

UNIT 6 Journeys / Visions of the Future

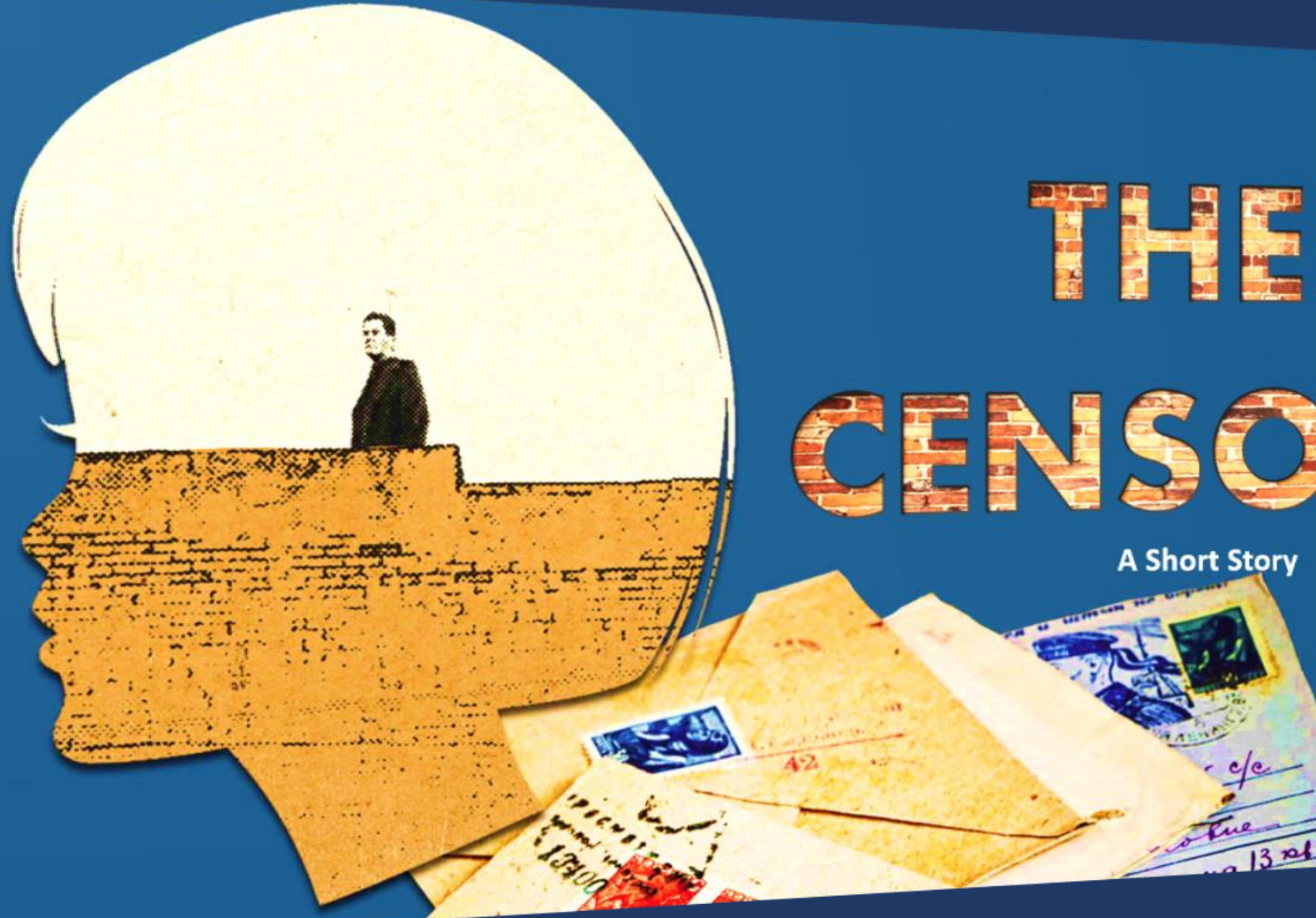
Independent Reading

A STEM school

FROEBEL

BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Home of the Space Generation



THE CENSORS

A Short Story

WITH JIM SOTO



Check out this news clip about a school board in Pennsylvania unanimously banning a list of educational texts that included a children's book about Rosa Parks, Malala Yousafzai's autobiography and CNN's Sesame Street town hall on racism. CNN's Evan McMorris-Santoro reports. Then ask yourself:

What the #@\$%?

