**Collection Development**

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**Examples of Banned Books**

**February 25, 2010**

Banned Books Week is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read and the importance of the First Amendment. Held during the last week of September, BBW highlights the benefits of free and open access to information while drawing attention the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted banning of books across the United States.

Here are some of the most famous examples of books that have been censored.

**1.** [**Adventures of Huckleberry Finn - Mark Twain**](http://about.pricegrabber.com/mrdr.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fabout.pricegrabber.com%2Fsearch.php%3Fform_keyword%3Dadventures%2Bof%2Bhuckleberry%2Bfinn&mode=about_classiclit)

[](http://z.about.com/d/classiclit/1/0/E/o/2/9780312446482_huckfinn.jpg)*Bedford/St. Martin Press*

Published in 1884, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain has been banned on social grounds. Concord Public Library called the book "trash suitable only for the slums," when it first banned the novel in 1885. The references and treatment of African Americans in the novel reflect the time about which it was written, but some critics have thought such language inappropriate for study and reading in schools and libraries.

**2.** [**Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl**](http://about.pricegrabber.com/mrdr.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fabout.pricegrabber.com%2Fsearch.php%3Fform_keyword%3DAnne%2BFrank%253A%2BThe%2BDiary%2Bof%2Ba%2BYoung%2BGirl&mode=about_classiclit)

[](http://z.about.com/d/classiclit/1/0/R/o/2/9780553577129_anne.jpg)*Bantam Books*

*Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* is an important work from World War II. The work is the diary of a young girl, Anne Frank, as she experiences the Nazi occupation. She hides with her family, but she is eventually discovered and sent to a concentration camp (where she died). This book was banned for passages that were considered "sexually offensive," as well as for the tragic nature of the book, which some readers felt was a "real downer."

**3.** [**Awakening - Kate Chopin**](http://erclk.about.com/?zi=12/1KqO)

[](http://z.about.com/d/classiclit/1/0/G/o/2/9780312446475_awakening.jpg)*Bedford/St. Martin Books*

Kate Chopin's novel, *The Awakening* (1899), is the famous tale of Edna Pontellier, who leaves her family, commits adultery, and begins to rediscover her true self--as an artist. Such an awakening is not easy, nor is it socially acceptable (particularly at the time when the book was published). The book was criticized for being immoral and scandalous. After this novel was met with such scathing reviews, Kate Chopin never wrote another novel. *The Awakening* is now considered an important work in feminist literature.

**4.** [**Catcher in the Rye - J.D. Salinger**](http://erclk.about.com/?zi=12/1Kqu)

[](http://z.about.com/d/classiclit/1/0/Z/o/2/9780316769174_catcher.jpg)*Back Bay Books*

First published in 1951, *The Catcher in the Rye* details 48 hours in the life of Holden Caulfield. The novel is the only novel-length work by J.D. Salinger, and its history has been colorful. *The Catcher in the Rye* is famous as the most censored, banned and challenged book between 1966 and 1975 for being "obscene," with an "excess of vulgar language, sexual scenes, and things concerning moral issues."

**5.** [**Color Purple - Alice Walker**](http://about.pricegrabber.com/mrdr.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fabout.pricegrabber.com%2Fsearch_getprod.php%2Fmasterid%3D%2Fisbn%3D9780156028356%2Fsearch%3D9780156028356&mode=about_classiclit)

[](http://z.about.com/d/classiclit/1/0/X/o/2/9780156028356_colorpurple.jpg)*Harcourt*

*The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker, received the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, but the book has been frequently challenged and banned for what has been termed "sexual and social explicitness." The novel involves sexual assault and abuse. Despite the controversies concerning this title, the book was made into a motion picture.

***Sources:***

http://classiclit.about.com/od/bannedliteratur1/tp/aa\_bannedbooks.htm

ALA.org – search on Banned Books Week