

Banned Books Project

Using *SUSPECT RED*

A NCSS/CBC Notable Book

2018 TLA's TAYSHAS LIST Recommended Reading
and the LOC online Banned Books exhibit

Secondary Level Activities

Overview: STATEMENT ABOUT CENSORSHIP IN THE MCCARTHY ERA AND THE IMPACT CENSORSHIP HAS IN *SUSPECT RED*

Step One: Find

Censorship and Book Banning in *SUSPECT RED*:
Find three examples of censorship in Elliott's novel.

Step Two: Think, Write, Discuss

Please speak to the following prompts:

- What issues surround the turn to censorship in each example from the novel?
- Who is calling to censor?
- Who/What is being protected/shielded?

Step Three: Research

Banned Books that Shaped America

Go the **Banned Books exhibit** at the **Library of Congress**: [Books that Shaped America](https://www.loc.gov/bookfest/books-that-shaped-america/) and <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/books-that-shaped-america/>.

Choose FIVE titles highlighted on the site. (Students might narrow choices by theme, decade, author, political climate, topic, etc.)

For each novel, speak again to the following prompts:

- What issues surround the turn to censorship in each example from the novel?
- Who is calling to censor?
- Who/What is being protected/shielded?
- Conclude by considering a final prompt: What impact has this novel had on American history/culture? What does the general population know about the work? Does the novel have a mythology surrounding it? Was it intended as protest? Describe.

Step Four: Create

Students may choose from the following projects:

1. Create an era-appropriate PSA in favor of banning the chosen novel OR in protest of the banning. (See p. 13 of Hyperion's Discussion Guide to learn of the Green Feather Movement and the banning of *Robinhood* during McCarthy's Red Scare.)

2. Create a dialogue between a would-be censor and a teenager interested in reading one of the chosen novels.

3. Organize a debate arguing both for and against the banning of the chosen novel. An extra challenge could be designing one debate for the era in which the novel was first challenged and then one for contemporary times.

For more information, and links to learning more about the 1950s Red Scare and Book Censorship, go to http://lmelliott.com/book_landing_page_historical/suspect-red/

For additional study guides, including using ***SUSPECT RED*** as companion text to ***THE CRUCIBLE*** and ***FAHRENHEIT 451*** go to: <http://lmelliott.com/teachers-librarians>