

# FREED BETWEEN THE LINES BINGO

To complete *Freed Between the Lines* Bingo, read the books/complete the activities in one row of 5 spaces (vertical, horizontal, diagonal) or complete the books/activities listed in all 4 corners of the board.

Present your completed board at Bloomington Library's Help Desk, Bookmobile stops, or Drive-Up Lane by Saturday, September 28, to receive a sticker. The books chosen for the Bingo board are the Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2023, according to the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom.



\*BIPOC = Black, Indigenous, People of Color

\*LGBTQ+ = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, or Other

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# ABOUT *BANNED BOOKS WEEK*

Library staff across the country are encountering a significant rise in efforts to ban books. In 2023, ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom documented **1,247 demands to censor library books and resources**. The number of titles targeted for censorship surged 65% in 2023 compared to 2022, reaching the highest levels ever recorded by OIF in over 20 years of tracking: **4,240 unique book titles were targeted for removal** from schools and libraries. This exceeds the previous high from 2022, when 2,571 unique titles were targeted for censorship. Titles representing the voices and lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC individuals made up 47% of those targeted in censorship attempts.

The theme for Banned Books Week 2024 (September 22-28) is "Freed Between the Lines." We can find freedom in the pages of a book, but book bans and censorship threaten that freedom, along with many other rights and institutions. During Banned Books Week 2024 and beyond, let's share our love of the right to read and the freedom found in books.

***Let's be Freed Between the Lines.***

*Use the QR Code to the right for more information and to find the sources for these statistics.*



According to the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, ranked in order, these were the **Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2023**:

1. ***Gender Queer*** by Maia Kobabe
2. ***All Boys Aren't Blue*** by George M. Johnson
3. ***This Book is Gay*** by Juno Dawson
4. ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*** by Stephen Chbosky
5. ***Flamer*** by Mike Curato
6. ***The Bluest Eye*** by Toni Morrison
7. (TIE) ***Tricks*** by Ellen Hopkins  
(TIE) ***Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*** by Jesse Andrews
9. ***Let's Talk About It*** by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan
10. ***Sold*** by Patricia McCormick

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