



BANNED BOOKS WEEK

OCTOBER 4 - 10, 2026

How many of these banned books have you read?

We challenge you to judge for yourself the literary merit of these banned books. Check off five you've read and get a **Banned Books Week** sticker at the front desk.

Banned Books | Pre-2000

- ☐ [*The Great Gatsby*](#) (1925) by F. Scott Fitzgerald | Language, sexual reference, alcohol abuse.
- ☐ [*Lady Chatterley's Lover*](#) (1928) by D. H. Lawrence | Obscenity, sexual content, vulgar language.
- ☐ [*A Farewell to Arms*](#) (1929) by Ernest Hemingway | Sexual content, profanity, anti-war sentiment.
- ☐ [*As I Lay Dying*](#) (1930) by William Faulkner | Profanity, secularism and abortion references.
- ☐ [*Brave New World*](#) (1932) by Aldous Huxley | Insensitivity, sexuality, anti-religious, drug use.
- ☐ [*Gone with the Wind*](#) (1936) by Margaret Mitchell | Racial slurs, racial themes.
- ☐ [*The Grapes of Wrath*](#) (1939) by John Steinbeck | Vulgarity, profanity, political commentary.
- ☐ [*1984*](#) (1949) by George Orwell | Political themes, explicit sexual content, anti-government.
- ☐ [*The Catcher in the Rye*](#) (1951) by J. D. Salinger | Profanity, sexual references, immoral behavior.
- ☐ [*Fahrenheit 451*](#) (1953) by Ray Bradbury | Profanity, burning the Bible, and depictions of censorship.
- ☐ [*The Lord of the Rings*](#) (1954) by J. R. R. Tolkien | Anti-religious themes, magic/witchcraft.
- ☐ [*Lolita*](#) (1955) by Vladimir Nabokov | Obscenity, pedophilia/child sexual abuse themes, incest.
- ☐ [*On the Road*](#) (1957) by Jack Kerouac | Substance abuse, sexual content, counterculture, profanity.
- ☐ [*To Kill a Mockingbird*](#) (1960) by Harper Lee | Language, profanity, racial slurs, institutional racism.
- ☐ [*A Clockwork Orange*](#) (1962) by Anthony Burgess | Violence, sexual violence/rape, explicit language.
- ☐ [*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*](#) (1962) by Ken Kesey | Promoting criminal activity, humanism.
- ☐ [*In Cold Blood*](#) (1965) by Truman Capote | Violence, sex, profanity.
- ☐ [*The Outsiders*](#) (1967) by S. E. Hinton | Gang violence, underage smoking/drinking, profanity.
- ☐ [*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*](#) (1969) by Maya Angelou | Childhood sexual abuse, racism.
- ☐ [*Slaughterhouse-Five*](#) (1969) by Kurt Vonnegut | Profanity, sexual references, anti-war and -religion.
- ☐ [*The Color Purple*](#) (1982) by Alice Walker | Sexual/physical abuse, explicit language, race/religion.
- ☐ [*Maus*](#) (1986) by Art Spiegelman | Profanity, violence, nudity depicted.
- ☐ [*Beloved*](#) (1987) by Toni Morrison | Graphic portrayals of slavery, infanticide, sexual content.
- ☐ [*The Satanic Verses*](#) (1988) by Salman Rushdie | Blasphemy against religion.
- ☐ [*Wicked*](#) (1995) by Gregory Maguire | Explicit content, profanity, and dark political/religious themes.

Banned Books | Post-2000

- ❑ [Angels & Demons](#) (2000) by Dan Brown | Anti-religious sentiment, violence.
- ❑ [Persepolis](#) (2000) by Marjane Satrapi | Graphic violence, political/religious themes, profanity.
- ❑ [The Kite Runner](#) (2003) by Khaled Hosseini | Sexual assault, violence, religious/political conflict.
- ❑ [Looking for Alaska](#) (2005) by John Green | Sexual content, profanity, substance abuse.
- ❑ [The Lightning Thief](#) (2005) by Rick Riordan | Paganism, polytheism, anti-religious sentiment.
- ❑ [Twilight](#) (2005) by Stephenie Meyer | Supernatural elements, underage themes.
- ❑ [The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian](#) (2007) by Sherman Alexie | Slurs, sexual content.
- ❑ [Thirteen Reasons Why](#) (2007) by Jay Asher | Suicide, sexual assault, profanity, substance abuse.
- ❑ [Nineteen Minutes](#) (2007) by Jodi Picoult | Violence, sexual violence, anatomical references.
- ❑ [The Hunger Games](#) (2008) by Suzanne Collins | Violence, anti-government, insubordination.
- ❑ [The Help](#) (2009) by Kathryn Stockett | Language, offensive racial slurs, racial stereotypes.
- ❑ [11/22/63](#) (2011) by Stephen King | Violence, explicit language, adult themes, sexual content.
- ❑ [A Court of Thorns and Roses](#) (2015) by Sarah J. Maas | Explicit sexual scenes, violence.
- ❑ [It Ends with Us](#) (2016) by Colleen Hoover | Domestic violence, explicit sexual content.
- ❑ [The Hate U Give](#) (2017) by Angie Thomas | Profanity, drug use, and anti-police sentiments.
- ❑ [Normal People](#) (2018) by Sally Rooney | Explicit sexual content, mental health/self-harm, profanity.
- ❑ [Where the Crawdads Sing](#) (2018) by Delia Owens | Violence, sexual content, ethical themes.
- ❑ [Flamer](#) (2019) by Mike Curato | LGBTQIA+ themes, sexual content, profanity, self-harm.
- ❑ [Gender Queer: A Memoir](#) (2019) by Maia Kobabe | LGBTQIA+, sexual identity depictions.
- ❑ [The Silent Patient](#) (2019) by Alex Michaelides | Mental illness depictions/trauma, violence, profanity.
- ❑ [All Boys Aren't Blue](#) (2020) by George M. Johnson | LGBTQIA+, profanity, consent discussions.
- ❑ [Stamped](#) (2020) by Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi | Political ideology/racial commentary.
- ❑ [The Midnight Library](#) (2020) by Matt Haig | Suicide themes, mental health struggles, profanity.
- ❑ [Project Hail Mary](#) (2021) by Andy Weir | Profanity and religious/scientific debates.
- ❑ [Lessons in Chemistry](#) (2022) by Bonnie Garmus | Sexual assault, religious skepticism, adult content.

Curated by our library staff, this list represents just a fraction of the thousands of books currently challenged across the country.

To learn more about book bans and their impact, visit ala.org/bbooks and [PEN.org](https://pen.org).



More here:

