

Unit Guide

Banned Books: Questioning our Right to Read

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In this second grade unit, students will use what they learn about censorship to then write some opinion pieces about the concept of censorship and books that have been banned. Students will gain a better understanding of what it means to censor something, be it a book or idea. Having this understanding of this concept will help them become better informed individuals. This way they can become better educated decisions. The activities listed start with setting the mood by throwing some books (that have been banned before) into a trash can and giving reasons for “getting rid of them”. You will create a chart with the answers that they give you to questions that are listed. The next activity has you learning about the First Amendment. There are some videos to watch and a quick write activity to complete at the end of the activity. The last activity has the teacher reading two or three books that have been banned to the class and then the students will be writing an opinion paper about which book was their favorite and why it should not be banned. These activities would be suitable for an extension in an Opinion Writing Unit or a Social Studies Unit on the Constitution or the First Amendment.