

Welcome to Tuesday Topics, a monthly series covering topics with intellectual freedom implications for libraries of all types. Each message is sponsored by a member of OLA's [Intellectual Freedom Committee \(IFC\)](#). Questions can be directed to the author of the message or to the IFC chairs ([ifc.chair@olaweb.org](mailto:ifc.chair@olaweb.org)).



## Tuesday Topic: Intellectual freedom beach reads for 2017

Freedom of speech includes the freedom to read, so why not exercise that right this summer by reading some books related to intellectual freedom? We've separated our suggestions into two lists: one for adult readers and one for children and teens, although of course we'll be the last ones to tell you to limit yourself to either one.

### Books for adults (or kids who like to read up)

- ***Free Speech: A Very Short Introduction*** by Nigel Warburton (2009, nonfiction). Questions about “free speech” have been coming up a lot in the news, and this slim book will give you an overview of the main arguments about what free speech is and why it matters.
- ***Free Speech: Ten Principles For A Connected World*** by Timothy Garton Ash (2016, nonfiction). Want something more than a very short introduction? Maybe an in-depth, international exploration of free speech and how it can be a tool to combine freedom and diversity in our ever-more-connected “cosmopolis” of a world? Then this is the book for you.
- ***The Book Thieves: The Nazi Looting of Europe's Libraries and the Race to Return a Literary Inheritance*** by Anders Rydell, translated by Henning Koch (2017, nonfiction). The Nazis infamously burned books, but there is much more to the story than that. They also undertook massive programs to plunder, collect, and catalog massive libraries of books written by Jews and others whom they despised. The goal of the Nazis was not just to remove these books, but to control the knowledge within them in order to tell their own Aryan history of the world. This book documents work by current librarians and historians to identify the stolen book collections and return them to their rightful owners.
- ***Watchlist: 32 Stories by Persons of Interest***, edited by Bryan Hurt (2016, fiction). A big collection of short stories by an international group of literary and science fiction authors (Aimee Bender! T.C. Boyle! Charles Yu! Lots more!) speculating on a present and future where everyone is watched and also, many times, simultaneously watching.
- ***Revolution for Dummies: Laughing Through the Arab Spring*** by Bassem Youssef (2017, biography). Bassem Youssef has had a fascinating life: former heart surgeon turned social media star and political satirist, and now an exile from his home country of Egypt. Both a biography and a personal account of the 2011 Egyptian Revolution, this is a story of satire, free (and not free) speech, and the man who Egyptian officials believed was a CIA operative on a “secret mission to bring down the country through sarcasm.”

Books for kids and teens (or adults who like to read young)

- ***Ink and Bone: The Great Library*** by Rachel Caine (2015, young-adult fiction). Get your road trip fix by traveling through time into history rewritten where the omnipotent Great Library of Alexandria is now found in every city, monitoring and controlling the movement of knowledge and information through alchemy. This dystopian has it all – alchemy, secret tunnels, treason, adventure, spies, friendship, and books upon books. And at the heart of it all, readers follow Jess Brightwell who is being confronted with the importance of loyalty, knowledge, freedom, and human life.
- ***The Ninja Librarians: The Accidental Keyhand*** by Jen Swann Downey (2014, juvenile fiction) is exactly what it sounds like: a secret society of swash-buckling, time-traveling, karate-chopping, evil-fighting librarians on a mission to protect anyone throughout history who has gotten into trouble over words. So, just the typical day of all librarians, right?
- ***This One Summer*** by Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki (2014, young-adult graphic novel) topped the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom's Top Ten Most Challenged Books of 2016. Nominee and winner of multiple awards, including the Michael L. Printz and the Caldecott Honor, this book contains the classic "sins" of drug use, profanity, LGBT characters, and sexually explicit and mature themes. All this over the course of a summer at a lake house on the beach, where Rose watches her parents fall apart. If that doesn't pique your interest, nothing will.
- ***Little Brother*** by Cory Doctorow (2008, young-adult fiction) is the first book in the Little Brother series by longtime intellectual freedom proponent Cory Doctorow. In this opener to the series, the Department of Homeland Security has created a police state in San Francisco following a major terrorist attack. Every citizen is now monitored as a potential terrorist. Following long interrogations and unjust imprisonment, Marcus and his friends must take down the ruling DHS because, like Doctorow writes, "It's not about doing something shameful. It's about doing something private. It's about your life belonging to you."
- ***Candor*** by Pam Bachorz (2009, young-adult fiction) takes readers to sunny Candor, Florida, a model community with a secret: teens are brought to this picturesque town to be transformed into polite and submissive citizens through the power of subliminal messages. But what the town's founder doesn't know is that his son, Oscar, is using messages of his own to help the clients escape before they're reprogrammed. When Oscar falls in love with a classic bad-girl client, he's challenged to recognize his own cruelty and the freedom of thought required for love.

You can find all of these titles, along with previous years' picks, on the [OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee's Goodreads page](#).

Happy reading!

-Ross and Shun-Sho

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