Welcome to Wordly

Wait. No! What are you doing? Stop reading this. Dangerous ideas! Bad Words! Why would you read this? It’s censored! Go away! Look at all these black lines of horror! Ellipsis /ˈɛlpɪs/ noun the omission from speech or writing of a word or words that are superfluous or able to be understood from contextual clues. “It is very rare for an ellipsis to occur without a linguistic antecedent,” a set of dots (…) indicating an ellipsis.

But seriously, what if everything you read was censored, and you were told what you were allowed to read. This issue of Wordly revolves around Banned Book Week, a week dedicated to celebrating freedom of information. It’s edited by the fabulous India Wyvill who likes long walks on the beach and justice!

Other lesser peasants featuring in this issue include Liv Petersen, who’s only talent is knowing Bohemian Rhapsody back to front, Isabel Holborow, who has so many columns in this issue that, damn, she could be a Greek Temple, and many opinions on book banning from our beloved teachers. Please enjoy.

“I can’t believe some of the books that have been banned, its ridiculous”

“The issue was so interesting!”

“I really enjoyed this issue of Wordly”

“Shout Out to the Wordly’s new members since our last issue! Your soul is ours!”

Always feel free to send in material for future issues of Wordly!
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What’s so important about banned book???

Banned books are the books that have been (or have been attempted to be) taken out of schools, library’s and states. Remembering the books that have been challenged throughout the years is important because we then in turn remember the importance of freedom of speech and the freedom to information.

Last year 307 books were challenged in American schools, libraries and states. Hundreds more throughout time have been either challenged or removed. Banned Book Week celebrates the freedom to read and highlights the value of free and open access to information.

Out of the 307 books challenged last year (2013), these are just a few:

- **Captain Underpants (series),** by Dav Pilkey. Reasons: Offensive language, unsuited for age group, violence
- **The Bluest Eye,** by Toni Morrison. Reasons: Offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, violence
- **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian,** by Sherman Alexie. Reasons: Drugs/alcohol/smoking, offensive language, racism, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
- **Fifty Shades of Grey,** by E.L. James. Reasons: Nudity, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
- **The Hunger Games,** by Suzanne Collins. Reasons: Religious viewpoint, unsuited to age group
- **A Bad Boy Can Be Good for A Girl,** by Tanya Lee Stone. Reasons: Drugs/alcohol/smoking, nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit
- **Looking for Alaska,** by John Green. Reasons: Drugs/alcohol/smoking, sexually explicit, unsuited to any age group
- **The Perks of Being a Wallflower,** by Stephen Chbosky. Reasons: drugs/alcohol/smoking, homosexuality, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
- **Bless Me Ultima,** by Rudolfo Anaya. Reasons: Occult/Satanism, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit
- **Bone (series),** by Jeff Smith. Reasons: Political viewpoint, racism, violence

This map is drawn from cases documented by ALA (American Library Association) and the Kids’ Right to Read Project, a collaboration of the National Coalition Against Censorship and the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression. Find out more: www.bannedbooksweek.org/mappingcensorship
**Recently banned book**

**The fault in our stars by John Green**

A California school committee attempted to have *The fault in our stars* banned from its middle school classrooms during Banned Book Week (September 21-27).

The committee thought that the ideas of sexuality and mortality brought up in the novel were not essential aspects of life that should be presented to children. After hearing about this, writer John Green published his official response to the banning on his Tumblr after a fan asked him how he felt about the decision.

“I guess I am both happy and sad, I am happy because apparently young people in Riverside, California will never witness or experience mortality since they won’t be reading my book, which is great for them. But I am also sad because I was really hoping I would be able to introduce the idea that human beings die to the children of Riverside, California and thereby crush their dreams of immortality.”

During my time researching the process of challenging and banning books I have discovered some books that may have been “missed” and continue to be studied in schools today. Following the criteria listed on the ALA (American Library Association) I have discovered books that in all sense of fairness should also be banned:

**Romeo and Juliet—**

Not only does this play feature extreme violence, but also the book refers to underage children participating in drug and alcohol related activities, the novel is also anti-family according to the ALA definition of the term. And even though it is not said (in so many words), the book certainly implies underage sex. So after observing the evidence of its inappropriate content, *Romeo and Juliet*, a play written by William Shakespeare, is BANNED, please remove this book from public/school libraries and bookshops.

