



A Clue in the Blue-Bound Books

An Exploration into the Censorship and Gatekeeping of Historic Children's Literature

October 10, 2025

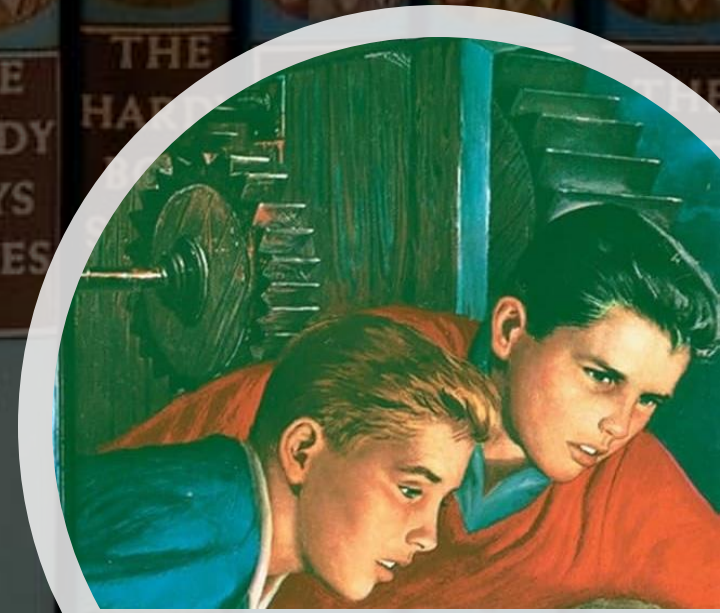
1. A (Brief) History of the Hardy Boys

2. The 1959 Editorial Rehaul

3. Originals vs Edits: The Reckoning

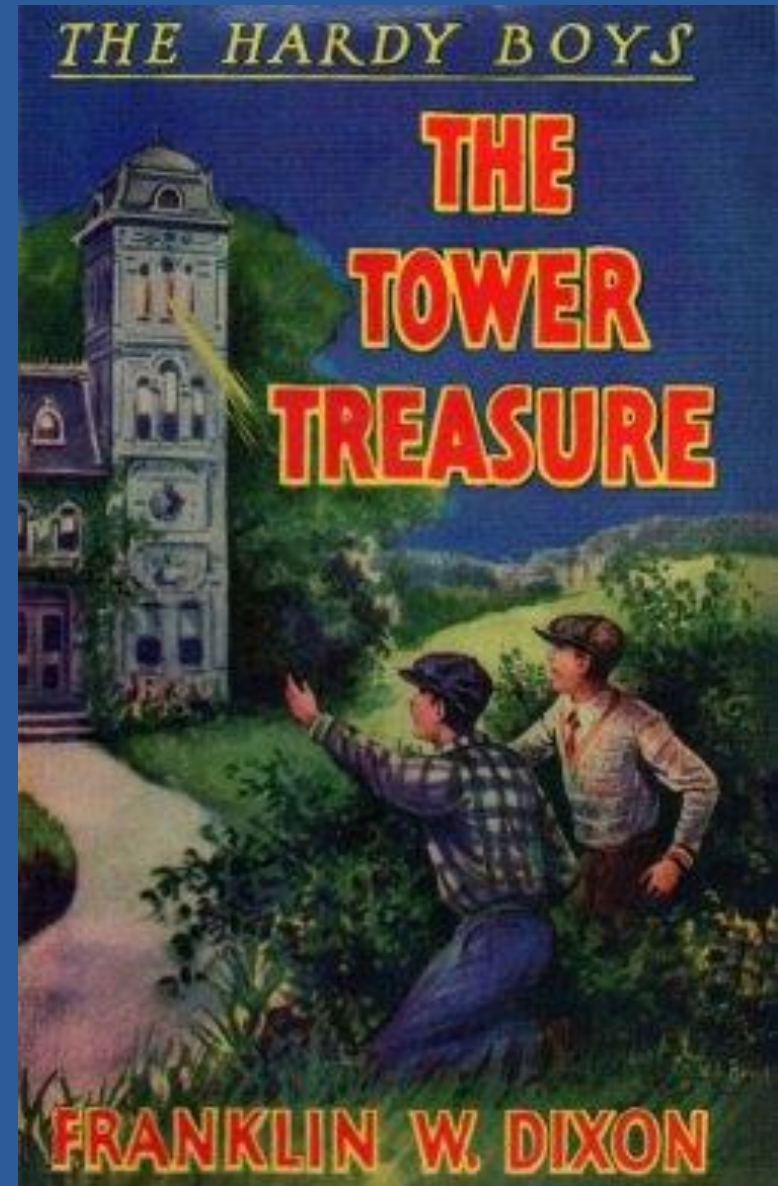
4. Editing History: A Dangerous Precedent

5. The Future of Historic Children's Literature



“Would civilization crumble if kids got the notion that the people who ran the world were sometimes stupid, occasionally wrong, and even corrupt at times?”