“They came first for the Communists,
and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Communist.
Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a trade
unionist.
Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Jew.
Then they came for me,
and by that time no one was left to speak up.”

— *Pastor Martin Niemöller*

SPEAK YOUR MIND

The short story you are about to read is about government censorship. Can you think of a situation in which it might be acceptable for a government to censor information?

Take a minute to answer and share with the rest of the class.



cen·sor·ship

/ˈsɛnsərʃɪp/

noun

1. the suppression or prohibition of any parts of books, films, news, etc. that are considered obscene, politically unacceptable, or a threat to security.

"the regulation imposes censorship on all media"

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LITERARY CONCEPTS

North Korea

EGYPT

IRAN

Saudi Arabia

CHINA



What do they all have in common?

These are some of the countries with governments that practice censorship.

'The Censors' is a short story by Luisa Valenzuela, an Argentinean author. In 'The Censors,' she uses humor to examine the serious events in Argentina during the bloody military dictatorship of Jorge Videla who reigned from 1976 to 1983.

The **setting**—the time and place in which a story occurs—can play an important role in developing the **theme**, or **central message**, of a story. Valenzuela wrote this story in Argentina in an atmosphere of censorship, suppression, and violence. She drew on the mood of fear and oppression to create the setting of this story and inform its theme.

As you read "The Censors," notice examples of how the story's cultural and social setting shape the theme.

Literary devices are techniques used by authors to communicate their experiences and ideas. Here are definitions of three literary devices used in “The Censors.”

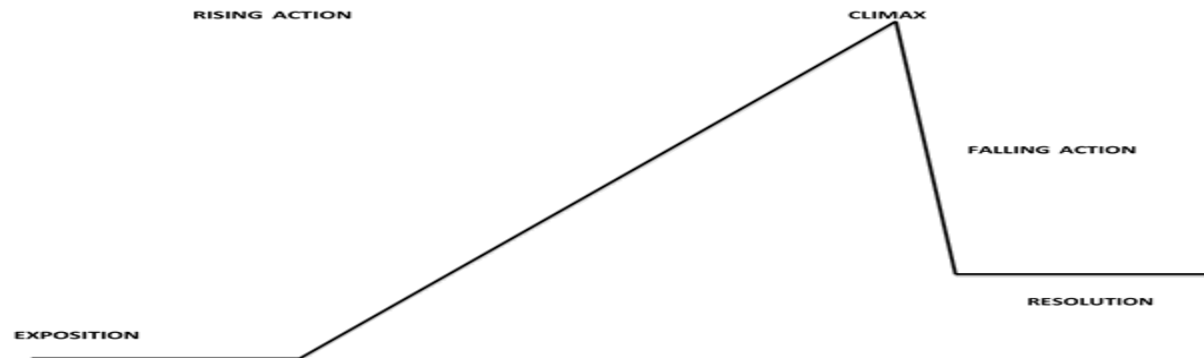
DEVICE	DEFINITION
Foreshadowing	Foreshadowing is a writer’s use of clues to hint at events that will occur later in the story. It creates suspense, making readers eager to find out what will happen next.
Irony	Irony takes place when something happens that is the opposite of what readers would expect. Verbal irony is when what is said is the opposite of what is meant. Situational irony is when a character or reader expects one thing to happen but something else happens.
Idiom	An idiom is a commonly-used expression that means something other than the literal meaning of its words.

ASSESSMENT

After reading the short story, complete these activities:

1. ANALYZE LITERATURE

- **Plot** - Write about the events that occur in each part of the plot of “The Test.” Use the plot diagram to help you remember the function of each part.



1. Exposition: _____
2. Rising Action: _____
3. Climax: _____
4. Falling Action : _____
5. Resolution : _____

2. ANALYZE LITERATURE

- **Describe and Critique: Fiction** - Describe the story "The Censors." Write the information to fill in this chart.

Title and Author: _____

In what way is setting integral to this story?: _____

Which is the irony in the story? Explain.: _____

What is your opinion of the story? (What do you like and dislike about it? Why?): _____



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