Level I (6th): Changes

Unit 1: Changes in Me
Autobiographical writing (personal narrative, memoir, autobiographical account)
Fiction or nonfiction narrative

* Bad Boy by Walter Dean Myers
In his memoir, Walter Dean Myers describes the details of his Harlem childhood in the 1940s and 1950s. Although Walter spent much of his time either getting into trouble or on the basketball court, secretly he was a voracious reader and aspiring writer.

Breaking Through by Francisco Jimenez
In this sequel to the circuit: stories from the life of a migrant child, Francisco Jimenez and his family struggle to keep their family together after being caught by la migra.

The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child by Francisco Jimenez
This is an honest and powerful account of the author and his family's journey from Mexico to California when he was a child.

Girl Who Owned a City by O.T. Nelson
(Graphic Novel) When a plague sweeps over the earth killing everyone except children under twelve, ten-year-old Lisa organizes a group to rebuild a new way of life.

Harris and Me by Gary Paulsen
A young boy is sent to spend the summer on his aunt and uncle's farm. Though he has lived many places over the years, he has never experienced anything like farm life, and he has ever met anyone like Harris, his daredevil of a cousin. Can the two survive the summer?

Living Up the Street by Gary Soto
Gary Soto's coming of age in the barrio of Fresno's industrial side: parochial school, attending church, and trying to fall out of love so he can join in a Little League baseball team.

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine
Caitlin has Asperger's. The world according to her is black and white. After her older brother dies, she begins to search for closure, and discovers that the world may not be black and white after all.

A Summer Life by Gary Soto
Gary Soto recreates in vivid detail the sights, sounds, smells, and textures he knew growing up in Fresno, California. His world is made up of small things - small, very important things.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt
Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo junior high, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher for getting in trouble. Holling has a lot to contend with - the Vietnam war, angry rats, wearing yellow tights - but somehow must find the motivation to embrace his own destiny.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Wonder by R.J. Palacio
August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. He wants nothing more than to be treated like a normal kid. Through Auggie's and others' points of view, the author shows struggles with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

Zen and The Art of Faking It by Jordan Sonnenblick
When eighth-grader San Lee moves to a new town and new school for the umpteenth time, he doesn't try to make new friends or be a loner or play cool. Instead he sits back and derives a plan to be totally different. He derives a plan to be a Zen master.

Unit 2: Changes in My World
Novels for Young Adults

*Anne of Green Gables* by Elizabeth Montgomery
Anne Shirley is a romantic, mischievous redheaded orphan desperate for a home and a family. When mild-mannered Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert adopt her, they quickly learn that she is a chatterbox with a vivid imagination that gets her in trouble. Anne is soon accepted by Matthew and Marilla as a kindred spirit, and Anne grows into a spirited and intelligent young woman.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
A popular 1876 novel about a young, mischievous orphan boy growing up in the Antebellum South. Tom is an escape master and professional trickster, and often convinces his friends to take on unpleasant chores for him.

The Cay by Theodore Taylor
When the freighter on which they are traveling is torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, an adolescent white boy, blinded by a blow on the head, and an old black man are stranded on a tiny Caribbean island where the boy acquires a new kind of vision, courage, and love from his old companion.

Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah
Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family.

Dragonwings by Laurence Yep
At the turn of the century, a young boy travels from China to San Francisco to be with his father, a kite maker turned laundryman. The boy, Moon Shadow, quickly discovers that his father's heart lies in creating a flying machine, and begins to help him achieve his dream.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, & servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers.

*Flipped* by Wendelin van Draanen
The first time she saw him, she flipped. The first time he saw her, he ran. But in the eighth grade everything gets turned upside down. And just as he's thinking there's more to her than meets the eye, she's thinking that he's not quite all he seemed.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
*Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick
At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

*Half Brother* by Kenneth Oppel
When Ben Tomlin's mother brings home his new “baby brother,” an eight-day-old chimpanzee, Ben is far from thrilled. His father, a renowned behavioral scientist, has uprooted the family and moved them halfway across the country, to Victoria, B.C., so he can pursue a high-profile experiment—to determine whether chimpanzees can learn human sign language.

*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
Stranded in the Canadian wilderness with only the clothes on his back and a hatchet, Brian Robeson must put his bitter thoughts of his parents' divorce behind and deal with trying to stay alive.

*Heartbeat* by Sharon Creech
Run run run. That's what twelve-year-old Annie loves to do. When she's barefoot and running, she can hear her heart beating and start to find the rhythm of her life.

*Hidden* by Helen Frost
When Wren Abbott and Darra Monson are eight years old, Darra's father steals a minivan. He doesn't know that Wren is hiding in the back. The hours and days that follow change the lives of both girls. Darra is left with a question that only Wren can answer. Wren has questions, too.

*Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen
Unfortunately, Roy's first acquaintance in Florida is Dana Matherson, a well-known bully. Then again, if Dana hadn't been sinking his thumbs into Roy's temples and mashing his face against the school-bus window, Roy might never have spotted the running boy. Roy sets out to solve the mystery of the running boy and along the way, encounters some very unusual creatures.

*Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata
When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop them on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering -- *kira-kira* -- in the future.

*Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pheffer
High school sophomore Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when an asteroid knocks the moon closer to Earth, like "one marble hits another." The result is catastrophic. How can her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis are wiping out the coasts, earthquakes are rocking the continents, and volcanic ash is blocking out the sun?

*A Long Walk to Water, Based on True Story* by Linda Sue Park
This begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about a girl in Sudan in 2008 and a boy in Sudan in 1985. Enduring every hazard from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

*The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* by Rodman Philbrick

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Twelve-year-old orphan Homer runs away from Pine Swamp, Maine, to find his older brother, Harold, who has been sold into the Union Army. Even through a hail of gunfire, Homer never loses heart—but will he find his brother? Or will it be too late?

*Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-Li Jing

It's 1966, and twelve-year-old Ji-li Jiang has everything a girl could want: brains, tons of friends, and a bright future in Communist China. But it's also the year that China's leader, Mao Ze-dong, launches the Cultural Revolution—and Ji-li's world begins to fall apart.

*Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry* by Mildred Taylor

Young Cassie Logan endures humiliation and witnesses the racism of the KKK as they embark on a cross-burning rampage, before she fully understands the importance her family attributes to having land of their own.

*Surviving the Applewhites* by Stephanie S. Tolan

Jake Semple is notorious. Rumor has it he burned down his old school and got kicked out of every school in his home state. Only one place will take him now, and that's a home school run by the Applewhites, a chaotic and hilarious family of artists. The only one who doesn't fit the Applewhite mold is E.D.—a smart, sensible girl who immediately clashes with the unruly Jake.

*Ties That Bind, Ties That Break* by Lensey Namioka

Third Sister in the Tao family, Ailin has watched her two older sisters go through the painful process of having their feet bound. In China in 1911, all the women of good families follow this ancient tradition. But Ailin loves to run away from her governess and play games with her male cousins. Knowing she will never run again once her feet are bound, Ailin rebels and refuses to follow this torturous tradition.

*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi

Not every thirteen-year-old girl is accused of murder, brought to trial, and found guilty. But Charlotte Doyle was just such a girl. Be warned, however: If strong ideas and action offend you, read no more.

