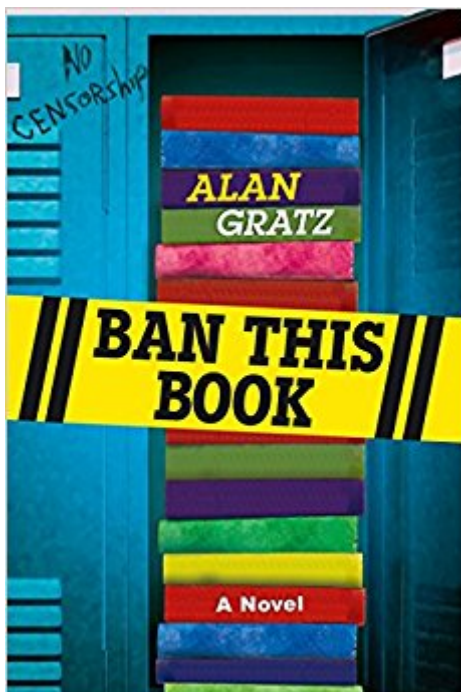


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Ban This Book: A Novel



Synopsis

You're Never Too Young to Fight Censorship! In *Ban This Book* by Alan Gratz, a fourth grader fights back when *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg is challenged by a well-meaning parent and taken off the shelves of her school library. Amy Anne is shy and soft-spoken, but don't mess with her when it comes to her favorite book in the whole world. Amy Anne and her lieutenants wage a battle for the books that will make you laugh and pump your fists as they start a secret banned books locker library, make up ridiculous reasons to ban every single book in the library to make a point, and take a stand against censorship. *Ban This Book* is a stirring defense against censorship that's perfect for middle grade readers. Let kids know that they can make a difference in their schools, communities, and lives!

"Readers, librarians, and all those books that have drawn a challenge have a brand new hero. Stand up and cheer, book lovers. This one's for you." —Kathi Appelt, author of the Newbery Honor-winning *The Underneath* "Ban This Book is absolutely brilliant and belongs on the shelves of every library in the multiverse." —Lauren Myracle, author of the bestselling *Internet Girls* series, the most challenged books of 2009 and 2011 "Quick paced and with clear, easy-to-read prose, this is a book poised for wide readership and classroom use." —Booklist "A stout defense of the right to read." —Kirkus Reviews "Gratz delivers a book lover's book that speaks volumes about kids' power to effect change at a grassroots level." —Publishers Weekly

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #21,888 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Censorship #42 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries #190 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

"Readers, librarians, and all those books that have drawn a challenge have a brand new hero in Amy Anne Ollinger. She's a true champion and testament to how doing a good thing is the first step in finding your own courage." — Kathi Appelt, Newbery Honor winning author of *The Underneath*
"Ban This Book is absolutely brilliant and belongs on the shelves of every library in the multiverse." — Lauren Myracle, author of the best-selling *Internet Girls* series, the most challenged books of 2009 and 2011
"A stout defense of the right to read." — Kirkus Reviews
"Gratz delivers a book lover's book that speaks volumes about kids' power to effect change at a grassroots level." — *Publisher's Weekly*

ALAN GRATZ is the author of many critically-acclaimed books for children and teens, including *Samurai Shortstop*, an ALA Top Ten Books for Young Adults; *Prisoner B-3087*; *The Brooklyn Nine*; *Refugee*; and the *League of Seven* trilogy (*The League of Seven*, *The Dragon Lantern*, *The Monster War*). A native of Knoxville, Tennessee, Alan is now a full-time writer living in western North Carolina with his wife and daughter.

Rated 3.75 of 5
Amy Anne Ollinger is a fourth-grader who loves to read. Her favorite book is *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, which she reads over and over again. But when she stops in the school library to check the book out and it's not on the shelf she has a moment of panic, but assumes it's been checked out by someone else. The librarian tells her that it will not be returning to the shelf anytime soon as it has been 'challenged' (or essentially pulled, or banned) from the library. And thus Amy Anne begins a crusade, first to make the banned books available to her peers through a library locker system, and then an unusual means to show the school board how silly it is to ban books.
Author Alan Gratz has written a nice early reader adventure story that touches on a topic fairly important to most readers - the subject of banning books. And along the way we get reminded not to judge people and not to blame students for the actions of their parents. The plot is generally pretty straight forward and simple, which is ideal for the target reader, though sometimes it is so simple that it rather ignores obvious facts (major plot point ... if the school already has a policy for dealing with books that someone wishes to remove from the school library, why do they completely ignore their own policy?) I also have a little trouble with the stern-ness,

bordering on cruel, in which the principal is portrayed. I realize that this is intended for children and that many may actually fear their principal, but it wasn't necessary, we already had a 'villain,' and a sympathetic-but-hands-tied administrator may have been more accurate and still allowed for all the action. The book reads like a middle school novel even though it's set a few years younger than that. Still, the book was easy to read, moved swiftly and had a central character who was someone the reader could relate to. It was an enjoyable read. Looking for a good book? *Ban This Book* by Alan Gatz is a delightful book for kids about how to fight back when adults get carried away in 'protecting' children from harmful literature. I received a digital copy of this book from the publisher, through Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.

I know we usually only review science fiction and fantasy here at The Arched Doorway but we thought that *Ban This Book* by Alan Gatz was about an important enough topic that it would be alright to make an exception. I honestly don't even know where to start with a review of a book that isn't fantasy or science fiction so I'm going to start off by just stating what should be obvious. *Ban This Book* by Alan Gatz is a fantastic book that should be read by both children and adults alike. At its core this was a book about why it's wrong to ban books or to tell people what they can or can't read. I would think this would be obvious but the fact that we even have to still address this issue so often shows how wrong I am. Amy Anne may only be a quiet little 4th grader but in *Ban This Book* she's forced to stand up and tackle a very adult subject in a way that I absolutely loved and found to be fairly believable. One of my favorite things that Alan Gatz does in this book is to introduce the concept of banning books and just what's wrong with it to kids in a way that is easy for them to understand without oversimplifying the subject. As well as showing them that you shouldn't be afraid to stand up for something important that you believe in. I firmly believe that even kids can make a difference in a subject such as this. Honestly, I would probably love this book for just the subject matter itself but luckily Alan Gatz is a great author and that definitely shows here. *Ban This Book* was well written and I found Amy Anne and all her friends to be believable characters that I easily empathized and fell in love with. I also think that the author did a great job showing kids that if they are going to address a topic such as this they need to be both loud and respectful when I do so. I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Amy Anne has a favorite book in her school library. She borrows it as often as the library rules

allow. But when she tries to check it out one day, Mrs. Jones, the school librarian, tells her that she had to take it off the shelf. Some of the parents decided that it wasn't appropriate for elementary school, and the school board agreed with them. With that, From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler and ten other books were banned from the school library. Although Amy Anne can't prevent the ban, she decides to take action to help students have access to the banned books. As the list of banned books continues to grow, the students' interest in the forbidden books grows as well. Amy Anne and her friends find creative ways to circumvent the ban to satisfy this interest. Ban This Book is a marvelous tale of inspiration, impressing upon middle school readers that they can make a difference, even when things seem hopeless. Through her experience responding to the banned books, Amy Anne's self-confidence blossoms, and she learns to speak up for herself. The impact of her objection to the censorship reaches her relationships with family and friends, which all grow stronger during the book. I received an advance reader copy of this book in exchange for my unbiased review.

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