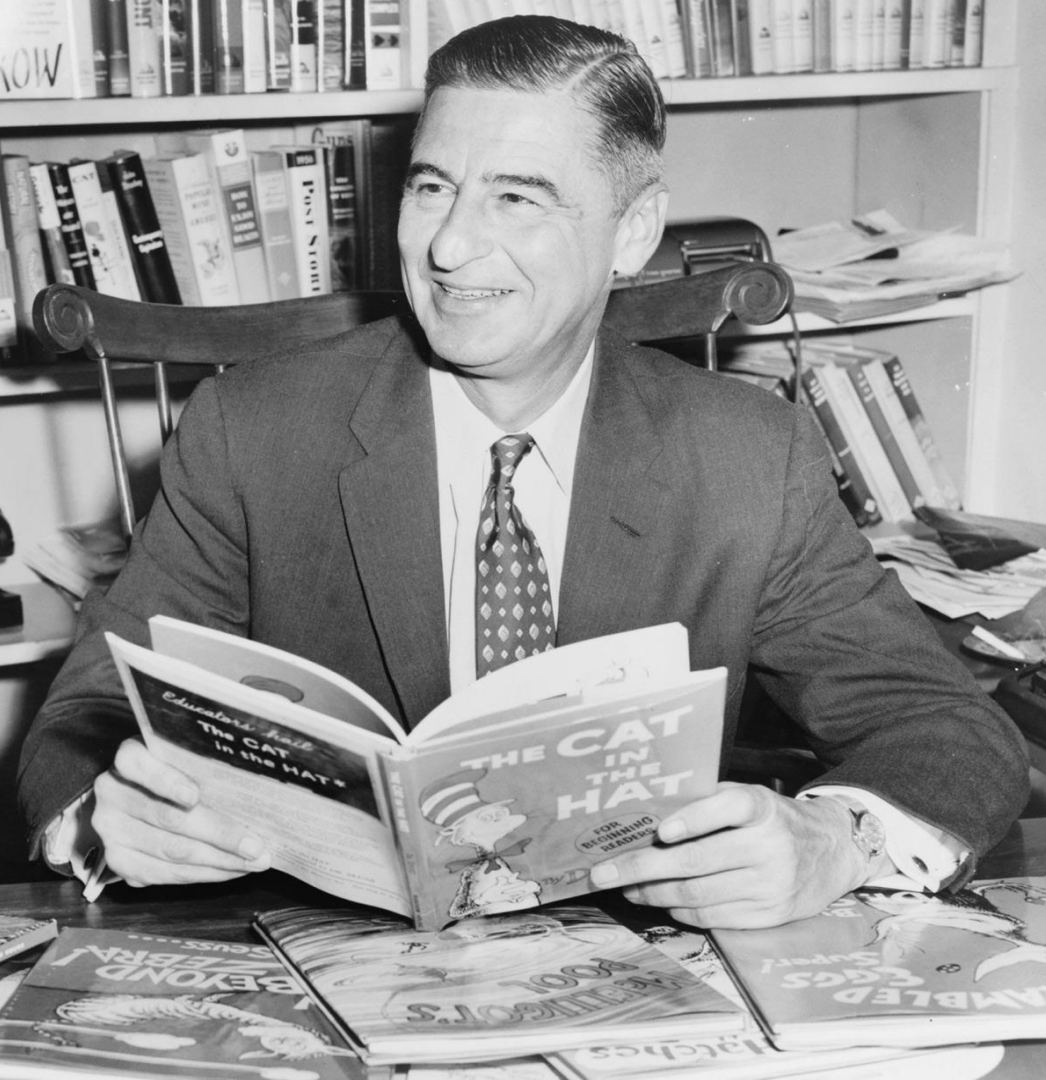


Controversial Material in Canadian School Libraries

By Lexa McPherson and Sam Seaberry



Dr. Theodor Seuss Geisel

- ❖ Born on March 2, 1904 in Springfield, Massachusetts, United States
- ❖ Dr. Seuss was not a doctor, instead Theodor Geisel did consider pursuing a Ph.D. in English
- ❖ Wrote many books eg. *The Cat in the Hat*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, *The Lorax*, and many more

What is this book about?

