

Banned and Challenged Books

in Esquimalt High School's Library Learning Commons

With notes from Freedom to Read Week's Challenged Books and Magazine List
and Wikipedia's List of Banned Books by Governments,
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_books_banned_by_governments

<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>	Lewis Carroll	Children's Novel/ Adventure	Banned in the province of Hunan, China, beginning in 1931 for its portrayal of anthropomorphized animals acting on the same level of complexity as human beings.
<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>	Erich Remarque	Anti-war novel	Banned in Nazi Germany for being demoralizing and insulting to the Wehrmacht.
<i>Animal Farm</i>	George Orwell	Political novella	During 1940 - 45, Allied forces found this entire book to be critical of the U.S.S.R., and therefore the text was considered to be too controversial to print during wartime. A play of Animal Farm was banned in Kenya in 1991, because it criticizes corrupt leaders.
<i>Brave New World</i>	Aldous Huxley	Novel	Banned in Ireland in 1932, due to alleged references of sexual promiscuity
<i>The Book of Negroes</i>	Lawrence Hill	Novel	A teacher, who works for the London District Catholic School Board (LDCSB), was told to stop teaching <i>The Book of Negroes</i> because of its use of the N-word.
<i>Candide</i>	Voltaire	Novel	Seized by US Customs in 1930 for obscenity.
<i>Catcher in the Rye</i>	J. D. Salinger	Novel	This novel has been consistently challenged in Canadian schools for at least 15 years for "foul language."
<i>A Clockwork Orange</i>	Anthony Burgess	Novel	1990—One of several books challenged by a parent group in Essex County (ON). None of the books were withdrawn from the high school reading list as a result of the protest.
<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>	Anne Frank	Biography	Banned in Lebanon for "portray[ing] Jews, Israel or Zionism favorably".

<i>The Diviners</i>	Margaret Laurence	Novel	From 1976 to 1994, the book was challenged repeatedly and removed from senior high school reading lists across Canada. In at least two provinces it does not appear on the curriculum because of language and sexual content.
<i>The Giver</i>	Lois Lowry	Novel	1998—A parent in Simcoe County (ON) complained about the presence of this book and Robert Cormier’s novel <i>We All Fall Down</i> in two elementary school libraries. Cause of objection—The parent said that teaching this book would be more appropriate at the Grade 11 level. The book is aimed at children aged 10 to 13. Update—The board considered the objection but decided to leave <i>The Giver</i> in school libraries for Grade 6, 7, and 8 students.
<i>Go Ask Alice</i>	Anonymous	Novel	The novel, which reads like a diary, describes a teenage girl’s experiences with narcotics and sex.
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	John Steinbeck	Novel	Was temporarily banned in many places in the US. In the region of California in which it was partially set, it was banned because it made the residents of this region look bad.
<i>The Gulag Archipelago</i>	Alexander Solzhenitsyn	Nonfiction	Banned in the Soviet Union because it went against the image the Soviet Government tried to project of itself and its policies. In 2009, the Education Ministry of Russia added <i>The Gulag Archipelago</i> to the curriculum for high-school students
<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	Margaret Atwood	Novel	2008—In Toronto, a parent formally complained about the use of this dystopian novel in a Grade 12 English class at Lawrence Park Collegiate. Cause of objection—The parent said that the novel’s “profane language,” anti-Christian overtones, “violence” and “sexual degradation” probably violated the district school policies that require students to show respect and tolerance to one another. Update—In 2009, a review panel of the Toronto District School Board recommended that schools keep the novel in the curriculum in Grades 11 and 12.

