

AUTHOR QUOTES ON BOOKS, IDEAS, CENSORSHIP & BANNED BOOKS

Credit for the first quote goes to the Hickory Stick Bookshop in Washington Depot, in Washington, CT. The second appeared on Amazon.com. Fun Trivia, at <https://www.funtrivia.com/trivia-quiz/Literature/Banned-Books-Week-Special-190055.html>, contributed number 26. Credit for the remaining quotes goes to Early Bird Books, at earlybirdbooks.com/bannedbooksquotes.

1. "I cannot live without books."
Thomas Jefferson
2. "An idea that is not dangerous is not worthy of being called an idea at all."
Oscar Wilde, "The Critic As Artist"
3. "Censorship is the child of fear and the father of ignorance."
Laurie Halse Anderson, *Speak*
4. "What I tell kids is, Don't get mad, get even. Don't spend time waving signs or carrying petitions around the neighborhood. Instead, run, don't walk, to the nearest non-school library or to the local bookstore and get whatever it was that they have banned. Read whatever they are trying to keep out of your eyes and your brain, because that's exactly what you need to know."
Stephen King
5. "There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them."
Joseph Brodsky
6. "The important task of literature is to free man, not to censor him, and that is why Puritanism was the most destructive and evil force

which ever oppressed people and their literature: it created hypocrisy, perversion, fears, sterility.”

Anais Nin, *The Diary of Anais Nin, vol. 4: 1944-1947*

7. “Censorship is to art as lynching is to justice.”
Henry Louis Gates
8. “Any book worth banning is a book worth reading.”
Isaac Asimov
9. “If a public school were to remove every book because it contains one word deemed objectionable to some parent, then there would be no books at all in our public libraries.”
Peter Scheer
10. “Banning books gives us silence when we need speech. It closes our ears when we need to listen. It makes us blind when we need sight.”
Stephen Chbosky
11. “Censorship is telling a man he can’t have a steak just because a baby can’t chew it.”
Mark Twain
12. “I’m not, like a book guy, but isn’t the point of all this book stuff like what Mrs. Croft was teaching us – that unrestricted access to books allows us to be challenged and changed? To learn new things and to critically think about those things and not be afraid of them? To be better than we were before we read them?”
David Connis, *Suggested Reading*

13. “A dangerous book will always be in danger from those it threatens with the demand that they question their assumptions. They’d rather hang onto their assumptions and ban the book.”
Ursula LeGuin, *The Wave in the Mind: Talks and Essays on the Writer, the Reader, and the Imagination*
14. “What is freedom of expression? Without the freedom to offend, it does not exist?”
Salman Rushdie
15. “I hate it that some Americans are taught to fear some books and some ideas as if they were diseases.” Kurt Vonnegut
16. “When you tear out a man’s tongue, you are not proving him a liar, you’re only telling the world that you fear what he might say.”
George R. R. Martin
17. “When these people call *Eleanor & Park* an obscene story, I feel like they’re saying that rising above your situation isn’t possible. That if you grow up in an ugly situation, your story isn’t even fit for good people’s ears. That ugly things cancel out everything beautiful.”
Rainbow Rowell, in response to the Parents Action League attempting to ban her novel from schools in Annoka-Hennepin, MN.
18. “A society that gets rid of all its troublemakers goes downhill.”
Robert A. Heinlein
19. “There are no bad authors for children . . . because every child is different. They can find the stories they need to, and they bring themselves to stories.”
Neil Gaiman
20. “Censorship of anything, at any time, in any place, on whatever pretense, has always been and always will be the last resort of the

boob and the bigot.”
Eugene O’Neill

21. “If all printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody, there would be very little printed.”
Benjamin Franklin

22. “I can’t imagine a greater compliment for an author than making the banned books section.”
Chris Colpher, *A Tale of Magic* . . .

23. “Although there are those who wish to ban my books because I have used language that is painful, I have chosen to use the language that was spoken during the period, for I refuse to whitewash history. The language was painful and life was painful for many African Americans, including my family.
I remember the pain.”
Mildred D. Taylor, *The Land*

24. “Yes, books are dangerous. They should be dangerous – they contain ideas.”
Pete Hautman

25. “The books that the world calls immoral are the books that show its own shame.”
Oscar Wilde

26. “Every burned book enlightens the world.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

