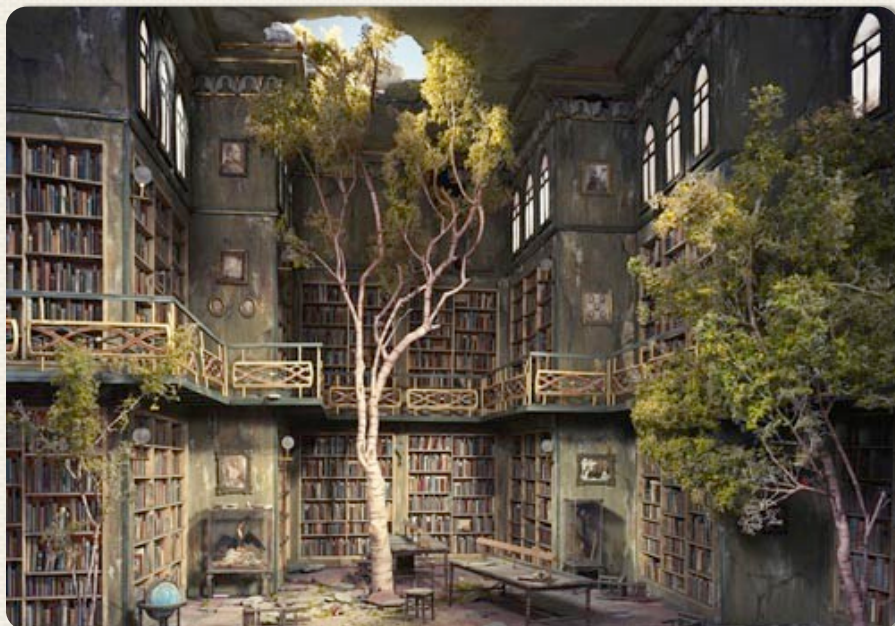


# SOPHOMORE COMP & LIT

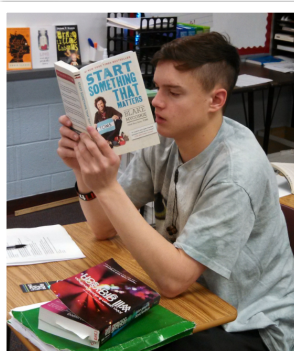


## It's going to be a great year!

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year. I am excited to walk with you through this year. I am going to be honest and tell you straight up that there will be a lot of work, but it won't be impossible. Some of you will experience some growing pains, but it's good for you. We are going to laugh and at times even cry. This is our classroom, our people and our adventure. It will be as amazing or as horrific as you set it up to be, so what will it be? There is always a choice.



MONDAY READING TIME



WEDNESDAY READING TIME



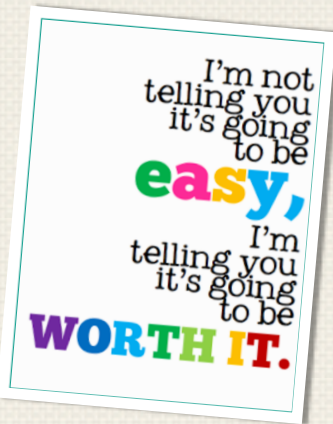
FRIDAY READING TIME

## ABOUT ME



Teaching is one of my life's passions. I am fully dedicated to my students and take my responsibilities as your teacher seriously. I provide all the tools for you to succeed, but whether you succeed is up to you. You determine the type of student you wish to be. No one has dictated your future or your present - it's up to you to decide. I hold you accountable and don't take excuses. I have high expectations, but if you show up, do the work, and engage in our community, you will have nothing to worry about. Complaining and whining will not get favorable results. I don't recommend it.

## ABOUT YOU



Nothing in life is easy. If you are expecting life or anything worthwhile to be easy, you are in for a rude awakening. Life is about hard work, determination, perseverance and goals. If you step up with the confidence that you can overcome anything headed in your direction, you will surpass all the challenges and difficulties before you. Homework should be expected every day and participation in building classroom community is mandatory. We work hard and play harder. You do the work and you will be fine. You don't and I can pretty much guess that we will be seeing each other again in the future. It's much easier to pass this class the first time around.

## ABOUT THE COURSE

- We will improve your skills in the "regular" areas of English (reading, writing, spelling, grammar, speaking, listening, etc).
- We will broaden and deepen your reading, writing and oral presentation skills.
- We will learn to ask questions to learn and understand.
- We will develop an understanding of your relationship with yourself, your peers, and the world around you.
- We will continually THINK and PREPARE for the future.

