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Personally do you believe that “sanitizing” books is ethical and abides by the Constitution and therefore should be permitted? I believe that “sanitizing” is nothing more than illegal censorship as it goes against basic American values like Free Speech and the Right to Free Expression. Therefore in my opinion it should be illegal and punishable by law to “sanitize” books. Sanitizing books negatively impacts classic literature and is worse than banning due to the fact that sanitizing books is an attempt to erase ideas altogether while banning just makes people want those books more.

Sanitizing books goes against core American values like Free Speech and Free Expression. One detail from ‘Roald Dahl Books are Being Sanitized in New Editions” is, “Roald Dahl was no angel but this is absurd censorship.” Another example comes from “Why Sanitizing Books is Worse than Banning Them”, “sanitizing literature is an attempt to erase that language and ideas altogether.” Another argumentcomes from this same passage, “It is a rejection of the intrinsic meaning in language, and thus a rejection of reason itself.”

The act of “sanitizing” is harming classic books and threatens their lessons and stories, for example “...rendering many of his iconic passages unrecognizable in an attempt to mitigate ostensibly offensive content.” Furthermore, “To remove potentially sensitive material from these stories would strip them of all meaning.” and “Any sanitization of the novel that would make its language less ugly would also make it less true and thus less impactful.”

Some people would say that some books contain language not suitable for today, however sanitization also tricks people into believing that they have read a given work when they really haven't, therefore showing that “sanitization” is nothing more than censorship. One argument to support my claim states, ‘“The sanitization process, by contrast, leaves people believing that they’ve read a given work, when in fact they have read an imposter.” Another argument comes from the same article, “ Sanitizing a book is not almost as bad as banning it. It’s worse.” Most damning is, “Sanitizing literature in an attempt to erase that language and those ideas altogether, as though they never existed.”

Sanitizing literature is censorship and therefore needs to be illegal in the USA as it conflicts with the US Constitution, which is one of the most if not the most sacred documents in America. Sanitization goes against the idea of Free Speech, hurts classic literature, and tricks people into thinking that they’ve read a book when they have just read a sanitized version of it. As it is obvious to see, sanitizing books goes against almost everything America stands for, so therefore we must take action against it and in a twist of irony ban sanitization.