

FORBIDDEN BOOKS

The Forbidden Reading Companion

Five classics. Five ways into the conversation.

Original reading routes, historical context, discussion questions, and space for your own verdict.

English-language digital collection · October 2026

“Forbidden” names a history of censorship. It does not mean these books are currently illegal. A ban in one place or period is not a universal ban.

Choose your first book.

A quick, sharp beginning: *Candide*

Short episodes and ruthless irony make this the most approachable starting point. Read a few chapters at a time and keep an eye on the gap between confident explanation and lived experience.

A practical argument: *The Prince*

Choose this for short chapters about power. Pause after each one and separate the description of a political tactic from approval of it.

Two novels about belonging

Lady Chatterley's Lover explores intimacy and class. *The Well of Loneliness* explores identity and the desire for a place in society. Both ask what happens when private life collides with public rules.

A long literary adventure: *Ulysses*

Approach it without a test to pass. Begin with the first episode, identify the speakers, and pay attention to sound. Reading a passage aloud is often more useful than chasing every reference.