

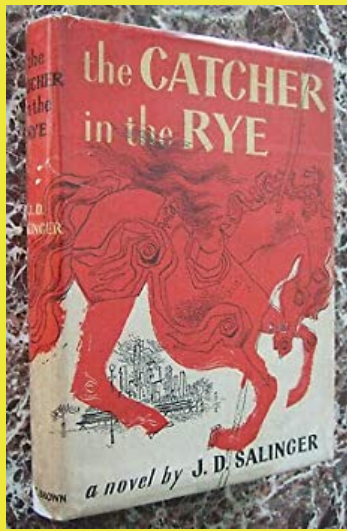
We stand with the people of Ukraine. Our hearts are heavy knowing what Ukrainians are going through right now. To do something, we are having a fundraiser for World Central Kitchen, an organization we feel strongly about. Come into the store or call us, and for any amount you donate to them through April 16, 2022, we will give you store credit to match your pledge toward any book in the store (excluding some books on consignment).

Have you ever read a banned book?

There are book clubs and author interviews on radio and TV. There are weekly best seller lists like the one in the *The New York Times*. But nothing sparks interest in a book better than the talk of banning it. Perhaps it is one's contrarian nature or one's heightened curiosity, but we have noticed that as soon as a book banning makes the news, it becomes one of our best-selling books.

There are lists and websites and even a whole week devoted to banned books. Mark your calendar: this year Banned Book Week is September 18 – 24.

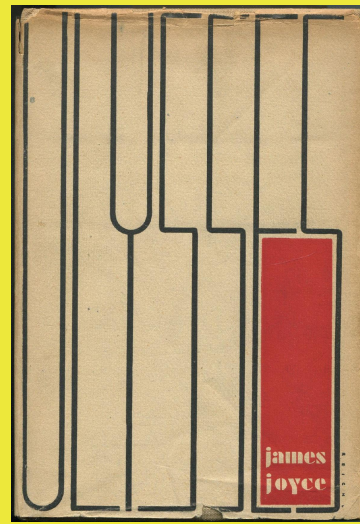
You're not going to be fined or even kept from reading these books now, but that wasn't always the case. "Decency laws" here in the US prevented importing and distributing materials considered to be "obscene," "filthy", or "inappropriate." The first of such, *The Meritorious Price of Our Redemption* by William Pynchon was banned and copies burned right here (well, The Massachusetts Bay Colony) in 1650. The Federal Anti-Obscenity Act (Comstock Law) of 1873 made it illegal to mail such books. And it wasn't until 1959 that the law was repealed!



Catcher in the Rye
by J. D. Salinger

Banned because it contains foul language, and Holden Caulfield is not considered a roll model for teens.

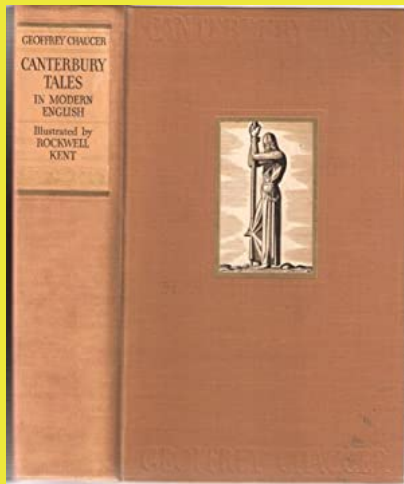
First Book Club/Canadian Edition \$400
[Catcher in the Rye](#)



Ulysses
By James Joyce

Banned because it may cause readers to harbor "impure and lustful thoughts".

Several copies available between \$8 -\$250
[Ulysses](#)

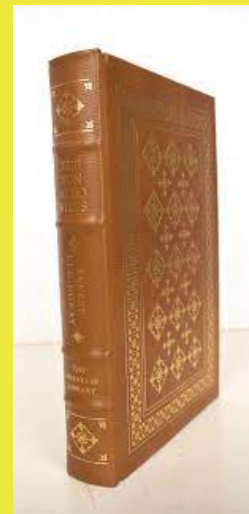


The Canterbury Tales
by Geoffrey Chaucer illustrated
by Rockwell Kent

Banned because the work contained obscene, filthy and inappropriate material.

\$8-100

[The Canterbury Tales](#)

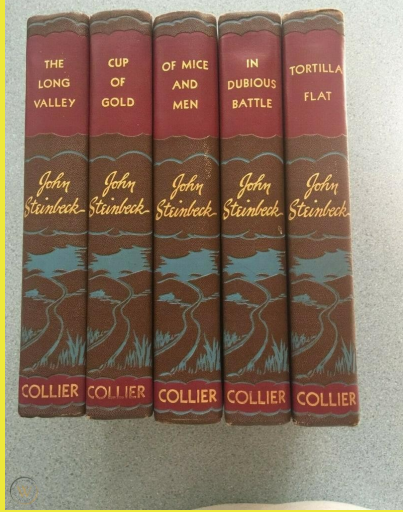


The Sun Also Rises
by Ernest Hemingway

Banned because it depicts decadent, inappropriate behavior.

\$75

[The Sun Also Rises](#)

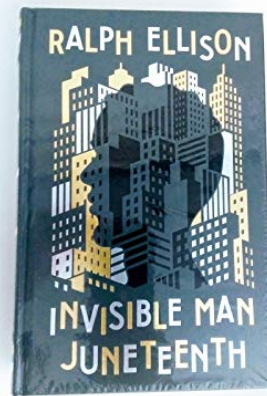


Of Mice and Men
by John Steinbeck

Banned because of profanity and the novella too “negative” and “dark.”

As low as \$15

[Of Mice and Men](#)



Invisible Man
by Ralph Ellison

Banned because it was considered vulgar and its depiction of one character’s “loss of innocence”.

\$8-\$75

[Invisible Man](#)

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