



Gilford High School

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Accredited Member

Peter Sawyer, Principal
Anthony Sperazzo, Assistant Principal

Lori Jewett, Guidance Director
Dave Pinkham, Athletic Director

May 5, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian;

As part of our study of literary genre and in connection to our anti-bullying school initiative, we are currently reading the best-selling novel *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult in English 9 H and English 9. This very popular and contemporary piece of fiction deals with a school shooting, the events leading up to it, and the aftermath of this violence on a small, fictional New Hampshire town.

We feel the book is appropriate because it raises issues about the way people treat other people. Some of the characters in the novel are high school students dealing with realistic problems and issues. There is bullying in it, just like there is racism in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but it doesn't present bullying in a positive light—it presents it in a way that shows it is cruel and wrong, as *Mockingbird* does with racism. It depicts high school relationships, some of them unhealthy, but the book presents them negatively so as not to condone them. The book opens up discussions on tolerance and activities that lend themselves to exploring options and solutions for unhealthy relationships and bullying.

If you have an objection to your student reading this novel and participating in the activities, please sign this letter and have your student return the letter tomorrow, May 6th. If you decide against the book, we would be happy to provide an alternative assignment.

If you have any other concerns or questions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for your help!

Gail Hutchison and Sarah Thompson

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