*Each student must read THREE books from the list below:

_The Crossover_ by Kwame Alexander. _Sports fiction; novel in verse_. 2014. Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

_Little Women_ by Louisa May Alcott. _Classics fiction_. 1868. The four March sisters experience joys and sorrows as they grow into young women in nineteenth century New England.


_Hope Was Here_ by Joan Bauer. _Realistic fiction_. 2005. When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Wisconsin in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved in a campaign to oust the town’s corrupt mayor.

_The Martian Chronicles_ by Ray Bradbury. _Science fiction_. 1952. The first Earth people to attempt the colonization of Mars try to build their new world in the image of the civilization they left behind.


_Ender’s Game_ (alternative: _Ender’s Shadow_) by Orson Scott Card. _Science fiction_. 1985. Young Ender Wiggin discovers he is actually a genetically-engineered military genius being prepared to save his planet in its war with an alien enemy.

_Bea_ by Roald Dahl. _Creative nonfiction_. 1984. Presents humorous anecdotes from the author’s childhood, including his summer vacations in Norway and life at an English boarding school.


_Out of My Mind_ by Sharon Draper. _Realistic fiction_. 2010. Considered by many to be intellectually disabled, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

_Mockingbird_ by Kathryn Erskine. _Realistic fiction_. 2011. At school, ten-year-old Caitlin struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school; at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

_The Rivalry: Mystery at the Army-Navy Game_ by John Feinstein. _Sports fiction_. 2010. Teen sportswriters Stevie Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson, assigned to cover Army-Navy football game, begin to suspect the President, an attendee, is in danger.

_Inkheart_ (alternatives: _Inkspell_ or _Inkdeath_) by Cornelia Funke. _Fantasy_. 2003. After twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father can “read” fictional characters to life, one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.

_The Graveyard Book_ by Neil Gaiman. _Fantasy_. 2008. After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own.

_The Miracle Worker_ by William Gibson. _Drama (historical)_. 1957. Helen Keller, who is blind and deaf, struggles to communicate with the world beyond herself until a new young teacher, Anne Sullivan, takes her on.

_Snow in August_ by Pete Hamill. _Historical fiction_. 1999. Set in a working-class Brooklyn neighborhood in 1947, this poignant tale revolves around two characters: an 11-year-old Irish Catholic boy and a rabbi who is a refugee from Prague.

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Flush by Carl Hiaasen. Adventure fiction. 2005. Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys' home.

Farewell to Manzanar. Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. Non-fiction, memoir. 1973. The true account of Jeanne Wakatsuki, who was sent at the age of seven with her family and many other Japanese-Americans to the Manzanar internment camp in California.

The Star of Kazan by Eva Ibbotson. Historical fiction. 2004. After twelve-year-old Annika, an orphan in late-1800s Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, a woman claiming to be her mother arrives and takes her to live in a mysterious mansion.

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan. Realistic fiction. 2017. Now that Amina’s in middle school, her friend is suddenly hanging out with one of the “cool” girls, and is even talking about changing her name to something more “American.” Where does Amina fit?

The Boxer by Kathleen Karr. Sports fiction. 2000. Having learned how to box while in prison, fifteen-year-old Johnny sets out to discover if he can make a decent living as a fighter in late nineteenth-century New York City.


B for Buster by Iain Lawrence. Historical fiction. 2004. In the spring of 1943, sixteen-year-old Koka, desperate to escape his home, lies about his age to enlist in the armed forces and soon becomes part of a crew flying bombing raids over Germany.

A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. Le Guin. Fantasy. 1968. The tumultuous tale of how the restless youth Sparrowhawk survives many challenges as he grows into Ged, the greatest wizard in Earthsea.

Confessions of a Closet Catholic by Sarah Darer Littman. Realistic fiction. 2006. To be more like her best friend, eleven-year-old Justine decides to give up Judaism to try being Catholic for a while.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London. Adventure fiction. 1903. Abducted into the harsh life of a Klondike sled dog, Buck must learn to follow his primal instincts, and must ultimately decide whether or not to heed the call of the wild.

Million-Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica. Sports fiction. 2009. When eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family feels economic strain and his best friend Abby is going blind, he gets a chance to win a million dollars by completing a single pass.

Good Night, Mr. Tom by Michelle Magorian. Historical fiction. 1986. A battered child learns to embrace life when he is adopted by an old man in the English countryside during World War II.

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelsen. Adventure fiction. 2002. After his anger erupts into violence, Cole agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and is sent to a remote Alaskan island.

One Bird by Kyoko Mori. Realistic fiction. 1996. Just when she feels that no one cares, fifteen-year-old Megumi meets veterinarian Dr. Mizutani, who offers Megumi a part-time job in her veterinary office helping her heal sick birds.

The River Between Us by Richard Peck. Historical fiction. 2003. During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois.

The Yearling by Marjorie K. Rawlings. Classic fiction. 1941. A young boy living in the Florida backwoods is forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet.

Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan. Adventure fiction. 2015. Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy that, decades later, catches three contemporary children its thread.

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The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt. Historical fiction. 2007. When all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood must stay in Mrs. Baker's classroom and read the plays of Shakespeare.

The Schwa Was Here by Neal Schusterman. Adventure fiction. 2004. A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone.

Shooting Kabul by N.H. Senzai. Adventure fiction. 2010. Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in the summer of 2001, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left behind.


I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith. Classic fiction. 1948. The prospects of Cassandra Mortmain, a young woman living on the edge of poverty in a crumbling castle with her eccentric family, begin to improve when new neighbors arrive from America.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson. Classic, adventure fiction. 1883. Among the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, an innkeeper and her son find a treasure map that leads to a pirate fortune, as well as great danger.

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart. Mystery. 2007. Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a search for the missing Mr. Benedict.

Golden Boy by Tara Sullivan. Adventure fiction. 2013. A Tanzanian albino boy finds himself the ultimate outsider, hunted because of the color of his skin.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien. Classic fiction, fantasy. 1932. Bilbo Baggins, a respectable hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain. Classic fiction. 1875. A mischievous early-nineteenth-century Missouri boy embarks on a summer of adventures with his friends Huck and Becky after witnessing a shocking crime in the village graveyard.

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