

About Censorship

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Perhaps idealistically, I have always held the belief that if people took the time to talk to and listen to each other, we would accomplish a higher level of understanding in the world, perhaps someday ending prejudice.

To this end, I have also always believed that you cannot understand an event without understanding the history behind it. Books, document the history of our civilization. Fiction, provides a window into the hopes, dreams and fantasies of our civilization. When I realized this, I added another item to my personal creed of beliefs, and that is that to read fiction with comprehension, you must understand the history behind it.

During the course of this class, I have had the opportunity to contemplate how societies censor literature; how governments, religions, educators or parents restrict information to ensure that members of their society read only the material that is acceptable, thereby controlling what people speak to each other about and how they listen to each other, as well as how and what information is exchanged. This censorship controls our knowledge of the history behind events.

I have also learned to take the time to consider the manner in which the purportedly offensive material is written. I ask you to ask yourself the question I have been considering: If a point of view that differs from yours is presented in an eloquent fashion, are you more willing to consider it than if it is put in plain, simple language? Does beautiful language make disturbing literary material more palatable?

In the United States, parents, educators and librarians who profess that they wish to protect the psyches of the children in their charge, persist in the notion of removing books from classrooms and libraries. It is possible to say that they are well-intentioned, that they don't want their children to be emotionally traumatized by reading material that they don't understand. However, it is my contention that these parents, educators and librarians have these beliefs because they don't understand the books, their context, their history or their cultural significance. And perhaps they don't want to understand them, because they're minds are closed, thus, they want their children's minds to remain closed, as well.

I would prefer to have the opportunity to read the material for myself and make up my own mind. I do not want to be a prisoner of the limitations that are imposed upon me by others.

Books, can be entertaining.

they can also transcend.

Do you want to be transcendent?

Perhaps, I will write a book,

wherein, I, decide what is so.

What I say may shockdisturbchallenge, what You choose to see.

In my book, I, will shape the world as I wish to see it – perhaps you don't agree?

Will you censor me?

Give your children Brain condoms, protect their little minds.

Shhhh, go to sleep everything will be all right.

Clevermindreadonlywhatsupportsyourpoint of view.

What, is the power of words?

Perhaps you don't want to know. Close, your mind, hibernate.

The Momma says.

"No. my HollySallyRosemarie shouldn't see those things.

too young, won't understand, too young, too soon for her badbadbad, this is bad for little girls."

Where was Momma when the teacher put his hand up HollySallyRosemarie's skirt?

Do you think he learned that from a book?

She was seven, little boy said, "Fuck you, Jew bitch kike."
Do you think he learned that from a book?

She was fourteen, boy told her, "That boy you see, his skin is dark."
Do you think he learned that from a book?

What, is the power of words?
Do you disseminate hate?

Ugly words, ugly thoughts, angry, hurtful words. Nigger, Raghead, Heeb, Spick, Chink
She, did not learn these words from a book.

What are these angry words?
What do they mean? Do they derive from the Latin, Hebrew, Greek?

Sticks and stones.
Words, can break your bones, your heart, your mind, your spirit.

Today, there was a bomb in KabulTehranBeirutJerusalemParisLondonDenver.
Don't read about it, it will go away.
A man raped a child down the street.
Don't read about it, it will go away.
The Nazis killed the JewsCatholicshomsexualsgypsies.
If you don't read about it, does it cease to be real?
The IsraeliskillthePalestiniansthePalestinianskillthemback.
It didn't happen to me, I ignore it.

What, is the power of words?
Will you preach fear, exacerbate?

There is suffering somewhere, no food, no hope, despair.
HollySallyRosemarie read the book, had a nightmare.

Her Momma's mad.

HollySallyRosemarie read the book, had a nightmare, Learns to care
grows up finds a way to scare
All the bad guys, no more war
Think about it if you dare.

Use Brain condoms. Protect your little minds.
Everything will be all right.
Clevermindreadonlywhatsupportsyourpoint of view.

What, is the power of words?
Do you disseminate hate
use words to retaliate
do you make peace, mediate
will you preach fear, exacerbate
or, do you denunciate
or, will you emancipate