

Facing History and Ourselves Summer Reading Assignment

The Wave by Todd Strasser

Please sign out a copy of this book from me before you leave for the summer. Please read the book and respond to the following questions in a Google Doc that you share with me on or before September 3rd at sharvey@littletonps.org. Responses should be more than one sentence long . . .

- 1.) Is there a clear middle ground in the novel between individualism and an authoritarian community such as *The Wave*? If so, what is it and how does it behave? If not, why is this not the case?
- 2.) Is the novel dated or a product of its era in any significant manner? Does the situation described in the novel have a believable chance of occurring in a modern American high school? Why or why not?
- 3.) In what way does Ben Ross stand in conflict with the themes of the novel? That is, how does his role as a teacher and a self-proclaimed experimenter influence the way we understand power and the extent to which it can be used? How would the story be different if he wasn't able to exert so much power over his students at different points in the story?
- 4.) Describe a personal experience when the desire to belong has shaped your choices... what were the consequences? Would you make the same choices again?