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1. This man moved from New York to Florida a few months ago

Now he wants to ban 3600 BOOKS from the school libraries

And he's already made significant progress

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■ <https://t.co/JTqXeshNof>



2. This year, at least 102 books have been removed from the shelves of school libraries in Clay County Florida

Many of these books were pulled at the request of 1 man: Bruce Friedman

A conservative activist and longtime resident of New York, Friedman moved to Clay County in May

3. One of the books pulled from the shelves is *The Girl From The Sea*, an award-winning graphic novel.

The book is about a 15-year-old girl who develops romantic feelings for another girl.

The two girls hold hands and, at one point, share a kiss.

No sex. No nudity. No swearing

4. In an interview with Popular Information, Friedman described *The Girl From The Sea* as a book for "slightly post-pubescent little lesbians."

Friedman says he objects to the book being available because students are "not in school to learn how to be better lesbians."

5. *The Girl From The Sea* has been removed from Clay County school libraries because of a new policy, implemented in July, that requires books to be pulled as soon as a challenge has been properly filed.

Friedman has exploited this policy by flooding the district with challenges. <https://t.co/mMGcSloeYX>



6. Popular Information has obtained dozens of Friedman's challenge forms through public information requests.

The forms are identical.

The reason for the request is to "PROTECT CHILDREN," the objectionable material is "INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT."

7. Friedman told Popular Information that, since June 30, he has "investigated between 5 and 10 thousand" books available in Clay County school libraries on "a very cursory level."

8. In an interview, Friedman acknowledged that he filed challenges over the summer WITHOUT READING THE CHALLENGED BOOKS.

Friedman said he has already filed more than 350 challenges.

9. Eventually, Clay County began to reject Friedman's challenges as incomplete because they do not include any real explanation of the objection.

But Friedman is undeterred and, in the hopes of getting more challenges accepted, said he has started reading the books first.

10. Friedman says he is just getting started.

During a November 28 meeting of the Florida Department of Education Library Media Working Group, Friedman said he had compiled "a list of over 3,600 titles that I believe have concerning content."

11. Friedman demanded that the Department of Education "clean up this mess." If not, Friedman threatened to "perform 3,600 challenges and overwhelm your awful, awful procedures and policies."

12. Friedman acknowledged he is not aware of any children who were exposed to objectionable content at a school library and had it negatively impact their lives.

"I don't have to know them," Friedman said. "It's all of them."

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13. Were you interested in this thread?

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14. The actual standard for library books is established by a new Florida law, HB 1467

It states that library books must be free of pornography, suited to student needs, and appropriate for the age group

<https://t.co/pngptKlsvu>

The revised Clay County Procedures Manual for Library Media Services lays out the legal standard for library books under HB 1467:

- Free of pornography and material prohibited under s. 847.012
- Suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented
- Appropriate for the grade level and age group for which the materials are used or made available

15. Friedman said he did not believe *The Girl From The Sea* is pornographic. But, according to Friedman, it should be removed from the school library because it is "in very poor taste" and "sets a terrible example for our children, straight or gay."

16. According to Friedman, the book promotes "promiscuity" and "pre-marital sex" when "we are supposed to be promoting abstinence."

Friedman cited the "Parental Rights Act," also known as the "Don't Say Gay" law, to justify these objections.

17. The Parental Rights Act, however, prohibits classroom instruction of elementary students about sexuality and gender. It does not apply to library books.

18. Despite this confusion about the legal standard, Friedman and others have already been able to PERMANENTLY remove dozens of books from Clay County school libraries.

Here's how it works.

<https://popular.info/p/how-to-ban-3600-books-from-school>

19. Starting this year, groups like No Left Turn in Education began challenging library material en masse. School officials are fearful.

Since March, the county librarians have not been able to purchase any new material -- or even order new copies of books already on shelves

20. Under Clay County's July 2022 policy, any challenge should be reviewed by a District Curriculum Council, a rotating panel of school officials. But when challenges from Friedman and others started flooding in, the leadership of Clay County schools handled things differently

21. According to Julie Miller, the chair of the Clay County Education Association Media Committee, were pressured to determine if the books were eligible to be "weeded" or "deselected."

22. The librarians were also reminded that, under Florida law, they could potentially be held personally liable for making "pornographic" material available to minors.

23. This process resulted in Clay County librarians agreeing to weed or deselect 52 books from school libraries. These included acclaimed titles like Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants*, and Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*.

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24. Clay County schools have published a list of filed challenges, including those that librarians agreed to weed/deselect.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vRip3jVBcXfm-k_gAFM52K5oCTjJ5A0fzZduc0sQpePk-rMSi0WDfRB
<https://t.co/i9Nqt8BI2H>

District Reconsideration List : Sheet1		
Title	Author	Status
All Boys Aren't Blue	George M. Johnson	Removed from all Libraries
Push	Sapphire	Deselected/Weeded
Tricks	Ellen Hopkins	Deselected/Weeded
Lucky	Alice Seabold	Deselected/Weeded
Dear Martin	Nic Stone	Keep: HS Level
Jesus Land	Julia Scheeres	Deselected/Weeded
Julian is a Mermaid	Jessica Love	Removed from all Libraries
Homegoing	Yaa Gyasi	Deselected/Weeded
More Happy Than Not	Adam Silvera	Deselected/Weeded
This One Summer	Mariko Tamaki	Deselected/Weeded
Being Jazz	Jazz Jennings	Deselected/Weeded
Nineteen Minutes	Jodi Picoult	Deselected/Weeded
Beloved	Toni Morrison	Deselected/Weeded
The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini	Deselected/Weeded
Outlander	Diana Gabaldon	Deselected/Weeded
The God of Small Things	Roy Arundhati	Deselected/Weeded
Unravel Me	Tahereh Mafi	Keep: HS Level
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close	Jonathan Safran Foer	Deselected/Weeded
Two Boys Kissing	David Levithan	Deselected/Weeded
The Truth About Alice	Jennifer Mathieu	Deselected/Weeded
Killing Mr. Griffin	Lois Duncan	Deselected/Weeded
Real Live Boyfriends	E. Lockhart	Deselected/Weeded
Thirteen Reasons Why	Jay Asher	
The Hate U Give	Angie Thomas	
Drama	Raina Teigmeier	Keep: JH & HS Levels
The Bluest Eye	Toni Morrison	Deselected/Weeded
Looking for Alaska	John Green	Deselected/Weeded

25. In response, Miller and some of her colleagues in Clay County libraries have resolved not to weed out or deselect any additional challenged books in Clay County because they believe the system is being abused.

26. That means Friedman's accepted challenges are now subject to review. So far Friedman has lost four of the five books that have been reviewed.

Friedman has vowed to appeal all rejections to the district superintendent and, if necessary, to the Clay County School Board.

27. has reason to believe that his appeals may be successful. Friedman says that we "got rid of two people" on the board who opposed his efforts. He was "extremely supportive of two newly elected board members that I think sufficiently leaned towards protecting children."

28. The goal, according to Friedman, is to use Clay County library to "set a good example for what a clean library looks like" for Florida and the country. If anyone gets in his way, Friedman vowed to "run over them like a dead body."

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