Celebrate your freedom to read!

Join us September 26th to October 3rd as we observe Banned Books Week in the library.

Two of the great hallmarks of our culture are the freedom to read and the freedom of expression. This means we are all free to choose the books we read and writers are free to express themselves through written or visual works. Throughout history, these tenets have been challenged by individuals, organizations and governments.

Please join MSU Libraries celebrate the freedom to read and to express with week-long series on banned and/or challenged books. Members of the MSU Community will read selections from their favorite banned or challenged book between 12:15 and 12:45 each day beginning Monday, September 28 through Friday, October 2. The readings will take place in Heathcote Court.

Most Challenged Books of 2008

In 2008, 513 book challenges were reported to the Office for Intellectual Freedom at the American Library Association for reasons such as unsuitability for the age group, offensive or sexually explicit language, and references to homosexuality. The top 10 challenged books of 2008 were:

1. *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
2. *His Dark Materials* trilogy by Philip Pullman
3. *TTYL; TTFN; L8R, G8R* (series) by Lauren Myracle
4. *Scary Stories* (series) by Alvin Schwartz
5. *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya
6. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky
7. *Gossip Girl* (series) by Cecily von Ziegesar
8. *Uncle Bobby's Wedding* by Sarah S. Brannen
9. *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
10. *Flashcards of My Life* by Charise Mericle Harper

Banned/Challenged Book Quiz

1. Which poem was the center of an obscenity trial in 1957?
2. How many books have been challenged in Montana from 2007-2009?
3. Since 2000, what is the most common reason for a book to be challenged?
4. Which book by Judy Blume has been challenged most often?
5. Why has *And Tango Makes Three* been the most frequently challenged book since 2006?