

SPRINGBOARD 6 – 8 GRADE SUPPLEMENTAL READING LIST (LIT CIRCLES & INDEPENDENT TITLES)

6th Grade: Changes

Adventures of the Greek Heroes by Molly McLean and Anne Wiseman

These timeless stories about mighty Hercules, fearless Jason, and creepy-crawly Medusa have been told for generations. The world's secrets are revealed through magical mythological tales of amazing people, animals, and places—and these stories are sure to charm and excite readers who like fantastic and fun adventures.

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.

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. 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.

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.

Basher Five-Two: The True Story of F-16 Pilot Scott O'Grady by Scott O'Grady

U.S. Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady was shot down in his F-16 over Bosnia while helping to keep the peace. The plane exploded, and Captain O'Grady fell 5 miles to the ground below. In exciting detail, Captain O'Grady tells how he evaded capture and how, with little water and no food, he was able to survive on his own in enemy territory.

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Because of Winn-Dixie, a big, ugly, happy dog, 10-year-old Opal learns 10 things about her long-gone mother from her preacher father. Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal makes new friends among the somewhat unusual residents of her new hometown, Naomi, Florida. Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal begins to find her place in the world and let go of some of the sadness left by her mother's abandonment seven years earlier.

The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had by Kristin Levine

The last thing Harry Dit Sims expects when Emma Walker comes to town is to become friends. Proper-talking, brainy Emma doesn't play baseball or fish too well, but she sure makes Dit think, especially about the differences between black and white in the 1910s. But soon Dit is thinking about a whole lot more when the town barber, who is black, is put on trial for a terrible crime. Together Dit and Emma come up with a daring plan to save him from the unthinkable.

Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

Eleven-year-old Parvana lives with her family in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city. As conditions for the family grow desperate, Parvana must transform herself into a boy, and become the breadwinner.

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

***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 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.

***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.

***The Children's Shakespeare* by E. Nesbit**

Written in thoroughly modern English and each no more than ten pages in length, the eleven plays featured in this volume afford children the opportunity to discover for themselves the magic of Shakespeare. This is a simplified introduction to works such as *The Winter's Tale*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

***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.

***The Chronicles of Harris Burdick* by Chris Van Allsburg**

An inspired collection of short stories by an all-star cast of best-selling storytellers based on the thought-provoking illustrations in Chris Van Allsburg's *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*.

***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.

***Cracker* by Cynthia Kadohata**

Cracker is a German shepherd trained to sniff out bombs, traps, and the enemy. The fate of entire platoons rests on her keen sense of smell. She's a Big Deal, and she likes it that way. Told in part through the uncanny point of view of a German shepherd, *Cracker!* is an action-packed glimpse into the Vietnam War as seen through the eyes of a dog and her handler. It's an utterly unique powerhouse of a book!

***Dragon Rider* by Cornelia Funke**

With a lonely boy named Ben on board, the brave young dragon Firedrake sets out on a magical journey to find the mythical place where silver dragons can live in peace forever. Flying over moonlit lands and sparkling seas, they encounter fantastic creatures, summon up surprising courage--and cross the path of a ruthless villain with an ancient grudge who's determined to end their quest. Only a secret destiny can save the dragons in this enchanting adventure about the true meaning home.

***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.

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Dust of Eden by Mariko Nagai

"We lived under a sky so blue in Idaho right near the towns of Hunt and Eden but we were not welcomed there." In early 1942, thirteen-year-old Mina Masako Tagawa and her Japanese-American family are sent from their home in Seattle to an internment camp in Idaho. What do you do when your home country treats you like an enemy? This memorable and powerful novel in verse, written by award-winning author Mariko Nagai, explores the nature of fear, the value of acceptance, and the beauty of life. As thought-provoking as it is uplifting, *Dust of Eden* is told with an honesty that is both heart-wrenching and inspirational.

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.

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.

FireHorse by Diane Lee Wilson

Fifteen-year-old Rachel is furious and lonely when her father moves the family to Boston in 1872—especially since she had to sell her beloved horse. But in Boston she finds the Governor's Girl, an injured firehorse, and begins caring for her and thinking about becoming a veterinarian. Then an outbreak of fires causes Rachel to question the ethics of her journalist father, and when the horses who pull the fire engines fall ill, the danger escalates. In a dramatic climax, the Great Boston Fire of 1872 is brought to life with cinematic vividness, and Rachel proves her grit and determination to make something of herself.

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.

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.

Get Real by Mara Rockliff

Can you change the world with your wallet? You already do. In this frank, teen-friendly manifesto, Mara Rockliff reveals what you're really buying when you spend your money on a cell phone, a cheap t-shirt, or fast food—and shows the way to better choices, both for people and the planet. Start seeing the world for real, and discover how you can make a difference. You've got buying power—now let's see you change the world for good!

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.