*The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis

A wonderful middle-grade novel narrated by Kenny, 9, about his middle-class black family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. When Kenny's 13-year-old brother, Byron, gets to be too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. And they happen to be in Birmingham when Grandma's church is blown up.

*Woodsong* by Gary Paulsen

Gary Paulsen, three-time Newbery Honor author, is no stranger to adventure. He has flown off the back of a dogsled and down a frozen waterfall to near disaster, and waited for a giant bear to seal his fate with one slap of a claw. Here, in vivid detail, Paulsen recounts several of the remarkable experiences that shaped his life and inspired his award-winning writing.

**Unit 3: Changes in Self-Perception**

*Elephant Run* by Roland Smith

Nick endures servitude, beatings, and more after his British father's plantation in Burma is invaded by the Japanese in 1941. When his father and others are taken prisoner and Nick is stranded with his friend Mya, they plan a daring escape on elephants, risking their lives to save Nick's father and Mya's brother from a Japanese prisoner of war camp.

*Hokey Pokey* by Jerry Spinelli

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
There are no adults in Hokey Pokey, just kids, and the laws governing Hokey Pokey are simple and finite. But when one of the biggest kids, Jack, has his beloved bike stolen—and by a girl, no less—his entire world, and the world of Hokey Pokey, turns to chaos.

*Holes* by Louis Sachar
Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the warden makes the boys "build character" by spending all day, every day, digging holes: five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake.

*Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe and inspire everyone around him.

*The Skin I'm In* by Sharon Flake
Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts of the other kids in her class. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. When a new teacher, whose face is blotched with a startling white patch, starts at their school, Maleeka can see there is bound to be trouble for her too. But the new teacher's attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same?

*Sugar Isn't Everything* by Willow Davis Roberts
Eleven-year-old Amy wonders what's wrong. She's ravenous, can't get enough juice, and has to run to the bathroom often. After she collapses, her diabetes is diagnosed and she begins the long road toward adjustment.

*The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin
The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

*Wonder* by R.L. Palacio
August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. He wants nothing more than to be treated like a normal kid. Through Auggie's and others points of view, the author shows struggles with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

*When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* by Mary Rich and Kimberly Willis Holt
Toby Wilson is having the toughest summer of his life. It's the summer his mother leaves for good; the summer his best friend's brother returns from Vietnam in a coffin. And that summer Zachary Beaver, the fattest boy in the world, arrives in their sleepy Texas town. While it's a summer filled with heartache of every kind, it's also a summer of new friendships gained and old friendships renewed.

*Zach's Lie* by Roland Smith
When Jack Osborne is befriended by his school's custodian and a Basque girl, he begins to adjust to his family's sudden move to Elko, Nevada, after entering the Witness Security Program, but the drug cartel against which his father will testify is determined to track them down.

**Unit 4: Measuring Changes in Me**
Lit Circles with fiction or nonfiction texts, preferably biography or autobiography that include conflict, character development, setting, or other literary elements.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Unit 5: Changing Times and Places
Nonfiction books, perhaps on inventors or inventions

A Long Walk to Water, Based on True Story by Linda Sue Park
This begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about a girl in Sudan in 2008 and a boy in Sudan in 1985. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya’s in an astonishing and moving way.
Level II (7th): Choices

Unit 1: The Choices We Make
*Collections of myths or folktales from a culture of students’ choice:
Geraldine McCaughrean
Bernard Evslin
Olivia Coolidge
Donna Rosenberg

Cajun Folktales by J.J. Reneaux
Reneaux, a noted storyteller and a Cajun herself, retells 27 tales she heard in childhood from relatives or has heard since from fellow Cajuns.

The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales by James Bruchac
Richly illustrated with original art, these folktales capture a wide range of belief systems and wisdom from the Cherokee, Cheyenne, Hopi, Lenape, Maidu, Seminole, Seneca, and other tribes.

Gym Candy by Carl Deuker
Mick Johnson is determined not to make the same mistakes his father, a failed football hero, made. But after being tackled just short of the end zone in a big game, Mick begins using “gym candy,” or steroids. His performances become record-breaking, but the side effects are terrible.

Heart of the Samurai by Margi Preus
In 1841, a Japanese fishing vessel sinks. Its crew is forced to swim to a small, unknown island, where they are rescued by a passing American ship. Japan’s borders remain closed to all Western nations, so the crew, including fourteen year old Manjiro sets off to America, learning English on the way. Manjiro eventually returns with the knowledge to become a samurai.

The Lightning Thief series by Rick Riordan
Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out of boarding school...again. And that's the least of his troubles. Lately, mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking straight out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology textbook and into his life. And worse, he's angered a few of them.

The People Could Fly: Black American Folktales by Virginia Hamilton
These 24 stories celebrate the indomitable human spirit, surviving under the most crushing circumstances of slavery. Traditionally, storytelling has helped people to push through sorrow and pain, especially when the stories are saturated with magic, mysticism, and fantasy.

Red Pyramid series by Rick Riordan
Sadie and Carter discover that the gods of Egypt are waking, and the worst of them--Set--has his sights on their family. To stop him, the siblings embark on a dangerous journey across the globe -- a quest that brings them ever closer to the truth about their family, and their links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

Revolver by Marcus Sedgwick
In an isolated cabin, fourteen-year-old Sig is alone with a corpse: his father, who has fallen through the ice and frozen to death only hours earlier. Then comes a stranger claiming that Sig’s father owes him a share of a horde of stolen gold. Sig’s only protection is a loaded Colt revolver hidden in the cabin’s storeroom. The question is, will Sig use the gun, and why?

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park
Tree-ear has a dream. He has watched the master potter Min take a lump of clay and shape it into a thing of beauty. For Tree-ear the transformation is a miracle. Someday he wants to perform such a miracle himself.

Starfall by Michael Cadnum
After Phaeton fights his rival in front of their village over his parentage, he undertakes a long journey to the gates of dawn to confront his father and prove his worth. His father grants him his wish: to ride the chariot of the sun. But as Phaeton tries to control the powerful steeds that pull the chariot, he fails and is forced to face his fate.

Unit 2: What Influences My Choices
Non-fiction books, perhaps related to current events

Unit 3: Our Choices and Life's Lessons (Tangerine)

**"Baseball In April" and Other Stories by Gary Soto
The Mexican American author Gary Soto draws on his own experience of growing up in California’s Central Valley in this finely crafted collection of eleven short stories that reveal big themes in the small events of daily life.

The Black Pearl by Scott O’Dell
From the depths of a cave in the Vermilion Sea, Ramon Salazar has wrested a black pearl so lustrous and captivating that his father, an expert pearl dealer, is certain Ramon has found the legendary Pearl of Heaven. No diver, not even the swaggering Gaspar Ruiz, has ever found a pearl like this!

A Day No Pigs Would Die by Robert Peck
To a thirteen-year-old Vermont farm boy whose father slaughters pigs for a living, maturity comes early as he learns "doing what's got to be done," especially regarding his pet pig who cannot produce a litter.

Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos
Jack Gantos’s plans for vacation excitement are shot down when he is "grounded for life" by his feuding parents. But plenty of excitement (and shocks) are coming Jack's way once his mom loans him out to help a fiesty old neighbor with a most unusual chore—typewritin g obituaries filled with stories about the people who founded his utopian town.

Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan
Koly's parents have arranged a marriage for their only daughter and now, like many girls her age in India, she will leave her home forever. She longs to run away, but she knows that she cannot go against tradition. On her wedding day, Koly's fate is sealed, but she soon learns that fate can be taken into her own hands.

Iqbal by Francesco D’Adamo
When young Iqbal is sold into slavery at a carpet factory, his arrival changes everything for the other overworked and abused children there. It is Iqbal who explains to them that despite their master's promises, he plans on keeping them as his slaves indefinitely. But it is also Iqbal who inspires the other children to look to a future free from toil...and is brave enough to show them how to get there.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Following the lives of four sisters on a journey out of adolescence, Louisa May Alcott's Little Women explores the difficulties associated with gender roles in a Post-Civil War America.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt
As Doug struggles to be more than the “skinny thug” that his teachers and the police think him to be, he finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer—a fiery young lady who “smelled like daisies would smell if they were growing in a big field under a clearing sky after a rain.” In Lil, Doug finds the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a whole town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam.

On My Honor by Marion Dane Bauer
Joel dares his best friend, Tony, to a swimming race in a dangerous river. Both boys jump in, but when Joel reaches the sandbar, he finds Tony has vanished. How can he face their parents and the terrible truth?

Peak by Roland Smith
After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he’s left with a choice: wither away in juvenile detention or fly to Kathmandu with his long-lost father. Peak quickly learns that his father’s renewed interest in him has strings attached.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
When Stargirl arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the students are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different. And Leo Borlock, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal.

Stolen by Lucy Christopher
Gemma, 16, is on layover at Bangkok Airport, en route with her parents to a vacation in Vietnam. She steps away for just a second, to get a cup of coffee. Ty--rugged, tan, too old, oddly familiar--pays for Gemma’s drink. And drugs it. And before Gemma knows what's happening, Ty takes her. Steals her away. The unknowing object of a long obsession, Gemma has been kidnapped by her stalker and brought to the desolate Australian Outback.

Unit 4: Reflecting on My Choices
Novel or literary text of choice, perhaps biography or autobiography that incorporates literary elements.

Unit 5: How We Choose to Act
Poetry Collections
Novels written in verse, e.g.'s,

Heartbeat by Sharon Creech
Run run run. That’s what twelve-year-old Annie loves to do. When she's barefoot and running, she can hear her heart beating and start to find the rhythm of her life.

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse
This gripping story, written in sparse first-person, free-verse poems, is the compelling tale of Billie Jo's struggle to survive during the dust bowl years of the Depression. With stoic courage, she learns to cope with the loss of her mother and her grieving father's slow deterioration.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Level III (8th) Challenges

Unit 1: The Challenge of Heroism (The Giver)
SB Suggested Supplements:
Science Fiction novels
Historical Fiction
Lois Lowry novels

Animal Farm by George Orwell
The animals of Manor Farm have revolted and taken over. Upon the death of Old Major, pigs Snowball and Napoleon lead a revolt against Mr. Jones, driving him from the farm. The animals embrace the Seven Commandments of Animalism and life carries on, but they learn that a farm ruled by animals looks more human than ever.

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys
Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life—until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father's prison camp. But will strength, love, and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive?

Cinder by Marissa Meyer
Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction.

Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones (graphic)
Sophie finds herself under a horrid spell that transforms her into an old lady. Her only chance at breaking it lies in the ever-moving castle in the hills: the Wizard Howl's castle. To untangle the enchantment, Sophie must handle the heartless Howl, strike a bargain with a fire demon, and meet the Witch of the Waste head-on. Along the way, she discovers that there's far more to Howl—and herself—than first meets the eye.

The Hunger Games trilogy by Suzanne Collins
Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the Games. But Katniss has been close to dead and survival, for her, is second nature. But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weigh survival against humanity and life against love.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick (graphic)
Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner Lit Circles
When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he's not alone. When the lift's doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Mythology by Edith Hamilton
Mythology succeeds like no other book in bringing to life for the modern reader the Greek, Roman, and Norse myths and legends that are the keystone of Western culture - the stories of gods and heroes that have inspired human creativity from antiquity to the present.

Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman
Thirteen very different voices -- old, young, Haitian, Hispanic, tough, haunted, and hopeful -- tell one amazing story about a garden that transforms a neighborhood.

Shipbreaker by Paolo Bacigalupi Lit Circles
Nailer, a teenage boy, works the light crew, scavenging for copper wiring just to make quota--and hopefully live to see another day. But when, by luck or chance, he discovers an exquisite clipper ship beached during a recent hurricane, Nailer faces the most important decision of his life: Strip the ship for all it's worth or rescue its lone survivor, a beautiful and wealthy girl who could lead him to a better life.

Smile by Raina Telgemeier
In this coming-of-age true story, Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader, but one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth, and what follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces and surgery.

Unit 2: Real-Life Challenges
Mystery Novels

The Call of the Wild by Jack London
The classic tale of the dog named Buck who is abducted from his comfortable home to a life of hard labor in the frozen land of the Yukon.

Hole In My Life by Jack Gantos
In the summer of 1971, Jack Gantos was an aspiring writer looking for adventure, cash for college tuition, and a way out of a dead-end job. For ten thousand dollars, he recklessly agreed to help sail a sixty-foot yacht loaded with a ton of hashish from the Virgin Islands to New York City, where he and his partners sold the drug until federal agents caught up with them. For his part in the conspiracy, Gantos was sentenced to serve up to six years in prison.

Liar & Spy by Rebecca Stead
Seventh grader Georges moves into a Brooklyn apartment building and meets Safer, a twelve-year-old self-appointed spy. Georges becomes Safer's first spy recruit. His assignment? Tracking the mysterious Mr. X, who lives in the apartment upstairs. But as Safer becomes more demanding, Georges starts to wonder: what is a lie, and what is a game? How far is too far to go for your only friend?

Never Fall Down by Patricia McCormick
When soldiers arrive at his hometown in Cambodia, Arn is just a kid, dancing to rock 'n' roll, hustling for spare change, and selling ice cream with his brother. But after the soldiers march the entire population into the countryside, his life is changed forever. Arn is separated from his family and assigned to a labor camp: working in the rice paddies under a blazing sun, he sees the other children, weak from hunger, malaria, or sheer exhaustion, dying before his eyes.

Nothing But the Truth by Avi
Ninth-grader, Philip Malloy, is kept from joining the track team by his failing grades in English class. Convinced that the teacher just doesn't like him, Philip concocts a plan to get transferred out of her class.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Breaking the school’s policy of silence during the national anthem, he hums along, and ends up in a crisis at the center of the nation’s attention.

*The Once and Future King* by T.H. White
*The Once and Future King* is T.H. White’s masterful retelling of the saga of King Arthur, a fantasy classic as legendary as Excalibur and Camelot, and a poignant story of adventure, romance, and magic.

*The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
Ponyboy can count on his brothers and his friends, but not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids who get away with everything, including beating up greasers like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.

