

2016-2017 – Instructional Novels 6th – 12th Grades

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
6th Grade	<u>The Skin I'm In</u>	Sharon G. Flake	Realistic Fiction	Bullying, Middle School, Diversity, Overcoming Adversity	Winner of a Coretta Scott King/ John Steptoe New Talent Award, <u>The Skin I'm In</u> tells the story of Maleeka Madison, a middle school student who is tormented daily by her peers. Maleeka is bullied because she is "different," due to her dark skin, homemade clothes, and good grades. When a new teacher with a strange birthmark on her face takes a special interest in helping her, Maleeka fears things will get worse for her at school. Soon she finds that the new teacher has a lot to teach her about accepting yourself and standing up to others.
	<u>Peak</u>	Roland Smith	Fiction-Adventure	Family, Decisions and Consequences, Overcoming Adversity, Sacrifice	"You can never tell who the mountain will allow and who it will not." After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for climbing a skyscraper in New York City, he is sent to live with his father, the famous climber. Peak soon learns that his father has big plans for him- he wants Peak to be the youngest climber to summit Mount Everest. As he climbs, Peak learns about his father's true intentions, as well as important lessons about sacrifice, family, and friendship. Will Peak make it to the top? You need to read to find out!
	<u>The Egypt Games</u>	Zilpha Keatley Snyder	Myster and Suspense	Relationships, Friendship, Make-believe, Creativity and Imagination	The first time Melanie Ross meets April Hall, She's not sure they'll have anything in common, but she soon discovers that they both love anything to do with ancient Egypt. When they stumble upon a deserted storage yard behind the A-Z Antiques and Curio Shop, Melanie and April decide it's the perfect spot for the Egypt Game. Before long there are six Egyptians instead of two. After school and on weekends they all meet to wear costumes, hold ceremonies and work on their secret code. Everyone thinks it's just a game, until strange things begin happening to the players. Has the Egypt Game gone too far?
	<u>Wringer</u>	Jerry Spinelli	Realistic Fiction	Confronting Fears, Feelings and Emotions, Family, Honor, Leadership, Friendship, and Trust	For as long as Palmer LaRue can remember, he has dreaded the day he will turn ten and must take his place beside the other 10-year-old boys in town and become a wringer, a tradition passed down from father to son. From Newbery Medal Winner Jerry Spinelli comes a gripping tale of how one boy learns how to overcome his fears.

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6th Grade	<u>The Running Dream</u>	Wendelin VanDraanen	Realistic Fiction	Challenges, Overcoming Adversity, Disabilities, Track and Field	Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope with crutches and a first cyborg-like prosthetic, Jessica feels oddly both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say, act like she's not there; which she could handle better if she weren't now keenly aware that she'd done the same thing herself to a girl with CP named Rosa; a girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed, a girl who sees right into the heart of her. With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself; she wants to take Rosa with her.
	<u>Pinballs</u>	Betsy Byars	Realistic Fiction	Family, Decisions and Consequences, Overcoming Adversity, Adoption and Foster Care	You can't always decide where life will take you, especially when you're a kid. Carlie knows she has no say in what happens to her. Stuck in a foster home with two other kids, Harvey and Thomas J, she's just a pinball being bounced from bumper to bumper. As soon as she gets settled, somebody puts another coin in the machine and off she goes again. But against her will and her better judgment, Carlie and the boys become friends. And all three of them start to see that they can take control of their own lives.
	<u>No More Dead Dogs</u>	Gordon Korman	Comedy and Humor	Truth and Lies, Peer Pressure, Friendship, Drama, Football	Nobody understands Wallace Wallace. This reluctant school football hero has been suspended from the team for writing an unfavorable book report of Old Shep, My Pal. But Wallace won't tell a lie — he hated every minute of the book! Why does the dog in every classic novel have to croak at the end? After refusing to do a rewrite, his English teacher, who happens to be directing the school play Old Shep, My Pal, forces him to go to the rehearsals as punishment. Although Wallace doesn't change his mind, he does end up changing the play into a rock-and-roll rendition, complete with rollerblades and a moped!
	<u>Anything But Typical</u>	Nora Raleigh Baskin	Realistic Fiction	Overcoming Challenges and Obstacles	Jason Blake is an autistic 12-year-old living in a neurotypical world. Most days it's just a matter of time before something goes wrong. But Jason finds a glimmer of understanding when he comes across Phoenix Bird, who posts stories to the same online site as he does. Jason can be himself when he writes and he thinks that Phoenix Bird — her name is Rebecca — could be his first real friend. But as desperate as Jason is to meet her, he's terrified that if they do meet, Rebecca will only see his autism and not who Jason really is.

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6th Grade	<u>39 Clues The Maze of Bones</u>	Rick Riordan	Adventure, Mystery, Suspense	Relationships, Decisions and Consequences, Teamwork, and Cooperation	Minutes before she died, Grace Cahill changed her will, leaving her descendants and impossible decision: “You have a choice – one million dollars or a clue. Grace is the last matriarch of the Cahills, the world’s most powerful family. Everyone from Napoleon to Houdini is related to the Cahills, yet the source of the family power is lost. 39 clues hidden around the world will reveal the family’s secret, but no one has been able to assemble them. Now the clues race on, and young Amy and Dan must decide what’s important: hunting clues or uncovering what REALLY happened to their parents.
	<u>Out of My Mind</u>	Sharon M. Draper	Realistic Fiction	Overcoming Challenges and Obstacles, Family Life and Disabilities	Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. Always. And there’s no delete button. She’s the smartest kind in her whole school, but no one knows it. Most people – her teachers and doctors included – don’t think she’s capable of learning, and until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows...but she can’t, because Melody can’t talk. She can’t walk. She can’t write. Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind – that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice, but not everyone around here is ready to hear it.
	<u>The Missing Found</u>	Irene Hunt	Mystery and Suspense, Science Fiction, Fantasy	Confronting Fears, Friendship, Trust, and Bravery	One night a plane appeared out of nowhere, the only passengers aboard: thirty-six babies. As soon as they were taken off the plane, it vanished. Now, thirteen years later, two of those children are receiving sinister messages, and they begin to investigate their past. Their quest to discover where they really came from leads them to a conspiracy that reaches from the far past to the distant future – and will take them hurtling through time.
	<u>A Strong Right Arm</u>	Michelle Y. Green	Nonfiction-Biography	Civil Rights, Prejudice, Overcoming Adversity	Mamie “Peanut” Johnson was born to play baseball at a time when baseball was not ready for her. Baseball was a sport dominated by white men, not black women. Despite the obstacles, Mamie follows her dream and becomes one of only three women to play in the Negro Baseball Leagues. <u>A Strong Right Arm</u> follows Mamie’s life story and shows the importance of believing in yourself, despite the opinions of other.