## Contact Me

Room #E210

Email: [Annie.Kim@csredhawks.org](mailto:Annie.Kim@csredhawks.org)

Phone: 616.696.1200 ext 6306

---

**"BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE,  
PREPARATION IS THE KEY  
TO SUCCESS."**

---

### What do I need for this class?

1. 3-ring binder
2. Class book
3. Choice book
4. Pen or pencil
5. paper or notebook
6. positive attitude

### What won't I need for this class?

You will not need your backpacks, bags or purses. Therefore you will not be permitted if you enter with them. If I have to remind you to go to your locker to put them away, you will be directed to your locker and then gifted a tardy. I would keep your love notes or gossip notes in your lockers. On occasion I have taken the notes away.

### How do I get on your good side?

I like to have fun in here, but I also take what we do in here seriously. There is a time for play and a time for fun. Respect both. If you need to talk to me, schedule something with me. Work hard and do your best. If you have questions, ask. I make myself accessible to you and it's up to you to take it. I don't do well with whining, complaining, gossiping, excuses or negative attitudes. Don't lie to me, don't steal from me and certainly don't make a fool of me. I respect you now. Don't lose that.



## First & Only Warning

# Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty

This is something we have to take a brief moment to address. According to the Academic Writing Guide, "plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of another person's words, ideas, images, artwork, or other original creative material without proper citation, i.e. plagiarism is the theft of intellectual property."

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Copying another student's answers or work
- Submitting work done by someone else and claiming credit for it
- Giving answers to someone else
- "Copying and pasting" any text from the internet without properly citing the source
- Taking ideas from another source without properly citing the source

Consequences include but are limited to:

- Loss of credit work done for BOTH parties involved and parent contact
- Possible loss of credit for course for BOTH parties involved

## Regarding Attendance

**Tardies:** The school handbook outlines that students will receive a warning on his or her first offense and then will receive a detention for each additional tardy. Students will be marked 'tardy' if he or she is not in his or her seat by the time the bell rings.

**Absences:** It is always better and courteous of you to have a conversation with me directly (face-to-face, in writing, email, facebook, etc.) regarding your absence. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed. Ask your peers before you ask me and do not ask me during class time. You can make an appointment to see me about the work that you missed or questions you have, but do not take time away from our class time.

I have written many students up for ditching and will not hesitate to write you up.

Make sure that your absence is excused. If we have a quiz the day of your unexcused absence, you will not be able to make up the quiz. If we have a test on the day of your unexcused absence, 5% will be deducted from your test grade and you should expect to receive a different test.

You should notify me of all planned absences as soon as you know about them. If you are planning on being absent for more than three consecutive days, you must pick up all the work prior to your leave and must keep to the class schedule. You will have to meet with me the day you return to ask any questions and all the work will be due the second day you return.

## CLASSROOM POLICIES

**Attendance** - A student may earn credit for a class only if he/she has fewer than seven (7) authorized absences per trimester

**Late work** - Late work will NOT be accepted. Life doesn't accept late work and neither do I. If you do not have homework when collected, it is not and therefore not accepted. You will get 3 opportunities for excuses on "The Yellow Sheet" (more on this later).

**Grading** - Grades will be distributed as follows:

A+	100	B +	88-89
A	93-99	B	83-87
A-	90-92	B-	80-82
C+	78-79	D +	68-69
C	73-77	D	63-67
C-	70-72	D-	60-62

A 59 or below will result in an 'F'

**Grading Weight** - The following is the distribution of the final grade you will earn for the class:

- Homework/Classwork 30%
- Projects/Papers 30%
- Tests/Quizzes 20%
- Participation 10%
- Final Exam 10%

It is **your** responsibility to check your grades on your own time.

It is also **your** responsibility to talk to me about any grade discrepancies. You must also provide proof, so I highly advise you against throwing away your returned papers!

# CHOICE BOOK

In addition to the two books we will be reading together as a class, you will be responsible for reading four choice books. Students have found many great books in our classroom library, but they may also bring in e-readers and other books to read.

Students are required to read their choice books for a minimum of two hours a week.

### **OMG, I don't have time.**

Don't worry, I will give you one hour each week of purely reading time. We start Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays by reading for 20 minutes. You are responsible for finding the other hour of reading time.

