

# SALEM PRESS

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Contact: Jessica Moody, VP Marketing  
(800) 562-2139 x101  
jmoody@greyhouse.com

## **Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the *Critical Insights Series: Censored & Banned Literature***

*Censored & Banned Literature* examines a wide range of important literary texts that have been subjected to censorship, either at the time of their first publication, later in their history, or both. Because important works frequently offer challenging responses to social, historical, and political issues, often it is the very best works that provoke - at least initially - the most hostility or discomfort. This volume discusses *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain (1884), *The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger (1951), and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee (1960), among others.

Following the goals of the *Critical Insights* series, included in this volume are articles on texts that are well-known and often read in school settings, and have been highly criticized during their time of first publication and/or today. All of these essays attempt, in different ways, to examine why these popular texts are censored or altogether banned.

In “**Silent Censorship and Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn***,” leading expert on Mark Twain Alan Gribben discusses the criticism over the context of the title and why teachers are reluctant to assign the reading to their students.

Each of the four essays in the **Critical Contexts** section is designed to offer a particular emphasis. Richard Obenauf’s essay on censorship in medieval England has an explicitly historical focus. This essay is designed to give students a model of how to examine any topic from a historical perspective.

“Banned, Censored, and Challenged books: A Survey of Issues and Ideas,” by Kelly Snyder, is intended to give readers a sense of the critical background to issues of censorship, not only by listing valuable secondary works on this topic but also by considering several of those works in detail.

The third contextual essay—another piece by Richard Obenauf—shows how the topic of censorship can be explored by focusing on one particular work, in this case, the play *Mankind*. Finally, the last of the four contextual essays, Robert Donahoo compares and contrasts Flannery O’Connor’s works with several others inspired by hers.

The next section, **Critical Readings**, contains ten essays exploring more specialized topics that provide additional fresh insights into this topic:

- “The Coming Censorship of Fiction” by Basil Tozer et al.
- “‘Fighting Race Calumny’: Efforts to Censor *The Birth of a Nation*,” by C.E. Bentley, Jane Addams, and Mary Childs Nerney

- “‘Hidden Things’: Self-Censorship in the Poetry and Career of Constantine Cavafy,” by Robert C. Evans
- “Banned, Bothered, and Bewildered: *Lady Chatterley’s Lover*,” by Nicolas Tredell
- “Interanimations: William S. Burroughs’s *Naked Lunch*,” by Nicolas Tredell
- “Efforts to Ban Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*,” by Phill Johnson
- “*To Kill a Mockingbird* in Columbus, Indiana: A Community Divided,” by Robert C. Evans
- Informal Censorship: The Literary Feud between Frank Chin and Maxine Hong Kingston,” by Liyang Dong
- “Alison Bechdel’s *Fun Home*: The Gay Graphic Memoir as a Magnet for Censorship,” by Darren Harris-Fain
- “A Recent Attempt at Book ‘Censorship’: The Conejo Valley Dispute,” by Robert C. Evans

Each essay in *Critical Insights: Censored & Banned Literature* includes a list of Works Cited and detailed endnotes.

In the final section, **Resources**, a **list of Additional Works on the Theme** is featured. Also included in this volume is a **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editor** and **Contributors**, as well as an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world’s most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia’s most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Censored & Banned Literature* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

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