

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin white lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming larger, more prominent clusters or shapes, while others are isolated. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

# Suggested Reading

Written by Dave Connis

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# Suggested Reading

By Dave Connis

## Suggested Reading For 8th Graders

In this hilarious and thought-provoking contemporary teen standalone that's perfect for fans of Moxie, a bookworm finds a way to fight back when her school bans dozens of classic and meaningful books.

## Suggested Reading List

Clara Evans is horrified when she discovers her principal's "prohibited media" hit list. The iconic books on the list have been pulled from the library and aren't allowed anywhere on the school's premises. Students caught with the contraband will be sternly punished.

## Suggested Reading For 3rd Graders

Many of these stories have changed Clara's life, so she's not going to sit back and watch while her draconian principal abuses his power. She's going to strike back.

## Suggested Reading Dave Connis

So Clara starts an underground library in her locker, doing a shady trade in titles like *Speak* and *The Chocolate War*. But when one of the books she loves most is connected to a tragedy she never saw coming, Clara's forced to face her role in it.

## Suggested Reading For 9th Graders

Will she be able to make peace with her conflicting feelings, or is fighting for this noble cause too tough for her to bear?

"Books are wild things. You can't tame them. People are wild things. You can't tame them, either. Put those two together and you can't know what's going to happen..." Suggested Reading by Dave Connis is a wonderful story about the power and magic of books.. It's truly a love letter to book lovers and feels so right. My heart is so happy and full after reading this and I just can't help but be grateful to the warm and fuzzy feelings I get from this books.

After a list of over 50 books are mysteriously and covertly added her private school's prohibited media list, volunteer librarian and avid booklover Clara Evans is determined to keep these books in circulation in an underground library run out of her locker.

Suggested Reading is a story about the power of books, what they mean to us and how they shape us. It really focuses on how we internalize books in different ways - and can take completely different lessons from the same story because of our own personal views. It's a story of friendship and celebration that really looks at how different media impacts us, and we in turn impact those around us. I loved every second of it and I can't suggest it enough.

I received a copy of the book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. ...more

## Suggested Reading For 4th Graders

Rating: 4.5 Stars

Clara lived and breathed books. She had this unbridled passion for the written word and the power it possessed. Therefore, when she inadvertently learned that many of her favorite books were being placed on a "prohibited" media list, she decided to fight back, and created an underground library. However, as word of the Unlib spread, Clara found herself wondering if the rewards outweighed the risks.

This was a book about a rabid reader, which celebrated the power of books. How could I not love it! Rating: 4.5 Stars

Clara lived and breathed books. She had this unbridled passion for the written word and the power it possessed. Therefore, when she inadvertently learned that many of her favorite books were being placed on a "prohibited" media list, she decided to fight back, and created an underground library. However, as word of the Unlib spread, Clara found herself wondering if the rewards outweighed the risks.

This was a book about a rabid reader, which celebrated the power of books. How could I not love it!

Connis created one of my favorite bibliophiles to date - Clara. She oozed book joy, and I just about hung on her every word, when she waxed poetic about her favorites. The opening chapter, immediately embedded her in my heart, and I held her there until the very last page.

The basis of this story was the banning of books, and Connis featured many amazing examples of challenged works, but he also used that as a springboard to show the different ways we connect to books, and how they can connect us to each other.

Though, the author was clearly on the side of not banning books, he did allow Clara to see both sides of the issue. There was one point in particular that comes to mind, where Clara shared a book that made her feel many positive things, but was rather damaging to another reader. It clearly depicted how powerful a story can be, but also how differently it could impact someone else.

This story was not just about books, it was also about the readers, and how their lives were changed from this assault on their freedom. The whole experience of running a renegade library allowed Clara to interact with peers she never imagined spending time with, and that in turn allowed her to grow quite a bit. She had spent many years automatically discounting the "star stars", those wealthy students, who were descendants of the academy's founders, by interacting with them on a different level, she realized there was more to them than their socioeconomic status.

I was actually a big fan of the cast of characters Connis assembled. From Clara's bestie, LiQui, to king of

## Suggested Reading

the star stars, Jack, each character was well developed. No matter how big or small their role, they each played a meaningful part in this tale, and I really enjoyed getting to meet each and every one of them.

Between the fantastic book quotes, the humor, and the raw passion for books displayed throughout, I couldn't help but love this book. An absolutely entertaining and thought provoking read.

\*ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

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Thank you Edelweiss for providing me a free review copy in exchange for an honest review

Banned books have a rich and lustrous history of pinpointing things people are afraid of and then forcing them to confront said fears. I mean, just scrolling through the list of the most challenged books, it's easy to see why they people think they should be banned (it's mostly because sex is icky and authority figures should be blindly listened too). But the books that are challenged are also the most thought Thank you Edelweiss for providing me a free review copy in exchange for an honest review

Banned books have a rich and lustrous history of pinpointing things people are afraid of and then forcing them to confront said fears. I mean, just scrolling through the list of the most challenged books, it's easy to see why they people think they should be banned (it's mostly because sex is icky and authority figures should be blindly listened too). But the books that are challenged are also the most thought provoking and challenging. They make you confront issues head on and that's a good thing because it makes you think.

Suggested Reading made me think too. Just in different intervals.

Here's the thing about this book, it's very front loaded with a lot of set up followed by a twist that comes into play 60% way through the story. I guessed what that was, what it would do, and the ending. And, okay it's predictable sometimes that happens, but it affected my reading of the story so I've put my thoughts about it in the spoiler section, read at your own risk.