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6th Grade	<u>Notes from the Midnight Driver</u>	Jordan Sonnenblick	Realistic Fiction	Relationships, Decisions and Consequences, Coming of Age	Alex’s life is complicated- his parents are separated, his father is dating his third-grade teacher, and he is a nerdy kid trying to make it through high school. When a plan to get back at his dad backfires, Alex is sentenced to community service at a local nursing home. That is where Alex meets his biggest challenge yet- Solomon Lewis, a “difficult” senior citizen that Alex has been assigned to help. Through each other, Alex and Solomon begin to learn a great deal about the importance of family, forgiveness, and keeping a sense of humor even when times are tough.
	<u>The Lottery Rose</u>	Irene Hunt	Realistic Fiction	Abuse, Grief, Loss, Friendship, Trust	In <u>The Lottery Rose</u> , seven-year-old Georgie Burgess does not know what love is. Abused by his mother and her boyfriend, and tormented by his teacher and classmates, Georgie only knows meanness in life and retreats into a fantasy world of flowers and gardens that he saw in a book. When Georgie wins a rosebush in a grocery store lottery, he gives it all the love and care that he never received. Things get complicated when the court sends Georgie to a boarding school for boys. There, Georgie struggles to care for his prize, while learning the true meaning of trust, friendship, and love.
	<u>Someone Named Eva</u>	Joan M. Wolf	Historical Fiction	World War II/ Holocaust, Family, Friendship, Prejudice	Milada is a normal eleven-year-old girl living in Czechoslovakia during World War II. Despite the war, Milada enjoys life with her family and spending time with her best friend, Terezie. Without warning, Milada’s life is ripped apart when Nazi soldiers come one night and take her away. She is sent to a camp in Poland with other girls who look like her to learn to be “good German girls”. Will Milada remember who she really is, or will she become who the Nazis want her to be?
7th Grade	<u>Shooting Kabul</u>	N.H. Senai	Realistic Fiction	Multicultural	Beginning in the months before 9/11, this novel follows an Afghan family's emigration to San Francisco. After receiving a PhD in the U.S. and returning to Kabul to help rebuild the country, Fadi's father has grown disillusioned with the Taliban, he pays human traffickers to smuggle his family into Pakistan. Senzai educates readers about U.S. involvement in Afghanistan and Afghan cultural diversity.
	<u>Standing Against the Wind</u>	Traci L. Jones	Realistic Fiction	African American/Teen Issues	<u>Standing Against the Wind</u> is the story of a girl who overcomes the odds to pursue her dreams, despite the harshness of life around her that she can’t escape. This shy teenager has been moved from her home in rural Georgia to inner-city Chicago and things aren’t working out well. When she hears about scholarships to a prestigious African-American boarding school in Mississippi, it seems like a dream come true and a way out of a place where she doesn’t belong. It’s an inspirational story, but also a very real one.

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7th Grade	<u>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</u>	Mildred D. Taylor	Historical Fiction	African American History, Prejudice and Tolerance	Winner of the 1977 Newbery Medal and nominated for the National Book Award, the story of Cassie Logan is culled from author Mildred Taylor’s own family’s life. Having land gives the Logan children an emotional foundation as they begin to notice the difference between how white children and black children are treated in the Jim Crow South of the Great Depression. The family learns the hard way that having a place they can call their own in rural Mississippi permits them the luxuries of pride and courage that their poor black sharecropper neighbors can’t afford.
	<u>Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths</u>	Bernard Evslin	Mythology/ Classic Literature		The legends of Zeus, Perseus, Apollo, Odysseus and other heroic characters are brought to life in both collections of stories from Greek Mythology.
	<u>The Wanderings of Odysseus</u>	Rosemary Sutcliff	Mythology/ Classic Literature		The legends of Zeus, Perseus, Apollo, Odysseus and other heroic characters are brought to life in both collections of stories from Greek Mythology.
	<u>Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie</u>	Jordan Sonneblick	Realistic Fiction	Grief, Loss, Middle School, Relationships	This brave and beautiful story will make readers laugh, and break their hearts at the same time. Steven has a totally normal life (well, almost). He plays drums in the All-City Jazz Band, has a crush on the hottest girl in school and is constantly annoyed by his younger brother, Jeffrey (who is cuter than cute - which is also pretty annoying). But when Jeffrey gets sick, Steven's world is turned upside down, and he is forced to deal with his brother's illness, his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece, his homework, the band, girls, and Dangerous Pie (yes, you'll have to read the book to find out what that is!).
	<u>The Revealers</u>	Doug Wilhelm	Fiction	Bullying, Middle School, Facing adversity, diversity	Parkland Middle School is a place the students call Darkland, because no one in it does much to stop the daily harassment of kids by other kids. Three bullied seventh graders use their smarts to get the better of their tormentors by starting an unofficial e-mail forum at school in which they publicize their experiences. <i>Unexpectedly</i> , lots of other kids come forward to confess their similar troubles, and it becomes clear that the problem at their school is bigger than anyone knew.

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7th Grade	<u>The Golden Fleece and the Heroes Who Lived Before Achilles</u>	Padraic Colum	Mythology/ Classic Literature		Padraic Colum tells the story of Jason, the Argonauts, and their quest for the Golden Fleece in this stirring introduction to classic This Newberry Honor book features heroes Heracles, Theseus, Perseus, and Atalanta. They all travel with Jason in the ship ARGO as he journeys to strange lands inhabited by strange beings. During the voyage, the famous Greek storyteller, Orpheus, sings about the gods and goddesses and the creation of heaven and earth in stories within the story. Populating Colum’s pages are magical golden apples, comical battles between mice and frogs, beautiful nymphs, powerful sorceresses, a monster that is half-bull and half-man, and shoes that can make the wearer fly. All this and more await readers who long to escape from the ordinariness of everyday life and into the fantastic world of the ancient Greek epics.
8th Grade	<u>The Outsiders</u>	S.E. Hinton	Classic; Realistic Fiction	Bullying, Friendship, Coming of Age	<i>The Outsiders</i> is a classic, coming of age novel first published in 1967. The book follows two rival groups, the Greasers and the Socs who are divided by their socioeconomic status. When two of the Greasers are assaulted by the Socs, tension rises between the two groups – setting off a turbulent chain of events.
	<u>First They Killed My Father</u>	Loung Ung	Non-Fiction, Memoir	World History; Character and Values	A memoir of Loung Ung - one of seven children of a high-ranking government official. She lived a privileged life in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh until the age of five. Unfortunately, in April of 1975, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge army stormed into the city, forcing Ung's family to flee and, eventually, to disperse. Loung was trained as a child soldier in a work camp for orphans. Her siblings were sent to labor camps, and those who survived the horrors would not be reunited until the Khmer Rouge was destroyed. Loung's story is an unforgettable account of a family shaken and shattered, yet miraculously sustained by courage and love in the face of unspeakable brutality.
	<u>Forgotten Fire</u> Independent Reading	Adam Bagdasarian	Historical Fiction	European History, World War I, Tolerance, Acceptance, Survival	It is 1915, and Vahan Kendarian, the youngest son of one of the most influential Armenian families in Turkey, is confident that his privileged world will always include the house he loves, the laughter of his brothers and sisters, a sense of belonging. But when his uncle disappears and his father is taken away, when two brothers are shot before his eyes in the family garden, Vahan's world shatters. "Be steel", his father had always said when something tested the young boy's character. "Steel is made strong by fire". Based on the experiences of the author's great-uncle during the Armenian Holocaust, <i>Forgotten Fire</i> is the story of one boy's search for the survivor inside himself. It is the story of a lost nation — a powerful celebration of the resilience of the human spirit during the darkest of times.