Greek Myths by Olivia Coolidge (6-7)

From the terror of Medusa and the Minotaur to the Labors of Heracles and journeys of Theseus, the stories in this collection have thrilled and enthralled people for centuries with their high drama, hazardous quests, and unforgettable characters (both mortal and immortal).

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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 never met anyone like Harris, his daredevil of a cousin. Can the two survive the summer?

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 (6-7)

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.

Heroes of Olympus Series by Rick Riordan (6-7)

Sequel series to Percy Jackson focuses on Greek/Roman Mythology. Your old friends from Percy Jackson along with a new cast of characters embark on their most dangerous challenge yet.

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.

Hokey Pokey by Jerry Spinelli

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.

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.

I Kill the Mockingbird by Paul Acampora

"When best friends Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see 'To Kill A Mockingbird' included. But not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. So they hatch a plot to get the entire town talking about the well-known Harper Lee classic"

If You Are Reading This by Arthur A. Levine (6-8)

For a responsible sixteen-year-old, Michael Wilson has a lot of problems--his father was killed in Afghanistan in 2005, his overworked and overprotective mother will not talk about their situation, and does not want him playing football, and he has suddenly started to receive letters that his father wrote before his death.

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The Kane Chronicles by Rick Riordan (6-7)

When a magical accident unleashes the Egyptian Gods into the modern world, Carter and Sadie Kane discover that they are descended from the most powerful Egyptian Magicians, and only they have the power to set things right!

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.

Letters from Wolfie by Patti Sherlock

Mark's dog Wolfie is part malamute, part German shepherd, and all heart. Mark can hardly imagine life without his big, loving canine companion. But in 1969, the Vietnam War is still raging, and when Mark learns that the army needs scout dogs, he decides to send Wolfie. As his dad says, a smart dog like Wolfie could save a lot of soldiers—soldiers like Mark's brother, Danny. Besides, it seems like the patriotic thing to do. Inspired by real events, this is a heartbreaking story about sacrifice, loyalty, and the complex meanings of patriotism.

Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine

As twelve-year-old Marlee starts middle school in 1958 Little Rock, it feels like her whole world is falling apart. Until she meets Liz, the new girl at school. Liz is everything Marlee wishes she could be: she's brave, brash and always knows the right thing to say. But when Liz leaves school without even a good-bye, the rumor is that Liz was caught passing for white. Marlee decides that doesn't matter. She just wants her friend back. And to stay friends, Marlee and Liz are even willing to take on segregation and the dangers their friendship could bring to both their families.

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.

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.

Love That Dog by Sharon Creech

With a fresh and deceptively simple style, acclaimed author Sharon Creech tells a story with enormous heart. Written as a series of free-verse poems from Jack's point of view, *Love That Dog* shows how one boy finds his own voice with the help of a teacher, a writer, a pencil, some yellow paper, and of course, a dog. With classic poetry included in the back matter, this provides the perfect resource for teachers and students alike.

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.

Marley and Me by John Grogan

The heartwarming and unforgettable story of a family in the making and the wondrously neurotic dog who taught them what really matters in life.

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Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs (6-8)

As a kid, Jacob formed a special bond with his grandfather over his bizarre tales and photos of levitating girls and invisible boys. Now at 16, he is reeling from the old man's unexpected death. Then Jacob is given a mysterious letter that propels him on a journey to the remote Welsh island where his grandfather grew up. There, he finds the children from the photographs--alive and well--despite the islanders' assertion that all were killed decades ago.

The Missing series by Margaret Peterson Haddix (6-8)

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.

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.

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

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?

My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen

Gary Paulsen has owned dozens of unforgettable and amazing dogs. In each chapter he tells of one special dog, among them Cookie, the sled dog who saved his life; Snowball, the puppy he owned as a boy in the Philippines; Ike, his mysterious hunting companion; Dirk, the grim protector; and his true friend Josh, a brilliant border collie.

Notes from the Dog by Gary Paulsen

Fifteen-year-old Finn is a loner, living with his dad and his amazing dog, Dylan. This summer he's hoping for a job where he doesn't have to talk to anyone except his pal Matthew. Then Johanna moves in next door. She's ten years older, cool, funny, and she treats Finn as an equal. Dylan loves her, too. Johanna's dealing with breast cancer, and Matthew and Finn learn to care for her, emotionally, and physically. When she hires Finn to create a garden, his gardening ideas backfire comically. But Johanna and the garden help Finn discover his talents for connecting with people.

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

Eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. When they arrive from Brooklyn to spend the summer with her, Cecile is nothing like they imagined. While the girls hope to go to Disneyland and meet Tinker Bell, their mother sends them to a day camp run by the Black Panthers. Unexpectedly, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern learn much about their family, their country, and themselves during one truly crazy summer.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.

