

1. This book was deemed so vulgar that under the 1873 Comstock Law it could not even be sent through the U.S. Mail! It is legal to ship and receive copies of it now, but it's still frequently challenged in schools and libraries.
2. This classic French satire was a bestseller in its time, selling over 30,000 copies within a year of its release. (Which was a lot in 1759!) The Great Council of Geneva and the administrators of Paris banned it shortly afterwards, though. In 1930, U.S. Customs seized Harvard-bound copies of this book, and in 1944, the U.S. post office demanded that it be dropped from the catalog for Concord Books.
3. This book is a series of 100 novellas, each presented as a story. Some of the stories are pious, some are racy, but all of them horrified censors! The book was burned and banned in Italy in 1497 & 1553. In 1934 in the U.S., it was forcibly seized from bookstores by police in Detroit Michigan, and thanks to the Comstock act, was banned from the US postal system!
4. When this book was published in 1934 in Paris by Obelisk Press, the book's jacket came with a cautioning that warned readers and traders not to import it into Great Britain or the United States. It was banned by the government of the United States on the grounds that it dealt too explicitly with sexual adventures and challenged models of sexual morality. In fact, the U.S. Government was so angry at the author over this book that it went on to ban all of the author's works from being sold or reproduced in the U.S. for 27 years!
5. This book was originally published in installments in 1918 by a small Greenwich Village magazine. It immediately came under the eye of the New York Anti-Vice Society because of its frank sexual content. The publishers were tried under obscenity provisions in the U.S. Postal Code in 1920 and were found guilty, fined, and ordered to cease publication. The trial, however, generated widespread interest among writers and readers. The book was routinely smuggled in to both the United States and Great Britain.
6. The highly respected author of this book has won the National Book Award, a Pulitzer Prize, was invited to read her work at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993 and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011; she also has the dubious honor of being one of the most banned authors in America. Her 1969 autobiography has been in the top 10 most challenged and banned books list for each decade since the 1980s, with a recorded 39 challenges and bans!
7. Published in 2003 and banned in Lebanon in 2004 for its offensiveness toward Christianity, this book, is highly frowned upon by Catholic leaders world-wide. Certain sections of the book are seen as an insult to Christ and the church. Manila, India, and the Vatican are some of the countries that have either prohibited or severely rated this book, and it faces frequent challenges in libraries across the U.S.
8. This book was a subject of fierce controversy in 1856. It came under immediate legal persecution for "offenses against morality and religion," and in 1857 both the author and his publisher were put on trial for obscenity. They were acquitted, but the book remained controversial, and continues to be challenged and censored today.
9. The first book in this children's series was published in 1997, and the last in 2007. The seven total books altogether have accumulated a record-breaking number of challenges and bans over those two decades. (The first book alone had accrued 646 challenges nationwide by 2001 – and those are just the challenges reported to the American Library Association!) The books have been banned, burned, condemned by religious leaders and challenged in schools and libraries worldwide for their "occult/Satanic and anti-family themes, and violence." They're loved far more than they're hated though, and they currently hold the record as the best-selling children's book series of all time!
10. Though it was first published in 1945, this book didn't really start attracting the attention of censors until the 1960s, but when it did, it became an overnight controversy! In 1960, a teacher in Tulsa, Oklahoma was fired for assigning this novel in class. (He was later reinstated.) Between 1961 and 1982, this book was the single most censored book in high schools and libraries in the United States. The censorship and criticism surrounding its teen protagonist made it the perfect subject for class discussion, though, and by 1981, it was both the most censored book and the second most taught book in public schools in the United States!