Dear Caregiver,

We are excited to announce that 5th grade will begin a novel study this quarter. The chosen books are *Thunder Rolling in the Mountains by Scott O’dell and Elizabeth Hall and We Are the Ship by Kadir Nelson*. Students will read one book for class with the option of reading the second book for leisure. All students are encouraged to read at least 1 book before the end of this 9 weeks, which will be March 12th. The 4th nine weeks curriculum will have embedded lessons that align with the novels. **We ask that students keep up and take care of the books since they will need to be returned at the end of the school year.**

There are many reasons why these two novels were selected; they are very well written, has the potential to spark great moral discussions, expose your students to literature and themes that may increase his/her appreciation for reading, and offer students an opportunity to dive deeper into the human issues that are faced by the characters. In addition to being powerful and captivating books with complex and thought-provoking themes.

The partnership that we have with you as your student’s caregiver is very important. That is why we seek your help in encouraging your child to read. We included a “Tips For At-Home Reading” sheet for you to reference. This sheet will provide you with ways to help your child be successful in reading these books at home. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Gwyn, literacy Coach, at 615-941-7515.

If you DO NOT want your child to participate, please indicate your choice by submitting the form below. Your student may choose an age appropriate alternative title and complete alternative assignments that are comparable to the learning objectives and tasks associated with the novels selected. If we do not receive a response from you, it will be considered consent for your student to participate in this novel study.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ My student DOES NOT HAVE my permission to read The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne and will need an alternate assignment.

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

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