- ❖ Published in 1950
- ❖ Story of a young boy named Gerald McGrew who dreamt of running the most outrageous zoo
- ❖ Throughout the book he lists these bizarre creatures

“

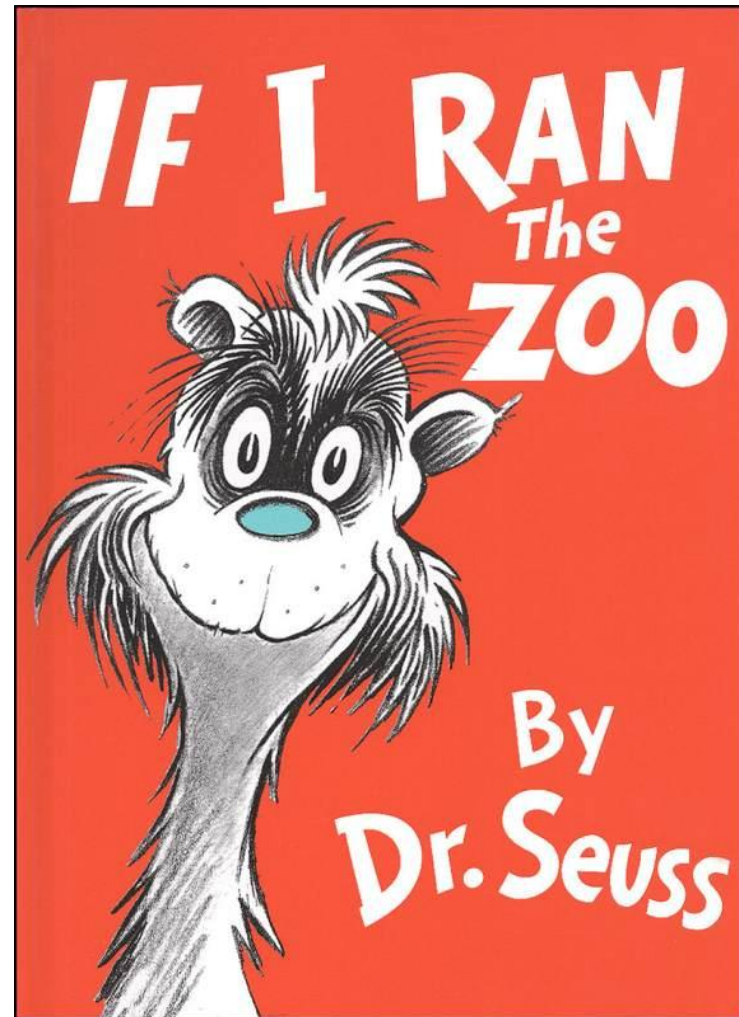
*The lion's in my zoo will have ten feet,
at least!*

”

“

Elephant-cat

”



Why was it challenged?



<http://io.kym-cdn.com/photos/images/original/000/171/527/objection-vector.png?1315394911>

- ❖ 2015 - In a public library in British Columbia, a patron challenged this children's picture book
- ❖ Objected to ethnic stereotyping

“ *Scenes depicting orientalism, major Asian stereotyping in images and words* ”

“ *Use of exaggerated 'black face' characters* ”



The final verdict

- ❖ The library kept the book on the shelves
- ❖ Reason why it was banned :
 - Racist
 - drawings of Africans that weren't acceptable to publish

UPDATE

YERTLE the TURTLE

By
Dr. Seuss



<https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/61cu1gSuj-L.png>

- ❖ The story of King Yurtle the Turtle
- ❖ Yurtle wants to rule over more land
- ❖ Yurtle decides to stack turtles so that he can see more
- ❖ In the end Yurtle is thrown off the stack and is no longer king

The Book

- ❖ Written By Dr. Seuss
- ❖ Published in 1958
- ❖ Book was published with two other stories with it



<https://i.ytimg.com/vi/U5ihC2XpCVs/hqdefault.jpg>



What Happened To The book?