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8 th Grade	<u>Diary of Anne Frank</u> Independent Reading	Anne Frank	Classic, Diary/Journal Nonfiction	World War II, Holocaust, Tolerance and Acceptance	Anne Frank's diary has become a world classic — a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, Anne and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death.
	<u>The Rock and the River</u>	Kekla Magoon	Historical and Realistic Fiction	African American Civil Rights, Tolerance and Acceptance	2010 Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award Winner. This novel is about thirteen-year-old Sam who struggles with being the son of a known civil rights activist. Sam has always had faith in his father, but when he finds literature about the Black Panthers under his much older best friend Stick's bed, he's not sure who to believe: his father or his best friend.
	<u>The Giver</u>	Lois Lowry	Science Fiction	Civics and Government, Family Life, Leadership and Courage	Jonas lives in a perfect world. There is no war or fear of pain. There are no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. In December, the time of the annual ceremony in which each twelve-year-old receives a life assignment determined by the Elders, Jonas is given a special assignment. When his selection leads him to an unnamed man — the man called only the Giver — he begins to sense the dark secrets that underlie the fragile perfection of his world.
	<u>Fahrenheit 451</u>	Ray Bradbury	Science Fiction	Civil Rights, Courage/Bravery, Heroism	Nowadays firemen start fires. Fireman Guy Montag loves to rush to a fire and watch books burn up. The system was simple. Everyone understood it. Books were burning — along with the houses in which they were hidden. Then he met a seventeen-year old girl who told him of a past when people were not afraid, and a professor who told him of a future in which people could think — and Guy Montag suddenly realized what he had to do.
	<u>Secret Life of Bees</u>	Sue Monk Kidd	Historical Fiction	African American Women History, Country Life, Tolerance and Acceptance	Set in the turbulent 1960s, fourteen-year-old Lily lost her mother in a gun accident ten years ago and has lived a decade of loneliness and abuse at the hands of her father. Ultimately, Lily and her nanny run away from home. Ms. Kidd explores Lily's search for the truth about her mother; her courage to tear down racial barriers and her joy as she claims her place within a community of women. <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> gives the reader a look at what it was like to be African American in the southern region of the United States.

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8 th Grade	<u>The Book Thief</u>	Markus Zusak	Historical Fiction	World War II, Holocaust, Family and Friendship, Prejudice and Tolerance	Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist, books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.
	<u>Chains</u>	Laurie Halse Anderson	Historical Fiction; Multicultural	Colonial and Revolutionary America War, Slavery, Underground Railroad, Survival	As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate, become the property of a malicious New York City couple. The Locktons have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide for her freedom. FYI: This novel is used by the 8th grade US History teachers.
	<u>Berlin Boxing Club</u> Independent Reading	Robert Sharenow	Historical Fiction	World War II, Holocaust, Family and Friendship, Prejudice and Tolerance	Fourteen-year-old Karl Stern has never thought of himself as a Jew. But to the bullies at his school in Naziera Berlin, it doesn't matter that Karl has never set foot in a synagogue or that his family doesn't practice religion. Demoralized by relentless attacks on a heritage he doesn't accept as his own, Karl longs to prove his worth to everyone around him. So when Max Schmeling, champion boxer and German national hero, makes a deal with Karl's father to give Karl boxing lessons, Karl sees it as the perfect chance to reinvent himself. A skilled cartoonist, Karl has never had an interest in boxing, but as Max becomes the mentor Karl never had, Karl soon finds both his boxing skills and his art flourishing. But when Nazi violence against Jews escalates, Karl must take on a new role: protector of his family. Karl longs to ask his new mentor for help, but with Max's fame growing, he is forced to associate with Hitler and other Nazi elites, leaving Karl to wonder where his hero's sympathies truly lie. Can Karl balance his dream of boxing greatness with his obligation to keep his family out of harm's way?

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8 th Grade	<u>Between Shades of Gray</u> Independent Reading	Ruta Sepetys	Historical Fiction	World War II, Holocaust, Family, Hope	Lina is just like any other fifteen-year-old Lithuanian girl in 1941. She paints, she draws, she gets crushes on boys. Until one night when Soviet officers barge into her home, tearing her family from the comfortable life they've known. Separated from her father, forced onto a crowded and dirty train car, Lina, her mother, and her young brother slowly make their way north, crossing the Arctic Circle, to a work camp in the coldest reaches of Siberia. Here they are forced, under Stalin's orders, to dig for beets and fight for their lives under the cruelest of conditions. Lina finds solace in her art, meticulously--and at great risk--documenting events by drawing, hoping these messages will make their way to her father's prison camp to let him know they are still alive. It is a long and harrowing journey, spanning years and covering 6,500 miles, but it is through incredible strength, love, and hope that Lina ultimately survives.
	<u>Prisoner B-3087</u> Independent Reading	Ruth and Jack Gruener, Alan Gratz	Historical Fiction	World War II, Holocaust, Hope	Survive. At any cost. 10 concentration camps. 10 different places where you are starved, tortured, and worked mercilessly. It's something no one could imagine surviving. But it is what Yanek Gruener has to face. As a Jewish boy in 1930s Poland, Yanek is at the mercy of the Nazis who have taken over. Everything he has, and everyone he loves, have been snatched brutally from him. And then Yanek himself is taken prisoner, his arm tattooed with the words PRISONER B-3087. He is forced from one nightmarish concentration camp to another, as World War II rages all around him. He encounters evil he could have never imagined, but also sees surprising glimpses of hope amid the horror. He just barely escapes death, only to confront it again seconds later. Can Yanek make it through the terror without losing his hope, his will — and, most of all, his sense of who he really is inside?
Freshmen English	<u>To Kill a Mockingbird</u>	Harper Lee	Classic Literature	Family Relationships; Racial Prejudice	Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with rich humor and unswerving honesty the irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence, and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina and quiet heroism of one man's struggle for justice--but the weight of history will only tolerate so much.

