

BANNED BOOKS WEEK TRIVIA: CHALLENGED BOOKS FOR ADULTS

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

1. Censorship is not new. As long as books have existed, books have been banned. The Roman emperor Caligula tried to suppress a book in AD 35 because it “expressed Greek ideals of freedom,” which was clearly not acceptable when Rome occupied Greece. To which book did Caligula object?
 - a. Oedipus Tyrannus by Sophocles [English title: Oedipus the King]
 - b. Metamorphoses by Ovid
 - c. The Odyssey by Homer
 - d. The Trojan Women by Euripedes

Answer: c. The Odyssey by Homer

Credit for this question goes to funtrivia.com.

2. Shakespeare’s works have also been controversial. Which of the following statements is true?
 - a. Hamlet was effectively, but not officially, banned by Stalin.
 - b. MacBeth was banned because it dealt with witchcraft and black magic.
 - c. Twelfth Night was banned on the grounds that it encouraged homosexuality.
 - d. All of these statements are true.

Answer: d. All of these statements are true.

The Long Branch Free Public Library thanks funtrivia.com for this question.

3. This famous American author wrote two related books about the adventures of a couple of young boys. Despite being considered classics, both books have been banned in some schools. Ironically, they were banned after their initial publication for being “too racially tolerant.” Nowadays they are accused of being “too racist.” Who is this author?
- a. Mark Twain
 - b. Stephen Crane
 - c. Nathaniel Hawthorne
 - d. William Dean Howells

Answer: a. Mark Twain

Credit for the answer to this question goes to funtrivia.com and the Hickory Stick Bookshop in Washington Depot, Connecticut.

4. In 1954, the Providence, Rhode Island post office attempted to block delivery of what book to Brown University, citing it as “subversive”?
- a. State and Revolution by Vladimir Lenin
 - b. The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx
 - c. Rules for Radicals by Saul Alinsky
 - d. The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

Answer: a. State and Revolution

The Long Branch Free Public Library thanks the Hickory Stick Bookshop for this question.

5. This author won a Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize for Literature for his works. However, his Pulitzer prize-winning book was banned for blasphemy and vulgarity. Who is this author and what was the book?
- a. Mark Twain and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
 - b. John Steinbeck and The Grapes of Wrath
 - c. Nathaniel Hawthorne and The Scarlet Letter
 - d. Truman Capote and In Cold Blood

Answer: b. John Steinbeck and The Grapes of Wrath

Credit goes to New Jersey's Middletown Public Library and to The Hickory Stick Bookshop, which had a different version of this question.

6. What phenomenally popular religious conspiracy book was banned in Lebanon after Catholic leaders deemed it offensive to Christianity?
- a. Harry Potter by J. K. Rowling
 - b. The DaVinci Code by Dan Brown
 - c. Satanic Verses by Salman Rushdie
 - d. 50 Shades of Grey by E. L. James

Answer: b. The DaVinci Code

Thanks to the Middletown Public Library and the San Juan Island Library in the State of Washington for this question.

7. John Howard Griffin was a white man who, with the help of a doctor, chemically darkened his skin in order to experience what it is like to be a black person living in the southern states of America in 1959. Needless to say, the book that detailed his experiences has been subject to bans. What was its title?
- a. Second Class Citizen
 - b. The Promised Land
 - c. Black Like Me
 - d. Sepia

Answer: c. Black Like Me

Credit goes to funtrivia.com for this question, as well as to the San Juan Island Library, which had a different version of this question.

8. This book was banned for being anti-religious.
- a. J. R. R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings
 - b. Madeline L'Engle's A Wrinkle in Time
 - c. Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code
 - d. All of the above.

Answer: d. All of the above.

Thanks goes to the Hickory Stick Bookshop for this question.

9. This book was removed from a summer reading program in Michigan after parents complained about its “foul language.” It tells the story of an autistic child and the death of a neighborhood dog. In 2004 it won the Boeke Prize and in 2003 it won the Whitbread Book of the Year Award.
- a. The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
 - b. Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
 - c. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon
 - d. Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Answer: c. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

The San Juan Island Library gets the credit for this question.

10. What classic book series, that also has a billion-dollar movie franchise, was burned at a church in New Mexico for being satanic?
- a. Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien
 - b. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone by J. K. Rowling
 - c. The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis
 - d. The Discworld series by Terry Prachett

Answer: a. Lord of the Rings

The Long Branch Free Public Library thanks the Middletown Public Library and the Spokane County Library District in the state of Washington for this question.