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| 1. Annotate the article with at least five notes that show evidence of understanding and thinking. |

***The Fault in Our Stars* Has Been Banned in Schools**

Excerpted from *Vanity Fair*, September 28, 2014 and *Los Angeles Times*, September 29, 2014

*The Fault in Our Stars*, the popular Y.A. weepy that spawned one of the year’s most profitable films, has been banned from the Riverside Unified School District middle schools. The ban comes in response to a challenge from at least one parent, Karen Krueger, who felt the morbid plot, crude language, and sexual content was inappropriate for her children. “I just didn't think it was appropriate for an 11-, 12-, 13-year-old to read,” she said. “I was really shocked it was in a middle school.” She convinced a committee of teachers, parents, a librarian, and a principal, who voted 6-1 to pull the best-selling John Green novel out of middle schools in the district. Betsy Schmechel, committee member and principal of one of the Riverside middle schools in question, boiled the threat of the book down:

The thing that kept hitting me like a tidal wave was these kids dealing with their own mortality, and how difficult that might be for an 11-year-old or 12-year-old reading this book.

Author John Green responded to the news with the trademark acerbic tone that has made characters like *The Fault in Our Stars*’s Hazel Grace so popular with teens. He wrote:

“I guess I am both happy and sad.

I am happy because apparently young people in Riverside, California will never witness or experience mortality since they won’t be reading my book, which is great for them.

But I am also sad because I was really hoping I would be able to introduce the idea that human beings die to the children of Riverside, California and thereby crush their dreams of immortality.”

Banning or challenging popular children’s fiction is nothing new. And for every banned or challenged book, you’ll find a clever author passionately objecting. But *The Fault in Our Stars* does have the dubious honor of being only the second book to be banned in the Riverside Unified School District –– the other being Robert Cormier’s 1974 novel *The Chocolate War*. Kind of makes you want to read *The Chocolate War*, doesn’t it? In fact, it’s likely that banning *The Fault in Our Stars* will only make it that much more alluring to Riverside middle school kids. Hazel Grace would be proud of her destructive reputation.

Given the financial success of *The Fault in Our Stars*, we can only imagine that this edgy, realistic teen movie trend is here to stay.

### Top 25 banned or challenged books: 2000-2009

1. Harry Potter series, by J.K. Rowling

2. Alice series, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

3. The Chocolate War, by Robert Cormier

4. And Tango Makes Three, by Justin Richardson/Peter Parnell

5. Of Mice and Men, by John Steinbeck

6. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou

7. Scary Stories (series), by Alvin Schwartz

8. His Dark Materials (series), by Philip Pullman

9. ttyl; ttfn; l8r g8r (series), by Lauren Myracle

10. The Perks of Being a Wallflower, by Stephen Chbosky

11. Fallen Angels, by Walter Dean Myers

12. It's Perfectly Normal, by Robie Harris

13. Captain Underpants (series), by Dav Pilkey

14. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain

15. The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison

16. Forever, by Judy Blume

17. The Color Purple, by Alice Walker

18. Go Ask Alice, by Anonymous

19. Catcher in the Rye, by J.D. Salinger

20. King and King, by Linda de Haan

21. To Kill A Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

22. Gossip Girl (series), by Cecily von Ziegesar

23. The Giver, by Lois Lowry

24. In the Night Kitchen, by Maurice Sendak

25. Killing Mr. Griffen, by Lois Duncan

Source: The American Library Association