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Outside of a Horse by Ginny Rorby

Hannah Gale starts volunteering at a horse stable because she needs a place to escape. Her father has returned from the Iraq war as an amputee with posttraumatic stress disorder, and his nightmares rock the household. At the stable, Hannah comes to love Jack, Super Dee, and Indy; helps bring a rescued mare back from the brink; and witnesses the birth of the filly who steals her heart. Hannah learns more than she ever imagined about horse training, abuse, and rescues, as well as her own capacity for hope. Physical therapy with horses could be the answer to her father's prayers, if only she can get him to try.

Percy Jackson & The Olympians Series by Rick Riordan (6-8)

The adventures of Percy Jackson and his demigod friends as they fight mythological monsters and the forces of the titan lord Kronos.

Ranger's Apprentice Series by John A Flanagan (6-8)

They have always scared him in the past—the Rangers, with their dark cloaks and shadowy ways. The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to ordinary people. And now 15-year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. What he doesn't yet realize is that the Rangers are the protectors of the kingdom. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, they fight the battles before the battles reach the people.

The Red Pony by John Steinbeck

Written at a time of profound anxiety caused by the illness of his mother, Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck draws on his memories of childhood in these stories about a boy who embodies both the rebellious spirit and the contradictory desire for acceptance of early adolescence. Unlike most coming-of-age stories, the cycle does not end with a hero "matured" by circumstances. As John Seelye writes in his introduction, reversing common interpretations, **The Red Pony** is imbued with a sense of loss. Jody's encounters with birth and death express a common theme in Steinbeck's fiction: They are parts of the ongoing process of life, "resolving" nothing.

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.

The Red Umbrella by Christina Gonzales

The moving tale of a 14-year-old girl's journey from Cuba to America as part of Operation Pedro Pan—an organized exodus of more than 14,000 unaccompanied children, whose parents sent them away to escape Fidel Castro's revolution.

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.

Shakespeare Collection by AGS Classics (Graphic shorts) (6-8)

Shakespeare for Kids: His Life and Times by Agesen and Marcie Blumberg (6-8)

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.

Shakespeare: His Work and His World by Michael Rosen and Robert Ingpen (6-8)

Presents the life and times of the renowned author through a review of some plays and expressions.

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Shelter Dogs by Peg Kehret

A collection of true stories about the amazing lives of eight shelter dogs. Many of these dogs were unwanted because of their size, behavior, or medical condition. All of the dogs found owners who loved and cared for them.

Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

When Marty Preston comes across a young beagle in the hills behind his home, it's love at first sight—and also big trouble. How far will Marty have to go to make Shiloh his?

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.

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.

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.

Ungifted by Gordon Korman

A hilarious and heartfelt novel in which one middle-school troublemaker accidentally moves into the gifted and talented program—and changes everything.

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

In 1914, Joey, a beautiful bay-red foal with a distinctive cross on his nose, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front. With his officer, he charges toward the enemy, witnessing the horror of the battles in France.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

White Fang by Jack London

In gripping detail, London bares the savage realities of the battle for survival among all species in a harsh, unyielding environment. White Fang is part wolf, part dog, a ferocious and magnificent creature through whose experiences we see and feel essential rhythms and patterns of life in the animal kingdom and among mankind as well.

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.

Woodson 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.

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.

Zen and The Art of Faking It 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.

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7th Grade: Choices

Artemis Fowl Series - Eoin Colfer

Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a millionaire, a genius-and, above all, a criminal mastermind. But even Artemis doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These aren't the fairies of bedtime stories; these fairies are armed and dangerous. Artemis thinks he has them right where he wants them but then they stop playing by the rules.

"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!

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.

Chomp by Carl Hiaasen

Handling wild animals is an everyday task for Wahoo Cray, son of an unpredictable animal wrangling father. When the reality TV show *Expedition Survival!* casts Wahoo's father, conflicts and catastrophes start happening.

Counting by 7's by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

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 feisty old neighbor with a most unusual chore—typewriting obituaries filled with stories about the people who founded his utopian town.

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Dogs of Winter by Bobby Pyron

When Ivan's mother disappears, he's abandoned on the streets of Moscow, with little chance to make it through the harsh winter. But help comes in an unexpected form: Ivan is adopted by a pack of dogs, and the dogs quickly become more than just his street companions: They become his family. Soon Ivan, who used to love reading fairytales, is practically living in one, as he and his pack roam the city and countryside, using their wits to find food and shelter.

Dogsong by Gary Paulsen

Something is bothering Russel Susskit. He hates waking up to the sound of his father's coughing, the smell of diesel oil, the noise of snow machines starting up. Only Oogruk, the shaman who owns the last team of dogs in the village, understands Russel's longing for the old ways and the songs that celebrated them.

Empty by Suzanne Weyn

A dystopic look at what happens to one American town when all the fossil fuels run out... Civilization has just run out. It's the future - the very near future - and the fossil fuels are running out. No gas. No oil. Which means no driving. No heat. Supermarkets are empty. Malls have shut down. Life has just become more local than we ever knew it could be.

