SHARED READING: *Each student must read The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian plus two other books chosen from this list. We encourage students to read The Absolutely True Diary... in August, as this will be the text for the first unit of study. Students must have a copy of this book for class (digital copies are acceptable).

In addition to The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, each student must pick TWO books from the list below:

*Feed* by M.T. Anderson. *Science fiction*. 2004. In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble.


*Rules of the Road* by Joan Bauer. *Realistic fiction*. 2000. Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of a chain of successful shoe stores from Chicago to Texas to confront the son who is trying to force the older woman to retire.


*The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley. *Mystery*. 2009. Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, must exonerate her father of murder; her investigation will lead her all the way to the King of England.

*New Boy* by Tracy Chevalier. *Historical fiction*. 2005. Chevalier recreates the Tragedy of Othello on Washington 6th grade schoolyard in the 1970s when a black boy, new to the school, develops a friendship with the most popular white girl in school.

*Whale Talk* by Chris Crutcher. *Sports fiction*. 2001. Follows a group of misfits, the Cutter All Night Mermen, as they struggle to find their places in a school that has no place for them.

*The Palace of Illusions* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. *Historical fiction*. 2009. A reimagining of the world-famous Indian epic, the Mahabharata and relevant to today's war-torn world, this novel is half history, half myth, and wholly magical.


*Blood Red Horse* by K. M. Grant. *Historical fiction*. 2006. Will has a small chestnut stallion with a white blaze in his brow. Ellie, a fair maiden, is supposed to marry Will’s older brother. And King Richard is calling for a Crusade to the Holy Land.

*Girl in the Blue Coat* by Hesse, Monica. *Historical fiction*. 2016. In 1943 Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, teenage Hanneke—a 'finder' of black-market goods—is tasked with finding a Jewish girl a customer had been hiding, who has seemingly vanished.


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The Apothecary by Maille Meloy. Fantasy. 2011. When a friend’s father is kidnapped, 14-year-old Janie must uncover the secrets of the apothecary’s sacred book, the Pharmacopoeia, and keep it out of the hands of Russian spies in 1950s London.

Trash by Andy Mulligan. Mystery. 2011. Fourteen-year-olds Raphael and Garo team up with a younger boy, Rat, to figure out the mysteries surrounding a bag Raphael finds during their daily life of sorting through trash in a third-world country’s dump.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers. Realistic fiction. 2008. While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script.

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel. Science fiction/Fantasy. 2004. Matt, a cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living aloft.

Tash Hearts Tolstoy by Kathryn Ormsbee. Realistic fiction. 2017. After a shoutout from one of the Internet’s superstar vloggers, Tash Zelenka suddenly finds herself and her obscure, amateur web series, Unhappy Families, thrust in viral limelight.

The Chosen by Chaim Potok. Classic fiction. 1967. Classic story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share, Judaism, in the way that is best suited to each.

Jackaby by William Ritter. Fantasy. 2014. Newly arrived in 1892 New England, Abigail Rook becomes assistant to R. F. Jackaby, an investigator of the unexplained with the ability to see supernatural beings.

My Brother’s Shadow by Monika Schröder. Adventure fiction. 2011. In 1918 Berlin, sixteen-year-old Moritz struggles to do what is right in his relationships with his job, with his socialist mother and sister, and with his WW1 veteran brother.

The Pearl by John Steinbeck. Classic fiction. 1947. Inspired by a Mexican folktale, this short novel tells the parable of a pearl diver, Kino, and explores man’s nature as well as greed, defiance of societal norms, and evil.

Girl in Reverse by Barbara Stuber. Historical fiction. 2014. Lillian Firestone is Chinese, but the kids in her 1951 Kansas City high school can’t separate her from the North Koreans that America is at war with. Frustrated, Lily searches for her birth mother.

Lucky Child by Loung Ung. Nonfiction: memoir. 2005. (Note: Text includes graphic violence). Ten-year-old Loung Ung was the “lucky child,” chosen to accompany her eldest brother to America while her sister and brothers remained behind in Cambodia under the violent regime of the Khmer Rouge. In alternating chapters, she gives voice to Chou, the beloved older sister.

Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson. Realistic fiction. 2017. Jade, one of the few black girls at her private school, is singled out for mentorship program for “at-risk” girls. But Jade isn’t does feel she’s “at-risk” at all; in fact, she may have a lot to teach.

The Extraordinary and Unusual Adventures of Horatio Lyle by Catherine Webb. Mystery. 2007. With a passion for science and invention, Horatio Lyle teams up with a reformed pickpocket and a rebellious young gentleman to investigate a conspiracy.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. Historical fiction. 2006. The character Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and storytelling help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

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