



THE BAN-PROOF BOOKSHELF

To observe Banned Books Week (September 25–October 2, 2004), this edition of *Where's Lubar?* appears in both the magazine and the Web site (<http://www.voya.com>).

Don't you just hate having your day interrupted to deal with a book challenge? Whether it's a shouting parent, a sign-waving picket line, or a smoldering pile of burning books setting off the sprinklers in the YA section, there's nothing like a protest to put a crimp in a peaceful afternoon spent monitoring Internet surfing or helping ninety-six eighth graders find information about some obscure prehistoric trilobite. It might seem as if every book is going to offend some group. Here are some books that nobody could possibly object to—ban-proof books—all of which have been rated **5Q 1P**.



Mommy Has Two Heathers

This touching story features a woman who is so startled to give birth to twins that she completely fails to come up with a second name, and ends up calling them both Heather.

The Handmaid's Towel

A servant works hard to ensure that there are no chapped fingers in her household.

Where the Mild Things Are

To help his parents cope with the stresses of life, a teen crosses the country in search of the blandest food, tamest tourist spots, and least threatening people. He stays in the right lane throughout the book.

Athletic Shirts

Wrestlers work up an honest sweat.

The Great Gilly Swimkins

Gilly is a fish. Gilly is happy. Gilly lives a wonderful life with her two devoted parents and nine thousand siblings. Gilly has an adventure and learns a valuable moral lesson. Glub, glub. Yawn, yawn.



My Brother's Ham is Dead

A girl decides to test a vegetarian lifestyle after realizing the true meaning of meat. She does not force her opinion on others.

Flowers for Algebra

A young math prodigy decides to brighten the classroom of his favorite subject with a bouquet of daffodils.

Summer of My German Solder

A nerd builds his own computer, using the best components from all over the world.

Huckleberry Fawn

An oddly colored deer takes a walk through the forest. Nobody shoots at her.



Boy Meets Buoy

Kids go for a swim. There is no horseplay, body contact, or Speedos. All characters remain in safe, shallow water throughout the story.

Wheezie Bats

In this sequel to *Stella Luna*, an adorable flock of winged mammals develops a minor respiratory condition. To their delight, they discover that the wheeze isn't a burden but an enhancement to their echo-location skills.



Private Ports

Howard Stern discusses secluded places to dock a yacht.

Lady Chatterley's Liver

This genteel cookbook emphasizes the use of organ meats and fresh produce from the garden.

The Story of O. Henry

Coming in at a terse three pages, this is probably one of the shortest novels ever published (not counting those written in verse). Readers will love the twist ending.

Killing Mr. Geffen

Teens form a garage band and get a chance to perform for the owner of a major label. They're so good, they blow him away.



IM the Cheese

In this light fantasy, a boy is mentored online by a ripe bunk of gorgonzola.



One Flue Over the Couscous Nest

A pair of hard-working students spends the summer repairing the ventilation system of a Mediterranean restaurant in this multicultural romp.

The son of a school librarian, David Lubar divides his time between writing frivolous essays and voting for himself on teen booklists. He is both a bilarious public speaker and a YA novelist who ranges from touching realism touched with humor, to science fiction and fantasy. His forthcoming novel would have been titled *Flux Sux*, but he settled for *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* (Dutton, July 2005). Lubar lives in Nazareth, Pennsylvania, with his wife and three cats; all are helping him write a sequel to *Hidden Talents* (Tor, 1999). See his Web site at <http://www.davidlubar.com>.