

Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books

Sometimes books are banned or challenged due to language or references to belief systems that some people don't feel kids should be reading. Sometimes a book is so controversial or so powerfully written that it hits people on several different levels and they try to get books removed from school or library shelves. Exercise your rights!

Go ahead and read these books!

1. Harry Potter (series), by J.K. Rowling
2. Alice series, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
3. The Chocolate War, by Robert Cormier
4. And Tango Makes Three, by Justin Richardson/Peter Parnell
5. Of Mice and Men, by John Steinbeck
6. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou
7. Scary Stories (series), by Alvin Schwartz
8. His Dark Materials (series), by Philip Pullman
9. ttyl; ttfn; l8r g8r (series), by Myracle, Lauren
10. The Perks of Being a Wallflower, by Stephen Chbosky
11. Fallen Angels, by Walter Dean Myers
12. It's Perfectly Normal, by Robie Harris
13. Captain Underpants (series), by Dav Pilkey
14. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain
15. The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison
16. Forever, by Judy Blume
17. The Color Purple, by Alice Walker
18. Go Ask Alice, by Anonymous
19. Catcher in the Rye, by J.D. Salinger
20. King and King, by Linda de Haan
21. To Kill A Mockingbird, by Harper Lee
22. Gossip Girl (series), by Cecily von Ziegesar
23. The Giver, by Lois Lowry
24. In the Night Kitchen, by Maurice Sendak
25. Killing Mr. Griffen, by Lois Duncan
26. Beloved, by Toni Morrison
27. My Brother Sam Is Dead, by James Lincoln Collier
28. Bridge To Terabithia, by Katherine Paterson
29. The Face on the Milk Carton, by Caroline B. Cooney
30. We All Fall Down, by Robert Cormier
31. What My Mother Doesn't Know, by Sonya Sones
32. Bless Me, Ultima, by Rudolfo Anaya
33. Snow Falling on Cedars, by David Guterson
34. The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things, by Carolyn Mackler
35. Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging, by Louise Rennison
36. Brave New World, by Aldous Huxley
37. It's So Amazing, by Robie Harris
38. Arming America, by Michael Bellasiles

39. Kaffir Boy, by Mark Mathabane
40. Life is Funny, by E.R. Frank
41. Whale Talk, by Chris Crutcher
42. The Fighting Ground, by Avi
43. Blubber, by Judy Blume
44. Athletic Shorts, by Chris Crutcher
45. Crazy Lady, by Jane Leslie Conly
46. Slaughterhouse-Five, by Kurt Vonnegut
47. The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby, by George Beard
48. Rainbow Boys, by Alex Sanchez
49. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, by Ken Kesey
50. The Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini
51. Daughters of Eve, by Lois Duncan
52. The Great Gilly Hopkins, by Katherine Paterson
53. You Hear Me?, by Betsy Franco
54. The Facts Speak for Themselves, by Brock Cole
55. Summer of My German Soldier, by Bette Green
56. When Dad Killed Mom, by Julius Lester
57. Blood and Chocolate, by Annette Curtis Klause
58. Fat Kid Rules the World, by K.L. Going
59. Olive's Ocean, by Kevin Henkes
60. Speak, by Laurie Halse Anderson
61. Draw Me A Star, by Eric Carle
62. The Stupids (series), by Harry Allard
63. The Terrorist, by Caroline B. Cooney
64. Mick Harte Was Here, by Barbara Park
65. The Things They Carried, by Tim O'Brien
66. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred Taylor
67. A Time to Kill, by John Grisham
68. Always Running, by Luis Rodriguez
69. Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury
70. Harris and Me, by Gary Paulsen
71. Junie B. Jones (series), by Barbara Park
72. Song of Solomon, by Toni Morrison
73. What's Happening to My Body Book, by Lynda Madaras
74. The Lovely Bones, by Alice Sebold
75. Anastasia (series), by Lois Lowry
76. A Prayer for Owen Meany, by John Irving
77. Crazy: A Novel, by Benjamin Lebert
78. The Joy of Gay Sex, by Dr. Charles Silverstein
79. The Upstairs Room, by Johanna Reiss
80. A Day No Pigs Would Die, by Robert Newton Peck
81. Black Boy, by Richard Wright
82. Deal With It!, by Esther Drill
83. Detour for Emmy, by Marilyn Reynolds
84. So Far From the Bamboo Grove, by Yoko Watkins
85. Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes, by Chris Crutcher
86. Cut, by Patricia McCormick

87. Tiger Eyes, by Judy Blume
88. The Handmaid's Tale, by Margaret Atwood
89. Friday Night Lights, by H.G. Bissenger
90. A Wrinkle in Time, by Madeline L'Engle
91. Julie of the Wolves, by Jean Craighead George
92. The Boy Who Lost His Face, by Louis Sachar
93. Bumps in the Night, by Harry Allard
94. Goosebumps (series), by R.L. Stine
95. Shade's Children, by Garth Nix
96. Grendel, by John Gardner
97. The House of the Spirits, by Isabel Allende
98. I Saw Esau, by Iona Oppe
99. Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret, by Judy Blume
100. America: A Novel, by E.R. Frank

