Unit 3: "So It Goes"- The Censorship of Vonnegut

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**
Course(s): **Lost Literature**
Time Period: **October**
Length: **7 blocks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer Skills

One can acquire a better understanding of sociopolitical issues when observed through a satirical or ironic lens. Vonnegut is pointing at many of our current problems and future concerns while hinting towards the urgency in which they should be addressed.

Enduring Understandings

Authors utilize many genres of fiction, such as science fiction, to bring the concerns of the government to light (i.e. national security, restriction of freedoms, power of police enforcement, etc.).

Many of the challenges towards literature are in the best interest of students and those seeking higher learning, yet some efforts to quell written works are self-serving and aim to keep the population out of the know.

While the government may mean well as it establishes new rules and regulations it is useful to read opposing viewpoints in both non-fiction and satire to establish a better sense of our unity and morale as a country.

Essential Questions

Why do certain authors challenge the government?

Is questioning the government good or bad for national unity, security, or morale?

Is it ever ok for the government to censor the works and ideas of its citizens? If so, when?

Content

*Slaughterhouse Five (*Novel and Film)

The Bombing of Dresden - documentary clips

YouTube clips on the life of Kurt Vonnegut

Skills

Examine past and current government policies on issues such as race relations (Jim Crow laws), the environment, and war.

Analyze works that were banned or challenged because of their authors' critical stances on the aforementioned government policies.

Evaluate both sides of an argument to determine whether or not such criticism is merely an exercise in civil liberties or a threat to national stability.

Resources

Vocabulary: So it Goes, war terminology (flank, incindiery bombs, retreat, etc.), various aspects of Tralfamadorian philosophy, P.O.W.