**The giver—**

This book not only shows extreme cases of euthanasia and murder but it is also targeted to a young audience. This novel is also anti-family according to the ALA definition of the term. Therefore after observing the evidence of its inappropriate content, *The Giver*, a novel written by Lois Lowry is BANNED, please remove this book from public/school libraries and bookshops.

**The Book Thief—**

Though it shows no extreme cases of death and murder, the book does, in detail describe the reign of Nazi ruler Adolf Hitler and therefore due to its violent and extreme cases of mass genocide and religious hate/anti-Semitism, *The Book Thief*, a novel by Markus Zusak is BANNED, please remove this book from public/school libraries and bookshops.

By India Wyvill Yr 10
Here’s a small warning for weakly offensive language in this column. There will be weakly offensive language in this column.

“Frankly my dear, I don’t give a damn.”

This quote from the late 1930’s film, Gone with the Wind, cued gasps and outbursts of disbelief from the audience. How dare they swear in a film! The line was iconic...

For the time, at least.

Language is one of humanity’s most powerful tools. The Bilingual are intelligent. The Trilingual are genius. The Quadrilingual are super human and anyone more than that clearly holds a characteristic of extraterrestrial life and they should be scouted immediately.

Language is a communication device. Language is a bridge. Language is a safety net. Language is love. Language is life.

Books are smothered in language, both verbal and visual, and they not only illustrate a picture, but a theme and an idea that can inspire and engross its readers.

So when suddenly, your beloved book uses what is considered ‘offensive’ language, does that really change its meaning at all?

In August this year, Roald Dahl’s treasured classic, ‘Revolting Rhymes,’ was banned by discount supermarket Aldi, for its use of the word ‘slut’ in a line of one of the nursery rhymes. The term was used to refer to a sloppy woman, not a sexually promiscuous one, which is what most of the protestors of the book’s banishment were trying to stress.

The real problem is that the term has changed. People growing up with the book read the word as a dull insult, not taboo. Roald Dahl was never the most polite writer, but should this classic children’s book of his really be condemned for his minimal use of 80’s slang?

As I mentioned earlier, the problem with language is that meanings are twisted around and turned vile over time. The process is typically:

- Accidental misuse of the word
- Ironic misuse of the word
- Actual misuse of the word, usually followed by the manifestation of the original meaning.

Like language, ideas also might be hated at the time but later accepted or even preferred to an alternative. In fact, they can manifest as quickly as words.

Animal Farm, by George Orwell was refused by every publisher in 1943 because of its criticism of the U.S.S.R at the time, which exemplifies how they refused to acknowledge their mistakes. In their ignorance, weren’t they just accepting their mistakes? Doesn’t accepting them promote them if you aren’t trying to learn and move on from them? Seventy years later and students are studying ‘Animal Farm’ in Year 7. It even has a movie. An animated movie.

Too many times has censorship stopped people from saying what they truly want to say but if language is the problem, then what do other countries and cultures have to say?

We all know that the USA’s list of banned books is pretty hella, but countries like North Korea and China also continue to ban books like Animal Farm as well. Personally, I believe it says something about the people who censor the opinions of others, but is it that? Or is it simply their idea of protecting their society? What do you think? It can’t all be for propaganda, I’m pretty sure Australia didn’t make the decision to ban ‘The Anarchist’s Cookbook’ based on their hopes that people might actually start liking Tony Abbott.

We’d also like to take this moment to congratulate the winners of the LRC Talent for Reading competition!!!!!

1st place went to a very deserving Charlotte Burton-Clark. Charlotte managed to get 310 hours of reading and 14 reviews of books on Destiny. Congratulations for such an amazing effort!

2nd place went to Sophie Burton-Clark with 292 hours and 25 minutes. Yay Sophie! You go Sophie!