Endangered by Eliot Schrefer

From National Book Award Finalist Eliot Schrefer comes the compelling tale of a girl who must save a group of bonobos -- and herself -- from a violent coup. Congo is a dangerous place, even for people who are trying to do good. When Sophie has to visit her mother at her sanctuary for bonobos, she's not thrilled to be there. Then Otto, an infant bonobo, comes into her life, and for the first time she feels responsible for another creature.

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.

Heartbeat by Sharon Creech (Also in Level 1)

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.

Heroes of Olympus Series by Rick Riordan (Also in Level 1)

Sequel series to Percy Jackson focuses on Greek/Roman Mythology. Your old friends from Percy Jackson along with a new cast of characters embark on their most dangerous challenge yet.

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

The Hobbit by J.R.R Tolkien

An episodic quest centering on themes of personal growth and heroism, Bilbo Baggins journeys to try and win a share of the treasure guarded by the dragon, Smaug.

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.

Hunt for the Bamboo Rat by Graham Salisbury (7-8)

Zenji, a Japanese American living in Honolulu, speaks both Japanese and English fluently and is recruited by the US Army during WWII to go to the Philippines to spy on the Japanese. Based on a true story.

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.

The Kane Chronicles by Rick Riordan (6-7)

When a magical accident unleashes the Egyptian Gods into the modern world, Carter and Sadie Kane discover that they are descended from the most powerful Egyptian Magicians, and only they have the power to set things right!

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.

Lord of the Rings Trilogy - J.R.R. Tolkien

One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them, One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them. In ancient times the Rings of Power were crafted by the Elven-smiths, and Sauron, the Dark Lord, forged the One Ring, filling it with his own power so that he could rule all others. But the One Ring was taken from him, and though he sought it throughout Middle-earth, it remained lost to him. After many ages it fell by chance into the hands of the hobbit Bilbo Baggins.

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs (6-8)

As a kid, Jacob formed a special bond with his grandfather over his bizarre tales and photos of levitating girls and invisible boys. Now at 16, he is reeling from the old man's unexpected death. Then Jacob is given a mysterious letter that propels him on a journey to the remote Welsh island where his grandfather grew up. There, he finds the children from the photographs--alive and well--despite the islanders' assertion that all were killed decades ago.

The Missing series by Margaret Peterson Haddix (6-8)

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.

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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?

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.

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.

Percy Jackson & The Olympians Series by Rick Riordan (6-7)

The adventures of Percy Jackson and his demigod friends as they fight mythological monsters and the forces of the titan lord Kronos.

The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny and the Fight for Civil Rights by Steve Sheinkin

Describes the fifty black sailors who refused to work in unsafe and unfair conditions after an explosion in Port Chicago killed 320 servicemen, and how the incident influenced civil rights.

Ranger's Apprentice Series by John A Flanagan (6-8)

They have always scared him in the past—the Rangers, with their dark cloaks and shadowy ways. The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to ordinary people. And now 15-year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. What he doesn't yet realize is that the Rangers are the protectors of the kingdom. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, they fight the battles before the battles reach the people.

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?

The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen

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?

Shakespeare Collection by AGS Classics (Graphic shorts) (6-8)

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

***Shakespeare for Kids: His Life and Times* by Agesen and Marcie Blumberg (6-8)**

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.

***Shakespeare: His Work and His World* by Michael Rosen and Robert Ingpen (6-8)**

Presents the life and times of the renowned author through a review of some plays and expressions.

***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.

***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.

***Thomas Jefferson: President & Philosopher/The Art of Power* by Jon Meacham (7-8)**

The father of the ideal of individual liberty, of the Louisiana Purchase, of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and of the settling of the West, Jefferson recognized that the genius of humanity — and the genius of the new nation — lay in the possibility of progress, of discovering the undiscovered and seeking the unknown. Flawed, contradictory, elusive, Jefferson was at heart a man engaged in the wars of his times. His story resonates today, not least because he embodies an eternal drama: the struggle of a leadership of a nation to achieve greatness in a difficult and confounding world.

***Torn Away* by Jennifer Brown**

In the aftermath of a tornado that has devastated her hometown of Elizabeth, Missouri, sixteen-year-old Jersey Cameron struggles to overcome her grief as she is sent to live with her only surviving relatives.

***The Wreckers* by Iain Lawrence**

An evil coastal community lives off of the shipwrecks that they pray to crash upon their shores. A 14-year-old lone survivor of the ship *The Isle of Skye* attempts to escape the wreckers.

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8th Grade: Challenges

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?

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.

The Boy's War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War by Jim Murphy

First-hand accounts that include diary entries and personal letters describe the experiences of boys, sixteen years old or younger, who fought in the Civil War.

Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad by Rosemary Sutcliff

This re-telling of Homer's Iliad retains all the splendor of Ancient Troy. Legendary Helen, courageous Achilles, Ajax, Odysseus and Hector are all present in their original grandeur as they fight for Helen's--and Greece's--honor.

