



CDF Freedom Schools® Banned Books We Love 2023 #NationalReadingMonth Book List

WEEK 1 (March 1-7)

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation by Duncan Tonatiuh

Multiple Ages (Kindergarten – 5th Grade)

I Am Every Good Thing by Derrick Barnes, Illustrated by Gordan C. James

3rd Grade – 5th Grade

Count on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13
by Helanine Becker, Illustrated by Dow Phumiruk

6th Grade – 8th Grade

Forged by Fire by Sharon M. Draper

9th Grade – 12th Grade

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

WEEK 2 (March 8-14)

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmed, Illustrated by Stadia Burrington

Multiple Ages (Kindergarten – 5th Grade)

Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream For Me by Daniel Beaty, Illustrated
by Bryan Collier

3rd Grade – 5th Grade

14 Cows for America by Carmen Agra Deedy and Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah,
Illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez

6th Grade – 8th Grade

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

9th Grade – 12th Grade

Darkness Before Dawn by Sharon M. Draper

WEEK 3 (March 15–21)

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Smokey Night by Eve Bunting, Illustrated by David Diaz

3rd Grade – 5th Grade

Sadako & The Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr,
Illustrated by Ed Young

6th Grade – 8th Grade

Discovering Wes Moore by Wes Moore

9th Grade – 12th Grade

Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson

WEEK 4 (March 22–28)

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts, Illustrated by Noah Z. Jones

Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match by Monica Brown,
Illustrated by Sara Palacios

3rd Grade – 5th Grade

Sonia Sotomayor by Jonah Winter, Illustrated by Edel Rodriguez

6th Grade – 8th Grade

The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

9th Grade – 12th Grade

Panic by Sharon M. Draper

WEEK 5 (March 29–April 4)

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Something Happened In Our Town by Marianne Celano and Marietta Collins,
Illustrated by Jennifer Zivion

3rd Grade – 5th Grade

In Our Mother's House by Patricia Polacco

6th Grade – 8th Grade

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

The 1619 Project: Born on the Water by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renee Watson,
Illustrated by Nikkolas Smith

9th Grade – 12th Grade

Romiette and Julio by Sharon M. Draper

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines

SOURCES

[PEN America Banned Booklist](#)

[The Reading Bug 2022 Banned and Challenged Books](#)

[Evanston Public Library List](#)