



# CURRENTS

September

WCCC Library Newsletter

2014

## Note from the Editor:

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to all our new students, and a warm welcome back to returning students. The WCCC Library is excited to present our first issue of CURRENTS for the new school year. This issue features **BANNED BOOKS** in celebration of the freedom to read and in conjunction with Banned Books Week celebrated every year in the month of September.

You'll be surprised at how many "Banned Books" we have in our library and in libraries across Maine. Many of these books are classics, but have been challenged or banned at one time or other for a variety of reasons. Some are even children's books! Curious to see the list? Check out our display and see how many you've read, or maybe you'd like to read one today! And check our new website at: <http://libguides.wccc.me.edu> There you will also find a link to our Banned Books page.

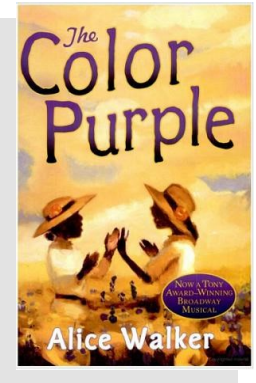
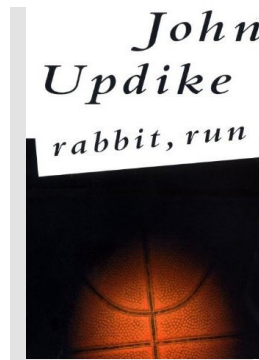
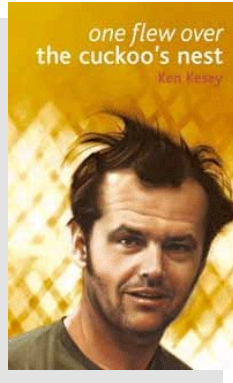
Hope you enjoy our newsletter and keep those comments and feedback coming. Enjoy!

## DATABASE OF THE MONTH:



Check out **MINERVA**, our online catalog, to find books, DVDs, and CDs in our library or to request items from one of the many other participating libraries in the state.

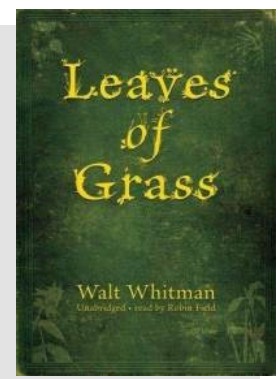
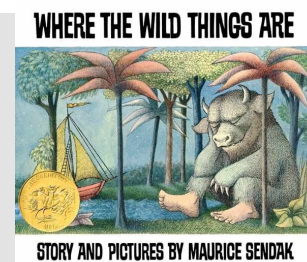
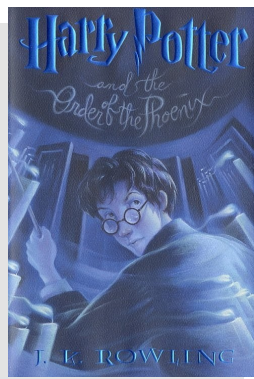
## Banned Best-Sellers and Beloved Books



**One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** by Ken Kesey. This tale, set in a mental institution, follows what happens when a new inmate attempts to take on the totalitarian authority of Big Nurse. Some reasons banned or challenged: glorifying criminal activity, promoting human secularism, bizarre violence, etc.

**Rabbit, Run** by John Updike. A one time high school sports superstar resolves to flee from his now mediocre life and family. Banned for: prostitution, adultery, alcoholism, abortion, accidental infanticide.

**The Color Purple** by Alice Walker. Follows the hardships of a young black woman between the wars. Reasons banned: offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, homosexuality.



**Harry Potter (series)** by J.K. Rowling. This hugely popular series is among the most frequently challenged books, and have been banned at schools, removed from libraries, and even burned! Objections are that the books promote witchcraft, the characters set bad examples, and the storyline is too dark.

