7536 W. Roma Av
Phoenix, Az 85033
July 3, 1986

To whom it may concern:

Earlier this year the students at the elementary school where I teach (John F. Long Elementary School, Phoenix) sent a framed and mounted poem to you entitled "Challenger". I am the author of that poem, and at that time I included a note to you that stated the poem was in the process of being copyrighted.

I now have the copyright number and would like to pass it on to you. It is: TXu 287-398.

My best wishes to your faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

Christine Eaton

Christine Eaton

CHALLENGER

The heart that should have soared today
Is broken with sorrow and grief.
The shuttle mission with such hopes
Was shattered beyond my belief.

The sight before has always brought
Me wonder and envy and pride.
But today my eyes filled with horror
As I watched how our astronauts died.

Seven of them, and all special,
But a special kinship with one--
A teacher thirsting for knowledge,
Thrilled in taking off toward the sun.

The lesson that she taught today
And with such a terrible cost,
Is that in reaching for the stars
Some Americans will be lost.

I'm sure that she would say go on
To explore and take risks and fly,
In spite of the gripping explosion
That shattered the cool blue sky.

So students remember the lesson
And do not let up on the pace.
Make the sacrifice count for something
And continue our flights into space.

January 28, 1986

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