- ❖ Banned in Prince Rupert
- ❖ Considered too political for elementary school



- ❖ Teacher was told not to display the book or any quotes in her classroom or on her person

Why was it banned?

In the book *Mack the turtle* says:



<https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/seuss/images/8/84/YERTLE-31.jpg/revision/latest?cb=20130822185959>

“ *I know up on top you are seeing great sights, but down here on the bottom, we too should have rights* ”

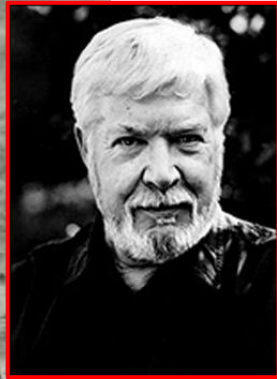
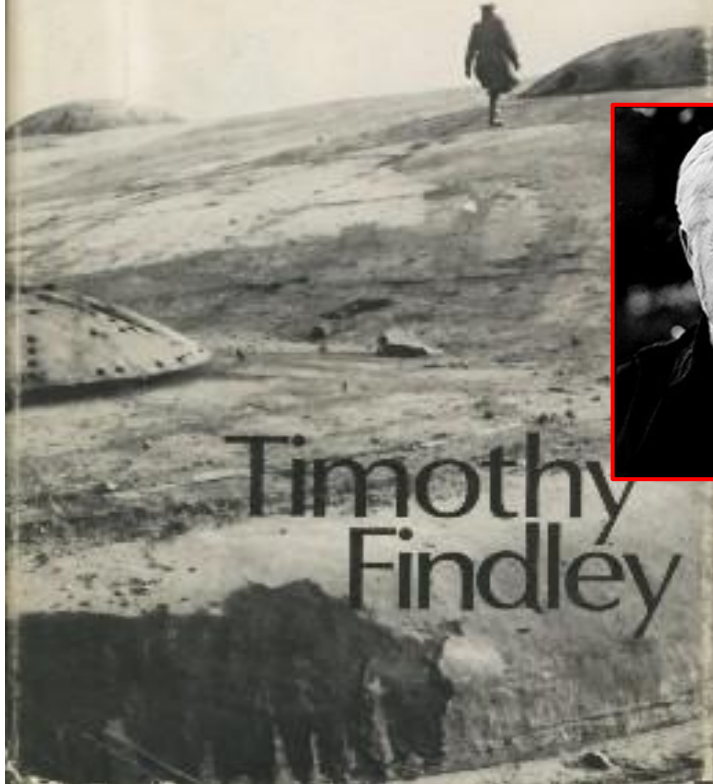
“ *Contextually it was political* ”

Banned from classrooms because;

and,

“ *It's a matter of legality* ”

