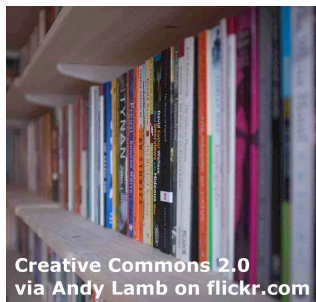


## Sensitivity readers edit James Bond and Roald Dahl books

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An increasing number of famous books are being edited. Book publishers are worried about sexist and racist words in books. They are worried that language in older books might upset people today, especially children. Two authors that have had their work edited

this week are Roald Dahl and Ian Fleming. Dahl is famous for books like "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". Fleming wrote the James Bond books. Publishers are employing "sensitivity readers" to check books. A sensitivity reader looks for language that describes minorities in an "insensitive or offensive" way. A lot of the language they check belongs to another time. It was written 50 or more years ago. Back then, the language was thought to be okay.

The recent edits of the James Bond books are because of insensitive language about black characters and women. The sensitivity readers decided that the language used by James Bond, also known as 007, was racist and sexist. The 007 books will now be published with a warning. This explains that the books were written in the 1950s and 60s, so they contained "terms and attitudes" that might upset readers today. Many people in the UK are angry that Roald Dahl's books were censored. The UK's prime minister, the future UK queen and the author Salman Rushdie all said the edits were wrong. An example edit is the word "fat" being replaced by "enormous". The word "fat" is now a negative term for a person's body shape.

Sources: [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) / [variety.com](http://variety.com) / [rollingstone.com](http://rollingstone.com)

### Writing

Editing books is disrespecting the art of the writer. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

books / edited / publishers / sexist / upset / sensitivity / language / 50 years ago / racist / warning / the 1950s / attitudes / angry / the future / fat / enormous / shape

### True / False

- 1) A record number of books are being edited. T / F
- 2) Book publishers are worried about ageist and egoistic words. T / F
- 3) Ian Fleming wrote the book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". T / F
- 4) Sensitivity readers look for language that might offend minorities. T / F
- 5) Language that was insensitive to women was edited. T / F
- 6) James Bond books will have a content warning in future. T / F
- 7) The article says we have the same attitudes as we had in the 1950s. T / F
- 8) It is no longer acceptable to say someone is fat. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>increasing</b> | a. caution    |
| 2. <b>worried</b>    | b. using      |
| 3. <b>famous</b>     | c. concerned  |
| 4. <b>employing</b>  | d. latest     |
| 5. <b>okay</b>       | e. harmful    |
| 6. <b>recent</b>     | f. growing    |
| 7. <b>warning</b>    | g. writer     |
| 8. <b>attitudes</b>  | h. acceptable |
| 9. <b>author</b>     | i. opinions   |
| 10. <b>negative</b>  | j. well known |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about James Bond (007)?
- c) Should there be a warning on books with offensive language?
- d) What words have changed to have an offensive meaning?
- e) How have attitudes changed in the past 60 years?
- f) Does banning words mean books will be less powerful?
- g) Is it wrong to describe someone as 'fat'?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the sensitivity readers?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. An increasing number                | a. black characters        |
| 2. publishers are worried about        | b. especially children     |
| 3. upset people today,                 | c. to be okay              |
| 4. the language they check belongs     | d. readers today           |
| 5. Back then, the language was thought | e. to another time         |
| 6. insensitive language about          | f. with a warning          |
| 7. The 007 books will now be published | g. of famous books         |
| 8. the books were written              | h. person's body shape     |
| 9. attitudes that might upset          | i. in the 1950s and 60s    |
| 10. a negative term for a.             | j. sexist and racist words |

## Discussion – Student B

- What are the most famous books in your language?
- What are your favourite books?
- Are you ever upset by bad words in books?
- Is offensive language worse in books or in movies?
- Should rap and rock songs that have bad words be banned?
- Should offensive language in old books be used as a history lesson?
- Does editing a writer take away his/her artistry?
- Should the Bible and the works of Shakespeare be edited?

## Spelling

- An increasing number of saumfo books
- Book selrpsbiuh are worried
- sxeits and racist words in books
- upset people today, lcyilseepa children
- describes nimrsieoti in an insensitive or offensive
- the egguanal was thought to be okay
- The cetner edits of the James Bond books
- ttastdeui that might upset readers
- Roald Dahl's books were esodcren
- the oarhut Salman Rushdie
- the word "fat" being replaced by "muooensr"
- a igvnetae term

### Answers – Synonym Match

|      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. c | 3. j | 4. b | 5. h  |
| 6. d | 7. a | 8. i | 9. g | 10. e |

## Role Play

### Role A – Novels

You think novels are the best books. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their books. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): encyclopaedia, cookbooks or travel guides.

### Role B – Encyclopaedia

You think encyclopaedia are the best books. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their books. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): novels, cookbooks or travel guides.

### Role C – Cookbooks

You think cookbooks are the best books. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their books. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): encyclopaedia, novels or travel guides.

### Role D – Travel Guides

You think travel guides are the best books. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their books. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): encyclopaedia, cookbooks or novels.

## Speaking – Books

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| • Children's books | • Spy stories   |
| • Sports           | • Manga         |
| • Cookbooks        | • Encyclopaedia |
| • Travel guides    | • Biographies   |

### Answers – True False

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | F | 2 | F | 3 | F | 4 | T | 5 | T | 6 | T | 7 | F | 8 | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.