

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Temovsky
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Concord High School,
New Hampshire,
United States of America.

Dear Mr. Foley, Principal.

My daughter Kenni-Lynn is in grade five at West Humber Junior Middle School. It was Oral Communication time once again this year and the big decision was to be made. "What will I speak on?" Well the decision was made and she wrote her speech. She decided to speak on a Great Lady, Christa McAuliffe.

I was most impressed as her mother and thought you and your students might like to have a copy of her speech.

I wanted you to see what a 10 year old Canadian Girl thought of Christa.

We as a family were devastated at the explosion and hope that the Lord has seen you all through this terrible tragedy and that you are all making a comeback by now.

My husband, my daughter Kim, Kenni and I all hope you enjoy reading her speech.

Yours very truly,

Donna Temovsky
(Mrs.) Donna Temovsky

Judges, Teachers and Fellow Students:

✓ Responder 3/26/81

MAR 19 1986

I have chosen to speak on an American Heroine, Christa McAuliffe. She was the wife of a lawyer, a mother of Scott nine and Caroline six. She was a Social Studies Teacher since 1982, and before that an Elementary School Teacher, but Christa McAuliffe had a dream, her dream was to 'REACH FOR THE STARS'. While attending a teacher's convention she heard that the National Aeronautics & Space Administration was searching for a teacher to go into space. She applied along with 11,000 other teachers and won. She left her family for four months and took one hundred and twenty hours of training. She planned to teach two fifteen minute lessons from space one of the lessons was 'Where we have been', and the other one was called 'Where we are going and why?' This was going to be the ULTIMATE FIELD TRIP. The lessons were going to be a tour of the Space Shuttle as it orbited the Earth. Mrs. McAuliffe was fulfilling a dream that space is for everyone and its future belongs to students. She was not nervous as there had been so many successful flights before. As launch day approached the excitement grew as the first private citizen would blast off into space. Signs in store windows wished 'CHRISTA, ALL THE BEST' and students everywhere decorated their classrooms with stars and planets. Launch day finally arrived and the six astronauts and the teachernaut boarded the Shuttle. The Flight Commander named this flight the 'TEACHER MISSION'. People were celebrating everywhere many children attended assemblies to cheer for the first teacher in space. As you all know next to parents, teachers are the most important adults in a child's life. As Mrs. McAuliffe's husband, children, parents and sister looked on and cheered along with many children and teachers as the Countdown went below ten. In an interview, Mrs. McAuliffe said "If the teacher in space doesn't come back to teach, something's wrong." Well something did go wrong. One minute and twelve seconds after Lift Off the Space Shuttle exploded. Students could not understand how their teacher followed her dream and died. A teacher from East York who had met Mrs. McAuliffe was home marking papers when he saw the tragedy on t.v. He said she was a 'marvellous teacher'. Since this was a public death of a teacher astronaut it was going to affect many students everywhere. Since they had been made feel a part of this whole thing. Some children wondered out loud "Maybe they crawled out a window and landed on a desert island." Mrs. McAuliffe's hero was President John Kennedy she lived by his famous words, "Its not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

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Students have been taught a lesson in life and death through this great tragedy. Students from all over Toronto have sent letters to Mrs. McAuliffe's students. President Reagan told the world, "WE WILL NEVER FORGET THEM, THEY PREPARED FOR THEIR JOURNEY, WAVED GOODBYE AND SLIPPED THE SURLY BONDS OF EARTH TO TOUCH THE FACE OF GOD."

THE END

By;- Kenni-Lynn Temovsky

Age 10

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