



**[Banned Together: Our Fight for Readers' Rights](#)** edited by Ashley Hope Pérez  
Holiday House, 2025  
ISBN: 9780823458301 (Hardcover); 9780823462032 (Ebook)  
\*Age Range: 12 and up (Suggested by Publisher)  
Grade Range: Grade 8 and up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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A dazzling YA anthology that spotlights the transformative power of books while equipping teens to fight for the freedom to read, featuring the voices of 15 diverse, award-winning authors and illustrators.

Books are disappearing from shelves across the country.

What does this mean for authors, illustrators, and—most crucially—for young readers?

This bold collection of fiction, memoir, poetry, graphic narratives, essays, and other genres explores book bans through various lenses, and empowers teens to fight back. From moving personal accounts to clever comebacks aimed at censorship, fifteen legendary YA authors and illustrators confront the high-stakes question of what is lost when books are kept from teens.

Contributors include Elana K. Arnold, Nikki Grimes, Ellen Hopkins, Kelly Jensen, Brendan Kiely, Maia Kobabe, Bill Konigsberg, Kyle Lukoff, MariNaomi, Trung Lê Nguyễn, Ashley Hope Pérez, Isabel Quintero, Traci Sorell, Robin Stevenson, and Padma Venkatraman; the collection is a star-studded must-read that packs strength and power into every last word.

Striking illustrations from Ignatz-nominated artist Debbie Fong pair perfectly with the searing, impactful narrative. Resources include tips from the Vandegrift Banned Book Club and other teen activists, as well as extensive recommended book lists, a How to Start Your Own Little Free Library flier, and more.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ “Authentic and raw prose and poetry render an educational safe space for readers. . . this anthology acts as a call to action and a form of protest, using the power of words to inspire hope and unity.” – *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

★ “Serving as a manifesto against book banning delivered by the authors whose livelihood is on the line, this collection movingly reminds readers of the power they have against censorship. The authors' encouraging, candid voices teach readers how to stand up to book bans by supporting challenged titles in communities and schools

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and helping the community see the value in being open to learning about issues they may fear or not understand. Powerful reading for a crucial moment.” – *Booklist* (starred review)

★ “Editor Pérez introduces readers to teens around the country who are taking action to ensure their freedom to read and provides tips, reading suggestions, and other resources. Together these diverse contributors’ voices form a potent whole. An empowering and critically timely blueprint for action.” – *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

★ “This is a must-have anthology for libraries, as well as an invaluable personal resource for high school readers.” – *Bookpage* (starred review)

★ “This light in the darkness is an inspiring call to action and an essential addition to all collections.” – *School Library Journal* (starred review)

“This powerful compilation of essays, stories, comics, and poetry features 15 authors banding together over being banned; their work is enhanced by Ignatz Award-nominated illustrator Debbie Fong’s graphics.” – *Shelf Awareness*

## **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

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- [Q & A with Ashley Hope Pérez](#)
- [Reading Group Guide](#)

## **AUTHOR STATEMENT**

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My fellow authors and I wrote *Banned Together* to rebuild the bridges that book bans destroy—bridges that connect writers and readers, bridges that include different perspectives, bridges that help us engage responsibly with challenging subjects, bridges that show us we are not alone in challenges we face. We hope that adults with concerns about what teens are reading will begin by reading with them, and *Banned Together* is a great place to start.

## **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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