*Silent to the Bone* by E.L. Konigsburg
Connor is sure his best friend, Branwell, couldn’t have hurt Branwell’s baby half sister, Nikki. But Nikki lies in a coma, and Branwell is in a juvenile behavioral center, suspected of a horrible crime and unable to utter the words to tell what really happened. Connor is the only one who might be able to break through Branwell’s wall of silence.

*Soldier’s Heart* by Gary Paulsen
Charley goes to war a boy, and returns a changed man, crippled by what he has seen. In this captivating tale Paulsen vividly shows readers the turmoil of war through one boy's eyes and one boy's heart, and gives a voice to all the anonymous young men who fought in the Civil War.

*Swallowing Stones* by Joyce McDonald
When he fires his new rifle into the air on his seventeenth birthday, he never imagines that the bullet will end up killing someone. But a mile away, a man is killed by that bullet as he innocently repairs his roof. And Michael keeps desperately silent while he watches his world crumble.

*Tears of a Tiger* by Sharon Draper Lit Circles
Andy Jackson was driving the car that crashed one night after a game, killing Robert Washington, his best friend and the captain of the Hazelwood High Tigers. It was late, and they'd been drinking, and now, months later, Andy can't stop blaming himself. As he turns away from family, friends, and even his girlfriend, he finds he's losing the most precious thing of all -- his ability to face the future.

*That Was Then, This is Now* by S.E. Hinton
Companion to *The Outsiders*, *That Was Then, This is Now* is S. E. Hinton’s moving portrait of the bond between best friends Bryon and Mark and the tensions that develop between them as they begin to grow up and grow apart.

*Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting* by Jim Murphy Lit Circles
On July 29th 1914, the world's peace was shattered as the artillery of the Austria-Hungary Empire began shelling the troops of the country to its south. This was, of course, the First World War. But who could have guessed that on December 25 the troops would openly defy their commanding officers by stopping the fighting and having a spontaneous celebration of Christmas with their "enemies"?

**Unit 3: Reflecting on Challenges**
Biographies or autobiographies about facing challenges

*Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon* by Tanya Stone
Apollo 11, the first moon landing, is a story that belongs to many, not just the few and famous. It belongs to the seamstress who put together twenty-two layers of fabric for each space suit. To the engineers who created a special heat shield to protect the capsule during its fiery reentry. It belongs to the flight directors, some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
camera designers, software experts, suit testers, telescope crew, aerospace technicians, photo developers, engineers, and navigators.

**Unit 4: Voices and Challenges (Holocaust readings in groups)**

Students are already reading a novel in this unit. Students may choose to read one of their peers' novels as well.

**Fiction:**

*The Boy Who Dared* by Susan Bartoletti Lit Circles
When 16-year-old Helmut Hubner listens to the BBC news on an illegal short-wave radio, he quickly discovers Germany is lying to the people. But when he tries to expose the truth with leaflets, he's tried for treason. Sentenced to death and waiting in a jail cell, Helmut's story emerges in a series of flashbacks that show his growth from a naive child caught up in the patriotism of the times, to a sensitive and mature young man who thinks for himself.

*Daniel, Half Human: And the Good Nazi* by David Chotjewitz
Daniel learns to his horror that his mother is Jewish, that he is therefore half-Jewish and, in Aryan eyes, half-human. Daniel keeps the truth a secret. He and his friend Armin still talk of joining the Hitler Youth. But Armin's father, an out-of-work longshoreman and a Socialist, forbids it. Armin joins anyway, with fateful consequences for Daniel's family. Throughout World War II, and until the story's haunting final scene, each friend holds the life of the other in his hands.

*Daniel's Story* by Carol Matas
A young Jewish boy recalls life in Hitler's Germany. First his family is forced out of their home in Frankfurt and sent on a long journey to the Lodz ghetto in Poland, and then to Auschwitz—the Nazi death camp. Although Daniel is a fictitious character, his story was inspired by the real experiences of many of the more than one million children who died in the Holocaust.

*The Devil in Vienna* by Doris Orgel
Inge is Jewish, and her friend Lieselotte, at the insistence of her Nazi father, is in the Hitler Youth. Their friendship has become unwise—even dangerous. Yet in a world of increasing terror and despair, as the situation of Jews in Austria becomes more and more desperate, the two girls secretly struggle against the devil in Vienna to keep their friendship alive.

*The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen Lit Circles
Hannah thinks tonight's Passover Seder will be the same as always. Little does she know that this year she will be mysteriously transported into the past where only she knows the horrors that await.

*The Diary of Pelly D.* by L. J. Adlington
Toni V, who works on the City Five demolition crew, unearths a notebook as he's drilling through concrete. He shouldn't smuggle it back to his room, and he definitely shouldn't read it. But he does. Her words slowly reveal the chilling state of her world. What happened to Pelly D?

*Escape to the Forest: Based on a True Story of the Holocaust* by Ruth Yaffe Radin
Ten-year-old Sarah and her family must leave their home and live in a Jewish ghetto surrounded by barbed wire. There, life is a nightmare of cold and hunger where Nazi soldiers kill Jews at will. But Sarah still hears stories that give her hope—stories about a man who lives in the nearby forest, fighting the Nazis and sheltering the Jews. As life in the ghetto grows worse and worse, the forest may be their only hope.

*The Garden* by Carol Matas
During the struggle to create the state of Israel in 1947, Ruth Mendolsohn, who helped young refugees flee Poland in "After the War", is a member of the Haganah, a group of Israeli fighters that believes only in

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.

**Good Night, Maman** by Norma Fox Mazer
In June 1940, twelve-year-old Karin Levi's world is torn apart as the German army occupies Paris. Karin, her older brother, Marc, and their *maman* must flee, seeking safety wherever they can find it. But Maman falls ill and is unable to travel, forcing Karin and Marc to leave her behind. Will Karin ever see her beloved *maman* again?

**The Island on Bird Street** by Uri Orlev
During World War II a Jewish boy is left on his own for months in a ruined house in the Warsaw Ghetto, where he must learn all the tricks of survival under constantly life-threatening conditions.

**The Journey that Saved Curious George:** *The True Wartime Escape* by Louis Jordan
In 1940, Hans and Margret Rey fled their Paris home as the German army advanced. They began their harrowing journey on bicycles, pedaling to Southern France with children’s book manuscripts among their few possessions.

**Milkweed** by Jerry Spinelli
He’s a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He’s a boy who steals food for himself and the other orphans. He’s a boy who believes in bread, and mothers, and angels. He’s a boy who wants to be a Nazi someday. But when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he’s a boy who realizes it’s safest of all to be nobody.

**My Name is America: The Journal of Scott Pendleton Collins** by Walter Dean Myers
A fictionalized account of the D-Day invasion of Normandy and subsequent battles to liberate France, told through the journal entries of a seventeen-year-old soldier from central Virginia.

**Number the Stars** by Lois Lowry Lit Circles
This Newbery Medal Book describes how a ten-year-old Danish girl's bravery is tested when her best friend is threatened by Nazis in 1943.

**Run, Boy, Run** by Uri Orlev
At only eight years old, Srulik Frydman says goodbye to his father for the last time and becomes Jurek Staniak, an orphan on the run in the Polish countryside at the height of the Holocaust. With the danger of capture by German soldiers ever-present, Jurek must fight against starvation, the punishing Polish winters, and widespread anti-Semitism as he desperately searches for refuge.

