

Be Prepared! “What to do when a challenge comes” checklist:

BEFORE a challenge:

- Do you have a SELECTION POLICY? Is it transparent and accessible? Does it include comics?
- Do you have a separate CHALLENGE POLICY in place? If not, create one
- IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS in your library system--who are the deciders on book bans?
- COMPARE POLICY MODELS. Are your policies the best they can be?
- PAY ATTENTION to those books that are being challenged around the nation; build advocacy

DURING a challenge:

- What are the REVIEWS of the book?
- For schools, are there CURRICULUM connections?
- For both school and public libraries, does this comic book FILL A NEED? Is it an award winner?
- Is your CHALLENGE PROCESS being followed?
- What COMMUNITY SUPPORTS are available to you?
- REPORT the challenge to the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom: <https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report>

AFTER a challenge:

- Win, lose, or draw, make it a point to THANK the people who helped you - you may need them again.
- UPDATE your policies where needed to strengthen them against future challenges
- Many challenge policies have a “COOLING OFF” period, where the same book cannot be challenged again for # of years. Is this in place for your library?
- PREPARE by asking - are there books similar to your challenged comic that may also trigger a challenge?
- LIVE to library another day. You are not alone.

The GNCRT Guide to
Addressing Comic Book
Bans, Censorship, and
Challenges in Libraries

- GNCRT 2022-2023

Be Prepared, Fight Censorship,
and Live to Library Another Day.



GRAPHIC NOVELS & COMICS
ROUND TABLE