

Dear Perry Service Learning Parents,

The purpose of any literature class is to expose students to quality writing and stories that portray characters whom students are able to identify and empathize with. In the Perry Service Learning Program, we seek to use this literature, as well as select movies, images, and songs, to help students better understand the social issues they address in the classroom and in their service experiences.

The guided class discussions, in conjunction with our social issues content, will elicit insights into how students view those who are different from themselves and how each of us has a unique perspective of the world we live in. Some of the texts we may read this year include Kate Otto's *Everyday Ambassador*, Jeannette Walls' *The Glass Castle*, Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays With Morrie*, Sonia Nazario's *Enrique's Journey*, Robin DeAngelo's *White Fragility*, Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, and Wes Moore's *The Other Wes Moore*, in addition to a number of student selected texts. Students may also have the opportunity to watch movies that address specific social issues, including *Erin Brockovich*, *Farmingville*, and *Waiting for Superman*.

The resources we utilize may have harsh language, or introduce students to sensitive issues. We feel the instances of inappropriate language and delicate issues are far overshadowed by the message and quality of the selected resources.

We encourage you to preview the resources if you are concerned with the language. If, after previewing the resource, you are not comfortable with having your child read the text or watch the movie, please contact us at 440/259-9300 and an alternate learning opportunity will be provided along with independent work.

Providing your child with an exceptional educational experience is our primary focus. We appreciate your input and concern. We all share the same outcomes: to instill in young adults a love of reading, the skills to evaluate and write about literature and contemporary media, and an understanding of the social issues faced by our society.

Sincerely,

Mr. Soeder

[soederm@perry-lake.org](mailto:soederm@perry-lake.org)

Mrs. Trentanelli

[trentanellia@perry-lake.org](mailto:trentanellia@perry-lake.org)

**Please sign and return by Friday, August 21, 2020.**

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

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Fiction gives us empathy: it puts us inside the minds of other people,  
gives us the gifts of seeing the world through their eyes.

Neil Gaiman