

Staff Favorites 2017

More banned and challenged books loved by staff

2017 Banned and Challenged Staff Favorites

[1984](#)

by Orwell, George

FICTION ORW

The year 1984 has come and gone, but George Orwell's prophetic, nightmarish vision in 1949 of the world we were becoming is timelier than ever. 1984 is still the great modern classic of "negative utopia" -a startlingly original and haunting novel that creates an imaginary world that is completely convincing, from the first sentence to the last four words. No one can deny the novel's hold on the imaginations of whole generations, or the power of its admonitions -a power that seems to grow, not lessen, with the passage of time.

[The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian](#)

by Alexie, Sherman

YA FICTION ALE

*Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.*

[The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#)

by Twain, Mark

J FICTION TWA

*Mark Twain's brilliant 19th-century novel has long been recognized as one of the finest examples of American literature. It brings back the irrepressible and free-spirited Huck, first introduced in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and puts him center stage. Rich in authentic dialect, folksy humor, and sharp social commentary, Twain's classic tale follows Huck and the runaway slave Jim on an exciting journey down the Mississippi.*

[The Amber Spyglass](#)

by Pullman, Philip

YA FICTION PULL

Lyra and Will find themselves at the center of a battle between the forces of the Authority and those gathered by Lyra's father, Lord Asriel.

[American Gods](#)

by Gaiman, Neil

FICTION GAI

Life as Wednesday's bodyguard, driver, and errand boy is far more interesting and dangerous than

Shadow ever imagined. Soon Shadow learns that the past never dies...and that beneath the placid surface of everyday life a storm is brewing - an epic war for the very soul of America - and that he is standing squarely in its path. I liked this book because it was as much of a road trip of America as it was a fantastical story about Old Gods and New Gods fighting for dominance.

[And Tango Makes Three](#)

by Richardson, Justin

JEASY

Who doesn't like an adorable picture book about penguins? The fact that it's a true story is, in my opinion, an added bonus.

[Angus, thongs and full-frontal snogging : confessions of Georgia Nicolson](#)

by Rennison, Louise

YOUNG ADULT FICTION REN

Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

[Aristotle and Dane Discover the Secrets of the Universe](#)

by Saenz, Benjamin Alire

YOUNG ADULT FICTION SAE

Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before.

[The Bastard of Istanbul](#)

by Shafak, Elif

FICTION SHA

*In her second novel written in English, Elif Shafak confronts her country's violent past in a vivid and colorful tale set in both Turkey and the United States. At its center is the "bastard" of the title, Asya, a nineteen-year-old woman who loves Johnny Cash and the French Existentialists, and the four sisters of the Kazanci family who all live together in an extended household in Istanbul: Zehila, the zestful, headstrong youngest sister who runs a tattoo parlor and is Asya's mother; Banu, who has newly discovered herself as a clairvoyant; Cevriye, a widowed high school teacher; and Feride, a hypochondriac obsessed with impending disaster. Their one estranged brother lives in Arizona with his wife and her Armenian daughter, Armanoush. When Armanoush secretly flies to Istanbul in search of her identity, she finds the Kazanci sisters and becomes fast friends with Asya. A secret is uncovered that links the two families and ties them to the 1915 Armenian deportations and massacres. Full of vigorous, unforgettable female characters, *The Bastard of Istanbul* is a bold, powerful tale that will confirm Shafak as a rising star of international fiction.*

[Beloved](#)

by Morrison, Toni

FIC MOR

*Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as *Exodus* and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Her new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby,*

who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Filled with bitter poetry and suspense as taut as a rope, Beloved is a towering achievement by Nobel Prize laureate Toni Morrison.

[Brave New World](#)

by Huxley, Aldous

FICTION

The classic, prophetic novel capturing the socialized horrors of a futuristic utopia remarkably explores the now-timely themes of cloning, individual creativity and freedom, and the role of science, technology, and drugs in humankind's future.

[On the bright side, I'm now the girlfriend of a sex god : further confessions of Georgia Nicolson](#)

by Rennison, Louise

YOUNG ADULT FICTION REN

Fourteen-year-old Georgia continues her diary in which she records her misadventures trying to reclaim the attention of seventeen-year-old Robbie, while coping with her friends, family, and dog-like cat Angus at the same time.

[Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee](#)

by Brown, Dee

970.5 BRO

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee is Dee Brown's eloquent, fully documented account of the systematic destruction of the American Indian during the second half of the nineteenth century. A national bestseller in hardcover for more than a year after its initial publication, it has sold almost four million copies and has been translated into seventeen languages. For this elegant thirtieth anniversary hardcover edition, Brown has contributed an incisive new preface. Using council records, autobiographies, and firsthand descriptions, Brown allows the great chiefs and warriors of the Dakota, Ute, Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes to tell us in their own words of the battles, massacres, and broken treaties that finally left them demoralized and defeated. A unique and disturbing narrative told with force and clarity, Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee changed forever our vision of how the West was really won.

[The Call of the Wild and Selected Stories](#)

by London, Jack

PBC CLASSICS LON

The story of Buck the dog, part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

[Charlotte's Web](#)

by White, E.B.

J FICTION WHI

Wilbur the pig is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him.

[The Sleeping Beauty Quartet \(Series\)](#)

by Roquelaure, A.N.

FIC ROQ

In the traditional folktale of "Sleeping Beauty," the spell cast upon the lovely young princess and everyone in her castle can only be broken by the kiss of a Prince. It is an ancient story, one that

originally emerged from and still deeply disturbs the mind's unconscious. In the Claiming of Sleeping Beauty, the first in the Sleeping Beauty Quartet, Anne Rice, writing as A.N. Roquelaure, retells the Beauty story and probes the unspoken implications of this lush, suggestive tale by exploring its undeniable connection to sexual desire. Here the Prince awakens Beauty, not with a kiss, but with sexual initiation. His reward for ending the hundred years of enchantment is Beauty's complete and total enslavement to him . . . as Anne Rice explores the world of erotic yearning and fantasy in a classic that becomes, with her skillful pen, a compelling experience. Readers of Fifty Shades of Grey will indulge in Rice's deft storytelling and imaginative eroticism, a sure-to-be classic for years to come.

[The Complete Persepolis](#)

by Satrapi, Marjane

GN NONFICTION

Persepolis is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private life and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming--both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar, a young life entwined with the history of her country yet filled with the universal trials and joys of growing up.

[The Dispossessed](#)

by Le Guin, Ursula K.

SCIENCE FICTION LEG

Shevek, a brilliant physicist from the anarchist moon Anarres, risks his life by traveling to the mother planet of Urras in the hope of offering wisdom to its inhabitants and to reunite the two long-alienated worlds.

[Dune](#)

by Herbert, Frank

SCIENCE FICTION

Opposing forces struggle for control of the universe when the archenemy of the Emperor is banished to a barren world where water is the most precious commodity.

[Earth's Children \(Series\)](#)

by Auel, Jean

FICTION AUE

The Clan of the cave bear is the first of Jean Auel's Earth's Children series. Ayla, a tall, blond, blue-eyed girl lost her family in an earthquake. She is nurtured and protected by some members of the Clan, but there are those who would cast her out because of her strange and threatening ways. Ayla's adventures 25,000 years ago include details of the world as it might have been.

[East of Eden](#)

by Steinbeck, John

FICTION STE

An epic story of good vs evil taking place from coast to coast and over generations. Through rich description the characters come alive as does the landscape. Steinbeck's description of Salinas and the surrounding areas is breathtaking and I gain something new from every read.

[Eleanor & Park](#)

by Rowell, Rainbow

YA FICTION ROW

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.

[Fahrenheit 451](#)

by Bradbury, Ray

SCIENCE FICTION

The classic tale of one man's experience of reawakening in a world beset by oppression and censorship in which books have been outlawed and reading is punishable by death.

[Fun home : a family tragicomic](#)

by Bechdel, Alison

GN NONFICTION

In this groundbreaking, bestselling graphic memoir, Alison Bechdel charts her fraught relationship with her late father. In her hands, personal history becomes a work of amazing subtlety and power, written with controlled force and enlivened with humor, rich literary allusion, and heartbreaking detail.

[The Giver](#)

by Lowry, Lois

J Fiction DAH LOW

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

[The Golden Compass](#)

by Pullman, Philip

YA FICTION PULL

Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

[Harry Potter \(series\)](#)

Series Title: [Harry Potter](#)

by Rowling, J. K.

J Fiction ROW

A Genre blending favorite of young people and adults alike. The series is so important [as a banned and challenged book] because an entire generation of people grew and matured along with Harry. As kids got older, the books introduced more complex problems and emotional dilemmas. Harry potter taught a generation of children how to do the right thing when doing so is difficult, how to believe in oneself, and the power of friendship.