The Wars

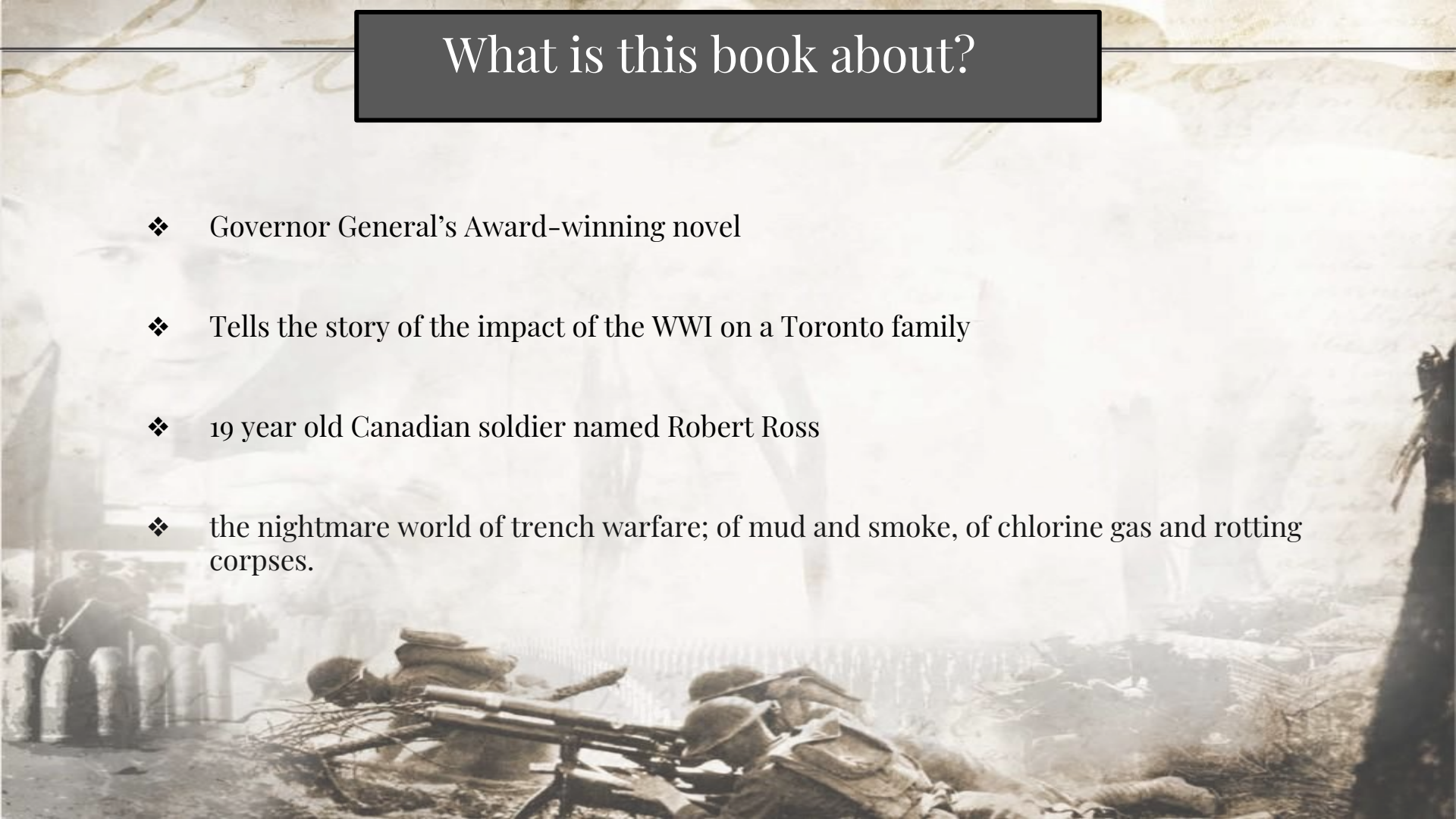


Timothy Findley

- ❖ Timothy Findley was born in Toronto, Ontario, on October 30, 1930
- ❖ was accomplished as an actor, novelist, and playwright, and was one of the most singular and influential talents of his generation.
- ❖ His breakthrough came when he wrote *The Wars* in 1977
- ❖ <http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2430668963/>

What is this book about?

- ❖ Governor General's Award-winning novel
- ❖ Tells the story of the impact of the WWI on a Toronto family
- ❖ 19 year old Canadian soldier named Robert Ross
- ❖ the nightmare world of trench warfare; of mud and smoke, of chlorine gas and rotting corpses.



Why was this book challenged?

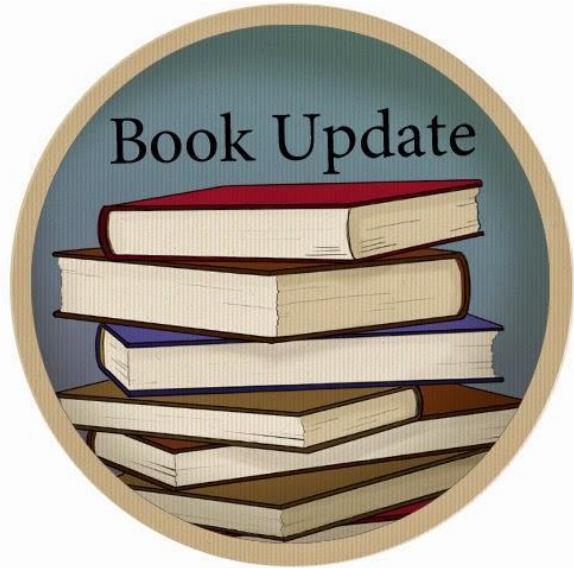
- ❖ 2011 - Ontario, Carolyn Waddell complained to the Bluewater District School Board
- ❖ Complained about the use of this novel in Grade 12 English literature classes
- ❖ the depictions of sex and violence
- ❖ Whorehouse / homosexual gang rape

“

Inappropriate to be presented
to a class of young people

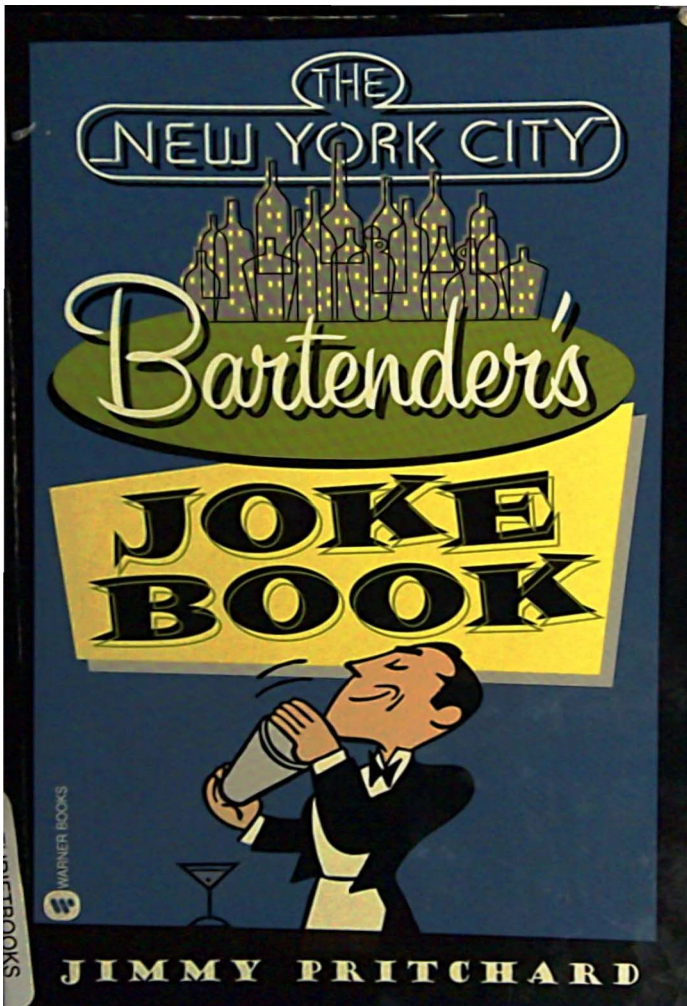
”

The Outcome



http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-WgF5LTFZX-8/VWM7jLX_MYI/AAAAAAACJ4/DbpVjybDgNo/s1600/Book-Update-4.jpg

- ❖ Students and other people defended/argued the novel's literary value
- ❖ School board referred the issue to a textbook review committee
- ❖ Recommended that *The Wars* be kept in the secondary school curriculum



What is this book about?

- ❖ Created by: Jimmy Prichard
- ❖ 400 jokes heard while bartending

4/5 on google play



2.8/5 on goodreads



5/5 on amazon



Why was it banned?



- ❖ Saskatoon library patron complained
 - In 2004

- ❖ Book was said to be;
 - In poor taste
 - Expressed negative attitudes towards;
 - Women
 - Minorities

Final verdict



- ❖ Library agreed with the patron

- ❖ It was removed from the library because the library deemed it to be
 - Racist
 - Sexist
 - The book did not meet the library's development standards.



Thank You

For listening