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Freshmen English	<u>Catcher in the Rye</u>	J.D. Salinger	Classic Literature	Coming of Age; Alienation; Teen Issues	Holden Caulfield narrates the story of a couple of days in his sixteen-year-old life, just after he's been expelled from prep school.
	<u>Romeo and Juliet</u>	William Shakespeare	Drama	Shakespearean Tragedies; English Literature; Conflict; Romance	Romeo who is a member of the house of Montague falls in love with Juliet who is a member of the house of Capulet. The Montagues and the Capulets have been engaged in a feud for many years and as such the love between Romeo and Juliet is forbidden. Written near the end of the 16th century, "Romeo and Juliet," which is one of Shakespeare's earliest dramas, is the story of love that can never be realized and the tragedy that ensues.
Honors Freshmen English	<u>1984</u>	George Orwell	Fiction	Dystopia; Science Fiction; Government	Winston Smith, a worker at the Ministry of Truth in the future political entity of Oceania, puts his life on the line when he joins a covert brotherhood in rebelling against the Party that controls all human thought and action.
	<u>Native Son</u>	Richard Wright	Historical Fiction	African Americans; Crime; Race Relations	Right from the start, Bigger Thomas had been headed for jail. It could have been for assault or petty larceny. <u>Native Son</u> tells the story of this young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Wright's powerful novel is an unsparing reflection on the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America.
	<u>The Namesake</u>	Jhumpa Lahiri	Realistic Fiction	Family Relationships; Immigration; Identity	Gogol Ganguli a young man born of Indian parents in America struggles with issues of identity from his teens to his thirties. Lahiri brings great empathy to Gogol as he stumbles along the first-generation path, strewn with conflicting loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs. With penetrating insight, she reveals not only the defining power of the names and expectations bestowed upon us by our parents, but also the means by which we slowly, sometimes painfully, come to define ourselves.
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Sophomore English	<u>Antigone</u>	Sophocles	Drama	Greek Mythology; Tragedies	The daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta, Antigone is an unconventional heroine who pits her beliefs against the King of Thebes in a bloody test of wills that leaves few unharmed. Emotions fly as she challenges the king for the right to bury her own brother. Determined but doomed, Antigone shows her inner strength throughout the play. Antigone raises issues of law and morality that are just as relevant today as they were more than two thousand years ago. Whether this is your first reading or your twentieth, Antigone will move you as few pieces of literature can.
	<u>Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian</u>	Sherman Alexie	Fiction	Native Americans; Race Relations; Social Issues	Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.
	<u>Night</u>	Elie Wiesel	Autobiography	Holocaust	<u>Night</u> -- A terrifying account of the Nazi death camp horror that turns a young Jewish boy into an agonized witness to the death of his family...the death of his innocence...and the death of his God. Penetrating and powerful, <u>Night</u> awakens the shocking memory of evil at its absolute and carries with it the unforgettable message that this horror must never be allowed to happen again.
	<u>Twelve Angry Men</u>	Reginald Rose	Drama	Crime; Capital Punishment; Interpersonal Relationships	A blistering character study and an examination of the American melting pot and the judicial system that keeps it in check, <u>Twelve Angry Men</u> holds at its core a deeply patriotic belief in the U.S. legal system. The story's focal point, known only as Juror Eight, is at first the sole holdout in an 11-1 guilty vote. Eight sets his sights not on proving the other jurors wrong but rather on getting them to look at the situation in a clear-eyed way not affected by their personal biases. Rose deliberately and carefully peels away the layers of artifice from the men and allows a fuller picture of America, at its best and worst, to form.

