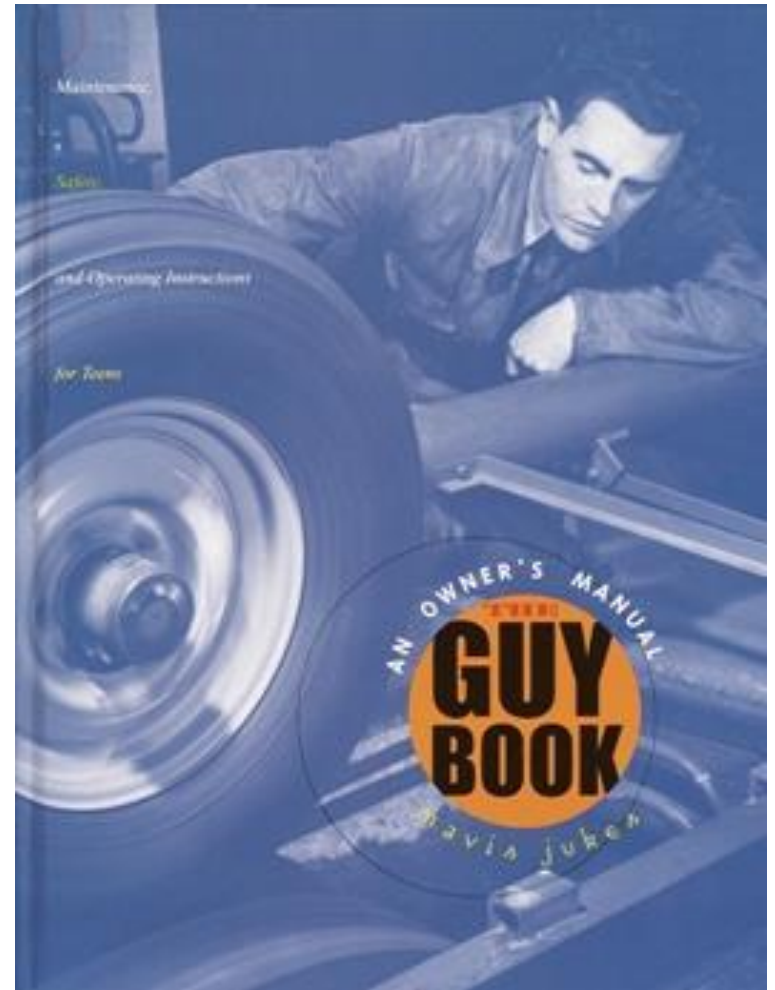


“Those things are
not for the
classroom...”

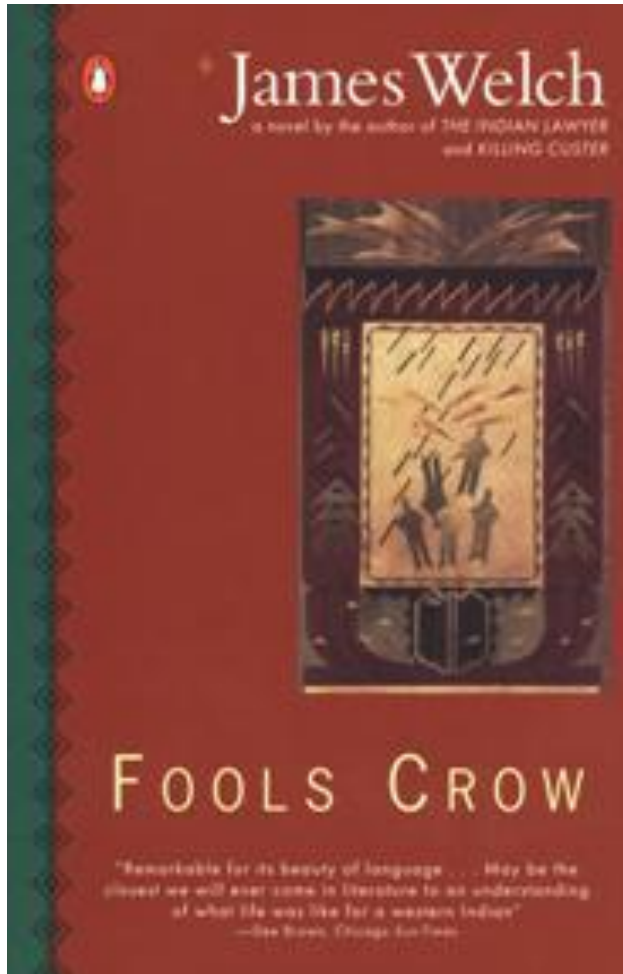
2006



Interest in the
book increased
after the
challenge



1999, 2000, 2007



“...it’s sad for the young people of Laurel. They won’t get to learn more about the Indian culture.”

2009 to ?



Challenges continue:

- 2008** **Helena Public Library**
Joy of Gay Sex
- 2008** **Helena Public Schools**
World War II by Ivor Matanle
- 2009** **Kohrs Memorial Library/Deer Lodge**
For Those I Loved by Martine Gray
- 2009** **Big Sky High School/Missoula**
Bad Folks by Jon Jackson
Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger

Facing a challenge?



Understand

Prepare

Inform

Educate

Resources...



ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom

Other ALA Divisions, such as AASL, have IF committees

ALA's Banned books map

Banned Books Week 2010

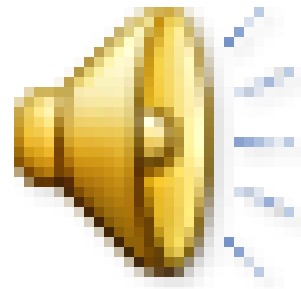
MLA IF Committee
(blog and wiki)

ACLU of Montana

So ... Celebrate Banned Books Week



Drum roll, please!



Questions?

