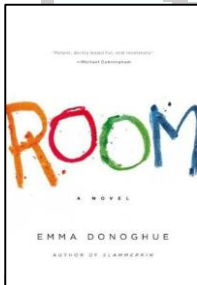




**Fr. Michael Goetz Library Learning Commons
Teacher's Book Review**



Room, Emma Donoghue
Reviewed by Ms. Cosgrove, April 25th, 2012.

A young girl is abducted and held captive in a room measuring 11 feet by 11 feet. She is impregnated by the man, who holds her captive for seven years. When her child reaches the age of five, she decides she must risk their lives by attempting a daring escape which she will plan and her child will execute.

The book explores a variety of subjects. One of them is the nature of perception. The little boy has been raised to believe that the entire world is contained within the room. He and his mother are allowed to have a small television and the world he views on the screen is, to him, an imaginary world. His mother nurtures this perception in order to spare him the horror of his own reality. When confronted finally with the real world and all of its sensory stimulation, the little boy and his mother must learn to adapt. The first exposure to rain is a cherished moment for the mother. For her son, however, the experience is threatening and bewildering. Ultimately the book is about the power of resilience in our lives and despite the horror of what happened to these two individuals, the underlying mood of the book is one of hope.

The story is told through the eyes of the child. What we learn about their life in the room, their escape and their new life on the outside is limited to his five year old perspective and it creates moments that range from utter sadness to extreme tenderness. I loved this book because it challenged me to think about my own existence by asking those two important words which frame so many good books – what if.