Us as the Wordly Editors are amazed at the dedication and love for reading that students show here at St Vincents. So with that we’d like to personally congratulate you all for reading anything, including this issue. Good job guys!
Blanked out poetry is using only a book and a marker to create a completely different story using censorship.
Out of the three detentions I'd ever attended, this was the longest. I watched the sky darken outside and kept looking to the front at my phone on the desk. Beth said she would text me when she spotted Max and Calvin; she and Lucky were across the street right now keeping watch and my phone was confiscated at the front of the room meaning I had no idea when the plan would need to be in motion.

The clock struck five and I shot up and swiped my phone from the desk. 'Thanking' the teacher, I left the room and checked my messages. One from Beth. Two minutes ago.

'They're here, run.'

And so I did. I ran straight across the road into the park keeping an eye out for Beth or Lucky. The sun was setting now and it was getting difficult to see.

In front of me I saw a silhouette and guessed it was Lucky. I tapped him on the shoulder and he spun around.

'It wasn't Lucky.'

'Calvin Carther... I puffed.'

'What the- get out of here!' He yelled at me.

I took a step back but I wasn't going anywhere. 'Hey! No way.' I yelled back. 'You can't tell me what to do. It's your fault everyone's putting the blame on me!'

'You didn't actually think he liked you? God it was even his idea to kiss you cover for me.'

My heart sunk. That confirms that. Calvin noticed my silence and sniggered. 'You don't get it.' He spat. 'I said if anyone should take the blame it's her not me.'

'Blame for what?' I asked sarcastically.
'For ruining those books, duh. Where have you been the last few days.' He said, ridiculing me.
'With us.' A voice said from a distance. Beth swung out from behind a tree. 'Gosh it was hard to keep still, took you long enough to get that out of him, Kat.'
I shrugged, vaguely wondering what she meant by ‘us,’ if Lucky wasn’t there. 'I did the best I could, gimme a break.'
Calvin had frozen in his place. 'What's going on? Get what out of me?'
Beth joined me next to him. 'A confession.' She held up her phone with the recording on it. 'All on here.' She said smugly.
'No way...you didn’t tape me, did you?' He scowled. We both nodded. With an outburst of anger he lunged forward and swiped at Beth's hand, sending the phone flying.
'No!' I screamed.
Before the phone could hit the ground somebody dived beneath it, cushioning its fall. The boy rose his head and shook his blonde hair out of his eyes. 'There was no way we were losing our only proof.'
'Lucky!' I cried and pulled him off the ground. Beth had leapt onto Calvin and was keeping him from running.
'Get off of me!' He yelled but she just kept kicking to keep him immobile.
'So where were you hiding?' I asked Lucky. 'Hiding? Ha no. I was pretty insistent on not camping out with Beth.' I heard cars pull up outside the park shortly followed by footsteps heading towards us. Lucky glanced over his shoulder. 'I was calling for backup.' He brushed off his shoulders like a secret agent might and I laughed.
The police took Calvin to their car and after replaying the recording of his confession, (and listening to his reveal that Max kissed me only as a joke,) they called Mr and Mrs Carther and prepared to take Calvin into town for further questioning.
'Nice job you three.' The officer told us, and I don’t know how often people get told that, but any sort of compliment from a police officer is enough to make your day.

As Beth, Lucky and I were walking home I vaguely remembered Max, guessing he fled after spotting the police cars. I was proven wrong when Lucky pointed over his shoulder at a boy pushing towards the police vehicle holding Calvin.
'Cal! Cal!' I swear it wasn’t me this time round. Cross my heart.' Max yelled into the window.
'This time round?' Beth asked. 'What a snitch.' 'Guess Calvin wasn't lying earlier on what he said about Max.' I chimed.
The police officer tore him from the car. 'Did you know about this boy?'
The life drained from Max’s eyes. 'What? N-no way. I've got to go-
'Come with us kid.' Lucky burst into laughter. 'I never liked him anyway.' I shrugged, wishing I could say the same.
'C'mon.' Beth said, taking our hands and pulling us forward. 'I don’t know about you two, but I’m ready for bed.'
'And I'm ready to see the look on Jess’s face when she has to apologise to you tomorrow.' Lucky told me and I couldn't agree more.