<i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.</i>	J. K. Rowling	Novels	2000—The Durham (ON) Board of Education received numerous complaints about the immensely popular Harry Potter books being read in classrooms throughout the board's schools. A school board official said that the complaints came from fundamentalist Christian parents. Cause of objection—Parents were concerned that Harry Potter is engaged in wizardry, witchcraft, and magic-making, and that these activities are inappropriate for young readers. Update—The administration decided to withdraw the books from classroom use but left them in school libraries. One board member said the board had never been asked to decide the issue, so the books' withdrawal amounted to censorship. Several months later, after a raucous public meeting, the board rescinded its decision to remove the books. In 2002, the Niagara (ON) District School Board turned down a parent's request for the removal of the books from area schools. The parent said the books contained violence and promoted a religion (Wicca) which is against the law in Ontario schools. She said that she had not read the books.
<i>Huckleberry Finn</i>	Mark Twain	Novel	Parents petitioned for the removal of this novel from recommended reading lists in the Saint John (NB) School District 20 due to perceived racism in characterization and language.
<i>Lives of Girls and Women</i>	Alice Munro	Story collection	In 1982 Toronto parents petitioned, without success, to remove the book from the high school curriculum. This book has been the target of challenges in school districts across the country because of parental objections to the "language and philosophy of the book."
<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	William Golding	Novel	1988—The Race Relations Committee of the Toronto Board of Education recommended that the book be withdrawn from curriculum use in all Toronto high schools because the novel was seen to contain racial slurs. The board rejected the committee's recommendation but circulated to all its schools the reasons for the parents' objections that had led to the committee's study of the book and asked its Committee on Bias in the Curriculum to suggest ways the book could be taught with sensitivity.

<i>Mein Kampf</i>	Adolf Hitler	Political ideology	Effectively banned in Germany for 70 years since the Freestate of Bavaria which owned the rights to the book prevented any re-printing. There is no law against owning or trading the book in Germany. In 2017 a patron of a public library in Ontario challenged the book as racist and asked for its removal from the library's collection. The library retained the book.
<i>Madame Bovary</i>	Gustave Flaubert	Novel	Flaubert's novel was banned and he was prosecuted for "offenses against public morals".
<i>The Metamorphosis</i>	Franz Kafka	Novel	Banned in Nazi Germany.
<i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i>	George Orwell	Novel	Banned by the Soviet Union in 1950, as Stalin understood that it was a satire based on his leadership. It was nearly banned by U.S.A and U.K in the early 1960s during the Cuban Missile Crisis. It was not until 1990 that the U.S.S.R legalised the book and it was re-released after editing.
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	John Steinbeck	Novel	2000—Terry Lewis, a member of the Reform party's national executive council, complained about the use of this novel by Winnipeg's River East School Division and called for the book's removal from school reading lists. The novel has been targeted in other school jurisdictions across Canada as well. Cause of objection—Lewis, who distributed 10,000 copies of a pamphlet arguing against the book, said that Steinbeck's frequent use of "God," "God-damned," and "Jesus" in profane and blasphemous ways offended Christians and couldn't possibly have any educational benefit. Update—The River East School Division took no action. This objection and its disposition echoed an incident in Alberta in 1994, when a member of the legislature demanded that the novel be withdrawn from all high school reading lists in the province.

<i>One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich</i>	Alexander Solzhenitsyn	Novel	Banned from publication in the Soviet Union in 1964.
<i>Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak</i>	Deborah Ellis	Non-Fiction	2006—In Ontario, the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) urged public school boards to deny access to this children's non-fiction book about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to students in the elementary grades. Cause of objection—The CJC said that Ellis had provided a flawed historical introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and that some children in the book portrayed Israeli soldiers as brutal, expressed ethnic hatred and glorified suicide bombing. Update—Although the Ontario Library Association (OLA) had recommended <i>Three Wishes</i> to schools as part of its acclaimed Silver Birch reading program at least five school boards in Ontario set restrictions on the text. Protests by the OLA, The Writers' Union of Canada, PEN Canada and the Association of Canadian Publishers failed to persuade the school boards to repeal their restrictions.
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Harper Lee	Novel	2002—Black parents and teachers in Yarmouth, Digby, and Shelburne (NS) objected to this novel, Barbara Smucker's <i>Underground to Canada</i> , and John Ball's <i>In the Heat of the Night</i> . The director of education of the Tri-County school board ordered the withdrawal of the three books pending a ruling by the board, but his order was rescinded at a board meeting and the books were restored.
<i>Ulysses</i>	James Joyce	Novel	Banned in U.K during the 1930s and in Australia during the 1930s and 1940s. Challenged and temporarily banned in the U.S.A for its sexual content. In 1933 the ban was overturned in United States v. One Book Called Ulysses.
<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>	Harriet Beecher Stowe	Novel	Banned in the Southern United States during the Civil War due to its anti-slavery content. In 1852, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> was banned in Russia under the reign of Nicholas I due to the idea of equality it presented, and for its "undermining religious ideals."