### **How will you know?**

Honesty is not only the best policy to live by, but its also the only policy. You will have to calculate a reading rate and check in your page number. This is not for punishment sake, but rather to keep you accountable. I can tell by your check-ins whether you are on par or struggling with the requirement of reading four choice books.

### **Will I be tested on these books?**

You will have a paper or a project for each of the four books you read. You will also be writing about the book in the Big Idea Journals on occasion.

### **What if I don't read the four books?**

You are missing out on so many great books. But I guess you are wondering about your grade, right? You have the opportunity to earn 20 points every week for meeting your reading goals. So if you aren't reading you will be losing points every week. Not only that, but the four papers/projects you will complete are equivalent to two tests, so not doing them would hurt you. I would be sad for you that you are choosing to miss out on great reads.

# Sophomore Comp & Lit A

## WHAT IS THE GREATEST LIFE LESSON EVERYONE NEEDS TO LEARN?

We will begin our trimester with *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

### *What's this book about?*

Author Mitch Albom recounts the time he spent with Morrie Schwartz, his 78-year-old sociology professor from Brandeis University, as he is losing his battle with ALS.

### *Why are we reading this book?*

This is one of my favorite books to teach because we can be real about what life is really about and what it isn't about. In reading this book, we will learn to question everything in order to find the bigger answer to our lives. Through their individual lives and their relationship with one another in life, Mitch and Morrie lead us to better understand who we are as unique individuals and who we are as members of something bigger than ourselves.

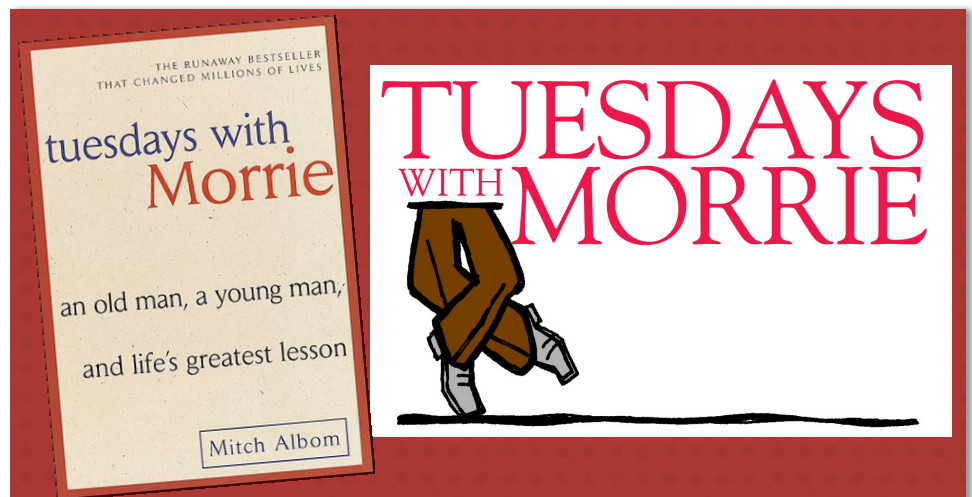
### *What will we have to do with this book?*

You will be required to keep a journal to write your responses from the readings and class discussions. You will also be required to participate in class discussions about the different topics we will visit throughout reading the book.

### *What past students have said about this book?*

This book has had an overwhelmingly positive response and many students have named *Tuesdays with Morrie* as one of their favorite books read in high school and some have even credited as being the book that changed their lives.

I am excited to share one of my personal favorites with you and hope that you will add to the inspiration of this book.





# Sophomore Comp & Lit A

## WHAT IS THE POWER OF EMOTION?

We will end our trimester with *Othello*.

### *What's this play about?*

*Othello* is a Shakespearian tragedy about a soldier, Iago, who reveals his hatred of Othello, a Moor, for choosing Cassio as his officer. Iago's hatred spins a web of accusations and revenge.

### *Why are we reading this play?*

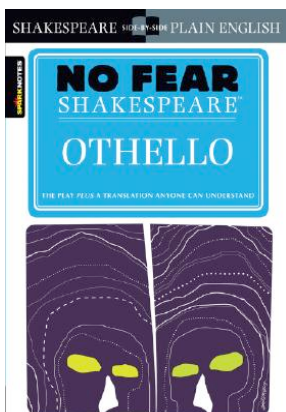
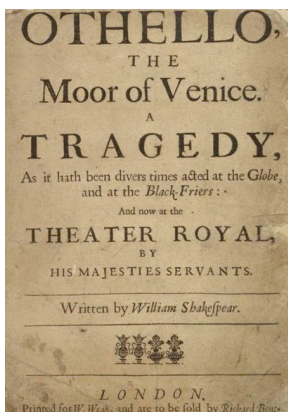
This is one of Shakespeare's most eventful tragedies of jealousy, hatred, deception, lies, plots, revenge, rage, and murder. This works well with our thematic unit of the individual and the self. We will be reading this play looking at personal choice and its consequences.

