LESSON 4

19 **Read the article *Reading Habits in Transition* on page 46 in the Student's Book again. Then answer the questions.**



1. What are three reasons people might prefer reading on the Internet instead of a traditicnal book?

2. What are some examples of things people read (offline and online) every day?

3. How has the Internet changed how much we remember?

4. What do some people say about the number of errors in online information sources?

5. What are some examples of how the Internet is making it more difficult for us to concentrate?

6. Why do some people think that the Internet has made us smarter?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

20 Read the article. Check true or false. Correct the false statements.

Letters to the Editor

Stop Book Banning Now!

From Alicia Vohn, age 16

You might think that book banning is a thing of the past. However, it is certainly not the case. If you are looking for a copy of *Ordinary People* or *The Catcher in the Rye* in my school library, don't bother. Those books have been removed from the shelves. In fact, according to the American Library Association (ALA), over 10,000 books have been banned from schools and public libraries around the country since they started keeping track of book banning in 1990. Many types of books: classics, fiction, non-fiction, award-winning books, and even children's picture books have been objected to by angry parents or banned completely, by either removing them from the schools or preventing their purchase.

Why do books get banned?

The reason people give for removing books from school bookshelves is to protect people, especially children and young adults like me, from content that might be dangerous. Most banned books contain violent, religious, sexual, political, or racial content or contain offensive language. Some people think that banning such books will discourage children and young adults from developing bad attitudes, speech, and behavior. But, personally, I don't think young people find words or details in books that they have not yet seen or heard in real life!

Who bans a book?

A "challenge" is a formal written complaint requesting that a book be removed from a curriculum or a library. A book can be challenged by any person or group of people who think its content is inappropriate. Once that happens, a group of experts reviews the book to see if it might be harmful to young people. If they decide that it is, the book is removed. However, schools can ban books without such a review. They just choose not to buy the books at all!



Book banning is wrong and should stop! It's wrong to limit young people's access to books. Book banning limits our freedom to make choices! It stops us from examining different ideas and beliefs and learning to form our own opinions. Schools should teach us to be tolerant of others' ideas and respect our differences. How can tolerance be taught in a classroom that bans books with "unacceptable" ideas?

According to the article, . . .	true	false
1. over 10,000 books have been banned in 1990.	☐	☐
2. if a book is banned, it is not allowed in a school or library.	☐	☐
3. people object to some books because their content might be harmful to young people.	☐	☐
4. young people learn offensive language only from books.	☐	☐
5. anyone can challenge a book.	☐	☐
6. the American Library Association reviews challenges against books.	☐	☐
7. a school must wait for the experts' review before it bans a book.	☐	☐
8. a school can ban a book by not buying it.	☐	☐
9. young people should be free to choose what books they can or can't read.	☐	☐
10. banning inappropriate books will teach children tolerance and respect.	☐	☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

21 **Read about two books that have been banned from some schools and libraries. Check agree if you agree with the ban and disagree if you don't agree with the ban. Then explain your opinion.**

1. *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* by Alvin Schwartz is a collection of short stories for children ages nine through twelve. The stories are filled with horror and scary images that are meant to make the reader jump with fear. The collection includes traditional horror tales, contemporary folklore, and scary stories with surprise endings. Beautifully illustrated with Stephen Gammell's spine-chilling pictures, this series is often considered a page-turner that you won't be able to put down. But this series has been listed as one of the most challenged. Many people don't approve of its violence, and parents worry that the stories and frightening illustrations will terrify their children and cause nightmares.

   agree ☐ disagree ☐

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2. *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson is a story of two fifth-graders, a boy named Jess and a girl named Leslie. Jess is shy, and he often gets angry or sad. Leslie is a talented and outgoing girl who makes friends easily. Once they become friends, the two are inseparable. Jess shows Leslie his love of art, and Leslie shares with Jess her love of fantasy stories. They create an imaginary kingdom, called Terabithia, in the woods where they spend every day after school. Terabithia is filled with imaginary creatures, and while there, Jess and Leslie pretend to fight fears they face in real life. Although many critics consider this book one of the best novels for young readers, it has often been banned because of the disrespect the children show to adults, their impolite behavior, some offensive language, the confusion of combining fantasy with reality, and the death of a child.

   agree ☐ disagree ☐

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