- Leslie McFarlane





THE TOWER TREASURE THE HOUSE ON THE CLIFF THE SECRET OF THE OLD MILL THE MISSING CHUMS HUNTING FOR HIDDEN GOLD SHORE MYSTERY THE SHORE ROAD MYSTERY THE SECRET OF THE CAVES THE MYSTERY OF CABIN ISLAND THE GREAT AIRPORT MYSTERY WHAT HAPPENED AT MID- THE CLOCK TICKED

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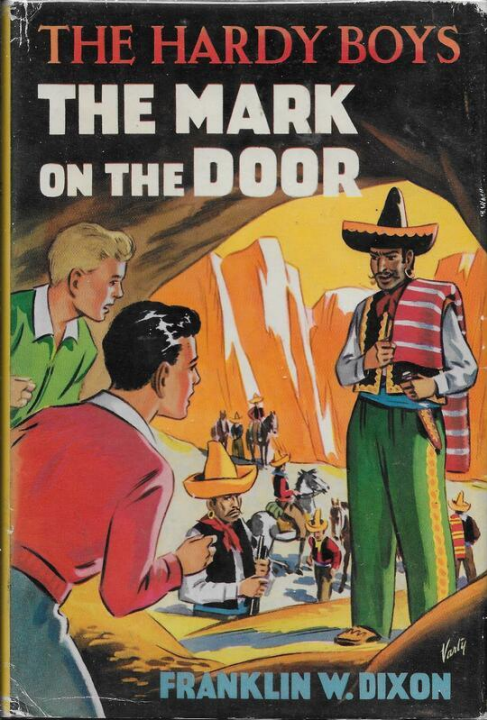
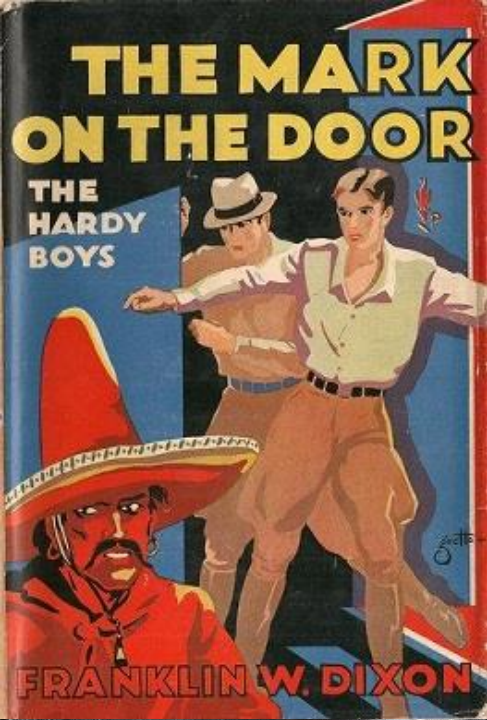
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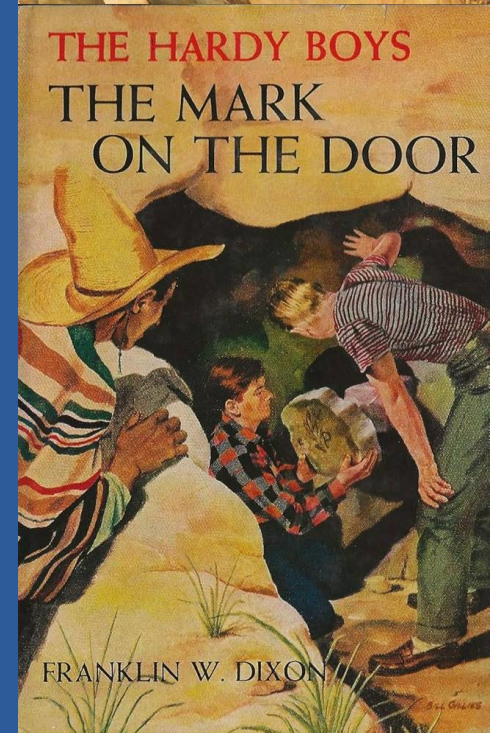
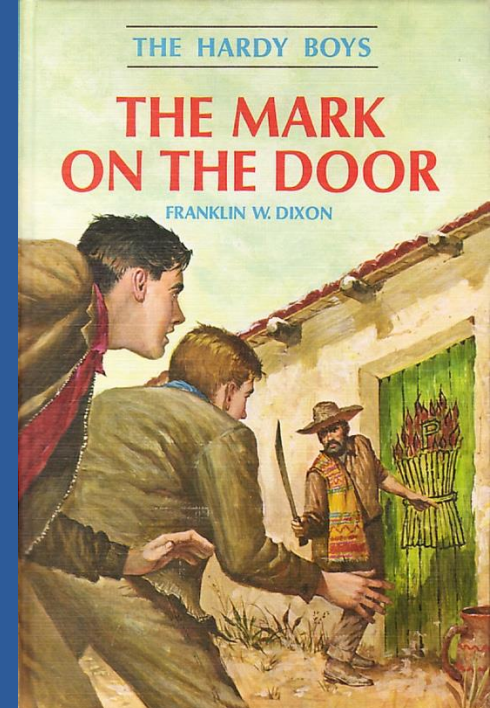
GROSSET