### *What will we have to do with this book?*

You will have to participate in reader's theater in class, class discussions, and occasionally read on your own. While you won't have too much to read on your own, you will have to challenge yourself to try and find the meaning of the passage you read and relate it to yourself and modern times.

### *What if I just don't "get" Shakespeare?*

Shakespeare is most easily understood when read out loud and performed, which is why we read it using the reader's theater model. We will also be reading from the *No Fear Shakespeare* series, which provides a translated version on one side of the page and the original version on the other side. Don't fear!



## READER'S THEATRE

*Othello* is a play. When we read it in class we will be engaging in Reader's Theatre.

### **What is Reader's Theatre?**

Students will volunteer to play a character and read their parts.

### **We have to act?!**

While it is not mandatory, acting helps us visualize the actions of the play. We also have props to help us out.

### **Does everyone have to do this?**

While you do not have to do this, I highly encourage it. Students in the past have loved acting out their roles and it has made the play far more enjoyable than it already is.

### **Do I get anything for this?**

Just the pure satisfaction of being awesome students. Oh and the incentive of your participation points for the week.

### **What if I'm not a good reader?**

We all struggle reading Shakespeare so consider it an even playing field. But we will all get better together. Don't worry about what others think and if you struggle I will be more than happy to help you out. If you get tired of reading your role, just let me know and we will do a little switcharoo. No big deal. Do as much as you can.

### **There aren't many female roles.**

In the days of Shakespeare, females were not permitted to act so all roles were played by males (watch *Shakespeare in Love*). Let's not worry so much about gender and just enjoy the unfolding of events in the play.

# CLASS PROMISES

I only ask that each of you make two promises to me, yourselves and to one other.

## Promise # 1: Respect

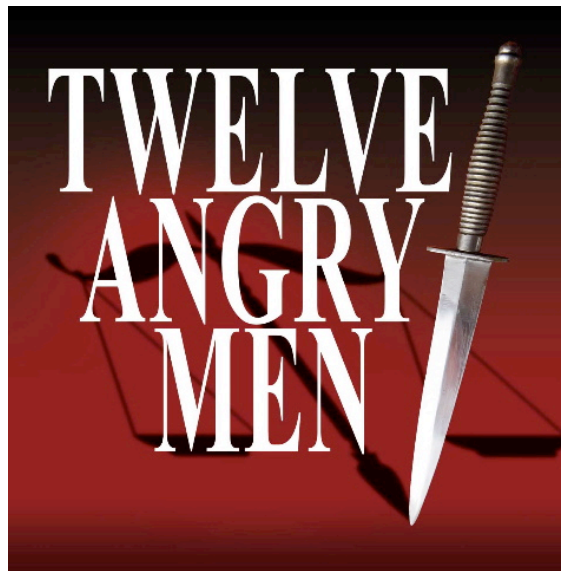
I promise to be respectful to my teachers, my administrators, my peers and myself. I will not speak negatively about others or myself. I will accept the consequences of my actions and move on rather than make a bad situation worse. I will treat our classroom with respect by cleaning up after myself and not vandalizing anything. I will work well with my peers, even if I am having a bad day. I will leave my drama and negativity at the door and come in open-minded and ready to make the most of the situation.

## Promise #2: Responsibility

I promise to be a responsible member of our classroom and school community. I promise to come prepared with something to write with and write on. I promise to be responsible with the materials I am allowed to use and borrow from the classroom. I will be responsible by writing down deadlines and being proactive about what I need to do in order to be successful. I will not blame others for my actions or my grades. I promise to be a responsible member of our classroom and school community.

# Sophomore Comp & Lit B

## JUST HOW DAMAGING ARE BIASES AND PREJUDICES?



“A book is the only place in which you can examine a fragile thought without breaking it, or explore an explosive idea without fear it will go off in your face. It is one of the few havens remaining where a man’s mind can get both provocation and privacy.”

Edward P. Morgan

We will start by reading *Twelve Angry Men*.

