

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2017

Épreuve EPC

**Exposé de la préparation
d'un cours**

**EPC
410**

Ce sujet comprend 4 documents :

- Document 1 : Finlo Rohrer, "Why are Parents Banning School Books?", *BBC News*, September 27, 2010
- Document 2 : Screen capture of *50 Books That Were Banned* (view gallery), Anna Brech
- Document 3 : Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*, 1953
- Document 4 : Audio excerpt, "Is it ever okay to ban books?", *Blue Sky* show, CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] Saskatchewan, February 26, 2014

Compte tenu des caractéristiques de ce dossier et des différentes possibilités d'exploitation qu'il offre, vous indiquerez à quel niveau d'apprentissage vous pourriez le destiner et quels objectifs vous vous fixeriez. Vous présenterez et justifierez votre démarche pour atteindre ces objectifs.

Document 1 : Finlo Rohrer, "Why Are Parents Banning School Books?", *BBC News*, September 27, 2010

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-11417672>

In the US more and more parents are pressing schools to withdraw books with bad language or sexual content. But should children's books be restricted in this way?

There is a battle being fought in America over books.

The skirmishes see concerned parents "challenge" books which are being used in schools. Other parents are fighting for the right of their children to go into their school library and pick up those very same books.

5 The issue is being highlighted by the American Library Association during its Banned Books Week. The ALA recorded 460 attempts in 2009 to have a book withdrawn from a library or classroom.

10 Part of the problem lies in the rise of young adult fiction. Nearly 60 years after the publication of *The Catcher in the Rye*, teenager readers are now a lucrative market around the world. The *Twilight* series has brought author Stephanie Meyer millions, but she has also found her work in the top 10 most challenged, with parents objecting to sexual explicitness and unsuitability for younger readers. More surprising to many people would be the three established literary classics on the list. The 10 most
15 challenged include *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The Color Purple* and even *To Kill A Mockingbird*. "I was shocked that anybody would find this book offensive," says Barbara Jones, director of the office for intellectual freedom at the ALA. Harper Lee's book has been challenged by black parents who object to the use of the word "nigger". It appears 58 times in
20 the book, notes Ms Jones. [...]

Across the Atlantic, one struggle has been played out in the small town of Stockton, Missouri, over Sherman Alexie's book *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. The work has won a National Book Award, but the
25 story of a 14-year-old Native American on a poverty-stricken reservation, touched by tragedy, upset many parents in Stockton after they learned it was being used in lessons in the school. The opposition to the book was led by lawyer and parent Mike Holzknecht. "The book is just chock full of vulgarity, profanity, obscenity and sexual explicitness involving minors,"
30 he says. "People around here, where it's pretty rural and conservative, they will go a long way, but this book was so far over the edge. It doesn't belong in a school." After a number of meetings spread over several months, the book's opponents succeeded. The school board voted to withdraw the book from the school curriculum and the school library. Cheryl Marcum was among those who were defending the book. "It was
35 one of the best books I've ever read in my life. The themes are pervasive poverty, alcoholism, bullying, racism and absolutely no hope. All of that applies to Cedar County [where Stockton is]. We believe parents have every right and responsibility to monitor what their children read. But they

40 don't have the right to prevent other children from reading books,
particularly national award-winning books." Mr Holzkecht accepts the
book is a "nice story" but can't accept the language or the sexual
explicitness. He moved his family to Stockton because he felt it was a
45 place with good, shared values. "This is a community with the type of
values that are consistent with the way we like to raise our children." The
fundamental split is between those who think teachers should be able to
challenge and engage children with edgy books, and those who think only
the parents should be allowed to do that. "We are overprotecting our
children," suggests Ms Jones. "They have heard this language. They have
50 probably said it themselves. It isn't dangerous for children to be able to
confront unpleasant ideas. What better place to engage with ideas than in
a school or in a library?"

And of course the net result of a battle over a book, like Stockton's, is that
more children end up reading the suddenly controversial work and the
author sells more books. Even Mr Holzkecht has to admit he's purchased
55 three copies. "These boards are fooling themselves that if they ban the
book the kids aren't going to get hold of them," says Ms Jones.
To kids, contraband is cool.