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Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
Sophomore English	<u>Warriors Don't Cry</u>	Melba Beals	Memoir	African Americans; Civil Rights; Integration; Facing Adversity	In 1957, well before Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Melba Pattillo Beals and eight other teenagers became iconic symbols for the Civil Rights Movement and the dismantling of Jim Crow in the American South as they integrated Little Rock's Central High School in the wake of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, Brown v. Board of Education. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob's rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down.
	<u>Interpreter of Maladies</u>	Jhumpa Lahiri	Short Stories	Social Customs; Indian American Culture	Winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Navigating between the Indian traditions they've inherited and a baffling new world, the characters in Lahiri's elegant, touching stories seek love beyond the barriers of culture and generations.
	<u>A Thousand Splendid Suns</u>	Khaled Hosseini	Fiction	Intergenerational Relationships; Friendship; Afghan History	Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them-in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul--they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival.
Honors Sophomore English	<u>Gilgamesh</u>	Unknown	Epic Poem	Friendship; Death; Mortality	Centers on the great king of Uruk & his futile quest for immortality. It recounts Gilgamesh's arduous journey to the Spring of Youth, his encounters with monsters & gods, & his friendship with Enkidu, the wild man from the hills.
	<u>Iliad</u>	Homer	Epic Poem	Trojan War; Greek Mythology	War, glory, despair, and mourning: for 2,700 years the Iliad has gripped listeners and readers with the story of Achilles' anger and Hector's death. This tragic episode during the siege of Troy, sparked by a quarrel between the leader of the Greek army and its mightiest warrior, Achilles, is played out between mortals and gods, with devastating human consequences.
	<u>Dante's Inferno</u>	Dante Alighieri	Epic Poem	Italian Poetry	Dante's dramatic journey through the circles of hell in search of redemption; and his encounter with devils, monsters, and the souls of some of the greatest sinners who ever walked on earth; is one of the cornerstones of Western literature, the summit of medieval thinking, and arguably the highest poetic achievement of all time.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
Honors Sophomore English	<u>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</u>	Robert Louis Stevenson	Classic Literature	Good and Evil; Morality; Science	Stark, skillfully woven, this fascinating novel explores the curious turnings of human character through the strange case of Dr. Jekyll, a kindly scientist who by night takes on his stunted evil self, Mr. Hyde.
	<u>A Doll's House</u>	Henrik Ibsen	Drama	Domestic Relationships; Social Conformity; Feminist Literature	Nora Helmer, a naive and pretty wife in nineteenth-century Norway, finds herself questioning her life and marriage after her husband discovers that she forged a check when he was ill.
	<u>Night</u>	Elie Wiesel	Autobiography	Holocaust	<u>Night</u> -- A terrifying account of the Nazi death camp horror that turns a young Jewish boy into an agonized witness to the death of his family...the death of his innocence...and the death of his God. Penetrating and powerful, <u>Night</u> awakens the shocking memory of evil at its absolute and carries with it the unforgettable message that this horror must never be allowed to happen again.
	<u>Metamorphosis</u>	Franz Kafka	Fiction	Alienation; Social Isolation; Psychological Fiction	<u>The Metamorphosis</u> is the story of a young man who, transformed overnight into a giant beetlelike insect, becomes an object of disgrace to his family, an outsider in his own home, a quintessentially alienated man. A harrowing -- though absurdly comic -- meditation on human feelings of inadequacy, guilt, and isolation, <u>The Metamorphosis</u> has taken its place as one of the most widely read and influential works of twentieth-century fiction.
	<u>Farewell to Manzanar</u>	Jeanne W. & James D. Houston	Memoir	WWII; Internment Camps; Japanese Americans	Jeanne Wakatsuki was seven years old in 1942 when her family was uprooted from their home and sent to live at Manzanar internment camp--with 10,000 other Japanese Americans. Along with searchlight towers and armed guards, Manzanar ludicrously featured cheerleaders, Boy Scouts, sock hops, baton twirling lessons and a dance band called the Jive Bombers who would play any popular song except the nation's #1 hit: "Don't Fence Me In." <u>Farewell to Manzanar</u> is the true story of one spirited Japanese-American family's attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention . . . and of a native-born American child who discovered what it was like to grow up behind barbed wire in the United States.
Junior English	<u>There Are No Children Here</u>	Alex Kotlowitz	Non-Fiction	Case Studies; Social Issues; Children; Inner Cities	This is the moving and powerful account of two remarkable boys struggling to survive in Chicago's Henry Horner Homes, a public housing complex disfigured by crime and neglect.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
Junior English	<u>The Great Gatsby</u>	F. Scott Fitzgerald	Classic Literature	Revenge; Love; Upper Class; Isolation	The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald's third book, stands as the supreme achievement of his career. This exemplary novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby, his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, and of lavish parties on Long Island.
	<u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u>	Zora Neale Hurston	Fiction	African Americans; Psychological Fiction	One of the most important works of twentieth-century American literature, Zora Neale Hurston's beloved 1937 classic, <u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u> , is an enduring Southern love story sparkling with wit, beauty, and heartfelt wisdom. Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams, it is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose. A true literary wonder, Hurston's masterwork remains as relevant and affecting today as when it was first published--perhaps the most widely read and highly regarded novel in the entire canon of African American literature.
	<u>The Crucible</u>	Arthur Miller	Drama	Historical Fiction; Witchcraft; Conflict	As a wave of anti-communist investigations swept across American society during the 1950s, Miller exposed the horror of such witch-hunts by retelling the story of the infamous Salem witch trials in Massachusetts in 1692.
	<u>A Raisin in the Sun</u>	Lorraine Hansberry	Drama	African Americans; Family Relationships	In 1950s Chicago, three generations of Youngers live in a run-down apartment. As these black Americans struggle to overcome a variety of challenges, hope suddenly looms on the horizon. The family's matriarch is poised to receive insurance money from her husband's death.
Honors Junior English	<u>There are No Children Here</u>	Alex Kotlowitz	Non-Fiction	Case Studies; Social Issues; Children; Inner Cities	This is the moving and powerful account of two remarkable boys struggling to survive in Chicago's Henry Horner Homes, a public housing complex disfigured by crime and neglect.
	<u>The Great Gatsby</u>	F. Scott Fitzgerald	Classic Literature	Revenge; Love; Upper Class; Isolation	The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald's third book, stands as the supreme achievement of his career. This exemplary novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby, his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, and of lavish parties on Long Island.
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6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
Honors Junior English	<u>Into the Wild</u>	Jon Krakauer	Non-Fiction	Adventure; Nature; Psychological Fiction	In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of <u>Into the Wild</u> .
	<u>A Raisin in the Sun</u>	Lorraine Hansberry	Drama	African Americans; Family Relationships	In 1950s Chicago, three generations of Youngers live in a run-down apartment. As these black Americans struggle to overcome a variety of challenges, hope suddenly looms on the horizon. The family's matriarch is poised to receive insurance money from her husband's death.
	<u>Tuesdays with Morrie</u>	Mitch Albom	Non-Fiction	Relationships	<i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i> is the final lesson between a college professor, Morrie, and one of his long lost students and the author of the book. After seeing his professor in an interview on the show "Nightline," the author is reminded of a promise he made sixteen years ago to keep in touch with him. Now stricken with ALS, Morrie does not have much time left, and Mitch recognizes this fact. He travels from Michigan to Massachusetts to meet with him. This meeting goes well and affects Mitch and Morrie so much that they meet for the next fourteen consecutive Tuesdays, up until Morrie passes away. During each of these meetings, they discuss a different topic about life. These topics make up the content of the book and include death, love, culture, marriage, regret and the world we live in, among many others.
	<u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u>	Zora Neale Hurston	Fiction	African Americans; Psychological Fiction	One of the most important works of twentieth-century American literature, Zora Neale Hurston's beloved 1937 classic, <u>Their Eyes Were Watching God</u> , is an enduring Southern love story sparkling with wit, beauty, and heartfelt wisdom. Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams, it is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose. A true literary wonder, Hurston's masterwork remains as relevant and affecting today as when it was first published--perhaps the most widely read and highly regarded novel in the entire canon of African American literature.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
Senior English	<u>And Then There Were None</u>	Agatha Christie	Fiction	Suspense; Thriller; Detective Mystery	First, there were ten - a curious assortment of strangers summoned as weekend guests to a private island off the coast of Devon. Their host, an eccentric millionaire unknown to all of them, is nowhere to be found. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal - and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder, and one by one they begin to fall prey to an unseen hand. As the only people on the island, unable to leave and unable to call for help, they know that the only possible suspects are among their number. And only the dead are above suspicion.
	<u>Beowulf</u>	Unknown	Epic Poem	Action & Adventure; Heroes; Warriors	Beowulf stands at the head of English literature; a poem of historical interest and epic scope. Although the first manuscript of Beowulf dates from around the year 1000 CE, it is thought that the poem existed in its present form from the year 850. Beowulf's adventures themselves stand in front of the wide historical canvas of 5th and 6th century Scandinavia. Against this heroic background of feuding and feasting, Beowulf first kills the monster Grendel and her mother, and later defends his people against a dragon in a battle that leaves them both mortally wounded.
	<u>Canterbury Tales</u>	Geoffrey Chaucer	Epic Poem	Pilgrimages; Adventure; Storytelling; British Literature	The Tales gathers twenty-nine of literature's most enduring (and endearing) characters in a vivid group portrait that captures the full spectrum of medieval society, from the exalted Knight to the humble Plowman.
	<u>Brave New World</u>	Aldous Huxley	Classic Literature	Dystopia; Political; Science Fiction; Satire	A satirical novel about the utopia of the future, a world in which babies are decanted from bottles and the great Ford is worshipped.
	<u>Othello</u>	William Shakespeare	Drama	Jealousy; Racism; Revenge; Tragedies	Othello presents William Shakespeare's tragedy in which Iago, jealous of Othello's successes in the army of Venice, plots against him, pretending to be his friend while planting seeds of doubt about the faithfulness of his wife, Desdemona.
	<u>Frankenstein</u>	Mary Shelley	Classic Literature	Science Fiction; Horror	The idea for the story came to the author, Mary Shelley, in a dream she had about a scientist who had created life and was horrified by what he had made. This Gothic-style romance is among the first of true science fiction novels, if not the first. A young scientist named Victor Frankenstein, after going through his own near-death experience, decides to play God and create life in the form of a grotesque creature, which turns into a nightmare. Through his experience, he learns that the gift of life is precious, not disposable. His journey and personal transformation has deeply affected readers.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
Honors Senior English	<u>Beowulf</u>	Unknown	Epic Poem	Action & Adventure; Heroes; Warriors	Beowulf stands at the head of English literature; a poem of historical interest and epic scope. Although the first manuscript of Beowulf dates from around the year 1000 CE, it is thought that the poem existed in its present form from the year 850. Beowulf's adventures themselves stand in front of the wide historical canvas of 5th and 6th century Scandinavia. Against this heroic background of feuding and feasting, Beowulf first kills the monster Grendel and her mother, and later defends his people against a dragon in a battle that leaves them both mortally wounded.
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	<u>The Picture of Dorian Gray</u>	Oscar Wilde	Classic Literature	Vanity; Arrogance; Corruption	Dorian Gray, a handsome young man, falls in with a group of "friends," whose amoral philosophies he finds quite appealing. After he has his portrait painted, his frivolity and general demeanor degenerate into wickedness, but only the portrait bears the effects of his descent into decadence and serves as a powerful symbol of Gray's internal ruin. Dorian himself, however, remains as young and unspoiled as the day he first sat for the painting. Wilde's exploration of life without limits or consequences shocked its late-Victorian audience and remains highly un-settling to modern readers.
	<u>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</u>	Unknown	Epic Poem	Knights of the Round Table; Arthurian Legend; Romance	Written by an anonymous fourteenth-century poet, <u>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</u> is recognized as an equal to Chaucer's masterworks and to the great Old English poems. A green-skinned knight offers the Knights of the Round Table a simple but deadly challenge--a challenge taken on by the brave Sir Gawain. A challenge that will force him to choose between his honor and his life.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
Honors Senior English	<u>Paradise Lost</u>	John Milton	Epic Poem	Biblical History; Classic Literature	A retelling of the biblical story of mankind's fall from grace, Milton's epic opens shortly after the dramatic expulsion of Satan and his army of angels from Heaven. What follows is a cosmic battle between good and evil that ranges across vast, splendid tracts of time and space, from the wild abyss of Chaos and the fiery lake of Hell to the Gate of Heaven and God's newly created paradise, the Garden of Eden. Controversy still swirls around Milton's magnificent and sympathetic characterization of Satan, a portrait so compelling that many critics have maintained that he is the true hero of the story.
	<u>Six Great Sherlock Holmes Stories</u>	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	Short Stories	Mystery; Detectives; British Literature	Undoubtedly the best-known detective in literature, Sherlock Holmes was the creation of British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930), who endowed his super sleuth with an extraordinary facility for solving crimes. Drawing on his remarkable powers of observation and deduction, coupled with an encyclopedic knowledge of crimes and criminals, Holmes seeks out his prey in the London underworld, where no evildoer is safe from his keen wits and tenacious pursuit.
	<u>And Then There Were None</u>	Agatha Christie	Fiction	Suspense; Thriller; Detective Mystery	First, there were ten - a curious assortment of strangers summoned as weekend guests to a private island off the coast of Devon. Their host, an eccentric millionaire unknown to all of them, is nowhere to be found. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal - and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder, and one by one they begin to fall prey to an unseen hand. As the only people on the island, unable to leave and unable to call for help, they know that the only possible suspects are among their number. And only the dead are above suspicion.
Drama	<u>The Odd Couple</u>	Neil Simon	Drama	Interpersonal Relationships; Humor	This classic comedy opens as a group of the guys assembled for cards in the apartment of divorced Oscar Madison. And if the mess is any indication, it's no wonder that his wife left him. Late to arrive is Felix Unger who has just been separated from his wife. Fastidious, depressed and none too tense, Felix seems suicidal, but as the action unfolds Oscar becomes the one with murder on his mind when the clean-freak and the slob ultimately decide to room together with hilarious results as The Odd Couple is born.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
Drama	<u>You Can't Take It With You</u>	George Kaufman	Drama	Family Relationships; Humor; Romance	The 1936 Pulitzer Prize winner "You Can't Take It With You" is the tale of a zany but lovable family of hobby-horse enthusiasts. For thirty-five years Grandpa has done nothing but hunt snakes, throw darts, and avoid income-tax payments; his son-in-law makes fireworks in the basement, and other assorted family members write plays, operate amateur printing presses, and play the xylophone. They live in delightfully comic eccentricity until Alice brings home her straitlaced Wall Street boyfriend.
	<u>7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</u>	Sean Covey	Non-Fiction	Decision Making; Success	Describes seven habits teenagers can cultivate to help them improve their self-images, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve goals, get along with parents, and make other positive changes in their lives.
Reading Strategies I & II	<u>The 5 People You Meet in Heaven</u>	Mitch Albom	Fiction	Death; Psychology	A bitter eighty-three-year-old war veteran who believes his life is meaningless dies while trying to save a little girl's life and finds himself in heaven, where five people from his past--some loved ones, some strangers--explain what his years on Earth really meant, and whether or not he succeeded in saving the child.
	<u>Of Beetles and Angels:</u>	Mawi Asgedom	Memoir	Refugees; Ethiopian Americans; Immigration;	Mawi Asgedom tells the story of how, at the age of three, he fled civil war in Ethiopia by walking with his mother and brother to a Sudanese refugee camp, and later moved to Chicago and earned a full scholarship to Harvard University.
	<u>Everyday Heroes</u>	Beth Johnson	Non-Fiction	Social Science; Psychology	Profiles twenty young men and women of a variety of ethnic backgrounds whose courage and determination have helped them overcome such obstacles as poverty, racism, abuse, neglect, illness, and drugs.
	<u>The Afterlife</u>	Gary Soto	Fiction	Mexican Americans; Ghosts; Interpersonal Relationships	A senior at East Fresno High School lives on as a ghost after his brutal murder in the restroom of a club where he had gone to dance. You'd think a knife in the ribs would be the end of things, but for Chuy, that's when his life at last gets interesting. He finally sees that people love him, faces the consequences of his actions, finds in himself compassion and bravery . . . and even stumbles on what may be true love. A funny, touching, and wholly original story by one of the finest authors writing for young readers today.
	<u>Breathing Underwater</u>	Alex Flinn	Realistic Fiction	Family Relationships; Domestic Violence	Sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal, sixteen-year-old Nick recounts his relationship with Caitlin, examines his controlling behavior and anger, and describes living with his abusive father.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
Reading Strategies I & II	<u>The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make</u>	Sean Covey	Non-Fiction	Life Skills; Decision Making; Teen Issues	Describes six important decisions teenagers will face and offers advice on the choices that should be made, discussing school, friends, parents, dating and sex, addictions, and self-worth.
	<u>A Man Named Dave</u>	David Pelzer	Memoir	Family Relationships; Foster Care; Child Social Issues	"All those years you tried your best to break me, and I'm still here. One day you'll see, I'm going to make something of myself." These words were Dave Pelzer's declaration of independence to his mother, and they represented the ultimate act of self-reliance. Dave's father never intervened as his mother abused him with shocking brutality, denying him food and clothing, torturing him in any way she could imagine. This was the woman who told her son she could kill him any time she wanted to--and nearly did. The more than two million readers of Pelzer's New York Times and international bestselling memoirs know that he lived to tell his courageous story. With stunning generosity of spirit, Dave Pelzer invites readers on his journey to discover how he turned shame into pride and rejection into acceptance.
	<u>Voices and Values</u>	Janet M Goldstein & Beth Johnson	Non-Fiction	Grammar; Writing	Voices and Values does more than just present a collection of inspiring readings. Its goal is to help students master the basic reading, thinking, and writing skills essential for college success. Among the book's distinctive features are 1) 40 lively, thought-provoking reading selections; 2) high-quality activities that offer practice in both reading and writing; and 3) numerous paragraph and essay writing assignments, along with detailed suggestions to help students succeed on the assignments. This reading/writing/thinking book is ideal for courses emphasizing the reading-writing connection.
	<u>The Freedom Writers Diary</u>	Erin Gruwell	Non-Fiction	Social Sciences; Racial Tolerance; Education	As an idealistic twenty-three-year-old English teacher at Wilson High School in Long beach, California, Erin Gruwell confronted a room of "unteachable, at-risk" students. One day she intercepted a note with an ugly racial caricature, and angrily declared that this was precisely the sort of thing that led to the Holocaust--only to be met by uncomprehending looks. So she and her students, using the treasured books Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl and Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo as their guides, undertook a life-changing, eye-opening, spirit-raising odyssey against intolerance and misunderstanding. They learned to see the parallels in these books to their own lives, recording their thoughts and feelings in diaries and dubbing themselves the "Freedom Writers" in homage to the civil rights activists "The Freedom Riders."

