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For Banned Books Week (Sept 21-27), Brown Administration Officials Read From Their Favorite Banned Books

SACRAMENTO – *The Grapes of Wrath, To Kill a Mockingbird, One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest.* Considered classics of modern literature and taught in schools throughout the country, these books are among the many that have been challenged or removed from library shelves and school classrooms because they are deemed “offensive.”

To draw attention to the harms of censorship and celebrate the importance of free speech, the State Library is hosting an online video Read-Out during Banned Book Week, September 22 through September 27, of banned books.

Starting Tuesday, a different cabinet secretary from the Brown Administration will read from one of their favorite banned books. Natural Resources Secretary John Laird reads from *Of Mice and Men* on Tuesday. State Librarian Greg Lucas starts the week off with *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. Find it at the State Library’s website [here](#).

In addition, a selection of frequently banned books will be on display in Gillis Hall, the library’s reading room on the third floor of the Library and Courts Building at 914 Capitol Mall in Sacramento.

Since 1990, the [American Library Association](#) has logged over 10,000 book challenges -- a formal, written complaint requesting a book be banned. Usually, books are challenged on the grounds they contain “sexually explicit content” or “offensive language.” The primary target of challenges is children’s books. For more information on banned book events at California libraries, visit the California Library Association’s [webpage](#).

Banned Books Week has been celebrated annually since 1982 by librarians, teachers, readers, booksellers and publishers to commemorate the most basic freedom in a democratic society – the freedom to read freely.

About the California State Library: Founded in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for the Governor's office, Legislature, state employees, and the general public. The State Library leads and promotes innovative library services by providing and managing state and federal funding programs to ensure all Californians have access via their libraries to information and educational resources. For more information, visit www.library.ca.gov

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