

"Reading Never Sounded So Good!"

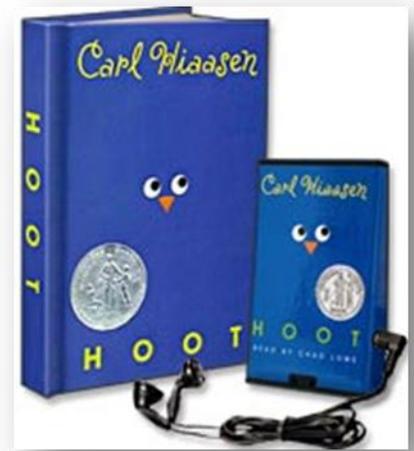
Introducing Our New Playaway Collection

Parent/Guardian Permission Letter:

Fourth and fifth grade students who return the below "ticket" will be able to begin checking out "Playaway Pairs" during the week of

October 6 - 10.

Please read the below letter for additional information.



To the Parents/Guardians of Fourth and Fifth Grade Students:

I am pleased to unveil a new "Audio Collection" within Oakland Elementary School's Library Media Center! After applying for and receiving three separate grants totaling \$1500.00, fourth and fifth grade students can now borrow the latest in reading technology – "Playaway Pairs." A Playaway is a small, iPod-like device pre-loaded with an audio book. Any standard set of headphones or "earbuds" can be plugged into the side of the device for listening. Each Playaway is housed in the library next to its matching print book. Through the grants described above, Oakland Elementary School now boasts a collection of over 30 "Playaway Pairs."

While applying for these grants in the past six months, I have previewed the devices with students and asked for input in making selections. Titles from a variety of genres and lexile ranges are available. Students have been anticipating the chance to begin borrowing these sets from our Library Media Center, and I am confident each student will enjoy this new privilege. **Now that we have finished preparing the actual books and Playaways for checkout, I wanted to clearly communicate the "checkout expectations" with students and parents.**

Fourth and fifth grade students are generally very responsible returning their library books and handling them with care. If a book is damaged—by food/liquids, coloring, intentional tearing, etc.—s/he is expected to reimburse the book's monetary value. This guideline will be the same for print books associated with the "Playaway Pairs." The actual Playaways range from \$34.95 to \$74.95 in cost. If a Playaway is damaged beyond repair while checked out to a fourth or fifth grade student—this could include, but is not limited to, stepping on the unit or losing the unit—s/he will be expected to pay the monetary value. Each Playaway will be checked out in a protective case resembling a plastic V.H.S. box. Students are not expected to replace the battery, but are welcome to do so with parent supervision and permission. Replacement AAA batteries will be available in the Library Media Center office.

For hygienic reasons, students will be expected to use their own headphones or "earbuds." Each classroom has been equipped with two or three pairs of headphones for in-school use. Students will be expected to use their own headphones/"earbuds" while using the Playaway at home. Each case includes an enclosure describing how to operate the Playaway. The *rate of reading*, or speed, can be adjusted to meet your child's needs. **Please encourage your child to follow the actual printed book while enjoying the Playaway.**

"Playaway Pairs" are excellent tools to support our children's literary development. If you are in agreement with the responsibilities described, please indicate your permission by completing the below "ticket." Please keep this letter and **send only the ticket to school with your child.** During this week's Library Media Center classes, I will reinforce the described expectations and guidelines, as well as demonstrate how to operate the units. "Playaway Pairs" will then be loaned on a first-come, first-served basis. **Isn't it amazing how the printed book and today's technology can now work hand-in-hand?!?**

Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Amy Oberts
Media Specialist



Playaway Pair Permission Ticket



We have read the above letter and agree to the check-out expectations and responsibilities:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Name (Print): _____ 5-Digit I.D.: _____

Student Signature: _____ Class: _____