



PLEASE READ, SIGN, AND RETURN BY _____.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In Literacy class, I work with my students to help them set their goals for independent reading, including the number of books and genres to read. Independent reading is different from assigned curricular reading in that students choose books that are of particular interest to them. Independent reading fosters the love of reading, improves fluency and vocabulary and helps students learn about themselves as readers.

To encourage reading, teachers have book collections within the classroom. These books are intended to challenge and engage students, and some of the books have mature content. Because the middle school years are the time during which students are "coming of age," topics of interest may begin to shift; some students may choose books with themes of sex, drugs, mental illness and violence. Some books may include strong language. I encourage parents to talk with their children about their independent reading selections, ask to see the book that he or she is currently reading or ask to see his or her "Books Read" list.

Students always have the right to stop reading a book they've picked for independent reading; they can learn just as much about what genres and topics appeal to them from the reasons they abandon a book as they can from the reasons they love a book. You as the parent always have final say about independent reading books. If, for whatever reason, you or your child decides a book should be abandoned, please have your son or daughter let me know, and I will suggest another book.

Parent permission is needed for your child to select books from classroom collections. Please sign and return this letter, and include any comment that will help me guide your child to "just-right books." If you do not feel comfortable with your child making their own selection, please contact me to discuss possible independent reading selections from the classroom collection.

I am looking forward to my students achieving their reading goals, and I know we will have an exciting, rewarding, and successful year. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to indicate those below or contact me via email at *[teacher email address]*.

Sincerely,

[Teacher's Name]

Literacy Department

Hadley Junior High

We make a difference. We embrace change together. We are a true team of professionals. We build the future.

[Teacher's phone number]

I have read the above letter regarding classroom collections and student choice and am allowing my child to make their own book selections.

I have read the letter regarding classroom collections and student choice and would like to set up a conference to discuss my child's independent reading choices.

Parent Signature

Date

Comments:

Reviewed: March 24, 2014

Adopted: April 14, 2014