**Shadow of the Wall** by Christa Laird
It's spring 1942, and life in the Warsaw ghetto is hard and often brutal with the Jews subject to beatings and execution at the lands of the hated SS. Young Misha lives at the Orphans' Home run by the heroic Dr. Korczak. But the time is fast approaching when Misha must prove himself a hero too.

**Son** by Lois Lowry
They called her Water Claire. When she washed up on their shore, no one knew that she came from a society where emotions and colors didn't exist. That she had become a Vessel at age thirteen. That she had carried a Product at age fourteen. That it had been stolen from her body. Now Claire will stop at nothing to find her child, even if it means making an unimaginable sacrifice.

**Stones in Water** by Donna Jo Napoli
Roberto and Samuele are prisoners in a Nazi forced labour camp in Italy. They share a secret - a secret that, if discovered, will mean death for them both. Roberto is Jewish. Escape becomes Roberto's only
chance, but can he survive the brutal winter cold, with only the gift stone from the Jewish girl in the camp to give him hope that he will ever see his home again?

_Torn Thread_ by Anne Isaacs
Twelve-year-old Eva and her sister have been forced to leave their home in Poland and are imprisoned in a Nazi labor camp. There they must spin thread on treacherous machinery to make clothing and blankets for the German Army. As Eva struggles amid ever worsening dangers to save her life and that of her sick sister, readers witness how two teenagers strive to create home and family amidst inhumanity and chaos.

_Waiting for Anya_ by Michael Morpurgo
This is a gripping historical adventure by a much-loved and award winning author. It is World War II and Jo stumbles on a dangerous secret: Jewish children are being smuggled away from the Nazis, close to his mountain village in Spain. Now, German soldiers have been stationed at the border. Jo must get word to his friends that the children are trapped. The slightest mistake could cost them their lives.

_Witness_ by Karen Hesse and Linda Beech
These characters are among the unforgettable cast inhabiting a small Vermont town in 1924. A town that turns against its own when the Ku Klux Klan moves in. No one is safe, especially the two youngest, twelve-year-old Leanora, an African-American girl, and six-year-old Esther, who is Jewish.

_Wonder_ by R.J Palacio Lit Circles
August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

Nonfiction:
_Along the Tracks_ by Tamar Bergman
A true story of a Polish boy, separated from his mother during the German invasion of Poland in World War II, and left completely alone for four years.

_The Cage_ by Ruth Minsky Sender
After Mama is taken away by the Nazis, Riva and her younger brothers cling to their mother's brave words to help them endure life in the Lodz ghetto. Then the family is rounded up, deported to Auschwitz, and separated. Now Riva is alone.

_The Diary of a Young Girl_ by Anne Frank
A timeless story rediscovered by each new generation, The Diary of a Young Girl stands without peer. For both young readers and adults it continues to bring to life this young woman, who for a time survived the worst horror the modern world had seen.

_Forging Freedom_ by Hudson Talbott Lit Circles
Chronicles the brave exploits of Jaap Penraat, a young Dutch man, who risked his life during World War II to save the lives of over 400 Jews.

_Four Perfect Pebbles: A Holocaust Story_ by Lila Perl and Marion Bulemthnal Lazan
If she could find four perfect pebbles of almost exactly the same size and shape, it meant that her family would remain whole. Mama and papa and she and Albert would survive Bergen-Belsen. The four of them might even survive the Nazis' attempt to destroy every last Jew in Europe.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
I am a Star: Child of the Holocaust by Inge Auerbacher
Inge Auerbacher's childhood was as happy and peaceful as any other German child's--until 1942. By then, the Nazis were in power, and because Inge's family was Jewish, she and her parents were sent to a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. The Auerbachers defied death for three years, and were finally freed in 1945. In her own words, Inge Auerbacher tells her family's harrowing story--and how they carried with them ever after the strength and courage of will that allowed them to survive.

I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust by Livia Bitton-Jackson
The author, who was imprisoned in Auschwitz as a teenager, describes her terrible experiences as one of the camp's few adolescent inmates and the miraculous twists of fates that enabled her to survive.

In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer by Irene Gut Opdyke
Irene Gut was just 17 in 1939, when the Germans and Russians devoured her native Poland. Just a girl, really. But a girl who saw evil and chose to defy it.

The Lost Childhood by Yehuda Nir
This compelling memoir takes readers through the eyes of a child surviving World War II in Nazi-occupied Poland. As a nine-year-old, the author witnessed his father being herded into a truck—never to be seen again. He, his mother, and sister fled to Warsaw to live in disguise as Catholics under the noses of the Nazi SS, constantly fearful of discovery and persecution.

Louis Pasteur and the Hidden World of Microbes by Louise Robbins
Chronicling Louis Pasteur's rise from humble beginnings to international fame, Louis Pasteur and the Hidden World of Microbes investigates the complex life of a man who revolutionized our understanding of disease.

Maus I: A Survivor’s Tale: My Father Bleeds History by Art Spiegelman
The Pulitzer Prize-winning Maus tells the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler’s Europe, and his son, a cartoonist coming to terms with his father’s story.

Maus II: A Survivor’s Tale: And Here My Troubles Began by Art Spiegelman
Maus ties together two powerful stories: Vladek’s harrowing tale of survival against all odds, delineating the paradox of daily life in the death camps, and the author's account of his tortured relationship with his aging father.

Night by Elie Wiesel
Night is Elie Wiesel's masterpiece, a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps.

No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War by Anita Lobel
Anita Lobel was barely five years old when World War II began and the Nazis burst into her home in Kraków, Poland. Her life changed forever. She spent her childhood in hiding with her brother and their nanny, moving from countryside to ghetto to convent—where the Nazis finally caught up with them.

Rescue: The Story of How Gentiles Saved Jews in the Holocaust by Milton Meltzer
Between the years 1933 and 1945, Adolf Hitler organized the Murder of six million Jews while the world looked on silently. But not all people stood back in fear. In every Nazioccupied Country, at every level of society, there were non-Jews who had the courage to resist. From the king of Denmark, refusing to force Jewish Danes to wear yellow stars, to the Dutch student, registering Jewish babies as Gentiles and hiding

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
children in her home, a small number of people had the strength to reject the inhumanity they were
ordered to support.

Upon the Head of the Goat: A Childhood in Hungary 1939-1944 by Aranka Siegal
This memoir by Aranka Siegal (born in 1930) is the story of the five years before the author and her family
were transported to Auschwitz.

The Upstairs Room by Johanna Reiss Lit Circles
Because Annie de Leuw was Jewish, the occupation put her in grave danger-she knew that to stay alive
she would have to hide. Fortunately, a Gentile family, the Oostervelds, offered to help. For two years they
hid Annie and her sister, Sini, in the cramped upstairs room of their farmhouse.

Warriors Don’t Cry by Melba Pattilo Beals
In 1957, Melba Pattilo turned sixteen. That was also the year she became a warrior on the front lines of a
civil rights firestorm. Following the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, Brown v. Board of Education,
Melba was one of nine teenagers chosen to integrate Little Rock’s Central High School.