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.

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).

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?

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Empty by Suzanne Weyn

A dystopic look at what happens to one American town when all the fossil fuels run out...

Civilization has just run out. It's the future - the very near future - and the fossil fuels are running out. No gas. No oil. Which means no driving. No heat. Supermarkets are empty. Malls have shut down. Life has just become more local than we ever knew it could be.

The Guardian (Guardians of Time Series) by Rose Ravelo

Growing up in upstate New York, Sydney's life has always been pretty normal, well about as normal as your typical average teenager's life is who grows up being raised by a single dad, lives next door to her best friend who knows everything there is to know about her, and harbors big dreams of someday becoming an inspiring author. Since turning eighteen, Sydney now finds herself in the center of a century's old family feud where she is a part of the Illuminati, a guardian, meant to guard time from the Rogues, her family's rival clan. She has these brand new powers and a whole new destiny based on some ancient family secret where it is up to her to find the Hourglass, protect the Chosen One, and save the world!

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.

Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones (graphic novel)

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.

Hunt for the Bamboo Rat by Graham Salisbury (7-8)

Zenji, a Japanese American living in Honolulu, speaks both Japanese and English fluently and is recruited by the US Army during WWII to go to the Philippines to spy on the Japanese. Based on a true story.

I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai (Young Readers Edition)

Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school.

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Ichiro by Ryan Inzana (graphic novel)

A strikingly illustrated adventure set in a Mythological world— Japanese gods find Ichiro, the son of a fallen American soldier, relocating with his mother to her ancestral Japan, where after visiting sacred temples with his grandfather, he experiences a supernatural encounter that teaches him about the nature of humans, gods, and war.

If You Are Reading This by Arthur A. Levine (6-8)

For a responsible sixteen-year-old, Michael Wilson has a lot of problems--his father was killed in Afghanistan in 2005, his overworked and overprotective mother will not talk about their situation, and does not want him playing football, and he has suddenly started to receive letters that his father wrote before his death.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick (graphic novel)

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 Inventor's Secret by Andrea Cremer

The Revolutionary War never took place and the British Empire has expanded into a global juggernaut propelled by marvelous and horrible machinery. A group of teenage resistance fighters infiltrates the floating city to find out more about a mysterious boy they have saved. Adventure, mystery, romance and a great setting. Book One- very fun read.

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?

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.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

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.

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs (6-8)

As a kid, Jacob formed a special bond with his grandfather over his bizarre tales and photos of levitating girls and invisible boys. Now at 16, he is reeling from the old man's unexpected death. Then Jacob is given a mysterious letter that propels him on a journey to the remote Welsh island where his grandfather grew up. There, he finds the children from the photographs--alive and well--despite the islanders' assertion that all were killed decades ago.

The Missing series by Margaret Peterson Haddix (6-8)

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.

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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.

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. 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.

October Sky by Homer Hickam

It was 1957, the year Sputnik raced across the Appalachian sky, and the small town of Coalwood, West Virginia, was slowly dying. Faced with an uncertain future, Homer Hickam nurtured a dream: to send rockets into outer space. The introspective son of the mine's superintendent and a mother determined to get him out of Coalwood forever, Homer fell in with a group of misfits who learned not only how to turn scraps of metal into sophisticated rockets but how to sustain their hope in a town that swallowed its men alive.

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.

Parallel Journey by Eleanor Ayers (Holocaust)

An account of World War II in Germany as told from the viewpoints of a former Nazi soldier and a Jewish Holocaust survivor.

Ranger's Apprentice Series by John A Flanagan (6-8)

They have always scared him in the past—the Rangers, with their dark cloaks and shadowy ways. The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to ordinary people. And now 15-year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. What he doesn't yet realize is that the Rangers are the protectors of the kingdom. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, they fight the battles before the battles reach the people.

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.

Shakespeare Collection by AGS Classics (Graphic shorts) (6-8)

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***Shakespeare for Kids: His Life and Times* by Aagesen and Marcie Blumberg (6-8)**

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.

***Shakespeare: His Work and His World* by Michael Rosen and Robert Ingpen (6-8)**

Presents the life and times of the renowned author through a review of some plays and expressions.

***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.

***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.

***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.

***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.

***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.

***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.

***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, camera designers, software experts, suit testers, telescope crew, aerospace technicians, photo developers, engineers, and navigators.

***Tears of a Tiger* by Sharon Draper**

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.

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The Testing (series) by Joelle Charbonneau

It's graduation day for sixteen-year-old Malencia Vale, and the entire Five Lakes Colony (the former Great Lakes) is celebrating. All Cia can think about—hope for—is whether she'll be chosen for The Testing, a United Commonwealth program that selects the best and brightest new graduates to become possible leaders of the slowly revitalizing post-war civilization.

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.

