

FOCUS ON:



CENSORSHIP AND BANNED BOOKS

“Some particular cases of book burning are long and traumatically remembered—because the books destroyed were irreplaceable and their loss constituted a severe damage to cultural heritage, and/or because this instance of book burning has become emblematic of a harsh and oppressive regime. Such were the destruction of the Library of Alexandria, the burning of books and burying of scholars under China’s Qin Dynasty, the destruction of Mayan codices by Spanish Conquistadors and priests, and in more recent times, Nazi book burnings.”

—BOOK BURNING, FROM WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Here we are, nearly a decade into the 21st century, and book burning is still with us, perhaps as ferociously as ever.

Today, book burning is sometimes literal, sometimes metaphorical, but the result is always the same: books disappear.

We turn in this issue of *RHI* to today’s leading authors, educators, thinkers, and professional organizations for their advice . . . and for hope. Some stand at the forefront working to extinguish the bonfires, and others have simply—and inadvertently—found themselves caught within its flames.

What they all offer to you, the educator, are their thoughts on a complicated, nuanced, and sometimes dangerous issue, as well as practical resources and tips for the classroom . . . and your career.

We are as delighted as you are to hear from such legendary authors as Maya Angelou, Billy Collins, and Ray Bradbury, and we humbly offer you their wisdom.

Another legendary author, Louis L’Amour, once wrote, “We needed books, we needed something on which to build dreams.”

So let’s all begin that building of dreams, and fight against the fire that seeks to destroy.



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