1.
Shortening Books by 5 Chapters Each

2.
Addition of Extra Action and Adventure

3.
Removal of Prejudiced and Racist
Storylines



1933 Edition

“Don’t you eat enough? Or are you smoking cigarettes? If ever I catch you smoking a cigarette, young man, I’ll whale you within an inch of your life. Here, take my suitcase. Don’t stand there gaping. Tell me all the news. I’ve had a dreadful journey. The coach was so dusty I could hardly breathe and there was a baby across the aisle. It yelled and howled all the way. A man ate peanuts and oranges. I’m going to write to the railway company about it. Babies shouldn’t be allowed on trains. And people who eat peanuts and oranges in the day coach ought to be sent to the penitentiary. It’s an outrage!”

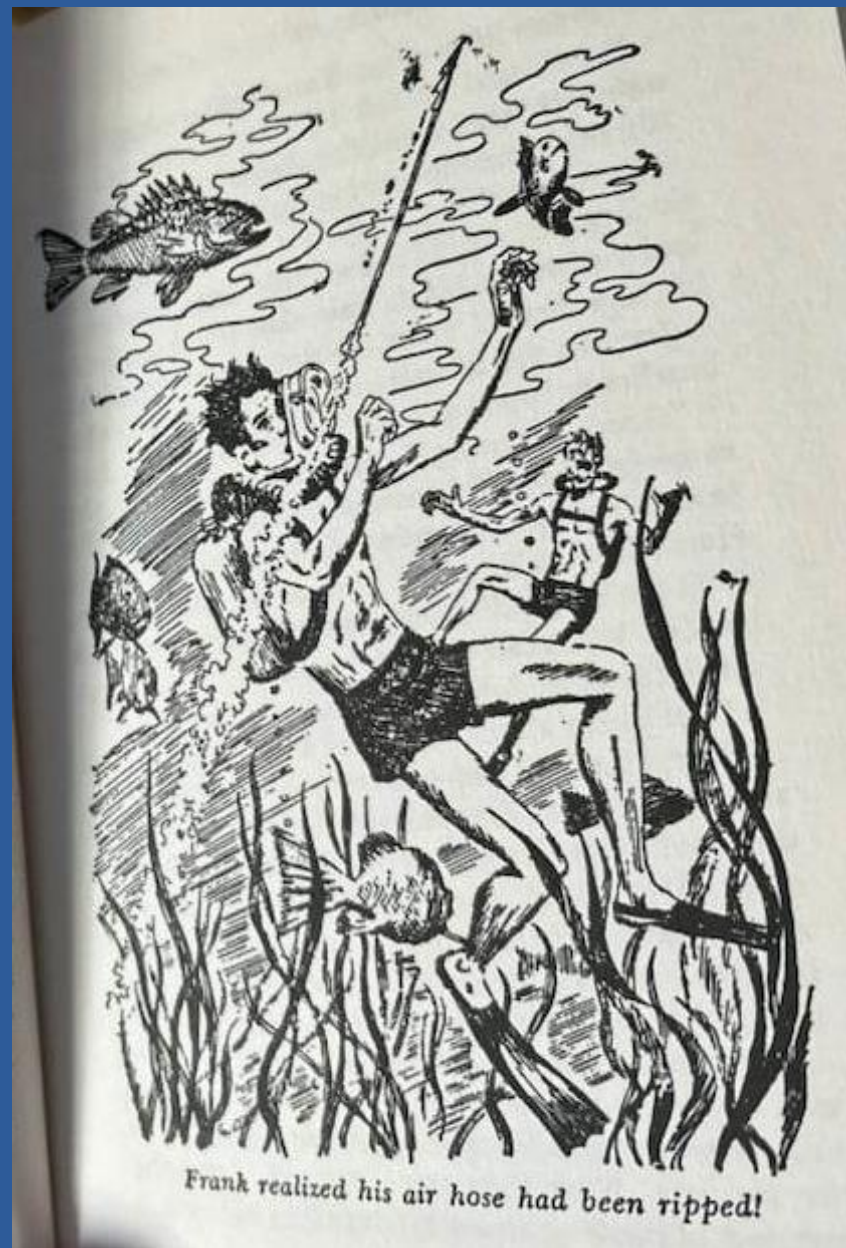


1972 Edition

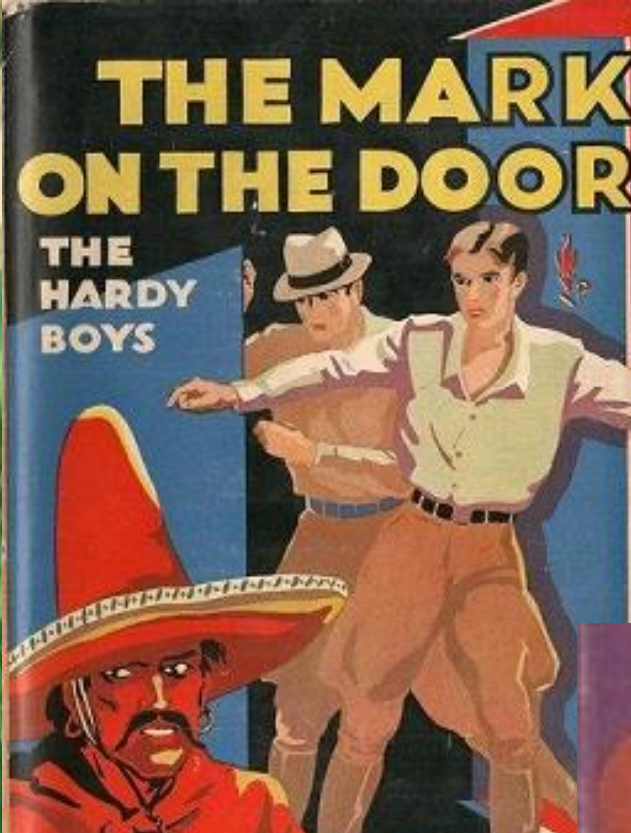
“You can’t be too careful these days. The world is full of rude and nasty people. Now you take this morning, for example, when I was walking on the platform at Gresham. Suddenly, this big fair-haired man...”