Thomas Jefferson: President & Philosopher/The Art of Power by Jon Meacham (7-8)

Flawed, contradictory, elusive, Jefferson was at heart a man engaged in the wars of his times. His story resonates today, not least because he embodies an eternal drama: the struggle of a leadership of a nation to achieve greatness in a difficult and confounding world.

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"?

Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Pattillo Beals

In 1957, Melba Pattillo 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'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.

Wild Things! Acts of Mischief in Children's Literature by Betsy Bird and Julie Danielson and Peter D. Sieruta (6-8 grades)

All kinds of tidbits about authors, books and publishing from a serial killer who never appeared in the Little House books to a discussion of censorship including why a book display had to be taken down at FAO Schwarz (oldest toy store in United States).

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.

Woods Runner by Gary Paulsen

Samuel, 13, has grown up on the frontier of a British colony, America. Far from any town, or news of the war against the King that American patriots have begun near Boston. But the war comes to them.

Words in the Dust by Trent Reedy

Zulaikha hopes. She hopes for peace, now that the Taliban have been driven from Afghanistan; a good relationship with her hard stepmother; and one day even to go to school, or to have her cleft palate fixed. Zulaikha knows all will be provided for her--"Inshallah," God willing.

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Holocaust Novels:

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 Berlin Boxing Club by Bob Sharenow

In 1936 Berlin, fourteen-year-old Karl Stern, considered Jewish despite a non-religious upbringing, learns to box from the legendary Max Schmeling while struggling with the realities of the Holocaust.

The Boy Who Dared by Susan Bartoletti

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.

The Boy on the Wooden Box memoir by Leon Leyson

Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only 10 years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. With incredible luck, perseverance and grit, Leyson was able to survive the sadism of the Nazis, including that of the demonic Amon Goeth, commandant of Plaszow, the concentration camp outside Krakow. Ultimately, it was the generosity and cunning of one man, a man named Oskar Schindler, who saved Leon Leyson's life, and the lives of his mother, his father and two of his four siblings, by adding their names to his list of workers in his factory --- a list that became world renowned: Schindler's List.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Eleanor Story: An American Girl in Hitler's Germany by Eleanor Ramrath Garner

During the Great Depression, Eleanor's family moves from America to Germany, but the war breaks out as her family is crossing the Atlantic, and for years Eleanor struggles to keep her American identity despite the turbulence and upheaval around her.

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.

Forging Freedom by Hudson Talbott

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 Bulemthal 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.

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 self-defense. Her brother thinks that terrorism is necessary to get results. War seems inevitable and both will have to fight. Will they find the security of a place they can call home?

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?

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 Lit Circles

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Prisoner B-1038 by Alan Gratz

Based on the true story of Jack Gruener – this book relates his story of survival from the Nazi occupation of Krakow, when he was eleven, through a succession of concentration camps to the final liberation of Dachau ---Survive.

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

Rescue: The Story of How Gentiles Saved Jews in the Holocaust by Milton Meltzer

In every Nazi-occupied 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 children in her home, a small number of people had the strength to reject the inhumanity they were ordered to support.

Rose Under Fire by Elizabeth Wein

While flying an Allied fighter plane from Paris to England, American ATA pilot and amateur poet, Rose Justice, is captured by the Nazis and sent to Ravensbruck, the notorious women's concentration camp. Trapped in horrific circumstances, Rose finds hope in the impossible through the loyalty, bravery and friendship of her fellow prisoners.

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 hands 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

We Are Witnesses: Five Diaries of Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust by Jacob Boas

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 Fought Back: Teen Resisters of the Holocaust by Allan Zullo

This book chronicles the experiences of Sonia and six other young Jewish partisans. These accounts are based exclusively on the personal, lengthy interviews with each former partisan featured in this book. Using real names, dates and places, these stories are written as factual and truthful versions of their recollections.

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SPRINGBOARD 9-12 GRADE SUPPLEMENTAL READING LIST (LIT CIRCLES & INDEPENDENT TITLES)

9th Grade: 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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 Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde's madcap farce about mistaken identities, secret engagements, and lovers entanglements still delights readers more than a century after its 1895 publication and premiere performance.

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 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.

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.

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

Shakespeare's intertwined love polygons begin to get complicated from the start.

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?

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.

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

The proud Mr. Darcy and the prejudiced Elizabeth Bennet play out their spirited courtship in a series of eighteenth-century drawing-room intrigues.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

The beloved American classic about a young girl’s coming-of-age at the turn of the century, Betty Smith’s *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* is a poignant and moving tale filled with compassion and cruelty, laughter and heartache, crowded with life and people and incident.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

The most popular pirate story ever written in English, featuring one of literature’s most beloved “bad guys,” *Treasure Island* has been happily devoured by several generations of boys—and girls—and grownups.

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.

The Umbrella Man and Other Stories by Roald Dahl

These compelling tales are an introduction to the adult writing of a storytelling genius.

Whirligig by Paul Fleischman

A teenage boy makes a fatal mistake and goes on a journey of repentance.

