

## BANNED BOOKS WEEK TRIVIA: CHALLENGED BOOKS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

All questions that were originally in another format have been converted to multiple choice.

1. What classic novel was challenged in 1981 for being “demoralizing inasmuch as it implies that man is little more than an animal”?
  - a. The Lord of the Flies by William Golding
  - b. Animal Farm by George Orwell
  - c. Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
  - d. Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card

Answer: a. The Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Credit for this question goes to the Spokane County Library District in Washington.

2. This book by J.D. Salinger, one of the most challenged books across the United States, is usually challenged because of profanity and obscenity.
  - a. Franny & Zooey
  - b. Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour
  - c. The Catcher In the Rye
  - d. Nine Stories

Answer: c. The Catcher in the Rye

The Long Branch Free Public Library thanks the Spokane County Library District for this question. The Middletown Public Library in New Jersey used a similar question that included even more of the reasons that it has been challenged.

3. What popular classic was challenged by parents in a California school district who stated that teachers “can choose the best books, but they keep choosing this garbage over and over again”?
- a. Faces in the Water by Janet Frame
  - b. One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest by Ken Kesey
  - c. It’s Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini
  - d. Poppy Shakespeare by Claire Allen

Answer: b. One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest by Ken Kesey

Credit for this question goes to the Spokane County Library District.

4. A longtime member of the banned books list, this semi-autobiographical science fiction novel has the protagonist time traveling to important events and milestones in his life, including the bombing of Dresden in WWII. It has been called pornographic and has been cited for glorifying drinking, cursing, and premarital sex.

- a. On the Beach by Nevil Shute
- b. The Forever War by Joe Haldeman
- c. Celestial Matters by Richard Garfinkle
- d. Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

Answer: d. Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

Credit for this question goes to the San Juan Island Library in the state of Washington.

5. In 2007, this book was removed from the Advanced Placement curriculum in a Louisville high school for its depictions of bestiality, racism, and slavery. The principal ordered the students to read The Scarlet Letter.
- a. Darkness Visible by William Golding
  - b. Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
  - c. Beloved by Toni Morrison
  - d. Franny and Zooey by J.D. Salinger

Answer: c. Beloved

Credit for this question goes to the Middletown Public Library. Where a title listed in the Middletown Library's original question has been used in a different question in this quiz, a different title by the same author was used in the above question.

6. This beloved classic novel and movie is often on readers' "Top 10" lists of their favorite books. It's a story of growing up in a southern town in the 1930s and the trial of a black man accused of attacking a white girl. It is one of the most banned books in American history for "offensive language and racism," but it won the Pulitzer Prize in 1961.
- a. To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
  - b. Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
  - c. Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas
  - d. I'm Not Dying With You Tonight by Kimberly Jones

Answer: a. To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Thanks go to the San Juan Island Library for this question. Middletown Public Library included a question about this book in their banned books quiz that gave different reasons for its being banned.

7. Marshall University's website reports that, between 2003 and 2023, this book has been challenged in a total of 20 years. Reasons for the challenges included sexual abuse, rape, teenage sex, drug use, profanity, abortion, LGBTQIA+ content, and sexually explicit content. The book is:

- a. The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas
- b. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
- c. Pretty Little Liars by Sara Shepard
- d. The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

Answer: d. The Perks of Being a Wallflower

8. This book is a record of events spanning the years 1942 to 1944 during the Second World War. It was banned for being too depressing. Which book was allegedly "a real downer"?

- a. Lost in China: A Memoir of World War II by Jennifer Dobbs
- b. Soaring to Glory: A Tuskegee Airman's Firsthand Account of World War II by Philip Handleman
- c. Dutch Girl: Audrey Hepburn and World War II by Robert Matzen
- d. A Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Answer: d. A Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Credit for this question goes to the San Juan Island Library. The Hickory Stick Bookshop in Washington Depot, Connecticut used a slightly different version of this question.

9. Which young adult book was the most frequently challenged in 2022?
- a. Flamer by Mike Curato
  - b. Gender Queer: A Memoir by Maia Kobabe
  - c. The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
  - d. All Boys Ain't Blue by George M. Johnson

Answer: b. Gender Queer

Credit for the answer goes to the American Library Association.

10. Why was Thirteen Reasons Why, by Jay Asher, banned by a Colorado school district?
- a. profanity
  - b. encouraged disobedience to authority
  - c. glamorized suicide
  - d. not suitable for any age group

Answer: c. Glamorized suicide

Credit for reporting this goes to the episode of "Newshour" that aired on PBS on Sept. 28, 2017. The online summary, by Laura Strum, can be found at <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/arts/banning-books-like-13-reasons-makes-harder-teens-open-adults-author-says>. 