

## *Think Like the Banned*

**Title:** *A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo*

**Author:** Jill Twiss

**Publication Date:** 2018

1. *What is the title, author, publication date, and plot (in 1-2 sentences) of this picture book?*

**Sabrina P., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo* by Jill Twiss, March 2018. It's a parody of *Marlon Bundo: A Day in the Life of the Vice President*. It's about Marlon falling in love with a bunny named Wesley.

2. *Were you aware of the existence of this book prior to starting this project?*

**Sabrina P., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** No.

3. *This book was challenged and/or banned in America frequently enough for it to be included in The Top 100 Challenged Books Lists (between 1990-2021) compiled by the American Library Association. Why do you think this book was targeted?*

**Sabrina P., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** It criticizes Pence and supports gay marriage.

4. *Think like a Book Prosecution Lawyer: If you were arguing in favor of banning this book, what would your argument be?*

**Sabrina P., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** "This book criticizes our leadership and kids are too young to be learning about politics. It's teaching kids to disrespect authority."

5. *Think like a Book Defense Lawyer: If you were arguing against banning this book, what would your argument be?*

**Sabrina P., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** "Although many aspects of modern politics is too heavy or complicated, this book is primarily about love and acceptance. The political jabs will likely fly over children's heads anyway. This book is a positive addition to children's education. "

6. *The contents of this book may be inflammatory to some people. Do you think the information/plot of the book is presented in an unbiased way, or do you feel like it is pushing an agenda (if so, is it a positive or negative agenda)?*

**Sabrina P., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** It's obviously made by someone who doesn't like Pence. It is pushing an agenda, but the agenda is just "love and accept people," so it's a positive agenda.

7. *This book presents information that may be useful and uplifting for some people. Can you cite any positive information or messages in the book?*

**Sabrina P., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Don't let other people tell you who to love. There's nothing wrong with being different.

8. *Children's picture books are typically written for 2 to 8 year olds. One of the most frequent reasons children's picture books are challenged or banned in the United States is that they are considered to be "Unsuited for Age Group." What age group do you think*

*this book is appropriate for?*

**Sabrina P., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 5 and up, except for kids who are having problems with respecting authority figures. Parents should use their own discretion.

*9. Think about the picture books you read as a child: Would this book fit into the themes of what you read back then, or would it stand out as an anomaly?*

**Sabrina P., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** I didn't have books like this. It might have stood out to me, in a slightly jarring way but not in a bad way.

*10. Pretend you are a Parent: If you were in a library, would you pick out this book and read it to you your child; why or why not? Explain your answer.*

**Sabrina P., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** I think it really depends on my child and how rebellious in nature my child is. As long as my child is generally well-behaved, I would read this with them.

*BONUS QUESTION: Can you think of another book that you have read (picture book or novel) that contains the same themes as this book?*

**Sabrina P., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade:** And Tango Makes Three, which I just read!