



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Your son/daughter has chosen to read *From the Ashes* by Jesse Thistle. This novel is considered a #1 National Bestseller and has won many awards including the Indigenous Voices Award. It was also named the CBC Best Canadian Nonfiction Book of the Year and the Globe and Mail Book of the Year.

This novel serves as a springboard for teenagers to discuss inequity they witness in the media/world today. Since it is a memoir, the protagonist (main character) and the author of the book are the same person; as a result, although it has a style similar to that of a fictional novel, Thistle has the opportunity to weave thematic lessons through his sharing of memories from his own life. Consequently, students learn from an authentic source.

The novel study addresses themes of race relations, poverty, stereotypes, justice, drug abuse, mental health and mercy. Thistle invites readers to see beyond stereotypes and he humanizes the homeless, drug addicts, and prison inmates. It raises political, social, and cultural issues that are important, timely, and relevant. The novel, however, contains references to murder, alcohol and drug abuse, sexual assault, and there is some profanity.

Your sons/daughters have brought the novel home and I would like you to discuss what they understood from the pre-reading class discussions on positionality and misunderstandings due to bias. I would also ask that you determine if this content is appropriate for your child to read. Please email me with any concerns or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Laurel Boucher