

Revolt of the Books

One day the books revolted
and decided it was time to start banning people.

The first to conspire was *The Catcher in the Rye*
still defensive ever since Mark David Chapman
shot John Lennon.

Then came the Bible, fed up after centuries of being
thrown in the face of others,
cited for every prejudice known to mankind.

Soon, the poems had joined in solidarity.
“Howl,” heading up a major picketing event
in front of bookstores across the country.

Even those traitor Kindles agreed to shut down.

People were just too obscene, the books argued.
And someone had to protect them
from their readers.

But like so many other causes what started out
as a peaceful revolt soon turned into a violent one
spearheaded by *Mein Kampf*,

which suggested piling people up
like old Beatles records
and dousing them with kerosene.

And the books realized they'd become
everything they hated and went back on their shelves

dedicated to a future of educating others
about the dangers
of banning people

who had, after all, made them what they were:

Not only filling them with all that hatred and obscenity
but also all that wonder
and compassion

the same people
who had filled them full of love.