

PARENT LETTER REGARDING HALL OF INJUSTICE LESSON

Dear Parents,

In the upcoming lesson, “Hall of Injustice,” your student will be reading an excerpt from *Dreamland Burning*, a novel by Jennifer Latham as well as an article regarding the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. The realistic historical novel deals with events that could take place in real life. Some of the real-life highlights include learning the power of love, defending a friend, the benefits of working hard, hope in a hard situation, and laughter amid pain. Some of the struggles characters face include bullying, challenging life situations, consequences of bad choices, discrimination, poverty, and other difficulties that occur in a person’s lifetime. *Dreamland Burning* highlights the issues of discrimination in the past as well as in our present.

Dreamland Burning is an historical mystery set in both the present and in 1921. Rowan Chase's narrative tells about her and her friend, James, efforts to learn the circumstances behind the skeleton beneath the floorboards of Rowan's "servant's house" located on her family's property. William Tillman's narrative tells the story of life in 1921 Tulsa leading up to the race massacre of 1921. The finale of the novel sees the two narratives connect in the present linking William, Ruby, Joseph, and Rowan. Latham includes plenty of twists that keep her readers engaged and guessing as to which of the characters in the 1921 narrative ends up buried beneath the floor. (LibrisNotes)

We wanted to inform you that *Dreamland Burning* and a Tulsa World article referenced in the lesson contain language that might be difficult for your student to read. There are racial slurs and some curse words included in these texts. The Tulsa Race Massacre is a historical Oklahoma event. It is also a current event topic in 2020, as the city of Tulsa is taking steps to discover more information about the destruction of both life and property during the massacre. The relevancy of these texts is beneficial for your students' knowledge of both state history and the ways that historical fiction can incite curiosity regarding real events.

If you have concerns about your student reading *Dreamland Burning* or the article regarding the Tulsa Race Massacre, please send me an email or note.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature and Title]