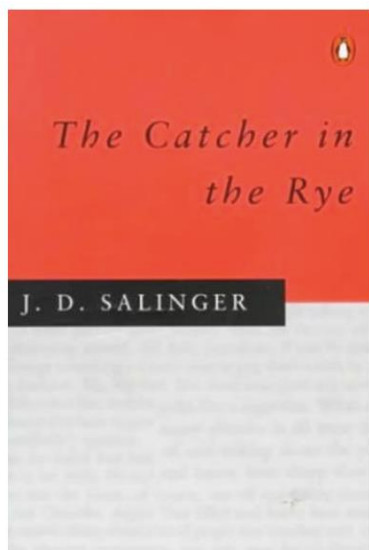
Document 2 : Screen capture of *50 Books That Were Banned* (view gallery), Anna Brech <http://www.stylist.co.uk/life/50-books-that-were-banned#> Consultables sur la tablette multimédia fournie.

Document 2 A

It's a truth universally acknowledged that books are good for the soul. But for some, too much knowledge is a dangerous thing. What one person reads as vivid, poignant and moving, another sees as violent, perverse or politically dubious. Thus, book banning has existed from the beginning of time and a quick flick through any well-stocked bookshelf will reveal titles that, at one point or another, have been subject to censorship.

From tomes with obvious reason for censorship (*American Psycho*, for example) to unlikely banned texts (*Black Beauty*? Controversial? Apparently so), we present 50 books that were banned in the gallery below.

Document 2B



The Catcher in the Rye, J. D. Salinger

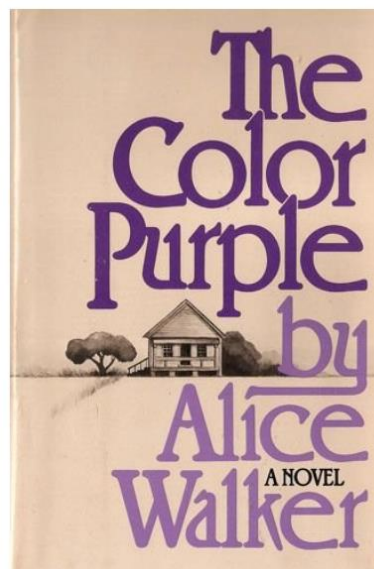


Famed for being one of the most banned, censored and challenged books ever following its publication in 1951. *The Catcher in the Rye* tells the story of teenage anti-hero Holden Caulfield as he embarks on a journey of self-discovery in the US. It attracted criticism in the 60s and 70s for 'excess of vulgar language, sexual scenes, and things concerning moral issues.'

Key quote:

'In my *mind*, I'm probably the biggest sex maniac you ever saw.'

Document 2 C



The Color Purple, Alice Walker



This 1982 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel focuses on the grim realities of life for black women living in America's Deep South in the 1930s. It has been banned by school boards on numerous occasions for graphic scenes of violence, descriptions of sexual assault, plus 'troubling ideas about race relations, man's relationship to God, African history and human sexuality.'

Key quote:

'I see Sofia and I don't know why she still alive. They crack her skull, they crack her ribs. They tear her nose loose on one side. They blind her in one eye. She swole from head to foot.'

Document 3 : Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*, 1953 (p. 52 & p. 57)

Document 3 A

“Classics cut to fit fifteen-minute radio shows, then cut again to fill a two-minute book column, winding up at last as a ten- or twelve-line dictionary resume. I exaggerate, of course. The dictionaries were for reference. But
5 many were those whose sole knowledge of Hamlet (you know the title certainly, Montag; it is probably only a faint rumour of a title to you, Mrs. Montag) whose sole knowledge, as I say, of Hamlet was a one-page digest in a book that claimed: ‘now at least you can read all the classics; keep up with your neighbours.’ Do you see? Out of the nursery into the
10 college and back to the nursery; there’s your intellectual pattern for the past five centuries or more.”

Document 3B

“Coloured people don’t like Little Black Sambo. Burn it. White people don’t feel good about Uncle Tom’s Cabin. Burn it. Someone’s written a book on tobacco and cancer of the lungs? The cigarette people are weeping? Burn
5 the book. Serenity, Montag. Peace, Montag. Take your fight outside. Better yet, into the incinerator. Funerals are unhappy and pagan? Eliminate them, too. Five minutes after a person is dead he’s on his way to the Big Flue, the Incinerators serviced by helicopters all over the country. Ten minutes after death a man’s a speck of black dust. Let’s not
10 quibble over individuals with memoriams. Forget them. Burn them all, burn everything. Fire is bright and fire is clean.”

Document 4 : Audio excerpt, "Is it ever okay to ban books?", *Blue Sky* show, CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] Saskatchewan, February 26, 2014

<http://www.cbc.ca/books/2014/02/is-it-ever-right-to-ban-a-book.html>

Document audio (2'03") à consulter sur la tablette multimédia fournie.