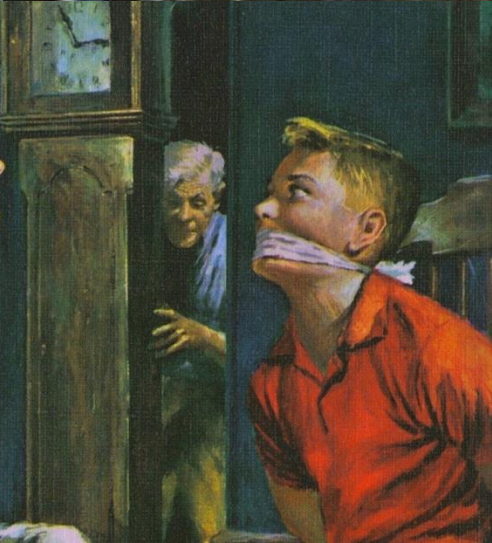


The diver deliberately aimed his spear gun at the boys



Frank realized his air hose had been ripped!





In this new story, based on the original of the same title, Mr. Dixon has incorporated the most up-to-date methods used by police and private detectives.



Alberta to ban books deemed sexually explicit from school libraries

TEMUR DURRANI > NATIONAL REPORTER

Rightwing ‘parents’ rights’ groups gain ground in Canada as Alberta book bans target LGBTQ+ titles

Two such groups claim they persuaded Alberta to institute sweeping public school book ban




Edmonton Public removing more than 200 library books to comply with provincial rules

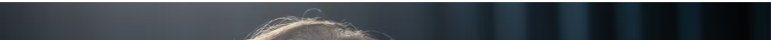
By Staff • The Canadian Press
Posted August 29, 2025 12:05 pm • Updated August 29, 2025 12:06 pm • 4 min read



'Vicious compliance': Alberta premier decries Edmonton Public Schools' banned book list