We Are Witnesses: Five Diaries of Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust by Jacob
Boas Lit Circles
The five diarists in this book did not survive the war. But their words did. Each diary reveals one voice,
one teenager coping with the impossible.

We’ve Got A Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children’s March by Cynthia Levinson
Through the eyes of these four protesters and others who participated, We’ve Got A Job tells the little-
known story of the 4,000 black elementary, middle, and high school students who voluntarily went to jail
between May 2 and May 11, 1963. The children succeeded - where adults had failed - in desegregating
one of the most racially violent cities in America.

Unit 5: The Challenge of Comedy
Collections of humorous short stories, essays, or poems.

Shakespeare Collection by AGS Classics (Graphic shorts)

Complete Stories of Mark Twain by Mark Twain
In addition to the classic novels Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, this set
includes Humorous Stories and Sketches (featuring "Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses," "The Stolen
White Elephant," and 5 other items) plus "The Mysterious Stranger" and Other Stories ("The Notorious
Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" and 3 others).

Non Fiction:
The Boy by Who Owned the School by Gary Paulsen
Fifteen-year-old geek Jacob Freisten is faced with the difficult task of working on the stage crew of the
school play in order to pass English, a job made more difficult by the presence of Maria Tresser, a
beautiful classmate.

Shakespeare: His Work and His World by Michael Rosen and Robert Ingpen
Presents the life and times of the renowned author through a review of some plays and expressions.

Shakespeare for Kids: His Life and Times by Aacesen and Marcie Blumberg
Kids can experience William Shakespeare's England and get their first taste of the Bard's sublime craft
with this lively biography and activity book.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are
appropriate for your student.
The Teacher’s Funeral by Richard Peck
Russell Culver is fifteen in 1904, and he’s raring to leave his tiny Indiana farm town for the endless sky of the Dakotas. To him, school has been nothing but a chain holding him back from his dreams. Maybe now that his teacher has passed on, they'll shut the school down entirely and leave him free to roam.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
**SPRINGBOARD LEVEL IV - VII SUPPLEMENTAL READING LIST**  
**(LIT CIRCLES & INDEPENDENT TITLES)**

**Level IV (9th): Coming of Age**

**Unit 1: Coming of Age (Lit Circles)**  
Students will participate in literature circles of their choice in order to explore how an author uses a unique voice in order to explore the thematic concept of coming of age.

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain  
This classic novel details a small-town boy’s pranks and escapades along the Mississippi River.

*Divergent* by Veronica Roth  
This action-packed dystopian novel takes place in a world where teenagers must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. Beatrice Prior must choose between staying with her family and being who she really is - she can’t have both.

*House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros  
This collection of memoirs details a young girl’s experiences growing up in the Latino section of Chicago.

*Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer  
Miranda is a normal teenage girl whose world is completely altered when a meteor crashes into the moon. Her journal tells the story of how much life has changed and how she struggles with wanting a normal teenage life.

*Monster* by Walter Dean Myers  
Sixteen-year-old Steve has been accused of aiding a murderer. Is he guilty or simply in the wrong place at the wrong time?

*The Scorpio Races* by Maggie Stiefvater  
It happens at the start of every November: the Scorpio Races. Riders attempt to keep hold of their water horses long enough to make it to the finish line. Some riders live; others die. Sean is the returning champion, and Puck is the first girl to ever enter. Neither is prepared for what is going to happen.

*Slam* by Walter Dean Myers  
Seventeen-year-old Greg “Slam” Harris can do it all on the basketball court. He never doubted himself until he had to go one-on-one with his own future and he didn’t have the ball.

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson  
Because Melinda busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, she enters the ninth grade completely alone. She distances herself from her classmates because there is a truth about that party that she locks deep inside of her.

*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli  
Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
A unique teenage girl has to make the difficult choice to either be original and outcast, or be accepted and conform.

*Stuck in Neutral* by Terry Trueman
Shawn’s body is paralyzed, but unknown to everyone, his mind is completely alive. In this novel, the reader learns not to make assumptions based on a person’s outward appearances.

*The Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
Tally Youngblood is about to turn sixteen, and she can’t wait for the operation that turns everyone from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty. However, Tally learns about a dark side of the pretty world and she must choose between the life she has always wanted and an unknown future.

*Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman
A teenage boy makes a fatal mistake and goes on a journey of repentance.

**Unit 2: Coming of Age in Style (Independent Reading)**
Students will independently read one of the novels below in order to explore how an author uses a unique style to tell a coming of age story.

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
A young foster girl living in Munich, Germany during WWII has to adjust to living with foster parents during the Nazi regime.

*Bruiser* by Neal Shusterman
A story of young man who suffers from a curious condition that he tries to keep secret. When he begins dating a girl in his class at school, his life and future become fragile and his secret is threatened to be discovered.

*Catcher in the Rye* by JD. Salinger
A young man disillusioned and kicked out of yet another school travels to New York in hope of finding some meaning and direction for his future.

*The Complete Short Stories* by Edgar Allen Poe
A volume that contains some of the best short stories written by Edgar Allen Poe.

*Dairy Queen* by Catherine Gilbert Murdock
After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

*Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card
In order to develop and secure defense against a hostile alien race’s next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers.

*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer
Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
A young boy living in New York City during the 9/11 goes on a journey to cope with the tragedy and the loss of his father.

*Knife of Never Letting Go* by Patrick Ness
A boy and girl are on the run from a town where all thoughts can be heard--and the passage into manhood embodies a horrible secret.

*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
A teenage boy begins a journey with his family to transport the animals from their zoo in India across the globe to Canada. Sadly, the journey turns tragic when the ship goes down and Pi finds himself stranded on a lifeboat with only a Bengal tiger for company.

*Mr. Monday* by Garth Nix
Arthur Penhaligon, destined to die at a young age, is saved by a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock, but his survival invokes the wrath of the mysterious Mister Monday who will stop at nothing to get the key back.

*Something Wicked This Way Comes* by Ray Bradbury
Two boys who are best friends in a small Midwestern town finally come to understand that of all the terrors threatening them from “Cooger and Dark's Pandemonium Shadow Show,” the greatest menace exists within themselves.

*Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher
The story of a young man who comes to “inherit” a series of tapes. The tapes hold the recordings of a young girl’s last words, stories that she demands thirteen people hear for very different reasons.

*The Umbrella Man and Other Stories* by Roald Dahl
These compelling tales are an introduction to the adult writing of a storytelling genius.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Level V (10th): Culture

Unit 1: Voices of Modern Culture (whole class novel)
In Unit 1 students ask questions about how can cultural experiences shape, impact, or influence our perception of the world. Students also learn how voice functions in and beyond the contexts of writing.

_The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian_ by Sherman Alexie
This is the story of a teenage Spokane Indian boy who decides to leave the reservation to attend school in the local white town.

Unit 2: Internal and External Cultural Conflicts (Independent Reading)
In Unit 2 students identify/explore/analyze internal and external conflicts, and how those factors affect one’s sense of identity.

_Beowulf_ translated by Seamus Heaney
The epic story of a young warrior who travels across land and sea to protect people in a neighboring country from the terrible monster Grendel. A true hero’s journey.

