



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



11/22/63, Stephen King
Reviewed by Ms. Cosgrove, September 19th, 2012.

I think that just about everyone has wanted, at some point in their lives, to go back in time to change an event – whether it is something beyond our control or a response, perhaps, that we have regretted. This book proposes something even bigger. What if there existed a portal, which could be used to transport a person back in time to undo cataclysmic events? What if the tape of significant historic events could be rewound and edited? Just think of the implications. An individual could have the potential to prevent the sinking of the Titanic or the bombing of Hiroshima. But, things are never as easy as they sound, especially in works of fiction.

The courageous and slightly quirky protagonist in this book sets out to prevent the assassination of John F. Kennedy, convinced that by doing so the world would be a better place in his timeframe and his future. There are complications. Enter “the butterfly effect”. Preventing something bad from happening in the past has a domino effect and it does not always mean that something good will happen, in the future, as a result. Additionally, he discovers that the past is obdurate, a word that the author uses over and over again. The past doesn’t want to change. The past is stubborn. The past will resist change and the more historically significant the event is, the greater the number of obstacles will be met by the individual who seeks to change it. Some of those obstacles will be life-threatening.

This book is rich in character development, plot twists, and suspense. It’s a classic page turner, with a romantic sub-plot as an added bonus. What more could a reader want? Weighing in at 849 pages, the book is a commitment, but one that will not disappoint.