[The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](#)

by Adams, Douglas

PBC SCIENCE FICTION

Escaping Earth just before it is demolished to make way for a new galactic highway, reluctant galactic traveler Arthur Dent embarks on a series of off-beat and occasionally extraterrestrial journeys, accompanied by a variety of unusual companions.

[The Hunger Games \(series\)](#)

by Collins, Suzanne

YOUNG ADULT FICTION COL

Suzanne Collins' extraordinary, worldwide-bestselling trilogy has captivated readers and listeners around the world. In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she steps forward to take her sister's place in the Games. Without really meaning to, she becomes a contender. But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weigh survival against humanity and life against love.

[Invisible Man](#)

by Ellison, Ralph

FIC ELL

First published in 1952 and immediately hailed as a masterpiece, Invisible Man is one of those rare novels that have changed the shape of American literature. For not only does Ralph Ellison's nightmare journey across the racial divide tell unparalleled truths about the nature of bigotry and its effects on the minds of both victims and perpetrators, it gives us an entirely new model of what a novel can be. As he journeys from the Deep South to the streets and basements of Harlem, from a horrifying "battle royal" where black men are reduced to fighting animals, to a Communist rally where they are elevated to the status of trophies, Ralph Ellison's nameless protagonist ushers readers into a parallel universe that throws our own into harsh and even hilarious relief. Suspenseful and sardonic, narrated in a voice that takes in the symphonic range of the American language, black and white, Invisible Man is one of the most audacious and dazzling novels of our century.

[To Kill a Mockingbird](#)

by Lee, Harper

YOUNG ADULT FICTION LEE

he unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, To Kill A Mockingbird became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and was later made into an Academy Award-winning film, also a classic. Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, To Kill A Mockingbird takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos.

[Knocked out by my nunga-nungas : further, further confessions of Georgia Nicolson](#)

by Rennison, Louise

YOUNG ADULT FICTION REN

The saga of fourteen-year-old Georgia Nicolson continues as she travels to Scotland on a nightmarish family vacation, confesses her anxiety over being the girlfriend of a sex god, and tests the limits of true friendship.

[Little Red Riding Hood](#)

by Grimm, Jacob

J 398.2 GRI

On her way to deliver a basket of food to her sick grandmother, Elisabeth encounters a sly wolf.

[Lolita](#)

by Nabokov, Vladimir

FIC NAB

The most controversial classic novel of the 20th century, Lolita tells the story of Humbert Humbert, a middle-aged man who is aroused to erotic desire only by a young girl. Awe and exhilaration--along with heartbreak and mordant wit--abound in Lolita, Nabokov's most famous and controversial novel, which tells the story of the aging Humbert Humbert's obsessive, devouring, and doomed passion for the nymphet Dolores Haze. Lolita is also the story of a hypercivilized European colliding with the cheerful barbarism of postwar America. Most of all, it is a meditation on love--love as outrage and hallucination, madness and transformation.

[The Lorax](#)

by Seuss, Dr.

JEASY SEU

The Once-ler describes the results of the local pollution problem.

[Luisa: Now and Then](#)

by McGuinness, Nanette and Tamaki, Mariko

GN FICTION MAU

This is a graphic novel about a woman whose past self comes to visit her as she is dealing with some internal problems that she hasn't ever talked about. It is LGBT friendly.

[The Master and Margarita](#)

by Bulgakov, Mikhail

FIC BUL

Mikhail Bulgakov's devastating satire of Soviet life was written during the darkest period of Stalin's regime. Combining two distinct yet interwoven parts-one set in ancient Jerusalem, one in contemporary Moscow-the novel veers from moods of wild theatricality with violent storms, vampire attacks, and a Satanic ball; to such somber scenes as the meeting of Pilate and Yeshua, and the murder of Judas in the moonlit garden of Gethsemane; to the substanceless, circus-like reality of Moscow. Its central characters, Woland (Satan) and his retinue-including the vodka-drinking black cat, Behemoth; the poet, Ivan Homeless; Pontius Pilate; and a writer known only as The Master, and his passionate companion, Margarita-exist in a world that blends fantasy and chilling realism, an artful collage of grotesqueries, dark comedy, and timeless ethical questions.

[Merriam-Webster's Concise Dictionary.](#)

by Merriam Company. , G. & C.

OVERSIZE LARGE PRINT 423 M55

According to the America Library Association, the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary was pulled from the Menifee, Calif. Union School District in 2010 because a parent complained when a child came across the term "oral sex." At the time, officials said the district was forming a committee to consider a permanent classroom ban of the dictionary.