_Big Mouth and Ugly Girl_ by Joyce Carol Oates
The class clown is accused of threatening to blow up the school and the only person who will stick up for him is the toughest girl jock ever known.

_Bless Me Ultima_ by Rudolfo Anaya
Six-year-old Antonio embarks upon a spiritual journey that leads him to question his faith and beliefs in family, religion, and other aspects of his Chicano culture under the watchful guidance of Ultima, a healing woman.

_The Bonesetter’s Daughter_ by Amy Tan
San Francisco ghostwriter Ruth Young finally begins to understand her Alzheimer's-afflicted mother LuLing's preoccupation with ghosts and curses when she reads LuLing's writings of her dark backwoods childhood in 1920s.

_The Fold_ by An Na
Joyce’s rich plastic-surgery-addict aunt offers Joyce a gift to 'fix' a part of herself she'd never realized needed fixing-her eyes.

_Nothing_ by Janne Teller
When Pierre Anthon leaves school to sit in a plum tree and train for becoming part of nothing, his classmates set out on a desperate quest for the meaning of life.

_Persepolis_ by Marjane Satrapi
Satrapi’s memoir in comics telling of her life growing up in Tehran at the time of the Islamic Revolution.

_The Secret Life of Bees_ by Sue Monk Kidd
Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
In South Carolina in 1964, fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman find a safe haven at the home of three beekeeping sisters.

*A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park
Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge near a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

*Sold* by Patricia McCormick
A novel in vignettes, in which Lakshmi, a thirteen-year-old girl from Nepal, is sold into prostitution in India.

*Unwind* by Neal Shusterman
Three teens embark upon a cross-country journey in order to escape from a society that salvages body parts from children ages thirteen to eighteen.

*Veiled Courage* by Cheryl Benard (Nonfiction)
This book illustrates a gender apartheid where women are consistently oppressed, suppressed, and treated as if they aren't really human beings.

*The Whale Rider* by Witi Ihimaera
Pai, an 11-year-old girl in a patriarchal New Zealand tribe, believes she is destined to be the new chief. She must fight her beloved grandfather and a thousand years of tradition to fulfill her destiny.

**Unit 4 / 5: Justice (Literature Circles)**
In Unit 4 / 5, students consider what defines justice and injustice. In addition to lessons provided in the curriculum, students will engage in literature circles to explore an issue of justice in a novel.

*The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
An eleven-year-old African-American girl in Ohio prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be beautiful.

*Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein
In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage under torture as she relates what she must in order to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

*The Dark Knight* (graphic novel) by Frank Miller
Ten years after his retirement, a troubled Batman returns to the streets, evening the score with criminals in an increasingly violent manner, which brings trouble from the police and a gang called the Mutants.

*The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
In the early days of the Civil Rights Movement, a young white woman named Skeeter decides to tell the story of “the help” - the black maids and nannies of the affluent white families in

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Jackson, Mississippi. Skeeter risks both her own livelihood and the jobs and lives of the women she interviews. What comes from their work is a true, honest embodiment of the lives of the help.

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou (Nonfiction)
In the first volume of an autobiographical series, one of the most inspiring authors of our time recalls--with candor, humor, poignancy and grace--how her journey began.

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
In the midst of a nuclear war, a group of British boys find themselves stranded on a tropical island without adult supervision.

*Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow OR *1984* by George Orwell

*Little Brother:* Interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus is released into what is now a police state, and decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

*1984:* In George Orwell’s *1984*, Winston Smith wrestles with oppression in Oceania, a place where the Party scrutinizes human actions under the ever-watchful Big Brother.

*Macbeth* OR *Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare

*Macbeth:* Set in medieval Scotland and partly based on a true historical account, *Macbeth* charts the bloody rise to power and tragic downfall of the warrior Macbeth.

*Merchant of Venice:* Antonio, a leading merchant of Venice, is a wealthy, respected, and popular man. Among his many friends is a young man named Bassanio, who owes Antonio a good deal of money. Antonio does not have the cash to loan Bassanio, so he borrows it from Shylock - a wealthy Jew. What follows is both the love story of Bassanio and Portia and the tragedy of Antonio and Shylock.

*Maus: a Survivor’s Tale* (graphic novel) by Art Spiegelman
A memoir about Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and about his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself.

*Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden
This is the story of a young Japanese girl who is sent from her home and family to become a Geisha - a renowned courtesan of wealthy men. Her story spans the time before WWII and after, from a small village in rural Japan to a bustling city in America.

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
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.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Level VI (11th): The American Dream

Unit 1: The American Dream (Nonfiction Independent Reading)
In unit one the students explore the concept of the “American Dream” through a variety of perspectives and historical pathways. Independently the students will select a non-fiction text that involves the thematic concept of the “American Dream,” to not only help their understanding of the concept, but give them a textual resource for a synthesis essay (Embedded Assessment 2).

An American Childhood by Annie Dillard
An autobiography describing the author's childhood and life in Pittsburgh during the fifties.

Autobiography of Malcolm X
Malcolm X, the Black Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells his life story to veteran writer and journalist Alex Haley.

A Beautiful Mind: the life of a mathematical genius and Nobel Laureate John Nash by Sylvia Nasar
Nasar chronicles the life of mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr. and discusses his contributions to the study of economics, his illegitimate child, his bouts with schizophrenia, and his Nobel Prize-winning theories.

The Color of Water: a black man's tribute to his white mother by James McBride
James McBride shares the story of his mother's life and complicated racial identity which he only learned after becoming an adult.

Dead Man Walking: an eyewitness account of the death penalty in the United States by Sister Helen Prejean
Sister Helen Prejean's story of her encounter with the death penalty in America.

Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream by H.G. Bissinger
The author follows the story of a 1988 high school football team from Odessa, Texas as they make a run towards the Texas state championship, complete with portraits of what Bissinger calls "the ugliest racism" he has ever witnessed.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls
The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother, and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and the will to leave home.

A Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos
Author Jack Gantos spent some time in prison when he was young. He tells his story and describes how he overcame his past.

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
The author examines the experiences of the children and husband of Henrietta Lacks, who,
Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.

Twenty years after her death from cervical cancer in 1951, learned doctors and researchers took cells from her cervix without consent which were used to create the immortal cell line known as the HeLa cell.

*Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer
Krakauer pieces together the story of two groups faced with insurmountable physical challenges who set out to summit Mt. Everest.

*Nickeled and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich
Ehrenreich takes on a minimum wage job to see what it takes to survive in the low-wage world, and finds herself struggling to make ends meet and to keep her spirit from being broken.

*On the Road* by Jack Kerouac
This autobiography follows the counterculture escapades of members of the Beat generation as they seek pleasure and meaning while traveling coast to coast.

*The Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell
Outliers explains what the Beatles and Bill Gates have in common, hidden advantages of star athletes, and why all top New York lawyers have the same resume.

*The Perfect Storm: a true stroy of men against the sea* by Sebastian Junger
Uses interviews, memoirs, radio conversations, and technical research to recreate the last days of the crew of the "Andrea Gail," a fishing boat that was lost in a storm off the coast of Nova Scotia in October 1991.

*A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean
In his memoir, set in Western Montana, Norman Maclean captures the beauty of the land and rivers, the pain of familial love and loss, and the healing powers of both.

