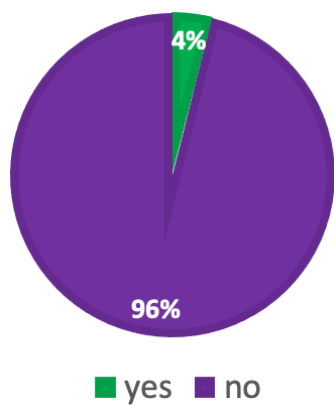


What's Your Opinion?

We asked students if classical works deemed "offensive" should be censored.

Out of 51 responses:
Censor them -- 2
Don't censor them -- 49



Next Poll:

Favorite Color
What is your favorite color?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](#). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [astatetheherald.com](#). Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to heraldopinion1921@gmail.com.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website.

Rewriting classic literature: the good and the bad

JACK BOND
OPINION EDITOR



Jack Bond is a senior English major from Marion.

Agatha "Queen of Crime" Christie, author of prominent detective novels such as "The Mysterious Affair at Styles" and "Death on the Nile" is the latest author whose works are to be revised for offensive language.

Publisher HarperCollins has edited and removed passages that echo racist and anti-semitic views. For example, a description of a character as "a Jew, of course" will not be present in the revised version.

These revisions come not long after book publisher Puffin announced similar changes to the classic children's novels written by author Roald Dahl.

Books such as "The BFG" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" will be edited to remove offensive language related to gender, race, weight,

metal health and violence. Words such as "fat" and "ugly" as well as descriptions using "black" and "white."

Backlash quickly following the changes led to Puffin announcing the release of "classic editions" which retain the original language. No such announcement has been made for Agatha Christie's works at the time of writing this.

Although the overwhelming opinion seems to be against rewriting classic literature, there is some good to be had out of this.

Censoring offensive language makes the books more palatable for modern readers, which in turn increases readership. More readership means more informed masses. Although one could argue that a true intellectual could easily look past the offensive language, being aware of the context in which it was written doesn't make it any less uncomfortable to read.

The more important benefit, however, is the effect that this has on children. Kids are very easily impressionable. Assuming they do some independent reading of works with racist and anti-semitic ideas, there is a good chance that they might adopt said ideas.

Ultimately, it is up to the parent to make sure that their children know right from wrong, but they cannot be aware of every little influence on their

children's lives. In this case, children should be protected from radicalized ideas that promote hate and bigotry.

Now that the good things are out of the way, I can explain why this is still a bad idea overall. First and foremost: historical accuracy.

In today's day and age, historical accuracy seems to be a hot topic. Usually, it's used as an argument to disguise bigoted ideas like racism. The best example of this is when certain fans of Assassin's Creed called for more "historical accuracy" in Assassin's Creed Origins after the announcement that the main character was not white.

Despite the fact that Ancient Egyptians were likely very ethnically diverse, the game is also the same one in which you leap from hundreds of feet into hay bales and somehow magically survive. Historical accuracy is not important here.

The world of classic literature, however, is much different. We learn a lot about past societies through the literature they produce. To censor classic literature is to change the history textbooks.

Another issue with censoring literature is that it is a form of whitewashing. These authors were far from perfect, and to try and remove stains from their moral record is problematic. If they were racist or anti-

semitic or sexist or classist, that needs to be acknowledged.

They don't deserve to be painted as angels when they did horrible things and thought horrible thoughts.

I think what's being done with Roald Dahl's works is the ideal way to approach classic literature. Make versions that are more palatable for wider readership and to protect impressionable kids, but also make versions that echo the darker side of human history.

Hopefully HarperCollins does the same with Agatha Christie's works. We need to understand past societies and their flaws to know what worked and what didn't. It's as they say "Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN
Agatha Christie and Roald Dahl's works are set to be revised for offensive language

Beans and tea are a college student's best friends

JACK BOND
OPINION EDITOR

This may seem like just a random collection of two foods, but hear me out. What are two of the biggest things college students struggle with? Stress and finances.

A 2021 study by the American College Health Association found that just over 70% of college students reported moderate to severe psychological distress. Another study in 2015 by Ohio State University found that roughly 70% of college students felt distress over their financial situation.

"But where do beans and tea fit into this?" you ask. Both of them are great when separate, but together they can solve both of these issues.

Tea alone can be a great addition to any diet. While more traditional teas like black and green tea offer antioxidants, anti-inflammatory properties and boosted immune functions, my money goes mainly toward herbal teas.

Since herbal teas don't have any caffeine, they are much better for calming down and de-stressing. Various studies have shown the myriad of benefits of various herbal teas.

You can drink chamomile tea as a

sleep aid, ginger tea as an indigestion and nausea remedy, sage tea for cognitive function and hibiscus tea for cardiovascular health. That's only four teas out of countless varieties, each with their own unique benefits.

A 16-count bag of each of these teas costs roughly \$5. Even if you drink them daily, that's roughly 2 weeks worth of tea for only \$5. Personally, I recommend just sage and chamomile to save money.

Beans, while not necessarily able to directly help out in the anti-stress department, are more than capable of relieving you of financial troubles. A can of beans costs less than a dollar and only

just over a dollar if you're willing to go organic, which I recommend due to the lower sodium content.

They make a great ingredient in soups, rice, curries or even by themselves. On top of this, they provide many health benefits by being high in protein and fiber while having zero cholesterol. They are also chock-full of minerals like zinc, iron and calcium.

Both of these foods I will ride and die by. They have helped my wallet and my mental health tremendously. As a college student, I could not imagine living without them at this point.



My collection of teas and beans. The best of each are sage tea and chickpeas, both of which I drink/eat daily.

Photos by Jack Bond | Opinion Editor

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