More than 200 titles made list, including novels like The Handmaid's Tale

 Nicholas Frew · CBC News · Posted: Aug 29, 2025 12:08 PM MDT | Last Updated: August 29



Canada: Alberta pauses book ban after schools remove Handmaid’s Tale, 1984 and other classics

The province says it will review its controversial policy after outcry over removing beloved novels from classrooms

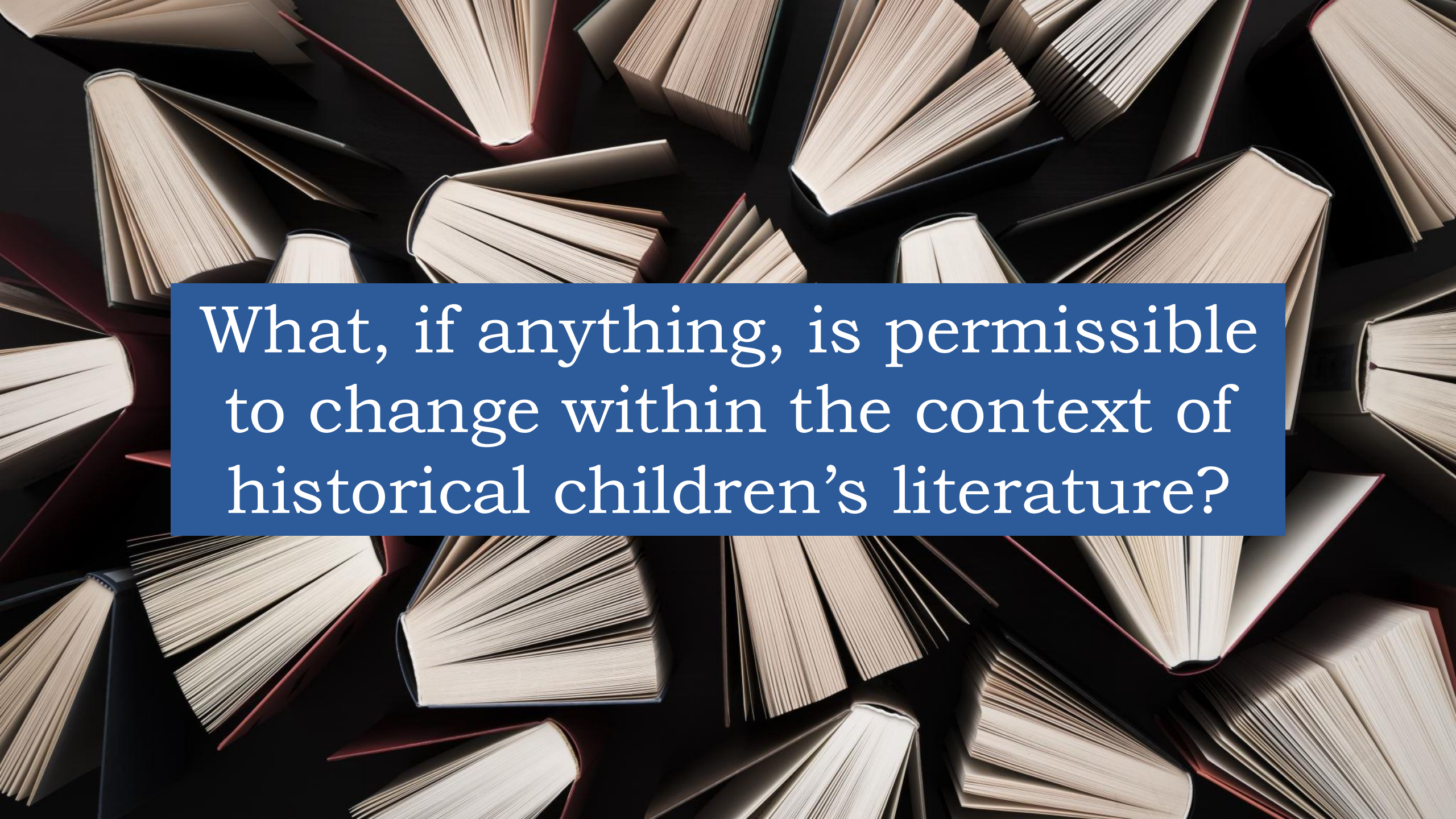


Alberta government postpones release of revised school library book ban policy

Written by Jack Farrell, The Canadian Press Friday, Sep 05 2025, 11:01 AM

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What, if anything, is permissible
to change within the context of
historical children's literature?

THE HARDY BOYS



HARDYBOYS
ADVENTURES™



THE HARDY BOYS®



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Thank You