Dear Parents and Guardians,

In Modern Literature we have been studying Magical Realism and the stories of Gabriel Garcia Marquez. As a supplement to our discussion, I would like to show Guillermo Del Toro’s 2006 film *Pan’s Labyrinth.* This film explores many of the elements and themes that have been addressed in the short stories studied in class and I believe it will provide a powerful visual example of modern Magical Realism storytelling.

Here is a brief description of the film via Rotten Tomatoes Film Review Website:

Mexican filmmaker Guillermo del Toro returns to the phantasmagorical cinema that defined such early fare as Cronos and The Devil's Backbone with this haunting fantasy-drama set in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War and detailing the strange journeys of an imaginative young girl who may be the mythical princess of an underground kingdom. Her mother, Carmen (Ariadna Gil), recently remarried to sadistic army captain Vidal (Sergi Lpez) and soon to bear the cruel military man's child, shy young Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) is forced to entertain herself as her recently-formed family settles into their new home nestled deep in the Spanish countryside. As Ofelia's bed-ridden mother lies immobilized in anticipation of her forthcoming child and her high-ranking stepfather remains determined to fulfill the orders of General Francisco Franco to crush a nearby guerilla uprising, the young girl soon ventures into an elaborate stone labyrinth presided over by the mythical faun Pan (Doug Jones). Convinced by Pan that she is the lost princess of legend and that in order to return to her underground home she must complete a trio of life-threatening tasks, Ofelia sets out to reclaim her kingdom and return to her grieving father as Vidal's housekeeper Mercedes (Maribel Verd) and doctor (Alex Angulo) plot secretly on the surface to keep the revolution alive.

The film, however, is rated R for brief scenes of violence. If you give permission for your student to watch and study this film in class, then you do not need to do anything. This is a reverse permission slip, not returning it will indicate that you have given permission for your student to view the film. If you would prefer that your student not view the film, alternate work will be provided. Please sign below to indicate that you would prefer your student not to watch the film in class.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Jennifer Havenner

Modern Literature

JHavenner@gmail.com

I would prefer my student NOT watch *Pan’s Labyrinth*  in Modern Literature class. I understand they will be given an alternate assignment and will be responsible for all work.

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

Parent/Guardian Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_