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
Reading Seminar	<u>The 5 People You Meet in Heaven</u>	Mitch Albom	Fiction	Death; Psychology	A bitter eighty-three-year-old war veteran who believes his life is meaningless dies while trying to save a little girl's life and finds himself in heaven, where five people from his past--some loved ones, some strangers--explain what his years on Earth really meant, and whether or not he succeeded in saving the child.
	<u>Of Beetles and Angels:</u>	Mawi Asgedom	Memoir	Refugees; Ethiopian Americans; Immigration;	Mawi Asgedom tells the story of how, at the age of three, he fled civil war in Ethiopia by walking with his mother and brother to a Sudanese refugee camp, and later moved to Chicago and earned a full scholarship to Harvard University.
Econ/ Govt	Naked Economics	Charles Wheelan	Non-Fiction	Business; Economics	Strips away all of the diagrams, equations, and jargon from the study of economics to offer an easy-to-understand introduction to its basic principles.
Experiences in Social Studies	<u>Nickel and Dimed</u>	Barbara Ehrenreich	Non-Fiction	Political Science; Unskilled Labor; Minimum Wage; Social Science	Author Barbara Ehrenreich relates her experiences from 1998 to 2000, during which time joined the ranks of the working poor as a waitress, hotel housekeeper, cleaning woman, nursing home aide, and Wal-Mart clerk to see for herself how America's "unskilled" workers are able to survive on only \$6 or \$7 an hour.
	<u>The World is Flat</u>	Thomas Friedman	Non-Fiction	Global Economics; Information Technology; Narrative	Overview of the global political and economic change since the turn of the twenty-first century, discussing the rapid developments in technologies that has allowed India and China to become part of a growing supply chain of manufacturing impacting global markets.
	<u>Mao Zedong</u>	Kimberley Heuston	Biography	Asia; Politics; Wicked History	Examines the life and misdeeds of Chinese leader Mao Zedong, charging that his efforts to turn China into an industrial powerhouse cost millions of lives and led to a devastating famine.
	<u>Animal Farm</u>	George Orwell	Classic Literature	Subject: Political Satire; Government	A political satire in which animals take over running a farm but find their utopian state turning into a dictatorship. As ferociously fresh as it was more than a half century ago, this remarkable allegory of a downtrodden society of overworked, mistreated animals and their quest to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality is one of the most scathing satires ever published. As readers witness the rise and bloody fall of the revolutionary animals, they begin to recognize the seeds of totalitarianism in the most idealistic organization--and in the most charismatic leaders, the souls of the cruelest oppressors.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
US History/Honors US History	<u>Flesh and Blood So Cheap</u>	Albert Marrin	Non-Fiction	Business & Economics; Labor Laws; Industry	Provides a detailed account of the disastrous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City, which claimed the lives of 146 garment workers in 1911, and examines the impact of this event on the nation's working conditions and labor laws.
	<u>Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition</u>	Karen Blumenthal	Non-Fiction	Prohibition; Temperance; 20 th Century History	Chronicles the history of Prohibition in the United States, a period from 1920 to 1933 during which it was illegal to sell or drink alcohol, discussing how what began as a movement to heal social ills, became a burden to ordinary citizens and a boon to criminals.
	<u>Dear Mrs. Roosevelt: Letters from Children of the Great Depression</u>	Robert Cohen	Non-Fiction	Great Depression	Impoverished young Americans had no greater champion during the Depression than Eleanor Roosevelt. As First Lady, Mrs. Roosevelt used her newspaper columns and radio broadcasts to crusade for expanded federal aid to poor children and teens. She was the most visible spokesperson for the National Youth Administration, the New Deal's central agency for aiding needy youths, and she was adamant in insisting that federal aid to young people be administered without discrimination so that it reached blacks as well as whites, girls as well as boys.
	<u>Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption</u>	Laura Hillenbrand	Biography	WWII; Prisoners of War; Military History; Survival	A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down. On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.
World History/Honors World History	<u>This Fleeting World: A Short History of Humanity</u>	David Christian	Non-Fiction	Civilization	Presents a concise overview of humanity that explores world history from Homo sapiens to man in the twenty-first century, and also discusses periodization in world history.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
World History/Honors World History	<u>An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793</u>	Jim Murphy	Non-Fiction	Disease & Illness; Yellow Fever; US History	In a powerful, dramatic narrative, critically acclaimed author Jim Murphy describes the illness known as yellow fever and the toll it took on the city's residents, relating the epidemic to the major social and political events of the day and to 18th-century medical beliefs and practices. Drawing on first-hand accounts, Murphy spotlights the heroic role of Philadelphia's free blacks in combating the disease, and the Constitutional crisis that President Washington faced when he was forced to leave the city--and all his papers--while escaping the deadly contagion. The search for the fever's causes and cure, not found for more than a century afterward, provides a suspenseful counterpoint to this riveting true story of a city under siege.
	<u>Man's Search for Meaning</u>	Viktor Frankl	Memoir	Psychology; Holocaust; Existential Movement	Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl's memoir has riveted generations of readers with its descriptions of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Between 1942 and 1945 Frankl labored in four different camps, including Auschwitz, while his parents, brother, and pregnant wife perished. Based on his own experience and the experiences of others he treated later in his practice, Frankl argues that we cannot avoid suffering but we can choose how to cope with it, find meaning in it, and move forward with renewed purpose.
	<u>Behind Enemy Lines</u>	H.R. Demallie	Memoirs	Survival; WWII; Prisoners of War	Presents the true story of Howard DeMallie, a young American pilot who, along with his crew were forced to bail out of their B-17 over occupied Holland during World War II, helped by the Dutch underground, and imprisoned in a German prisoner of war camp.
Psych/Soc	<u>Thinking in Pictures</u>	Temple Grandin	Autobiography	Education; Psychology; Autism	Temple Grandin, Ph.D., is a gifted animal scientist who has designed one-third of all the livestock-handling facilities in the United States. She also lectures widely on autism--because Temple Grandin is autistic, a woman who thinks, feels, and experiences the world in ways that are incomprehensible to the rest of us.
	<u>My Lobotomy</u>	Howard Dully	Memoirs	Mental Illness; Psychosurgery	At twelve, Howard Dully was guilty of the same crimes as other boys his age: he was moody and messy, rambunctious with his brothers, contrary just to prove a point, and perpetually at odds with his parents. Yet somehow, this normal boy became one of the youngest people on whom Dr. Walter Freeman performed his barbaric transorbital--or ice pick--lobotomy. Abandoned by his family within a year of the surgery, Howard spent his teen years in mental institutions, his twenties in jail, and his thirties in a bottle. It wasn't until he was in his forties that Howard began to pull his life together.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

