Script for inquiry

Scene 1

Location: inside of a courtroom

A judge is sitting at her desk looking through books and throwing them into a bin labeled banned.

The shot is black and white and the music will be ominous.

Scene 2

Location: outside of the courthouse

 Reporter stands outside waiting for her signal to start her story

Reporter: Good morning Vancouver, I am Katelyn with channel 5 news reporting outside the courthouse waiting for the judge to release the new list of banned books for 2015. Since authors have continued to release books of distasteful nature judge Erica has had to continue to ban books from our local schools. There are less and less novels being taught in our schools every year. Something has to change, is it the school system, the parents, the teachers, or the novelists themselves?

I will keep the station updated on the judge’s progress throughout the day. Back to…..oh wait, I see someone approaching the courthouse, three young people are going in. (looks at the camera man) lets go in and see what is going on. (Walks into the courthouse)

Scene 3

Location: inside the courthouse

The judge has just grabbed “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” and looked at her list.

(Initiate a dream like sequence)

The three teenagers walk into the courtroom; they walk up to the lawyer’s bench, arrange their affairs and stare at the judge

Judge: excuse me, can I help you? This is supposed to be a private room.

Charlie: we are the characters from that book and we are here to convince you to let our book be taught in the classroom.

(All three nod their heads)

Judge: excuse me? But who are you to say what should be taught in the classroom? This book is on the ‘to be banned’ list.

Patrick: who are you to say what should be taught. We are the characters from the book, we know it better than anyone and we are here to advocate for it to be taught.

Judge: Alright, I will give you 5 minutes to try and persuade me that this book should not be on the banned this.

Sam: Ok, well to start off, this book deals with so many topics that teenagers need to be able to openly talk about in the classroom. For instance, being terrified of college or university life. What it means to have a positive image of yourself as a woman and be able to talk about what a good relationship looks like.

Charlie: yeah, and teens should also feel safe talking about problems they are having, if a teen feels sad or lonely and begins to contemplate ending their life they should be able to talk about that with a teacher or a counselor without fear. Teen suicide is on the rise and if students felt more comfortable talking to a grownup instead of being left in their own minds then maybe it wouldn’t be such a problem.

Patrick: not to mention, as much as being gay is becoming more acceptable there are still kids that struggle with coming out to their families and friends. And there are kids that are still getting bullied in schools because of being gay and this is a major theme in this book and it is something that needs to be addressed more openly in schools.

Charlie: judge, what we are saying is, yes this book may have some mature content, but it is content that needs to be discussed with teenagers. What student in high school isn’t having issues with relationships, bullies, their sexual orientation or their mental health. Its high school, this is the time when teenagers are exploring who they are and who they want to be, and this book will bring all of those issues to the classroom for teachers to discuss with their students.

Judge: you make some valid points, but what am I supposed to do about the parents that still feel that this book is too vulgar for their children to read? I have a list of complaints about this book that are hard to ignore; such as pornographic language, graphic descriptions on how to masturbate, child molestation, abuse, drugs and drinking. These are all major concerns to parents; they do not want their children exposed to this sort of thing at such an early age.

Patrick: like we said judge, yes this book does have some mature content, but it is the story behind the mature content that matters. Charlie is just a teenage boy trying to get through high school and his story is real and rings true with so many teenagers today. With the invention of cell phones kids can get access to anything they want on the internet, but if it is not explained to them or discussed in a safe environment like a classroom, then they are left to figure things out on their own with no help from an adult.

Sam: it would be a disservice to students to not allow this book to be an option to be taught in schools. If teachers believe it is not right for their students, then they wont chose to teach it.

Charlie: and judge, if the parents don’t believe it is appropriate for their child to read, than the teacher can give them another book. But I encourage you to read it before you judge it. It will remind you of what high school was really like, and I think you would really enjoy it. You cannot blatantly toss a book like this aside and think you are protecting students. You are not protecting them by censoring them, leave the decision up to the teacher, give them as many options you can. Believe us judge, if the students want to know something they will look it up on their phones. Let topics like abuse and child molestation be talked about in a safe space like a classroom. Don’t let students go uneducated any longer. Don’t be responsible for censoring our youth.

(there is a knock at the door and the dream like sequence ends)

(the reporter opens the door and peaks in)

Reporter: judge, hi. I was wondering if anyone has been in here, I saw three kids walk in here and I am looking for them. Have you seen them.

Judge: (confused) umm no I have not. (looks down at the book in her hand)

Reporter: how is your list coming along?

Judge: good, this book is going in the yes pile. And I think I have to go back and redo my list. I will have it for you in a few hours.

(the judge walks over to the bin and removes the ‘no’ sign and crumples it up)

The end.