AWESOME stories

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This image depicts the 1884 cover of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, a book often criticized, censored or banned since Mark Twain had his work published in 1884. In the 21st century, <u>the book is still under attack</u> and critics have even removed hundreds of words from Twain's text. Image online via Wikimedia Commons.

Since writing was invented in about 3000 BC, people have expressed their thoughts in written form. The battle with censors has been ongoing.

From the <u>death of Socrates</u>, in 399 BC (for teaching the youth of Athens to think for themselves) to the <u>1981</u> <u>burning</u> of the New Living Bible in Gastonia, North Carolina (because it is "a perverted commentary of the King James Version" of the Bible), history is filled with stories about secular and ecclesiastical authorities who tried to kill the product of free thought.

Some of the people who created those ideas were executed. But in America, the First Amendment guarantees cherished legal rights and protects both the process and the people.

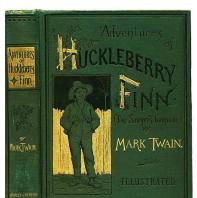
Is there censorship in America?

• <u>Mark Twain's</u> famous book—the <u>Adventures</u> of <u>Huckleberry Finn</u>—featuring <u>Huck</u> and his pals, <u>Jim</u> (a slave) and Tom Sawyer, is <u>still popular</u> (and taught) but has been banned countless times since it was <u>first published</u> on February 18, 1885. (Follow this link to look at the <u>first edition's 174 illustrations</u>.)

• Then, in 2011, a publisher—following the advice of a Twain scholar—decided to change the author's words, making about 200 edits in the popular work. A raging debate immediately followed, with <u>censorship</u> <u>accusations</u> flying anew.

• The <u>Diary of Anne Frank</u>—written by a <u>young Jewish teenager</u>, forced to <u>hide with her family</u> in a <u>vacant area</u> of her father's Amsterdam business until they were <u>betrayed</u> and sent to Nazi concentration camps (where Anne died of typhus at Bergen Belsen)—was also recommended for rejection in 1983 because ... it is a <u>"real downer</u>."

America has censorship. That is why first amendment protection of free thought and expression is as important today as it was when the Bill of Rights was first written.



CHERISHED RIGHTS

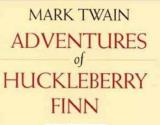
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CHERISHED-RIGHTS-Book-Burning-and-Censorship

See Learning Tasks for this story online at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/CHERISHED-RIGHTS-Book-Burning-and-Censorship</u>

Media Stream

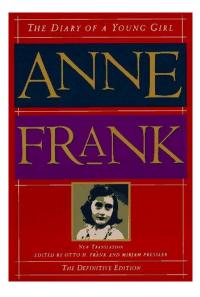


<u>Mark Twain</u> Online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. PD View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mark-Twain1</u>





THE ONLY AUTHORITATIVE TEXT BASED ON THE COMPLETE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT



Adventures of Huckleberry Finn - by Mark Twain

Image online, courtesy Amazon. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Adventures-of-Huckleberry-Finn-by-Mark-Twain

Diary of Anne Frank

Book-cover image online, courtesy Random House Digital, Inc., and Google Books. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Diary-of-Anne-Frank</u>