







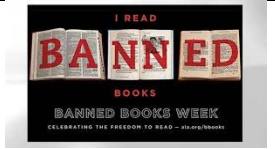



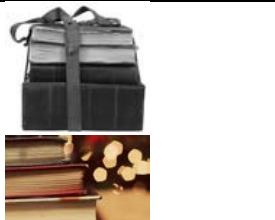


## DS Story Board: Banned Books Week

*I have revised my script based on feedback to include a story about an author who was uninvited from a book festival which led to its cancellation. This creates more of a personal connection to me both because it happened in my hometown and because this author is very popular with my own students.*

Digital Images	Transitions	Script
	<p>Blink between each cover as the titles are said</p>	<p>Catcher in the Rye, Slaughterhouse 5, To Kill a Mockingbird, Of Mice and Men, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Brave New World, Fahrenheit 451. The reasonable person might be thinking “oh, those are all classics” or “wow, what prestigious award-winners.” And that person would be right.</p>
		<p>But there is another common element among these books: they have been banned.</p>
<p>Text “It has to stop”</p>		<p>Somebody, somewhere has tried to keep these books and many others out of the hands of children in schools or other adults at public libraries. It has to stop.</p>
		<p>One would think that censorship of this nature is a thing of the past. We may associate this type of censorship with authoritarian governments of the past like Soviet Russia, Apartheid South Africa, or the book burnings of Nazi Germany in World War II. But the truth is that in a nation that trumpets itself as the freest, here in the United States, hundreds of books were challenged in 2012.</p>
		<p>As an English teacher, the contradicting idea that I have to bring my students’ reading levels up to par while at the same time dictating what they can and cannot read is exhausting. It’s like saying, <i>make them read but don’t let them read anything interesting!</i></p>
		<p>Just miles away from where I live and teach, I am embarrassed to admit of a case exactly like this occurred so close to home. Not a few years ago in Humble ISD, a suburb of my beloved hometown of Houston, censorship made its nasty mark.</p>
		<p>Here’s the story: One librarian in the school district was concerned about the author’s edgy and dark material. Ellen Hopkins has written books like <i>Crank</i> and <i>Trick</i>, books that contain content including drugs and prostitution.</p>
		<p>The librarian brought her concerns to a few set of parents who would be likely to express discontent with the material. Those few parents took their concerns directly to the superintendent of the district, Guy Sconzo. Hopkins quickly found her invitation revoked (though the school district maintains that she was never formally invited because there was no contract).</p>

	<p>Cut to interview of Hopkins expressing discontent of book banners that haven't read her books  <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLNwTHEZcoQ">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLNwTHEZcoQ</a></p>	<p>Despite the fact that many other librarians and teachers in the district supported her inclusion in the event. It later turned out Superintendent Sconzo hadn't even read any of Hopkins' books.</p>
	<p>Ken Burns left to right pan over headline from Houston Chronicle</p>	<p>When other authors that were supposed to appear caught wind of the marginalization of a fellow author, four of them cancelled. After more than half of the authors who were supposed to appear weren't coming, the school district cancelled the event entirely.</p>
<p>Black screen emphasizing nothing</p>		<p>What should have been a celebration of teen literacy ended up as nothing at all.</p>
<p>Somewhere here, I'd like to add interviews from my own students who have read Hopkins' books about reading, book banning, and how they feel about her book getting banned. Her books are very popular among my students. She also has an interview (link above) about her books being banned.</p>		
		<p>In the fight against censorship and book banning, the American Library Association in partnership with many other organizations is the sponsor of banned books week. Banned books week is the national book community's annual celebration of the freedom to read.</p>
		<p>Hundreds of libraries and bookstores around the country draw attention to the problem of censorship through awareness activities such as displays, classroom lessons, and read alouds.</p>
	<p>Cut to clip of Moyer  <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRhHYuAW-80">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRhHYuAW-80</a> ]</p>	<p>The importance of these lessons is expressed by journalist, Bill Moyer, "Censorship is the enemy of truth even more than a lie. A lie can be exposed; censorship can prevent us from knowing the difference."</p>
		<p>In an age concerned with so-called "college readiness" book banners are willing to send our children off unprepared for college- mentally unprepared to deal with delicate and difficult issues that real life dictates they face.</p>
	<p>Cut to clip  <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZozDnYoB9c">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZozDnYoB9c</a>          "It's 10pm do you know where your children are?"</p>	<p>What book banners are really trying to do is shelter children, but books are exactly the shelter children need to experience the harsh realities of life in a safe environment. Remember that add from way-back-when,</p>
		<p>Well if the answer is 'upstairs in their room reading about drugs, sex, violence, gangs, religion, rape, bullying, curse words, magic, or any other controversial topic' then that means they're upstairs and safe from all of those controversial menaces just mentioned. If students can harbor in a safe place to critically think through these issues, there is no better way to prepare them for college and send them out into the real world.</p>
	<p>Add text over pictures "Read Banned Books"</p>	<p>Rather than banning books, we should be reading them.</p>