



**St. Stephen's C.E. Primary School**

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## **Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning**

Dear Parent,

Our class will soon begin a six-week long unit studying **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred Taylor to deepen our understanding in this term's history unit of Civil Rights. One of the reasons we've chosen this text is its authentic portrayal of life in Mississippi in the 1930s; we believe students will greatly benefit from learning about this period in world history and from the strength, resilience, and courage of the Logan family.

As a black family in the Jim Crow South, the fictional Logans face racial discrimination, prejudice, and violence, as far too many real families did. Due to this setting, **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** includes language and topics that require careful consideration from teachers, students, and families. One of the most challenging aspects of this novel is its inclusion of the n-word.

We recognise that this term can be extremely painful to confront in a classroom setting, and we also understand that each student will react differently to this word. Our aim in fostering these discussions is to contextualise the use of the term and to create a safe space in which students feel comfortable. As a class, we will be exploring the meaning and use of this word in literature in order to prepare to have mature, thoughtful discussions about its presence in the novel.

We will emphasise that this consideration does not mean an acceptance or approval of the word and students will only be expected to engage with this word to the extent that they feel comfortable in the context of the novel. Before beginning the novel, we plan as a class to generate a contract detailing how to handle this word when reading aloud or quoting the text. Please reach out if you or your child have any thoughts or concerns about the language used either in the novel or in discussion.

As ever, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via the email address below.

Kind Regards,

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