

Sneak Peek Inside the Eagle's Nest

Catholic East Elementary's Monthly Newspaper

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Say Hello to Middle School English Language Arts!

Welcome to Mrs. Ibarra's middle school ELA classroom! We hope you'll enjoy your peek into the Eagle's Nest!

Fun Facts about Middle School (5th-8th Grade):

of Girls: 44

of Boys: 34

8th Graders: 23

7th Graders: 16

6th Graders: 18

5th Graders: 21

Play an instrument: 21

Sing and/or dance: 35

Play a sport: 44

Attended CEE since Kindergarten: 19

Prefer:

- Watching TV: 22
- Listening to Music: 56

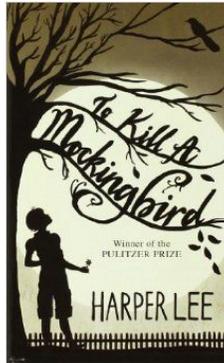
Would rather:

- Live underwater and swim with the fish: 26
- Travel through space and touch the stars: 52



Reaching Out to Nepal by Eva-Marie Moss

It was a regular day in the fifth grade, ELA (English, Language, Arts) class.
(Cont. Pg. 2, Nepal)



8th Grade Reflects on Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird

Mrs. Ibarra asked her 8th grade scholars to write a argumentative essay on whether or not Atticus Finch should have defended Tom Robinson and why. Here's a brief excerpt from Deja Shulla's essay, "*Atticus Does The Right Thing*"

Atticus Finch believes in equal rights for everyone, no matter their race, so he thinks Tom Robinson deserves a fair trial. In the novel, Atticus reveals his thoughts on humanity: "You never really understand a person until you consider things from their point-of-view; until you climb into their skin and walk around in it" (39). This demonstrates that Atticus Finch truly lives by the golden rule and therefore, Tom Robinson is entitled to a fair trial just as Atticus would want for himself. Atticus tries to explain the culture of Maycomb county: "Why otherwise reasonable people go stark raving mad when anything involving a negro comes up is something i don't pretend to understand." (117). This shows that Atticus is concerned about the sanity

(Cont. Pg. 2, Shulla)

Blended Learning and Newsela



Scholars and Newsela

Our school adopted a new resource this school year called **Newsela**. In a nutshell, the Newsela editing team scours reputable newspapers in search of current nonfiction content. Their editors re-write the articles at 5 different reading levels so the material is accessible to a wide range of readers. "Newsela makes it easy for an entire class to read the same content, but at a level that's just right for each student."

[\(https://newsela.com/about/\)](https://newsela.com/about/)

Each month, students read these nonfiction articles, annotate the articles and take online quizzes to measure reading comprehension. At the end of the month, one student from each middle school grade earns the title - Newsela Champ! I sat down with a number of our recent Newsela Champs to ask them about their experience with Newsela. Here's what they had to say!

(Cont. Pg. 2, Newsela)

Shulla *(cont. from p.1)*

of his fellow Maycomb white residents. Therefore, it makes sense to defend Tom Robinson due to his moral values.

In her conclusion, Shulla writes:

The novel supports the claim that Atticus was right to defend Tom Robinson. Atticus chose to defend Tom Robinson because he knew he was innocent and he knew that it was the right thing to do. Today racism is still a very big thing. Black people today are being mistreated and undermined because of their skin color. People need to realize that they should not treat someone differently because of their skin color or beliefs, but should treat them by what is in their hearts.

Nepal *(cont. from p. 1)*

We were reading an article about an organization called HANDS in Nepal. When we read about their earthquake, we wanted to raise money. Then we all started shouting out ideas, and eventually, we all decided on a bake sale! Once we figured out what we wanted to do, we asked our principal, Mr. Ryan Krienke, if that was okay. He said that it was a great idea, and that is how it came to be. Then, we started thinking about who was going to bake, work, and set up. Therefore, we started putting up posters and talking about the bake sales, which were going to be held on the first Friday of each month for the next three months.

Our fifth grade class planned that we would have two tables at each lunch period, one for the 2nd - 4th grades, and then for the middle school students. One table would be peanut, tree-nut free, and the other table would contain peanut products. There would be two people working at each table, so everyone would have a chance to work. We sold cookies, brownies, cupcakes, and rice crispies! It was a lot of fun. After we counted the total amount of money we raised, including the bake sales along with some Christmas Caroling, we raised over \$500 for Nepal students! We were so excited, we couldn't believe it, and we all cheered in celebration. It was hard work, but it was totally worth it! We will be sending our monetary gift along with a book about our class to the students in Nepal, and we hope to begin a long friendship!

Join us for Fish Fry 2016

Fridays, February 19-March 18 4-7PM
SS Peter and Paul Cafeteria (2480 N. Cramer St.)



Meet Mrs. Ibarra

I am thrilled to be teaching Middle School Language Arts at Catholic East Elementary. I bring 6 years of teaching experience to our school and hold a Bachelor of Arts in English and Secondary Education with a minor in Spanish Literature. My husband, Irving, and I have two lovely daughters, Lily (K4 at CEE) and Lupita, who just turned one this summer.

While away from the classroom, I enjoy going on walks and bike rides to South Shore Park and other Milwaukee Parks with my wonderful family. Weather permitting, I also love camping in Peninsula State Park, WI and in other Lake Michigan campgrounds. Although reading and writing for pleasure does not fit into my busy schedule as well as it used to, I find great joy in both as well.

I feel very blessed to teach at Catholic East this year. I am looking forward to engaging my students in analytical discussions and compelling writing activities in relation to both fiction and non-fiction works, while at the same time, leading them on a faith journey "to pray and to serve."

Newsela *(cont. from p.1)*

When asked what she likes about Newsela, 8th grader, Mary Parlier, said, "I like the fact that I can learn about current events and explore articles thoroughly through annotations, highlighting, quizzes, and WRITE sections! I also love being able to jump from lexile to lexile according to what grade level is comfortable for me to read for an article." Parlier goes on to describe her growth as a non-fiction reader by stating, "I believe I have grown as a nonfiction reader this year through this program. I am able to dive into articles with no fear, and come out with new knowledge about a current topic in the world!" Catherine Carroll, 7th grader, says, "I like how you can choose from a wide variety of topics and pick an article that interests you and get informed about current events." 6th grader, Shatterra Richerson, was already a huge fan of nonfiction reading so Newsela is a perfect resource to fuel her mind. The challenging part of Newsela, Richerson says, "is adapting to the varying lexile ranges. Newsela changes as your ability to answer quiz questions correctly increases so sometimes the articles are very, very challenging."