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

10th Grade: Culture /Justice

1984 by George Orwell

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.

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.

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

As horrible war plods on year after year, Paul holds fast to a single vow: to fight against the principles of hate that meaninglessly pits young men of the same generation but different uniforms against each other --- if only he can come out of the war alive.

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 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.

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.

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.

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

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.

Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton

Alan Paton's impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law is a work of searing beauty.

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.

Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende

As we follow Eliza Sommers, a spirited heroine on a perilous journey north in the hold of a ship to the rough-and-tumble world of San Francisco and northern California, we enter a world whose newly arrived inhabitants are driven mad by gold fever.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

The terrifyingly prophetic novel of a post-literate future. Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, being the source of all discord and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy; there is discord in his marriage. Are books hidden in his house?

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.

Freedom Writers Diary by Erin Grunwell and the Freedom Writers

Ten years ago, 'The Freedom Writers Diary' was published and soon became an international sensation. Today, the incredible journey continues.

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 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 am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

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.

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

In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez

Set during the waning days of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic in 1960, this extraordinary novel tells the story the Mirabal sisters, three young wives and mothers who are assassinated after visiting their jailed husbands.

Little Brother by Cory Doctorow

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.

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.

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

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.

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.

Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare

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.

Motorcycle Diaries by Che Guevara

"A journey, a number of journeys. Ernesto Guevara in search of adventure, Ernesto Guevara in search of America, Ernesto Guevara in search of Che. On this journey of journeys, solitude found solidarity, 'I' turned into 'we'." —Eduardo Galeano

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.

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

The novel tells the story of the rise and fall of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of a family. It is a rich and brilliant chronicle of life and death, and the tragicomedy of humankind.

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

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

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.

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.

Twelve Angry Men by Reginald Rose

A blistering character study and an examination of the American melting pot and the judicial system that keeps it in check, *Twelve Angry Men* holds at its core a deeply patriotic belief in the U.S. legal system.

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

This nonfiction 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.

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

11th Grade: The American Dream

40 Short Stories: A Portable Anthology by Beverly Lawn

Economical in both size and price, *40 Short Stories* offers a well-chosen array of popular and significant stories, enhanced by unobtrusive but effective editorial features.

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.

An American Childhood by Annie Dillard

An autobiography describing the author's childhood and life in Pittsburgh during the fifties.

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.

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.

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 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.

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."

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

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.

The Dream: Martin Luther King Jr., and the Speech that Inspired a Nation by Drew Hansen

The core of the book is Hansen's studious line-by-line analysis of the speech itself-King's choice of words and phrases, his intonation, his allusions, his targets. In the end, Hansen maintains, the speech is timeless because it goes right to the core of democratic principles, and as such can be held up as inspiration for the disenfranchised across cultures.

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.

Good Poems, American Places introduced by Garrison Keillor

Good Poems, American Places brings together poems that celebrate the geography and culture that bind us together as a nation. Think of these poems as postcards from the road, by poets who've gotten carried away by a particular place-a town in Kansas, a kitchen window in Nantucket, a Manhattan street, a farm in western Minnesota.

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.

A Hole in My Life 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, 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.

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

Invisible Man Ralph Ellison

The nameless narrator of the novel describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood", and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be.

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.

Lindbergh by Scott Berg

Lindbergh's is "a dramatic and disturbing American story," says the Los Angeles Times Book Review, and this biography--the first to be written with unrestricted access to the Lindbergh archives and extensive interviews of his friends, colleagues, and close family members--is "the definitive account."

Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger's by John Robison

Robison's thoughtful and thoroughly memorable account of living with Asperger's syndrome is assured of media attention (and sales) due in part to his brother Augusten Burroughs's brief but fascinating description of Robison in *Running with Scissors*. But Robison's story is much more fully detailed in this moving memoir, beginning with his painful childhood, his abusive alcoholic father and his mentally disturbed mother.

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.

Native Son by Richard Wright

Trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, a young African-American man finds release only in acts of violence.

Nickel 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.

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.

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.

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

Our Town by Thornton Wilder

This Pulitzer Prize-winning drama of life in the town of Grover's Corners, an allegorical representation of all life, has become a classic.

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 story 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.

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.

Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson

Based on more than forty interviews with Jobs conducted over two years, Walter Isaacson has written a riveting story of the roller-coaster life and searingly intense personality of a creative entrepreneur whose passion for perfection and ferocious drive revolutionized six industries.

The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction by Ann Charters

Full edition of the volume below.

The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction, Compact 8th Edition by Ann Charters

Ann Charters has an acute sense of which stories work most effectively in the classroom, and she knows that writers, not editors, have the most interesting and useful things to say about the making and the meaning of fiction. Her anthology, *The Story and Its Writer*, is the most comprehensive, diverse -- and the best-selling -- introduction to fiction available, notable for its student appeal as well as its quality and range.

