

## What Comics Are Banned

As comics become a more important part of today's library environment, they are increasingly vulnerable to challenges and bans. Here's a list of the books that have been banned or challenged that you can find case studies on at [www.cbldf.org](http://www.cbldf.org).

*Amazing Spider-Man: Revelations*

by J. Michael Straczynski, John Romita, Jr, and Scott Hanna

*Batman: The Dark Knight Strikes Again*

by Frank Miller and Lynn Varley

*Blankets* by Craig Thompson

*Bone* by Jeff Smith

*Dragon Ball* by Akira Toriyama

*Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel

*Ice Haven* by Daniel Clowes

*In The Night Kitchen* by Maurice Sendak

*League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: The*

*Black Dossier* by Alan Moore and Kevin O'Neill

*Maus* by Art Spiegelman

*Neonomicon* by Alan Moore and Jacen Burrows

*Pride of Baghdad* by Brian K. Vaughn and Niko Henrichon

*Sandman* by Neil Gaiman and various artists

*SideScrollers* by Matthew Loux

*Stuck in the Middle*, edited by Ariel Schrag

*Stuck Rubber Baby* by Howard Cruse

*The Color of Earth* by Kim Dong Hwa

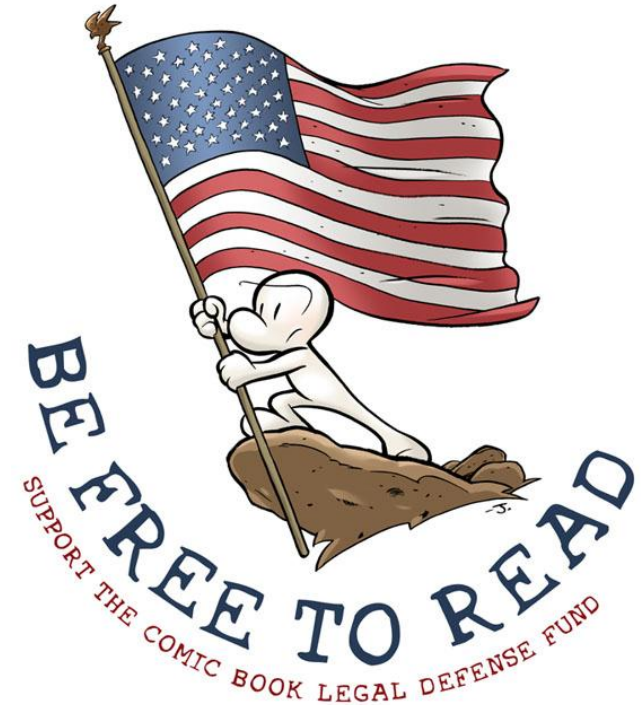
*Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons



*Support The Comic Book  
Legal Defense Fund*

[www.cbldf.org](http://www.cbldf.org)

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**BANNED  
BOOKS WEEK**

**CELEBRATE THE  
FREEDOM TO READ!**

**September 30 – October 6, 2012**

## The Problem

Every year people try to take away readers' power to decide what books are right for themselves or their children to read by bringing challenges to remove books from libraries. Comic books, graphic novels, and manga are frequently challenged and even banned.

## Why Comics Are Banned

Book banning is nothing new. Books are frequently banned for containing "adult content," "language," "sex/nudity," or not being "age appropriate." Comics are uniquely vulnerable to challenges because the medium thrives on the power of static images, and because there is a lingering stigma that comics are low-value speech. Some challenges are brought against comics because a single page or panel can be taken out of context, while others come under attack because of the mistaken notion that all comics are for children. Learn more about why comics are banned at [www.cblddf.org](http://www.cblddf.org)

## What CBLDF Does To Help

The CBLDF assists librarians by providing access to resources and writing letters of support in cases where comics are challenged. In the past year the CBLDF has participated in helping several challenges and stands ready to address new ones when they occur. CBLDF is also an active sponsor of Banned Books Week and the Kids Right To Read Project, initiatives that create tools and perform activities that advance the freedom to read.

## What You Can Do To Help

You can make a difference in protecting the freedom to read! Here are some suggestions:

### Support Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.

The CBLDF is able to perform our important work protecting comics because of the donations of readers like you. Please consider [making a donation](#) or [becoming a member](#). Your contributions ensure we can continue to fight censorship!

**Stay Informed.** If you read or hear about a challenge at your school or public library, support your librarian and free and open access to library materials. Let CBLDF know when you hear of challenges to comics, graphic novels, and manga by emailing [info@cblddf.org](mailto:info@cblddf.org). Read [CBLDF.org](http://CBLDF.org) for regular news about comics censorship.

**Spread The Word.** If you're passionate about protecting comics from bans and challenges, don't keep it to yourself! Speak out using social networks, blogs, and even letters to the editor of your local paper expressing why this issue is important in your community.

**Make A Banned Comics Display.** Let everyone know about the challenges facing comics by making a banned comics display at your store, library or school. There are all kinds of creative ways to display banned comics. Some have shown books behind bars, under lock and key, or behind police tape to show the dangers of restricting access. Others have used CBLDF logos and literature to create a positive display

showing the benefits of free expression. Send us pictures of your display to help inspire others!

**Host A Banned Comics Event.** Work with your local retailer or library to host an event celebrating your favorite banned comics! This can be a read-out, a book group discussion, a creator signing, or even a party. Tell CBLDF about your activity and we'll let others know about it at [CBLDF.org](http://CBLDF.org)!

### Distribute Banned Comics Literature.

Let others know about the challenges comics face by printing and distributing literature from the CBLDF's Downloads section. We've prepared a variety of handouts, pamphlets, and images to help raise awareness of comics censorship that you can print and distribute freely to help advance awareness!

### Wear Banned Comics Merchandise.

Show the world that you support intellectual freedom for comics by proudly wearing CBLDF apparel! CBLDF offers a wide range of items to show the world that you're against censorship, including t-shirts proclaiming "I Read Banned Comics," a police line-up of comics characters showing that "It Can Happen to Anyone," or the classic Comics Code Authority Seal of Approval. Check out CBLDF's line of merchandise at [cblddf.org](http://cblddf.org)!

**Exercise your rights!** Check out or re-read a favorite banned comic. Encourage your book group to read and discuss one of the books. Give one of your favorite books as a gift.