

Name: _____

Welcome to _____ Grade!

I am so glad to have your child this year! I'm looking forward to a year of learning and growing together. We love to read and share books in our class. One of my favorites to begin the year with is *The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant. It is the story of a large rural Appalachian family that drives to visit relatives for the summer. There is plenty of love, sharing, lots of hugging, and a sadness when the summer draws to an end and the relatives must leave.

To celebrate this book and the beginning of a new school year, I would like to invite all parents to come to our classroom on _____ at _____ for a "Read-along" with your child. This visit will be a secret - a surprise for your child when you arrive en masse, just like *The Relatives* from our story.

If you are able to come, I ask that you bring some things with you:

- A blanket or quilt to sit/lay.
- A snack - The relatives in our story came with baskets of bologna sandwiches, purple grapes, saltines, strawberries, peaches and soda pop. Bring your favorite snacks for long car rides!
- A pile of favorite books you can read with your child. You'll spend the rest of the afternoon reading and sharing that special closeness that only relatives can.

- Optional: If you would like to dress like a rural relative - kerchieves around your hair included, we would love it.

If you are not able to join us, we understand. I know it sometimes hard to attend functions during the school day. If this is the case, we would love to have another relative or family friend come in your place. If not, I know we have parents who will “adopt” a son or daughter for the afternoon.

Please let me know of your plans by filling out the attached form and returning it to me in a sealed envelope by

(Date)_____.

Remember - this visit is a secret! If you plan on attending, I will send home more information after I receive your RSVP.

Sincerely,