

A Reader's Guide to....

FORBIDDEN BOOKS

"When a thing ceases to be a subject of controversy, it ceases to be a subject of interest." William Hazlitt, literary critic (1778-1830)

"I am not afraid that the book will be controversial. I'm afraid it will not be controversial." Flannery O'Connor, author (1925-1964)

Some of the greatest works of literature were once **banned, denounced – burned even!** Over time, the flames of controversy can fade away. Still, many literary classics and contemporary works continue to be challenged, censored, or outright *forbidden* for various reasons: language, unorthodox views, subjects considered unpopular, offensive, taboo, or completely unacceptable by various persons and organizations. Here are some examples:

Challenged & Banned Classics & Authors

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain
American Tragedy – Theodore Dreiser
Animal Farm - George Orwell
The Awakening - Kate Chopin
Brave New World – Aldous Huxley
The Canterbury Tales – Geoffrey Chaucer
Catch-22 – Joseph Heller
The Catcher in the Rye – J. D. Salinger
Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury
A Farewell to Arms - Ernest Hemingway
The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck
The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald

Invisible Man - Ralph Ellison
To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee
Lady Chatterley's Lover – D. H. Lawrence
Leaves of Grass – Walt Whitman
Lolita – Vladimir Nabokov
Madame Bovary - Gustave Flaubert
Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck
Native Son - Richard Wright
1984 - George Orwell
Slaughterhouse-Five – Kurt Vonnegut
Ulysses - James Joyce
William Shakespeare (for various plays)

Controversial Modern Works & Writers

Beloved - Toni Morrison
The Color Purple - Alice Walker
Harry Potter– J. K. Rowling
His Dark Materials - Philip Pullman
The Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou
Judy Blume (for various works)
Rabbit, Run - John Updike
A Separate Peace - John Knowles
To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee

For even more “forbidden” works and related topics...

Visit American Library Association's **Banned Books** pages at www.ala.org/advocacy/banned

Thrall also offers a concise guide on the general topic of censorship: www.thrall.org/censorship

You can also try any of these **SUBJECT searches** in the library system catalog:

Prohibited Books

Challenged Books

Censorship