[Moby Dick, or, The white whale](#)

by Melville, Herman

FICTION MEL

[Neverwhere](#)

by Gaiman, Neil

FIC GAI

Neverwhere is the story of Richard Mayhew, a young London businessman with a good heart and an ordinary life, which is changed forever when he is plunged through the cracks of reality into a world of shadows and darkness--the Neverwhere. If he is ever to return to the London Above, Richard must join the battle to save this strange underworld kingdom from the malevolence that means to destroy it.

[In the Night Kitchen](#)

by Sendak, Maurice

JEASY SEN

A little boy's dream-fantasy in which he helps three fat bakers get milk for their cake batter.

[This One Summer](#)

by Tamaki, Mariko

YA GN FICTION TAM

Rose and her parents have been going to Awago Beach since she was a little girl. It's her summer getaway, her refuge. Her friend Windy is always there, too, like the little sister she never had, completing her summer family. But this summer is different. Rose's mom and dad won't stop fighting, and Rose and Windy have gotten tangled up in a tragedy-in-the-making in the small town of Awago Beach. It's a summer of secrets and heartache, and it's a good thing Rose and Windy have each other.

[A People's History of the United States](#)

by Zinn, Howard

973.92 ZIN

Known for its lively, clear prose as well as its scholarly research, A People's History of the United States is the only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of--and in the words of--America's women, factory workers, African Americans, Native Americans, working poor, and immigrant laborers.

[Saga \(series\)](#)

by Vaughn, Brian K.

GN FICTION VAU #1

When two soldiers from opposite sides of a never-ending galactic war fall in love, they risk everything to bring a fragile new life into a dangerous old universe.

[The Sandman \(series\)](#)

by Gaiman, Neil

GN FICTION GAI 1

The Sandman is the universally lauded masterwork following Morpheus, Lord of the Dreaming--a vast hallucinatory landscape housing all the dreams of any and everyone who's ever existed. Regardless of cultures or historical eras, all dreamers visit Morpheus' realm--be they gods, demons, muses, mythical creatures, or simply humans who teach Morpheus some surprising lessons. Upon his escape from an embarrassing captivity at the hands of a mere mortal, Morpheus finds himself at a crossroads, forced to deal with the enormous changes within both himself and his realm. His journey to find his place in a world that's drastically changed takes him through mythical worlds to retrieve his old heirlooms, the back roads of America for a twisted reunion, and even Hell itself--to receive the dubious honor of picking the next Devil. But he'll learn his greatest lessons at the hands of his own family, the Endless, who--like him--are walking embodiments of the most influential aspects of existence.

[In the Spirit of Crazy Horse](#)

by Matthiessen, Peter

970.5 MAT

A look at the events surrounding the incarceration of native American activist Leonard Peltier elucidates the traditional Indian concept of the sacred inviolability of the earth and presents new evidence supporting Peltier's claims of innocence, arguing for a new trial

[The Subtle Knife](#)

by Pullman, Philip

YA FICTION PULL

As the boundaries between worlds begin to dissolve, Lyra and her daemon help Will Parry in his search for his father and for a powerful, magical knife.

[Tar Beach](#)

by Ringgold, Faith

JEASY RIN

A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name.

[Their eyes were watching God](#)

by Hurston, Zora Neale

YOUNG ADULT FICTION HUR

When Janie, at sixteen, is caught kissing shiftless Johnny Taylor, her grandmother swiftly marries her off to an old man with sixty acres. Janie endures two stifling marriages before meeting the man of her dreams, who offers not diamonds, but a packet of flowering seeds ...

[The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet](#)

by Shakespeare, William

9781451621709

William Shakespeare's tragic play about the forbidden love between two young people from feuding Veronese houses.

[Vampire Academy \(series\)](#)

by Mead, Richelle

YOUNG ADULT FICTION MEA

This, the first book in the Vampire Academy Series, beings two years after a horrible incident made them run away, when vampire princess Lissa and her guardian-in-training Rose are found and returned to St. Vladimir's Academy. One focuses on mastering magic, the other on physical training, while both try to avoid the perils of gossip, cliques, gruesome pranks, and sinister plots.

[The Wonderful Wizard of Oz](#)

by Baum, Frank L.

J FICTION BAU

Frank L. Baum's classic story about a girl and her friends traveling through the mystical land of Oz came under fire in Detroit, where it was banned from the libraries for having "no value" for children and supporting "negativism."