Anyways, this book follows Clara Evans, who lives for books. She just loves them to the point where she's done some really cool extracurricular stuff involving libraries that get her on the shortlist for a really prestigious scholarship. But on the first day of her senior year she discovers that the school board has covertly banned over fifty books and will no longer be available in the school library. To combat this, Clara starts her own underground library giving out banned books on the down low. In short, it's a well written often powerful narrative about how books can shape, influence, and inspire us and how banning access to them can limit necessary stories that can give someone hope.

(view spoiler)[So this guy Jack is one of the star-stars, rich kids who got into Clara's fancy private school with what probably amounts to pocket change to their parents. And Clara assumes he's a jerk like all

## Suggested Reading

rich kids at the school, but surprise-surprise she learns he has hidden depths in the fact that he's gay. Now, I don't know about you but when I read a book about a gay side character with unsupportive family in a narrative surrounding banned books with suggestive themes (two of which are *Perks of Being A Wallflower* and *Cather in the Rye*) my mind goes to suicide or suicide attempt. And it does. Jack tries to kill himself after scrawling a message relating to *Catcher in the Rye*. The act is a catalyst for Clara to reexamine her own privilege and question on if banning the books was the right thing to do or not.

So, let me be honest for a second. I suspect that that might turn a lot of people off. Like gay character trying to commit suicide...ehhhhhh. That's dangerous waters there and then it goes another step with Clara, in a sense, taking credit for it is also....ehhhhhh. It's obvious that she's not the reason for it; the book may have been a spark, but it was his parents and environment that made sure he'd explode. But the narrative really doesn't address this fact and which Jack gets a relatively happy ending at the end, the book leaves the theme sort of dangling. I still don't know how the book feels about this issue it presents and it kind of annoys me, but the way the book deals with Jack I deal with but I'm sure a lot of people can't. (hide spoiler)] ...more

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Suggested Reading

## Suggested Reading For 7th Graders

Arc provided by publisher. Full review to come. amazing read but I took one star off because I felt the plot itself was weak.

Connis expertly crafts a wonderful story about the cost of banning books and the risks worth taking.

## Suggested Readings For Catholic Funerals

i need this...now???

I read this book in a day, while waiting for No Show Hurricane Dorian. (Side note: I am still so sad about the Bahamas! Sending out prayers and well wishes to them for what they endured.) Anyway, even though I joked to my husband that I was able to read this in a day because the words were big, it was really because of the short chapters and the writing style. Connis has a simple, direct writing style. It's just so easy. I found myself flipping page after page and hardly realizing how many had gone by. I read this book in a day, while waiting for No Show Hurricane Dorian. (Side note: I am still so sad about the Bahamas! Sending out prayers and well wishes to them for what they endured.) Anyway, even though I joked to my husband that I was able to read this in a day because the words were big, it was really because of the short chapters and the writing style. Connis has a simple, direct writing style. It's just so easy. I found myself flipping page after page and hardly realizing how many had gone by.

There were so many cool things about this story. Each chapter started with a quote from a banned book. The author created the protagonist's favorite book and a few of the quotes were from that. I thought that was a really good way to ensure that he had a story that fit with Clara's story.

This book was full of such insight and heart. I loved so much about it. I loved that Clara really questioned her underground library. She didn't just accept that she was doing it as a reflex response to what the school was doing. She really asked herself why. I loved that she had one opinion of Ashton and Jack (what did she call them? The super-supers or something?), but then she had the opportunity to really see them -- and, importantly, she took the opportunity. This changed her view of them. This allowed her to make friends she never thought she would have. I love that her view of books was challenged and how she was able to expand her view of the effects of books on herself and others. I loved that from the beginning she had teachers and school staff members who were allies and, importantly, weren't afraid to share with her and the other students what they thought and why. I loved the queso book club. (Because, really, who doesn't love queso?!) The quote lover and collector in me loved how patrons of the Unlib shared quotes about the books on their white covers when they returned them. I loved the moment in the book that was a reference to the movie Spartacus. I loved Clara's non understanding of football!

Read the full review on Book Nerds Across America: [http://www.booknerdsacrossamerica.com....](http://www.booknerdsacrossamerica.com...)  
...more

## Suggested Reading For 6th Graders

4.5 stars

Clara believes passionately that books change lives. When her school quietly bans more than fifty novels, she decides she's not going to take it lying down and starts a secret library.

As a bookseller, I loved the idea behind this novel, that stories can connect people. I also love the dominoes theory; that something one person does can cause so many other things to happen, usually without the first person even knowing.

The characters were great in this novels, too. I loved how supportive 4.5 stars

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As a bookseller, I loved the idea behind this novel, that stories can connect people. I also love the dominoes theory; that something one person does can cause so many other things to happen, usually without the first person even knowing.

The characters were great in this novels, too. I loved how supportive they were of Clara, including the teachers and even a few people I wasn't expecting. All around, a great novel and one I'll love to recommend. (And laugh when it inevitably gets banned...)

The only slightly unbelievable thing was how much use her UnLib got, even with a few people talking her up. But then, maybe I'm just jaded by my own school library, which checked out five books in a busy week... ...more

First, my review is in no way shaped by my undying belief that Dave Connis is one of the greatest human beings ever.

That being said, man can this dude write a book? Equal parts funny and heartbreaking and serious and light and swimming in meaning while sometimes not meaning that much but also everything. This book takes my favorite theme in Paper Towns and adds the external conflict of Fahrenheit 451, which is my favorite dystopian novel.

Man, I love this book so much. I lack the proper words to First, my review is in no way shaped by my undying belief that Dave Connis is one of the greatest human beings ever.

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Suggested Reading

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Man, I love this book so much. I lack the proper words to fully explain my love for this book.

I think this book most accurately sums up why I love reading books and what I want to get out of writing them. I also definitely have some theme quotes for my classroom this year. ...more