If you want to enter a narrative to feature after this story leaves us, contact either the editors or Dr Librarian at:
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watkm0116@stvincents.nsw.edu.au
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Don’t Cuss
In a world that gasps at obscenities all round,  
My job is to give you some words safe to sound. 
So if someone insults your right to cook 
Just walk away while calling them gobbledegook. 
When you cut yourself and think worse than ow! 
Don’t say the sin just say holy cow. 
When a baby is being ripped out of your womb, 
The worst you will swear is ‘great horn spoon’! 
That word in particular translates to ‘by God’. 
You can say this while battling an insolent sod. 
When Hogwarts is fake return with hogswash, 
That will save you from getting you filthy mouth washed. 
And at the end of the day when you stub your small toe, 
The world will understand when you scream loudly and go 
&@#!$
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Maisie Watkins Yr 10

Banishment – Tilda Njoo Yr 7

The curve of her flame, 
The whisper of her heat, 
Diminishes in the ice of your laws.

A barefoot girl, 
Hands dripping with coins 
The year is 1823.

Gypsies will forever reign, 
Under the hateful eye of your laws, 
Until the fire burns out.

The gold will be taken, 
The fire locked up, 
The gypsy is no longer.

Until the barefoot girl returns, 
In the eyes of her daughter, 
Whom she swore she’d never leave.

But banishment bites, 
And the fire is sent, 
Across the skies.

A lone girls is found, 
Her hair still loose, 
Dancing on the stars.

He sentenced me to death. 
The guards reached for me and I held my breath. 
But his wife jumped up and cried ‘No!’ 
The Queen was always one for a show. 
She grimaced wicked, 
My stomach churned, sickened. 
The Queen was not known for her beauty, 
But for her dark ideas and cruelty. 
“What better a punishment, 
Then a permanent banishment?”

She drawled. The page boy scrawled 
Details of my demise scrolled across the palace floor. 

Crimes a result, of being so poor. 
Too many times did I find myself here, 
Expressing false innocence through my pleas and fear. 
“But sire, my family’s hungry!“ I would yell. 
It wouldn’t stop them reminding me I was going to hell. 
My thefts were fruitless in all the fruit I’d nabbed, 
As I was always caught, and one time, almost stabbed. 
But now that was over. I was never allowed back home. The family would despise me, they’d thrown me enough bones. 

The queen returned to her throne, my questions, a bother. 
“What will hurt less, with or without?” 
I looked at my feet, refusing to pout. 
I answered ‘with,’ of course, no matter what shame I’d bring. 
The Queen answered, “without then, man you’re finally free,” 
The guards took my arms, I kicked and cried, 
Without my family?! No I’d rather died. 
-Isabel Holborow, Yr 10
Dear authors... It’s okay

After the long hours of researching the tiring process that is book banning, we began to think about all the authors that have had books removed (or challenged) from school, library’s or states. We began to feel sorry for these talented people that are unable to share their work with the world because of what some people deem “inappropriate”... So we decided to write to them.
We asked several teachers what they thought about book banning, here are a few of their responses. But to make it more interesting you don’t know whose opinions belongs to who. Match them up and see how well you know your teachers.

a. A far as banning books goes I am against this type of censorship and believe that banning novels sets a dangerous precedent because offense is not an easy thing to define- it’s in the eye of the beholder, so to speak! Personally, I prefer self-censorship and I think most readers would put down a novel they found offensive and disturbing.

b. Absolutely do not believe in book banning. I am against censorship and feel it is important for students to be exposed to a range of ideas in order to learn. I find book banning in order to be ‘politically correct’ to be a ridiculous notion. Literature is supposed to challenge your ideas and ignite your imagination. Book banning suggests that we all need to conform to one agenda, and I disagree with this wholeheartedly.

c. While I am an avid reader myself and certainly see the benefits of students reading anything at all, I do believe that school libraries with the limited resources available should focus more on academic books. I’m all for encouraging people to read through a selection of popular reading books, but the educational value of these is often outweighed by their cost. I don’t believe popular books should be banned but neither do I believe they should be a focus of a school library.