Grade	Novel	Author	Genre	Subject/Theme	Summary
Psych/Soc	<u>Savage Inequalities</u>	Jonathan Kozol	Non-Fiction	Education; Social Disabilities; Children's Studies	For two years, beginning in 1988, Jonathan Kozol visited schools in neighborhoods across the country, from Illinois to Washington D.C., and from New York to San Antonio. He spoke with teachers, principals, superintendents, and, most important, children. What he found was devastating. Not only were schools for rich and poor blatantly unequal, the gulf between the two extremes was widening--and it has widened since. The urban schools he visited were overcrowded and understaffed, and lacked the basic elements of learning--including books and, all too often, classrooms for the students. In <u>Savage Inequalities</u> , Kozol delivers a searing examination of the extremes of wealth and poverty and calls into question the reality of equal opportunity in our nation's schools.
	<u>Half the Sky</u>	Nicholas Kristoff	Non-Fiction	Women's Rights; Political Science; Developing Countries	With Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn as our guides, we undertake an odyssey through Africa and Asia to meet the extraordinary women struggling there, among them a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery and an Ethiopian woman who suffered devastating injuries in childbirth. Drawing on the breadth of their combined reporting experience, Kristof and WuDunn depict our world with anger, sadness, clarity, and, ultimately, hope.
Earth and Space	<u>Longitude</u>	Dava Sobel	Biography	Longitude Measurements; Clocks	Recounts John Harrison's forty-year quest to build the chronometer, the clock that enabled sailors to measure longitude, saving lives and fortunes.
	<u>The Right Stuff</u>	Tom Wolfe	Biography	Astronauts; Space	A breath-taking epic, a magnificent adventure story, and an investigation into the true heroism and courage of the first Americans to conquer space.
Honors Bio	<u>Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</u>	Rebecca Skloot	Biography	Medical Ethics; Cancer Research; Family Relationships	Henrietta Lacks a poor Southern tobacco farmer was buried in an unmarked grave sixty years ago. Yet her cells - taken without her knowledge grown in culture and bought and sold by the billions - became one of the most important tools in medical research. Rebecca Skloot takes us on an extraordinary journey from the "colored" ward of Johns Hopkins Hospital in the 1950s to East Baltimore today where Henrietta's family struggles with her legacy.
Chemistry	<u>The Disappearing Spoon</u>	Sam Kean	Non-Fiction	Chemistry; Chemical Elements; Science	From <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author Sam Kean comes incredible stories of science, history, finance, mythology, the arts, medicine, and more, as told by the Periodic Table.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