Banned Classics

The Great Gatsby, by *F. Scott Fitzgerald*
The Catcher in the Rye, by *JD Salinger*
The Grapes of Wrath, by *John Steinbeck*
To Kill a Mockingbird, by *Harper Lee*
The Color Purple, by *Alice Walker*
Ulysses, by *James Joyce*
Beloved, by *Toni Morrison*
The Lord of the Flies, by *William Golding*
1984, by *George Orwell*
Lolita, by *Vladimir Nabokov*
Of Mice and Men, by *John Steinbeck*
Catch-22, by *Joseph Heller*
Brave New World, by *Aldous Huxley*
Animal Farm, by *George Orwell*
The Sun Also Rises, by *Ernest Hemingway*
As I Lay Dying, by *William Faulkner*
A Farewell to Arms, by *Ernest Hemingway*
Their Eyes Were Watching God, by *Zora Neale Hurston*
Invisible Man, by *Ralph Ellison*
Song of Solomon, by *Toni Morrison*
Gone with the Wind, by *Margaret Mitchell*
Native Son, by *Richard Wright*
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, by *Ken Kesey*
Slaughterhouse Five, by *Kurt Vonnegut*
For Whom the Bell Tolls, by *Ernest Hemingway*
The Call of the Wild, by *Jack London*
Go Tell It on the Mountain, by *James Baldwin*
All the King's Men, by *Robert Penn Warren*
The Lord of the Rings, by *J.R.R. Tolkien*
The Jungle, by *Upton Sinclair*

Lady Chatterley's Lover, by *D.H. Lawrence*
A Clockwork Orange, by *Anthony Burgess*
In The Awakening, by *Kate Chopin*
In Cold Blood, by *Truman Capote*
Satanic Verses, by *Salman Rushdie*
Sophie's Choice, by *William Styron*
Sons and Lovers, by *D.H. Lawrence*
Cat's Cradle, by *Kurt Vonnegut*
A Separate Peace, by *John Knowles*
Naked Lunch, by *William S. Burroughs*
Brideshead Revisited, by *Evelyn Waugh*
Women in Love, by *DH Lawrence*
The Naked and the Dead, by *Norman Mailer*
Tropic of Cancer, by *Henry Miller*
An American Tragedy, by *Theodore Dreiser*
Rabbit, Run, by *John Updike*

A few more....hard to believe but true!

1. The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman. This fantasy novel says much about friendship and loyalty, but it also says plenty about not following a religion blindly. Many have seen the book as anti-religion and have banned the book.
2. James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl. This book depicts a child who lives under the oppression of mean caretakers and relies on his creativity and an alternate world in order to survive. Those opposed to the book dislike the violence, language, and disobedience towards adults.
3. A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle. The bonds of family and friendship are at the heart of this novel, but it also highlights the battle of good and evil and brings in supernatural spirits, therefore making it a target for those worried about the religious implications they feel the novel makes.
4. The Lorax by Dr. Seuss. On the surface this book seems it should be included in the Protect the Children section, but the reason this Dr. Seuss book is banned has more to do with adult issues. The book is an allegorical story describing the effects of poor stewardship on the Earth. Those opposed to the book feel it shows an unfair portrayal of those in the logging industry.
5. The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown. This popular thriller is a work of fiction, but that doesn't mean any less to those opposed to it. Catholic leaders have banned The Da Vinci Code for what it sees as its anti-Christian sentiment and for the portrayal of Christ in a physical relationship with Mary Magdalene—even having children together.
6. 1984 by George Orwell. Perhaps one of the most famous dystopian novels written, 1984 was published in the early part of the 20th century with a warning to society that has become eerily true. The book has been banned in the past due to pro-communist sentiment and sexuality.
7. Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift. Underlying themes in this famous work include political corruption, anti-war sentiments, and the injustices of colonization. It's no wonder this book has been banned in several countries and Swift had to publish it anonymously.

8. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou. Sexual content, racism, offensive language, violence are the most popular reasons this book is challenged and continues to be today. Angelou's autobiographical book is both shocking and beautiful as she recounts the experiences of her early life as she endured racism, abuse, and other challenges she eventually overcame.
9. Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. Perhaps one of the most surprising books on banned book lists, Little Women is a very wholesome depiction of a family of four sisters who struggle in poverty but are rich in love and familial ties. The reason the book is challenged may be based on what some view as punishment of the one character who has a strong feminist approach by her marriage to a boring and much older man.
10. Catch-22 by Joseph Heller. This anti-war satire is surprisingly not challenged due to that theme, but because of the depiction of women in the novel. The word "whore" is used frequently and there have been claims that the book promotes m