

BANNED IN MIDDLE GRADE

Name _____

An Aida Salazar Reading Challenge

Aida Salazar, author of "Land of the Cranes" and "Ultraviolet" knows the power of middle grade literature that shows readers diverse perspectives. For her reading challenge, she highlights middle grade books that have been widely banned in schools. Aida wonders why adults, who let middle grade students access phones and the web so freely, fear books as harmful. She wants this list and others you might add to spark conversation about this fear of books and stories. Read these books to expand your perspective and to resist others' desire to limit it.



Book Recommendations

- ☐ "Melissa" by Alex Gino
- ☐ "King and the Dragonflies" by Kacen Callender
- ☐ "It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health" by Robbie H. Harris, illustrated by Michael Emberley
- ☐ "Ghost Boys" by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- ☐ "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You" by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
- ☐ "Esperanza Rising" by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- ☐ "Before We Were Free" by Julia Alvarez
- ☐ "The Moon Within" by Aida Salazar



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Reading Log

Color in a book for every 30 minutes that you read.



30m



60m



90m



120m



150m



180m



210m



240m



270m



300m



Aida Salazar was a guest on the Beanstack podcast, The Reading Culture, where she shared this challenge and her journey to becoming a writer.

Learn more at
THEREADINGCULTUREPOD.COM

