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
- *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

**Controversial Modern Works & Writers**

- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* - Maya Angelou
- *The Color Purple* - Alice Walker
- *Harry Potter* – J. K. Rowling
- *His Dark Materials* - Philip Pullman
- *The Hunger Games* - Suzanne Collins
- *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
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* - Harper Lee
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* - Harper Lee
- *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

For even more “forbidden” works and related topics…

Visit American Library Association’s Banned Books pages at [www.ala.org/advocacy/banned](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned)

Thrall also offers a concise guide on the general topic of censorship: [www.thrall.org/censorship](http://www.thrall.org/censorship)

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

- Prohibited Books
- Challenged Books
- Censorship