

Dear parents/guardians,

As a part of the sophomore world literature curriculum, our class will be participating in a multicultural unit promoting empathy during the fourth term. Students were introduced to six novels (see list below) that address social, political, and religious issues around the globe. The students ranked their preference of book. Consciously trying to match them with their first or second choice, I have placed each student in literature circle groups according to their book. The book can be purchased, checked out from the library, or borrowed from a friend. In reading this novel, it is my hope that the students gain exposure to other cultures, experience empathy for people of various backgrounds, and increase awareness of the world around them.

In addition to reading the novel, we will be analyzing various sources such as short stories, newspaper clippings, Internet resources, movies (e.g. *Slumdog Millionaire*), etc that address the social, political, and religious issues from their novels. The extensive background created by this diverse exposure will prepare them for their research paper and presentation at the end of the year.

Due to the graphic nature of some of the novels, short stories, and media selections, I am requesting your permission to allow your son/daughter's participation in this unit. Having put great thought into the selection of the novels, I understand that some of the novels contain violence, abuse, and profanity. However, the authors of these novels have done an incredible job of creating an intense sense of empathy for the characters going through tumultuous times. I truly believe the students will walk away from their reading experience with a greater appreciation for people unlike themselves. I also expect the students to have mature, thought-provoking discussions about the issues addressed.

If you would prefer that your student not participate in any novels, texts, or movies that contain mature content, please do not sign the bottom portion of this form. I will give the student an alternative assignment.

If you have any questions or concerns about this unit, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support,

Molly Desmond
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Book Choices:

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| 1. <i>Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak | 4. <i>The Color of Water</i> by James McBride |
| 2. <i>The Kite Runner</i> by Khaled Hosseini | 5. <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> by Khaled Hosseini |
| 3. <i>Tortilla Curtain</i> by T.C. Boyle | 6. <i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> by Sherman Alexie |

I am aware that my son/daughter has chosen _____ to read. I give my permission to allow my student to read this novel. I also understand that my son/daughter may be exposed to texts/media containing violence, abuse, and profanity.

Student's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____