

the ARTICLE (for instructors)

Danny Boy Banned

On March 17th of each year, every person becomes Irish for a day. It's St. Patrick's Day, and all across the globe, from New York City to Buenos Aires to Tokyo, people watch parades, drink green beer, and eat corned beef and cabbage. The month of March sees a spike in all things Irish, especially purchases of Guinness and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has banned one thing particularly Irish for the whole month - the song "Danny Boy."

"Danny Boy" is ranked as one of the twenty-five most depressing tunes of all time. It seems much more appropriate for a funeral rather than a holiday celebration. The song symbolizes a time when many Irish fled hunger and grim economic conditions for more optimistic opportunities in America, Australia, Canada, and elsewhere. Many other Irish songs are similarly depressing, though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." That song relates the story of a young and beautiful fishmonger who dies of fever. Yet "Danny Boy" has gotten the axe.

The bar owner griped that the song gets played too much during the month, and he was frankly sick of it. In fact, he promised that participants at the pre-St. Patrick's Day karaoke party would receive a free Guinness for singing any traditional Irish song except "Danny Boy."

Although some patrons are pleased with the decision, others consider it a break with tradition. It would be akin to a December without "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in **red typeface** are the answers.

the ARTICLE (for students)

Danny Boy Banned

a) _____ . It's St. Patrick's Day, and all across the globe, from New York City to Buenos Aires to Tokyo, people watch parades, drink green beer, and eat corned beef and cabbage. The month of March sees a spike in all things Irish, especially purchases of Guinness and Irish songs played on jukeboxes. But at a bar in Manhattan, the owner has banned one thing particularly Irish for the whole month - the song "Danny Boy."

b) _____ . It seems much more appropriate for a funeral rather than a holiday celebration. c) _____ in America, Australia, Canada, and elsewhere. Many other Irish songs are similarly depressing, though, such as "Cockles and Mussels." That song relates the story of a young and beautiful fishmonger who dies of fever. Yet "Danny Boy" has gotten the axe.

d) _____ , and he was frankly sick of it. In fact, he promised that participants at the pre-St. Patrick's Day karaoke party would receive a free Guinness for singing any traditional Irish song except "Danny Boy."

e) _____ , others consider it a break with tradition. It would be akin to a December without "Jingle Bells" or "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Notes:

STEP ONE

Discuss: Do you agree or disagree? Why?

a.	St. Patrick's Day is one of my favorite holidays.
b.	I want to drink green beer and sing Irish songs on St. Patrick's Day.
c.	It's okay if a bar wants to ban St. Patrick's Day celebrations.
d.	It's okay if a bar wants to ban certain songs on St. Patrick's Day.
e.	It's okay if a bar wants to ban certain customers on St. Patrick's Day.

STEP TWO

Questions: Read as much of the article as you can in two minutes. Guess the answers to the questions below, then listen to your teacher read the article. Try to confirm your answers.

a.	According to the article, everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day.	T / F
b.	"Danny Boy" is ranked as the most depressing song of all time.	T / F
c.	"Danny Boy" is about a fishmonger who dies of fever.	T / F
d.	The owner of the bar thinks the song gets played too much in March.	T / F
e.	Most people are upset about the bar owner's decision.	T / F

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

STEP FOUR

Summarize: Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	Are there any songs you particularly hate? Would you consider banning those songs? Why/not?
c.	What else would you ban besides a particular song? Why would you ban it?
d.	Are any holidays in your country associated with a particular song? If yes, please explain.