

NCTE Committee On Censorship

The newly formed NCTE Committee on Censorship, chaired by Edward Jenkinson (Indiana University--Bloomington), has asked that the following announcement be sent to you in hopes that you will publish it in your affiliate newsletter or journal. The committee hopes this will give a great number of teachers who have experienced recent censorship activities an opportunity to report to the committee and thereby forward its work.

The newly formed NCTE Committee on Censorship decided, in its initial meeting at the NCTE Convention in Chicago, that one of its first tasks is to gather and to examine reports of incidents of censorship that have occurred since September 1, 1976. Not only will the committee report the incidents to members, noting censorship trends throughout the nation, but it will also examine the information carefully to help it complete six other projects of interest to members.

The committee urges teachers who have experienced any form of censorship to send reports to the chairman of the committee at the following address:

Edward Jenkinson, Director
English Curriculum Study Center
1125 Atwater Avenue
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

The committee requests the following information:

1. The name and address of the school and/or school district involved and the grade level(s) involved.
2. The complete title, author, and publisher of the textbook(s) and/or trade materials objected to. Or a complete description of the ideas and/or teaching strategies objected to.

3. Who made the objection (s)?
(Parent, student, teacher, administrator, clergyman, citizen's group, etc.)
To whom was the original objection made?
How was the complaint made?
(Individual conference, letter, telephone call, citizen's request form, etc.)
4. Can the person making the complaint be identified with any specific group? If so, which group?
5. What was the specific complaint?
6. What action was requested by the complainant?
7. What action was taken by the school? Who made the decision of the action taken?
8. What was the direct result of the censorship complaint?
(Student read another book; book was removed from reading list; book was placed on closed shelf; parts of the book were excised; etc.)
9. What were the indirect results of the censorship complaint?
(Book wasn't removed from reading list but was not reordered; department quietly decided not to teach the book again; etc.)
10. Was the incident reported by the mass media?
(Please enclose any available newspaper clippings with the report.)
11. Please give the name and home address of the person making the report so that a member of the committee can contact you if further information is needed.

What Dreams Are Made Of

Pipe dreams scatter
when reality slashes.
Fighting oblivion is a noble cause,
but muscles grow weak with use,
weaker with disuse,
knees chatter,
the voice withers--
I've forgotten why I fight.

Pain is inevitable.

Reality's a two bladed sword;
nerves numb
and I watch my flesh part
with the backswing.

DALE S. OLSON