20 Apr 2023

Dear Parents/ Guardian,

I am excited to announce our new novel study, 'The Best At It,' by Mallika Pancholy. The novel is about a second generation Indo-American boy who is navigating his place in the world.The main character, Rahul Kopar, is an average kid who is trying to fit in socially with his peers. Through many trials and tribulations, Rahul explores different paths including: acting, football and a math club, in an attempt to be the best at something. Rahul is also dealing with other challenges including severe anxiety, racism and homophobia. The reason I am writing this letter is because of the LQBTQ2S+ content in this book. It is an underlying theme but not what this book is about. If I felt the novel was too risque for grade 5, I would never read it. However, I do want you to understand that the LGBTQ2S+ content is carefully mentioned in this book and just discusses feelings. In my search for representative content our team at the school has researched many novels and are supporting the implementation of this novel for division 2. It is a funny and enduring novel while being relatable to all children. I have prided the last 17 years of my teaching career on finding quality literature to foster a love of reading. Novels like 'Wonder,' and 'Underground to Canada' are not always pleasant but show the best and worst of humanity. I want my students to be able to analyze information and make their own judgments about the world we live in. I am hoping you will join me on being on the right side of change by encouraging your child to explore alternative perspectives. Thank you for having faith in my ability to find appropriate and meaningful content. If you are still not sure, feel free to contact me and I can either let you read the novel for yourself or give you the synopsis. If you are not at all comfortable with the subject matter, I will provide a supplemental novel study for your child.

Sincerely,

Teacher Name

I give my permission for (student name)_____ to participate in 'The Best At It,' by Maulik Pancholy

Parent signature:_____