Dear Mr. Princepal

I am very sorry and sad about the death of your beloved teacher Christa McAuliff. The night of the explosion at approximitely 9:30 pm (cst) I ~~wo~~ wrote the following short story.

I would appreciate it if you would read this note and the story to the school.

Please if possible send me a reply that you got this letter

Thank you,

Scott Moody

Scott Moody
P.O. Box 66
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Dawn breaks and the astronauts head for their R.V. to take them to their shuttle.

All the children at the Concord, NH school were in auditoriums waiting to see their teacher become the first civilian teacher in space. In fact, the first civilian to go into space.

One third grade class from her school was there to see it all first hand, along with her parents, husband and children.

The launch was delayed for a couple of hours, then the R.V. took them to their shuttle where they boarded and went through all prelaunch checks. Everything was running smoothly.

The young teacher's parents, husband, children, and third grade class were in the V.I.P. stands ignoring the bitter cold.

Then at 10:37 AM, they heard 5- 4- 3- 2- 1, ignition, liftoff...."Challenger, you have cleared the tower" was heard from the loudspeaker.

All the students at her school were cheering wildly along with everybody in the V.I.P. stands, but then at 10:40 AM all the cheering stopped. Everybody gazed at the sky and monitors. What they saw was what looked like a huge fireball out of hell containing their beloved teacher and the six other fellow officers of the space shuttle Challenger.

Her parents clung to each other and sobbed and so did almost everybody in Concord's auditorium.

Debris fell from the sky for 45 minutes. Immediately rescue ships, Coast Guard ships, helicopters and fixed winged planes were soon combing the water 18 miles off the coast where the explosion took place. It was soon dark and the search ended.

One of the NASA's officials pronounced that all seven members of the Challenger perished in the explosion. But then they saw one parachute falling from the sky, 1% out of 200% of hope lost was gained back, but then lost as the parachute was a single rocket booster. At 1 PM all school was closed at Concord.

The only thing on the television was news of the crash.

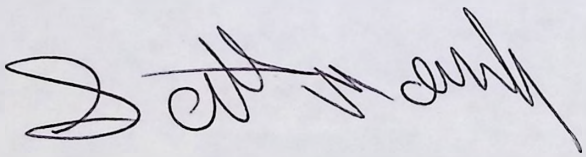
President Reagan who was in a meeting when he got the news, quickly adjourned the meeting and postponed his address to the nation. They all went to Reagan's study, where they watched replays of the explosion.

Nancy Reagan was in her study watching the launch live. Her words when she saw the explosion were "My God No!" President Reagan in a radio address said, "This is a day of national mourning."

At 10 PM CST, search teams were still searching the Atlantic waters. Pieces of the orbiter have been found.

This preceding story has been a true experience and will be remembered for years to come as the worst space explosion in U. S. History.

Tuesday, January 28, 1986



Scott Moody