*This Boy's Life* by Tobias Wolff
Wolff's account of his boyhood and the process of growing up includes paper routes, whiskey, scouting, fistfights, friendship, betrayal, and America in the fifties.

*Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom
Years after he was his student, Mitch Albom begins to regularly visit his old teacher, Morrie. Suffering from ALS, Morrie shares, with humor and honesty, the reality of facing death and letting go of life.

*Wild* by Cheryl Strayed
A grief-stricken woman, with little direction or purpose in her life, chooses to hike a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. Without knowing much about extended hiking or the trail itself, Cheryl Strayed takes on a personal and physical journey to accomplish her trying task.

**Unit 2: The Marketplace of Ideas (Literature Circles)**
In Unit 2 students focus on how newspapers and media has an impact on public opinion and

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
public perception. To offset this writing heavy unit, we will incorporate literature circles that focus on classic American literature.

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
Huckleberry Finn, the son of the town drunk, and Jim, an escaped slave, make a break for freedom down the Mississippi River on a raft, sharing many adventures along the way.

*Animal Dreams* by Barbara Kingsolver
Codi returns to her hometown to confront her past and face her ailing father. What she finds is a town threatened by an environmental catastrophe and a man who could change her life.

*Catch 22* by Joseph Heller
Captain Yossarian, a paranoid bomber pilot stationed in the Italian theater during World War II, faces a "catch-22" in this comic novel when he wants to fly fewer combat missions.

*Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier
Inman, a wounded Confederate soldier, leaves the hospital where he is being treated and determines to walk home to his sweetheart Ada, only to find the land and the girl he remembers as changed by the war as he. An “Odyssey” story of a soldier’s challenges returning from the Civil War.

*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
The story of two African-American sisters: Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie, a child-wife living in the South. The story is told in the medium of their letters to each other and in Celie's case, the desperate letters that she begins, "Dear God."

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
The tragic story of the wealthy Jay Gatsby and his attempt to win back the love of Daisy Buchanan.

*Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
The personal, often painful, histories of four Chinese American women who began meeting in San Francisco in 1949 to play *mah jong* are revealed as the daughter of one who has died searches for her sisters in China to tell them about the mother they never knew.

*A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines
Gaines tells the story of a young African-American man sentenced to death for a murder he did not commit, and a teacher who tries to impart to him his learning and pride before the execution.

*Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich
The author examines the lives of several generations of families who live on and around a Chippewa reservation in North Dakota, following various characters who suffer due to government policies, poverty, alcoholism, and other problems.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Native Son by Richard Wright and/or Invisible Man Ralph Ellison
Trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, a young African-American man finds release only in acts of violence.

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
Sustained by the hope of someday owning a farm of their own, two migrant laborers arrive to work on a ranch in central California.

Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut
Centering on the infamous firebombing of Dresden, Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we fear most.

Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson
When a newspaper journalist covers the trial of a Japanese American accused of murder, he must come to terms with his own past.

The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien
Related stories, linked by recurring characters and an interwoven plot, recreate an American foot soldier's experience in the Vietnam War.

Woman Hollering Creek and other stories by Sandra Cisneros
A collection of short stories giving voice to the vigorous and varied life on both sides of the United States-Mexican border.

A Yellow Raft in Blue Water by Michael Dorris
A saga of three generations of Indian women, beset by hardship and torn by angry secrets, yet joined by the indissoluble bonds of kinship.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Level VII (12th): Perspectives

Unit 1: Perception Changes Everything (Independent Reading)
An independent study of a novel that reflects either multiple narrators (perspectives) and/or unreliable narrators in which the student must consider how the narrative is affected by the point of view(s).

1984 by George Orwell
Drawn into a forbidden love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization called The Brotherhood, dedicated to the destruction of the Party. Together with his beloved Julia, he hazards his life in a deadly match against the powers that be.

Atonement by Ian McEwan
Imaginative thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis misinterprets a scene between her older sister Cecilia and Robbie Turner, the housekeeper's son. She later accuses Robbie of a crime she has no proof he committed and spends years trying to atone for her actions.

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath
This novel chronicles the crackup of Esther Greenwood: brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful – but slowly going under, maybe for the last time.

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
In Huxley's darkly satiric yet chillingly prescient imagining of a "utopian" future, humans are genetically designed and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively serve a ruling order.

The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer
The noble Knight, the tipsy Miller, the hypocritical Pardoner, the randy Wife of Bath, and other pilgrims trade stories make their way to the shrine of St. Thomas a’ Becket at Canterbury.

Going Bovine by Libba Bray
A teen is in the hospital with “Mad Cow Disease,” and somehow he sets off on a road trip with a dwarf.

The Hours by Michael Cunningham
A novel that tells the story of three intertwined women: Virginia Woolf in the early 20th century who is writing Mrs. Dalloway; Laura Brown in post WWII United States who is reading Mrs. Dalloway; and Clarrissa Vaughn in present day New York City who is nicknamed Mrs. Dalloway.

The Iliad by Homer
The classic Greek epic poem of Helen, Queen of Sparta, who is taken by Paris, a Trojan prince, inaugurating the Trojan War.

Mudbound by Hillary Jordan
Set in Mississippi in 1946, Mudbound, tells the story of two families, one of white landowners and one of black sharecroppers. Both families must deal with tragedy in the midst of the post WWII era.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest by Ken Kesey
The story of a paranoid schizophrenic who is a patient at a state mental facility. When a new patient is introduced on the ward, the dynamics change drastically.

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
The chronicle of a family of six who move to the Congo as missionaries told from the perspectives of the five female main characters.

The Watch that Ends the Night by Alan Woolf
The story of the Titanic unfolds from multiple characters’ perspectives.

When We Were Orphans by Kazuo Ishiguro
A mystery story where in the beliefs of the detective, both real and imagined, play an important part.

Unit 4: Multiple Perspectives (Literature Circles)
In this unit students are asked to apply the six schools of criticism learned throughout the year to a novel of their choice.

Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood
Based on true events, this story captures the experiences of Grace Marks a woman who is convicted of murder. She tells her story as a young expert of mental illness who tries to piece together the true events that took place.

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
This classic describes a little girl’s adventures in a topsy-turvy land underground and her encounters with such improbable characters as the White Rabbit, March Hare and Mad Hatter.

The Awakening by Kate Chopin
A woman trapped by gender roles and societal norms must come face to face with her life and the choices she must make to live the life she desires.

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
The original science fiction novel, this is the story of overly ambitious Dr. Victor Frankenstein, his creation of a Being from inanimate human parts, and the issues that arise from such a leap in science.

Grimm’s Fairytales
A collection of original fairytales as told by the brothers Grimm. These are not the stories of Disney.

The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien
Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.
Some of the titles on this list may be deemed controversial. Please review materials to make sure they are appropriate for your student.

*Odyssey* by Homer
The epic poem that tells the story of Odysseus’ journey home after the Trojan War.

*Plain Truth* by Jodi Picoult
A young Amish girl has a baby that does not survive the night. Then she is accused of murder and she and her family must deal with their beliefs and family loyalties.

*The Watchmen* by Alan Moore
A graphic novel about a group of aging superheroes who are now being stalked by a killer.