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.

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

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.

Witch-Hunt: Mysteries of the Salem Witch Trials by Marc Aronson

The witch trials will eventually claim twenty-five lives, shatter the community, and forever shape the American social conscience.

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.

Senior English: Perspectives

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.

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.

All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy

The tale of John Grady Cole, who at sixteen finds himself at the end of a long line of Texas ranchers, cut off from the only life he has ever imagined for himself. With two companions, he sets off for Mexico on a sometimes idyllic, sometimes comic journey to a place where dreams are paid for in blood.

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 Awakening by Kate Chopin

First published in 1899, this novel shocked readers with its open sensuality and uninhibited treatment of marital infidelity. Poignant and lyrical, it tells the story of a New Orleans wife who attempts to find love outside a stifling marriage. Critics have praised it as a first-rate narrative and a forerunner of the modern novel.

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.

The Boy Who Harnesses the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope by William Kamkwamba

Witnessing his family's struggle, Kamkwamba's supercharged curiosity leads him to pursue the improbable dream of using "electric wind"(they have no word for windmills) to harness energy for the farm.

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.

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

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.

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 Crazy Makers: How the Food Industry is Destroying our Brains and Harming our Children by Jeremy Tarcher

Based on extensive research, epidemiological evidence, and a formal study of schoolchildren's eating habits, *The Crazy Makers* identifies how the latest food products may be literally driving us crazy.

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

One of the best-known, most frequently performed of modern plays, displaying Ibsen's genius for realistic prose drama. A classic expression of women's rights, the play builds to a climax in which the central character, Nora, rejects a smothering marriage and life in "a doll's house." A selection of the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

Dr. Faustus by Christopher Marlowe

One of Western culture's most enduring myths recounts a learned German doctor's sale of his soul to the devil in exchange for knowledge and power. Elizabethan playwright Christopher Marlowe transformed the Faust legend into the English language's first epic tragedy, a vivid drama that abounds in psychological insights and poetic grandeur.

Dracula by Bram Stoker

During a business visit to Count Dracula's castle in Transylvania, a young English solicitor finds himself at the center of a series of horrifying incidents. Jonathan Harker is attacked by three phantom women, observes the Count's transformation from human to bat form, and discovers puncture wounds on his own neck that seem to have been made by teeth. Harker returns home upon his escape from Dracula's grim fortress, but a friend's strange malady — involving sleepwalking, inexplicable blood loss, and mysterious throat wounds — initiates a frantic vampire hunt.

The Finish by Mark Bowden

From Mark Bowden, the preeminent chronicler of our military and Special Forces, comes *The Finish*, a gripping account of the hunt for Osama bin Laden. With access to key sources, Bowden takes us inside the rooms where decisions were made and on the ground where the action unfolded.

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.

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.

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

Grimm's Fairytales

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

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

Dark allegory describes the narrator's journey up the Congo River and his meeting with, and fascination by, Mr. Kurtz, a mysterious personage who dominates the unruly inhabitants of the region.

The Hobbit by J.R.R 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.

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 Clarissa Vaughn in present day New York City who is nicknamed Mrs. Dalloway.

How to Read Novels Like a Professor: A Jaunty Exploration of the World's Favorite Literary Form by Thomas C. Foster

Thomas C. Foster—the sage and scholar who ingeniously led readers through the fascinating symbolic codes of great literature in his first book, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*—now examines the grammar of the popular novel.

The Illiad 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.

Odyssey by Homer

The epic poem that tells the story of Odysseus' journey home after the Trojan War.

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 Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

This celebrated novel traces the moral degeneration of a handsome young Londoner from an innocent fop into a cruel and reckless pursuer of pleasure and, ultimately, a murderer. As Dorian Gray sinks into depravity, his body retains perfect youth and vigor while his recently painted portrait reflects the ravages of crime and sensuality.

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.

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

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.

Siddhartha by Herman Hesse

In the novel, *Siddhartha*, a young man, leaves his family for a contemplative life, then, restless, discards it for one of the flesh. He conceives a son, but bored and sickened by lust and greed, moves on again. Near despair, Siddhartha comes to a river where he hears a unique sound. This sound signals the true beginning of his life -- the beginning of suffering, rejection, peace, and, finally, wisdom.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

This intriguing combination of fantasy thriller and moral allegory depicts the gripping struggle of two opposing personalities — one essentially good, the other evil — for the soul of one man.

Turn of the Screw by Henry James

One of literature's most gripping ghost stories depicts the sinister transformation of 2 innocent children into flagrant liars and hypocrites.

The Watch that Ends the Night by Alan Woolf

The story of the Titanic unfolds from multiple characters' perspectives.

The Watchmen by Alan Moore

A graphic novel about a group of aging superheroes who are now being stalked by a killer.

The Watchmen as Literature: A Critical Study by Sara J. Van Ness

A resource for understanding the graphic novel through critical 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.