

**"Reading is a conversation. All books talk. But a good book listens as well."**

**Mark Haddon**

### Poem of the week

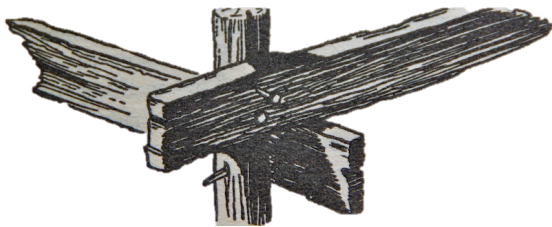
#### The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.



### Ban the book?

**'As long as books have existed, there have been people trying to stop other people from reading them.'**

There is a story that in 213 BC, the great Chinese emperor Qin Shi Huang buried 460 scholars alive before burning all the books in his kingdom so he could control how history would remember his reign.

In the run-up to Banned Books Week (Sept 22-28) match these classics with the attempts to ban them.

- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain
  - *Harry Potter*, JK Rowling
  - *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck
  - *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, DH Lawrence
  - *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley
  - *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding
  - *Captain Underpants*, Dav Pilkey
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- 'a doorway that will put untold millions of kids into hell'
  - 'the author is known to have had an anti-business attitude'
  - 'it makes promiscuous sex look like fun'
  - 'encourages disruptive behaviour'
  - 'demoralising in as much as it implies that man is little more than an animal'
  - 'is it a book you would even wish your wife or your servants to read?'
  - 'trash and suitable only for the slums'

Are there books that should be banned? If so on what grounds? Violence? Explicit sex? Obscene language? Political views? Material judged offensive or blasphemous by particular religious groups?

Is there a case for banning from prison libraries books that are available in public libraries outside?

### Bob and Betty by Molly Giles

It was a good divorce. They each took one of the cars and one of the labradoodles; they divided the silver, antiques and paintings, put the house up for sale, agreed to split the proceeds, and were shaking hands goodbye when they heard a musical tinkle from the garden. 'Oh-oh,' she remembered, 'my wind chimes.' 'My wind chimes,' he corrected. They hurried across the lawn and reached for the chimes at the exact same moment; when she tripped him, he slugged her; when he slugged her, she bit him. The estate agent found their bodies later, chimes wrapped around their throats.

## The Devil's in the Details

by Pamela Painter

1. A priest and a rabbi come out of a bar. No one saw them go in. No one saw where they sat, what they were drinking or what they said to each other. Did they say anything? Who waited on them? Did they pay for drinks that we're not sure they ordered? Were they wearing shoes? Were they wearing robes — maybe a stiff white collar, a colorful yarmulke? Were the details of their dress a disguise? Who rose to leave first? Two men, right? Did the rabbi precede the priest or the priest precede the rabbi? Staggering? Yes, details matter.

2. When the priest and the rabbi try to go into a bar, they are stopped at the door. "What's with the outfits?" the bouncer says. "And no bare feet." "Who owns this bar?" the rabbi asks. "Not relevant," the bouncer says. "Wait," the priest says, "Is this the right bar?" The rabbi says, "Are you a real priest?" "I am if you are a real rabbi," the priest says. "There's a sandal and costume shop across the street," the bouncer says. It is not appealing. The priest and the rabbi buy the bar. As yet, it doesn't have a name.

3. "A priest and a rabbi go into a bar." You say this in a loud voice and everyone close by at Tooki's Tavern leans toward us, expectant. Then I say, "The priest and the rabbi go into the bar." "The bar. Which bar," asks a young woman from a nearby table. "Which bar? This bar?" says our server, clumping down our beers. "And why this bar," the bartender says with a frown. Then the bloke across from me raises his glass, studies it, and intones, "A judge and a lawyer go into a bar." It gets us back on track.

### In praise of reading

'Once you've read a book you care about, some part of it is always with you' *Louis L'Amour*

'A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies... The man who never reads lives only one' *George R R Martin*

'I find television very educating. Every time someone turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book' *Groucho Marx*

'You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them' *Ray Bradbury*

'A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say' *Italo Calvino*

### Why do they all begin with 'h'?

And what do they mean anyway? Match them if you can.

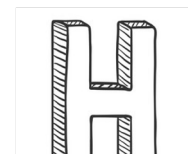
*Hanky panky*                      *Clandestine*

*Hugger mugger*                      *All good*

*Hunky dory*                      *Snobbish*

*Helter skelter*                      *Chaotic*

*Hoity toity*                      *Underhand  
behaviour  
(esp. sexual)*



## ANSWERS

### Banned Books

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* = 'trash and suitable only for the slums'

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*Of Mice and Men* = 'the author is known to have had an anti-business attitude'

*Lady Chatterley's Lover* = 'is it a book you would even wish your wife or your servants to read?'

*Brave New World* = 'it makes promiscuous sex look like fun'

*Lord of the Flies* = 'demoralising in as much as it implies that man is little more than an animal'

*Captain Underpants* = 'encourages disruptive behaviour'

### Beginning with H...

Hanky panky = Underhand behaviour  
(esp. sexual)

Hugger mugger = Clandestine

Hunky dory = All good

Helter skelter = Chaotic

Hoity Toity = Snobbish