**Where the Wild Things Are** by Maurice Sendak. Sendak's work is beloved by children in the generations since its publication and has captured the collective imagination. Many parents and librarians, however, did much hand-wringing over the dark and disturbing nature of the story when it was first published.

**Leaves of Grass** by Walt Whitman. If they don't understand you, sometimes they ban you. This was the case when the great American poem *Leaves of Grass* was first published and the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice found the sensuality of the text disturbing.

## WCCC LIBRARY

One College Drive  
Calais, ME  
04619

Elizabeth Phillips  
Library Director  
207-454-1050  
ephillips@wccc.me.edu

John Leavitt  
Librarian  
207-454-1051  
johnleavitt@wccc.me.edu

Library Hours  
Mon-Thurs  
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Find us on the web:

[wccc.me.edu](http://wccc.me.edu)

The Library is under the  
Academics tab

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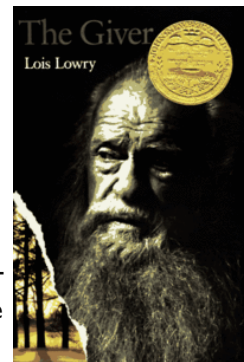
[wccclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/wccclibrary)

## STORY OF THE MONTH



### The Giver : The Movie

"Based on Lois Lowry's book, this highly anticipated film tells the story of a perfect world where everyone is happy." This description appeared in the *Huffington Post* with the release of the movie *The Giver*. It doesn't sound like a book to be challenged or banned. Yet, the book has been ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> on the American Library Association's top challenged and banned books list from 2000-2009. *The Giver* is usually objected to because of "violence", with the claim that the book is too dark for children and young adults. Ironically, banned books often result in



more publicity. *The Giver* was recently ranked #2 on Amazon's list of bestselling teen and young adult books.

So what's it about? It tells the story of what seems like a perfect community where there is no pain or suffering - a simple, secluded world where there are no differences and no choices. Too good to be true? Read the book to decide for yourself.

#### Works Cited

FIRST!, KIDS. "The Giver - an Intense Film About the Effects of Accepting the Good and Bad Memories of Life." *The Huffington Post*. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 18 Aug. 2014. Web. 30 Aug. 2014. <[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kids-first/the-giver-an-intense-film\\_b\\_5680155.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kids-first/the-giver-an-intense-film_b_5680155.html)>.

"Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books: 2000-2009." *American Library Association*. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.ala.org/bbooks/top-100-bannedchallenged-books-2000-2009>>.

## Featured Periodical



Sept. 23 1848 issue

Continuing the tradition started last issue, we would like to showcase the *next* oldest running magazine from our collection:

### The Saturday Evening Post

Founded in 1821, the Saturday Evening Post is one of America's oldest magazines (it actually predates indoor plumbing). In its heyday, The Post was delivered weekly on Saturdays (hence the name) but is now published bimonthly. It has featured many popular writers, including, Ray Bradbury, Agatha Christie, William

Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Kurt Vonnegut, Louis L'Amour, Sinclair Lewis, Edgar Allen Poe, John Steinbeck, and others, as well as using many of the best illustrators of the day.

In 1916 The Post gave then unknown 22-year old artist Norman Rockwell his first cover commission, resulting in a longstanding tenure working for the magazine that lasted 50 years and included over 300 iconic covers.

In 2013 The Post underwent a major overhaul and is attempting to shake off its old image and increase the magazine's profile.

Here are some interesting articles that can be found in recent issues available in our Reading Room:

"Are We Losing the Stars?" (Sept/Oct 2014)

"A New Isolationism?" (July/Aug 2014)

"Van Gogh's Holland" (July/Aug 2014)

"Another Level: How Candy Crush nearly crushed my soul" (May/June 2014)



March 2014 issue

#### Works Cited

"The Saturday Evening Post." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 19 Sept. 2014.

Star, Will. "Saturday Evening Post looking for dramatic turnaround." *USA Today*. Gannett, 2 Jan. 2013. Web. 19 Sept. 2014.