d. This is a hot topic and one that I believe is centred around context. As a Catholic girls College steeped in a rich history of service and creative learning our context at St Vincent’s is pretty unique. When ‘banning books’ it is important to respect the beliefs, the tradition and the learning that takes place in our College. To this end there are some books that I think would be better to be explored in the context of your family, or through study at university, rather than the College because you will have different support networks and opportunities to discuss the themes than you would at the College. I’m not sure about what books could or have been banned. I think book banning becomes censorship at a ‘big brother’ level when there is no transparency about why a book was banned. For example, I would support banning a fiction book at St Vincent’s that explicitly supported and advocated for euthanasia or pregnancy reduction. These bioethical issues are not condoned within our faith. While a non-fiction book exploring these practices would be useful to learn about the decision process and then unpack these processes in class or with a teacher, a fiction book that has no debrief/unpacking/appropriate context could not only confuse a reader but give the wrong impression of what our community believes.

e. It’s quite impossible to design the perfect response to this issue. The reality is that a school like SVC has students from roughly 11 years of age to 18. And a parent body with a wide range of views on censorship. Of course the College should retain the right ‘to ban’. One can only hope that it exercises that right with finesse.... beginning by filling the shelves with a range of the relevant, vibrant material that leads students of all ages not to notice that it has chosen to overlook the rank and the crass. What would I ban? I’d probably start with gangsta misogyny.

f. On first principle, I do not believe in book banning because of the right to have the freedom of speech. However I can understand censorship towards books with the intent to incite hatred and prejudice towards a particular person or group of people.

1. Mr Lowndes
2. Ms McLean
3. Mr Gilhooley
4. Mr Coleman
5. Ms Marshall
6. Ms Young

(answers on last page)
This Term the LRC had a visit from a very esteemed author Justin Larbalestier. She’s an American Australian author and her other works include Liar. However, she came to talk to us about her new work, Razorhurst, which is about the underbelly of Darlinghurst in the early 1930s. We had a lot of fangirls that loved the book and we highly recommend you check out some of her stuff. For now here’s just a couple of photos of the event:
**Horoscopes**

By Liv Petersen

**AQUARIUS** (January 21–February 19)
You’re going to drown… and you won’t see it coming.

**PISCES** (February 20–March 20)
Listen… you’re gonna die.

**ARIES** (March 21–April 20)
Your worst nightmare will become real. Watch out for shady looking mangoes.

**TAURUS** (April 21–May 21)
Don’t freak out of anything but you might end up going insane. It’s advisable to avoid asylums.

**GEMINI** (May 22–June 21)
There’s a good chance you’ll eat a bad sandwich and infect the population with a zombie virus.

**CANCER** (June 22–August 23)
Your favourite band member is going to die. There’s nothing you can do.

**LEO** (July 24–August 23)
You have a lot of negative energy. Like a LOT. Try to avoid killing any annoying people.

**VIRGO** (August 24–September 23)
The planets are aligned in your favour. The evil spirit following you probably won’t try to communicate this month … probably.

**LIBRA** (September 24–October 23)
All your friends are going to leave you. Probably because you’re as boring as a stunned mullet.

**SCORPIO** (October 24–November 22)
The Game. (yeah you just lost)

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23–December 21)
Congratulations!! It’s a boy

**CAPRICORN** (December 22–January 20)
Did you know if ducks are around people too long, they begin to think they are also a person? Yeah, you’ve been a duck this whole time.

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In an attempt to censor what you read, these words have been jumbled in the hopes that you won’t be able to understand, you have to figure out what the words are.

phissorneneC
nnbaing
ookbs
snoitcirtser
lyordw
eerfdom fo chpees
tionmarofni
udecaitno

See answers below

**Answers from Match the Opinion:**

1. E
2. D
3. C
4. F
5. A
6. B

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Did you know if ducks are around people too long, they begin to think they are also a person? Yeah, you’ve been a duck this whole time.