### *What’s this play about?*

This is a famous American drama about the American judicial system. The entire play is centered around the twelve nameless jurors. Juror Eight is the focal point of the drama as he works not prove the other jurors wrong, but rather on getting them to look at the situation in a clear way, unaffected by personal bias.

### *Why are we reading this drama?*

This play helps us understand characterization. We will dissect what type of member of society each jury member represents. In doing this, we will also take a look at what type of person we appear to be according to the outside world. Are we a “type”? Do we fall under any generalizations? Is this good? Bad? Do we have control over how people view us?

### *What will we have to do with this book?*

We will read this play in class in a reader’s theater setting. The roles will not change. You will be creating files on all of the members of the jury and chart judgment, perception, hypocrisy and bias.

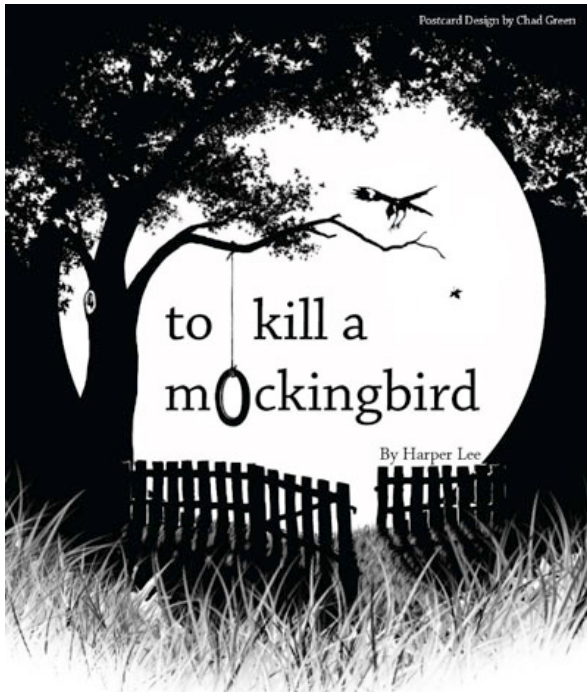
### *What have others said about this book?*

This play is adapted into countless movies and stage performances. It is a book that gets everyone thinking about society as well as themselves.



# Sophomore Comp & Lit B

## WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A CITIZEN?



We will also read *To Kill a Mockingbird*

### *What's this book about?*

This famous novel is a story about innocence, knowledge, prejudice, and courage in the small town of Maycomb, Alabama in the 1930s.

### *Why are we reading this book?*

This is yet another one of my favorites and an American classic. The story is amazing as are the characters. Atticus is one of the most influential characters of literature and he can teach us about how to be courageous and stand for what you believe in even when others disagree. Atticus teaches us how to be convicted by our beliefs, how to stand up for what we believe in, and how to be influential in the lives of those who matter. This novel inspires us to live a life of legacy and be an agent of change in a world that is otherwise bleak.

### *What will we have to do with this book?*

You will receive a booklet that will guide us through questions, articles, and information to help us through this book. Most of this book will be based on class discussion and participation. Students will also be assigned certain chapters to lead classroom discussion about the readings.

### *What have others said about this book?*

This book is difficult to get into but I promise if you stay with me, you will find the book to be one of the most precious books you have ever read. Stay open-minded and you will be among those who find great rewards in reading this book.

## WEEKLY PACKETS

**Every Monday you will get a weekly packet that has the following:**

### **Part 1**

Spelling Words

10 spelling words which you will be tested on the following Monday. These words come from your writings.

### **Part 2**

Root Words (SCL-A)  
Vocabulary Words (SCL-B)

10 root words or vocabulary words which you will be tested on the following Monday.

### **Part 3**

Article of the Week

You will read an article, annotate the article to demonstrate your understanding and then write a written response to the question you are asked to address.

### **Part 4**

ACT Prep

This section can focus on any of the three ACT sections (reading, writing, English).

**Weekly Packets are  
35 points a week.**

**Weekly Quizzes are  
30 points a week.**

**\*Keep your weekly packets  
because you may see these  
on the final exam.**



"This C+ isn't consistent with the vision I have of myself."

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phone: (216) 371-8600 / e-mail: ft@funnytimes.com

# TIPS FOR SUCCESS

"WHAT YOU DO SPEAKS SO  
LOUD THAT I CANNOT  
HEAR WHAT YOU SAY."

