Suggested Elementary School Project Prompts for 2025 Freedom to Read Georgia Contests (Middle School Prompts are also options, or create a related topic)

- 1. Author of Dog Man and Captain Underpants series Dav Pilkey created this <u>video about banned books</u>. In the video, he notes "fortunately, as Americans we live in a country where we don't all have to like the same things" and suggests simple changes for everyone to protect their right to read. Which of the changes do you agree with most? What other simple changes do you think could be made?
- 2. On challenged books lists are *The Lorax, Junie B Jones, Guinness Book of World Records, Ripley's Believe It or Not*, and many other popular books. What challenged books have you read and loved and what do you think other students could learn from reading these books?
- 3. Are your friends' and classmates' family expectations on what is appropriate to read similar to or different from yours? Have your family's expectations about what you should read changed as you've grown older? How do you decide with your parents what books are right for you or any siblings you have (do you read or listen to books together or discuss questions you have when reading)?
- 4. One student's mother in *Ban This Book* by Alan Gratz pressures a school to remove several popular books from the school library's shelves. Some students create a secret "locker library" where students share copies of those books and get into trouble.
 - Have you read any of the books mentioned in Ban This Book (all titles which have been challenged for removal in real schools)? Why do you think these books should or shouldn't be restricted in school libraries?
 - How do you think you would react if you were in a situation similar to Amy Anne, learning that one parent (or just a few parents) thought they should decide what all children shouldn't read? What might you do if you learned your school librarian lost his or her job when you took the books?
 - Imagine the point of view of the student whose parent demands that books should be removed. What might you feel and do if you were that student?
- 5. What inspired your interest in this contest? Use that inspiration to create your own prompt!