



Dear Parents,

May 22, 2025

We are excited to share our Summer Reading Program for Fontbonne's Middle School students. In partnership with BC High, Middle School students will read *Simon Sort of Says* by Erin Bow, a Newbery Honor-winning novel (ISBN: 978-1368099585). In the fall, students will be invited to an event at BC High to meet the author and enjoy activities with BC High students.

About the Novel

Simon Sort of Says follows the story of Simon O'Keeffe, a twelve-year-old who, after surviving a tragic school shooting, moves with his family to the small town of Grin and Bear It, Nebraska. Despite the serious subject matter, Simon's journey is one of healing, friendship, and rediscovering joy after trauma. The story balances moments of laughter with heartfelt explorations of anxiety, grief, and the importance of empathy and support from family and friends.

Why We Chose This Book

- *Simon Sort of Says* addresses important themes such as resilience, friendship, and the power of community in overcoming adversity.
- The author skillfully uses humor to make difficult topics accessible and relatable for young readers, without diminishing their seriousness.
- The book encourages discussions about empathy, acceptance, and mental health, offering opportunities for thoughtful classroom conversations.

Content Considerations

While the aftermath of a school shooting event itself is not described in graphic detail, Simon's experiences as a survivor are central to the story. The author handles these topics with great care, focusing on healing and hope rather than the violence itself.

If you have any concerns about your child reading this book, or if you would like to discuss its content further, please feel free to reach out. Thank you for your support as we explore this meaningful and memorable novel together.

Sincerely,

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INSPIRING REMARKABLE GIRLS SINCE 1954