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

1. **Be Present.** If you are not here physically or mentally you are not going to learn what you need.
2. **Be on Time.** It's simple. Being on time shows respect for the people you are working with.
3. **Be Prepared.** Bring everything you need with you. You will not be excused to go get your homework from your locker. If you don't have it when its due its not accepted. Pack your bags the night before and double check everything before coming to class.
4. **Try.** "I don't know" is not an acceptable answer. You might as well say, "I don't care" and not waste my time or yours. Give it a chance. Give yourself a chance.
5. **Be Respectful.** This is a life rule. Respect yourself, your peers, and me.
6. **Help Yourself.** No one can or will hold your hand through life. Be proactive and learn to help yourself. If you don't understand something, speak up. If you need help, speak up.
7. **No excuses.** Not only are you are better than that, but I also don't want to hear it. If you don't have it or you weren't prepared, own up to it. Don't give me a string of excuses about how or why not. Learn from it and don't let it happen again.

## THE YELLOW SHEET a.k.a Missing Work Log

If you don't have your homework when it is due, pick up "The Yellow Sheet" from the front of the class, fill it out and turn it in the envelope with the top portion completely filled out.

When I go through the stack, I will read your excuse and judge whether it is valid or not.

I will give "The Yellow Sheet" back to you and when you are ready to turn it in, you must staple the assignment to the back of the "The Yellow Sheet."

Whether your excuse is valid or not, if you fill out "The Yellow Sheet" you have used up one of your three excuses.

You may not use "The Yellow Sheet" for anything other than homework (no projects or papers).



Dear Students,

Welcome to Sophomore Comp & Lit! I am excited to have you in class and just wanted to take a moment to make sure we are all on the same page. I trust that you have read through this syllabus in its entirety and can gauge the amount of work we will be doing in this class. Organization is your number one key to success in this class as is communication. You must always be prepared, as late work is not accepted in this class. Do not fall behind and if you do, reach out to me and let me know what you are struggling with and how I can help you be successful. If you don't speak up, I don't know.



## OUR CLASS NORMS

I have read and understood the written syllabus. I promise to work hard and be responsible for my words and my actions. I will accept the results and consequences of according to the school handbook and the agreed upon norms.

---

Student Name (Printed)

---

Student Signature

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Hour \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I trust that you have read through this syllabus with your son/daughter and discussed its contents. Sophomore Comp and Lit is a challenging course that prepares students for college and career readiness. I expect my students to be respectful and responsible citizens inside the classroom as well as in their communities and will hold them accountable. Our Sophomore Comp and Lit curriculum is based on the theme of the individual and the society. We will read and discuss materials about who we are as individuals and who we are as an individual in society or in a community. I strongly urge you to support what we do in the classroom at home by continuing conversations about the type of person they want to be now as well as in the future. I hold high expectations for my students and provide the tools necessary to achieve success. If you have any questions or concerns at any point, please email me and I will address your needs as soon as I am able. I look forward to working with you.

Here's to a great trimester!

Ms. Annie Kim

Please check the following:

- Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ We have read through and discussed the contents of the syllabus.
- Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ My child has permission to choose any book from the teacher's classroom library and we will discuss appropriate reading material guidelines at home.
- Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ We grant Ms. Kim permission to take photos of our child's learning during class and use it for educational purposes.

What is the best way to reach you?

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature





## PHOTOGRAPHY PERMISSION SLIP

Name of Child Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Guardian (Releaser): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

This teacher is seeking or has earned a grant through **DonorsChoose.org**, a nonprofit organization serving public school students. At our website, [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org), teachers can request resources for their students, and individual donors can choose a request they want to fund. This teacher has taken the initiative to seek funding for an activity.

As a result, this teacher's class may receive resources for one or more requested student activities. In this event, we would like to show photographs of the activities actually taking place on our website at [www.DonorsChoose.org](http://www.DonorsChoose.org), to the donor(s) who funded the request(s) as well as other visitors to our site. Additionally, to help generate donor interest for this teacher's project(s), we would like to display a picture featuring this teacher's class on our website for potential donors to view.

### **With your signature below, you consent as follows:**

- I am the legal parent or guardian (releaser) of the child participant named above. I hereby give permission for the participant to be photographed (with or without other classmates in a particular picture).
- I understand, agree and give permission for DonorsChoose.org to display the photographs on the DonorsChoose.org website.
- I understand, agree and give permission for DonorsChoose.org to otherwise use the photographs in promotional materials for DonorsChoose.org.

Signature of Parent or Guardian (Releaser): \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED, SIGNED FORM TO THE TEACHER  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU.