

Challenged and Banned Booklist for Independent Reading Project

1. ***Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov**

The novel details the tragic yet amusing tale of Humbert, a dubious European émigré who harbors an obsession for young girls. *Lolita* is also the story of a hyper-civilized European, colliding with the cheerful barbarism of postwar America, but most of all, it is a meditation on love—love as outrage and hallucination, madness and transformation.

2. ***A Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley**

Huxley writes a vision of the future, as a world of tomorrow, in which a capitalist civilization has been reconstituted through the most efficient scientific and psychological engineering.

3. ***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain**

Huckleberry Finn, rebel against school and church, casual inheritor of gold treasure, rafter of the Mississippi, and savior of Jim the runaway slave, is the archetypal American maverick. Fleeing respectable society that wants to "sivilize" him, Huck Finn shoves off with Jim on a rhapsodic raft journey down the Mississippi River. The two bind themselves to one another, becoming intimate friends and agreeing "there warn't no home like a raft, after all. Other places do seem so cramped up and smothery, but a raft don't. You feel mighty free and easy and comfortable on a raft."

4. ***The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman**

The action follows 11-year-old protagonist Lyra Belacqua, accompanied by her daemon, from her home at Oxford University to the frozen wastes of the North, on a quest to save kidnapped children from the evil 'Gobblers,' who are using them as part of a sinister experiment. Lyra also must rescue her father from the Panserbjorne, a race of talking, armored, mercenary polar bears holding him captive. Joining Lyra are a vagabond troop of gyptians (gypsies), witches, an outcast bear, and a Texan in a hot air balloon.

5. ***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker**

Beautifully imagined and deeply compassionate, this is the story of two sisters—one a missionary in Africa and the other a child wife living in the South—who sustain their loyalty to and trust in each other across time, distance, and silence. This classic novel of American literature is rich with passion, pain, inspiration, and an indomitable love of life.