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Honors Chemistry	<u>Napoleon's Buttons: How 17 Molecules Changed History</u>	Penny LeCouteur	Non-Fiction	Chemistry	Examines the roles that the molecular properties of such items as the birth control pill, caffeine, and the buttons on the uniforms of Napoleon's army have played in the course of history.
Physics/ Physics 1 st	<u>They All Laughed</u>	Ira Flatow	Non-Fiction	Technology and Engineering; Inventions	An enlightening and fun look at scientific discoveries and the often wacky and accidental ways in which they have led to some of the most important inventions.
Computer Applications	<u>What Color Is Your Parachute for Teens</u>	C. Christen & R. Bolles	Non-Fiction	Careers; Vocational Guidance	Presents a guide for teens on planning a career, providing advice on how to pursue a dream job, including tips on writing resumes, conducting online job searches, starting a business, making contacts, interviewing, and negotiating salaries.
Web Design	<u>Teen Cyberbullying Investigated: Where Do Your Rights End and Consequences Begin?</u>	Tom Jacobs	Non-Fiction	Juvenile Themes; Technology and Law; Digital Literacy	Presents a collection of landmark court cases involving teens and charges of cyberbullying, providing the decisions of the court along with questions for readers about each case.
Desktop Publishing	<u>Freakonomics</u>	S. Leavitt & S. Dubner	Non-Fiction	Economics; Business	<i>Freakonomics</i> is a groundbreaking collaboration between Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, an award-winning author and journalist. They usually begin with a mountain of data and a simple question. Some of these questions concern life-and-death issues; others have an admittedly freakish quality. Thus the new field of study contained in this book: freakonomics.
Small Business Management	<u>Out of Nowhere: The Inside Story of How Nike Marketed the Culture of Running</u>	Geoff Hollister	Non-Fiction	Marketing	This book provides a compelling insider's account of how Nike became the world's largest sports and fitness company. It includes a dedicated mailing and e-mail campaign to targeted sports interest media & organizations. Nike began with a handshake and a few hundred dollars passed between Phil Knight and legendary track coach Bill Bowerman more than 35 years ago - and since then it has grown into the world's largest sports and fitness company. <u>Out of Nowhere</u> provides an unrivalled glimpse into the first 33 years of Nike - from its humble beginnings to its modern guise as a global giant - and takes readers on a rollercoaster ride through all of the company's successes and failures.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

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Accounting	<u>Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room</u>	B. McLean & P. Elkind	Non-Fiction	Corporate Finance; Industries; Energy; Business and Economics	The Enron scandal brought down one of the most admired companies of the 1990s. Countless books and articles were written about it, but only <i>The Smartest Guys in the Room</i> holds up a decade later as the definitive narrative. For this tenth anniversary edition, McLean and Elkind have revisited the fall of Enron and its aftermath, in a new chapter that asks why Enron still matters. They also reveal the fates of the key players in the scandal.
Introduction to Engineering	<u>It Looked Good on Paper: Bizarre Inventions, Design Disasters, and Engineering Follies</u>	Bill Fawcett	Non-Fiction	Inventions; Technology and Engineering; Disasters	A remarkable compendium of wild schemes, mad plans, crazy inventions, and truly glorious disasters. Every phenomenally bad idea seemed like a good idea to someone. How else can you explain the Ford Edsel or the sword pistol—absolutely absurd creations that should have never made it off the drawing board? <i>It Looked Good on Paper</i> gathers together the most flawed plans, half-baked ideas, and downright ridiculous machines throughout history that some second-rate Einstein decided to foist on an unsuspecting populace with the best and most optimistic intentions. Some failed spectacularly. Others fizzled after great expense. One even crashed on Mars. But every one of them at one time must have looked good on paper.
Biotechnical Engineering	<u>Glowing Genes</u>	Marc Zimmer	Non-Fiction	Biotechnology; Physics	Marc Zimmer has written the first popular science book on an amazing new area of biotechnology that will help fight cancer, create new products, improve agriculture, and combat terrorism. For more than one hundred and sixty million years, green fluorescent protein has existed in one species of jellyfish. In 1994 it was cloned, giving rise to a host of useful and potentially revolutionary applications in biotechnology. Today researchers are using this ancient glowing protein to pursue exciting new discoveries, from tracking the process of bacterial infection to detecting chemical and biological agents planted by terrorists.
Principles of Engineering	<u>The Essential Engineer: Why Science Alone Will Not Solve Our Global Problems</u>	Henry Petroski	Non-Fiction	Technology and Civilization; Research; Science	From the acclaimed author of <i>The Pencil</i> and <i>To Engineer is Human</i> , <i>The Essential Engineer</i> is an eye-opening exploration of the ways in which science and engineering must work together to address our world's most pressing issues, from dealing with climate change and the prevention of natural disasters to the development of efficient automobiles and the search for renewable energy sources. While the scientist may identify problems, it falls to the engineer to solve them. It is this inherent practicality of engineering, which takes into account structural, economic, environmental, and other factors that science often does not consider, that makes engineering vital to answering our most urgent concerns.

6th – 12th Grades Instructional Novels

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Digital Electronics	<u>Innumeracy</u>	John Paulos	Non-Fiction	Mathematics	Presents a discussion of innumeracy, the inability to deal comfortably with the fundamental notions of number and chance, and looks at the consequences of mathematical illiteracy as seen in stock scams, diet and medical claims, sports records, lotteries, and other scenarios.
Teacher Internships	<u>First Days of School</u>	Harry Wong	Non-Fiction	Teaching; Effective Practices; Vocational Guidance	The best-selling book ever on classroom management and teaching for student achievement with over 3.6 million copies sold. The book walks a teacher, either novice or veteran, through structuring and organizing a classroom for success that can be applied at any time of the year at any grade level, pre-K through college. The book is used in thousands of school districts, in over 116 countries, and in over 2,027 college classrooms. It's practical, yet inspiring.