



## Reading 8 Suggested Literature

Below is a list of suggested literature for each quarter. Due to the mobility of students within the district, it is necessary to limit the selections to the quarters specified. However, you are not obligated to teach these pieces; EOC questions will cover skills and not specific pieces of literature.

The short stories, poems and plays listed can be found in the English 8 text, *Elements of Literature*. There are also several corresponding reading strategies and activities for each story in the *Elements of Literature* supplemental materials, such as the *Reading Skills and Strategies* handbook and the *Words to Own, Literary of Elements*, and *Graphic Organizers for Active Reading* workbooks. If you choose to use these stories, please coordinate with your English Department for textbook availability.

Each quarter has a specific theme, so if you find additional literature that reflects the theme, feel free to use it as long it is not being use by another grade level (consult the district's suggested and protected book lists).

### 1st quarter

#### Theme: Diversity & Acceptance of Self and Others

*Students will read about characters who learn to accept others and themselves despite differences.*

### Novels

Hinton, S. E. *The Outsiders*. New York: Viking Press, 1967.

*Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parent's death as they search for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.*

Zindel, Paul. *The Pigman*. New York :Harper & Row, 1968.

*Two high school sophomores from unhappy homes form a close friendship with a lonely old man with a terrible secret.*

### Suggested novels for read-alouds, literature circles, or independent reading

Conly, Jane Leslie. *Crazy Lady!* New York: Harper Collins, 1993.

*As he tries to come to terms with his mother's death, Vernon finds solace in his growing relationship with the neighborhood outcasts, an alcoholic, and her retarded son.*

Cormier, Robert. *I Am the Cheese*. New York: Pantheon Books,1977.

*A young boy desperately tries to unlock his past yet knows he must hide those memories if he is to remain alive.*

1<sup>st</sup> quarter, continued

Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000.

*In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.*

**Other suggested literature**

Angelou, Maya. "**Mrs. Flowers**" from *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

*The narrator credits Mrs. Bertha Flowers, the "aristocrat" of Stamps, Arkansas, with throwing a lifeline to her during a bleak period of her childhood when she was unwilling to talk. Using literature as a way to communicate, Mrs. Flowers gives Marguerite extra attention, which helps her gain confidence and makes her feel special.*

Bambara, Toni Cade. "**Raymond's Run**"

*Squeaky Parker is the fastest runner in her Harlem neighborhood, and is responsible for the care of her mentally impaired brother, Raymond. When Gretchen, the new girl in town, challenges Squeaky in the May Day Race, Squeaky learns two valuable life lessons about both Gretchen and Raymond.*

Soto, Gary. "**Broken Chain**"

*In spite of Alfonso's dissatisfaction in his appearance and struggles with his brother about bikes and girls, his brother pulls through in the end so Alfonso can go on a bike ride with the girl he admires.*

"**Bluffing It**" (teleplay: can be rented from the Idaho State Library)

*Frank, a husband and father, who has hidden his illiteracy from his children and his co-workers, must come to terms with his lack of skills when computers are introduced into the work place.*

**2nd quarter****Theme: Searching for new literary voices**

*Students will learn about a variety of young adult authors through research, presentations, and self-selected reading.*

**Suggested list of young adult authors for research and self-selected reading.**

Avi  
 Orson Scott Card  
 John Christopher  
 Caroline Cooney  
 Chris Crutcher  
 Robert Cormier  
 Roald Dahl  
 Paula Danziger  
 Terry Davis  
 Lois Duncan  
 Susan Fletcher  
 Daniel Hayes  
 Karen Hesse  
 Will Hobbs  
 Irene Hunt  
 Peg Kehret  
 M. E. Kerr  
 C.S. Lewis  
 Lois Lowry  
 Madeleine L'Engle  
 Anne McCaffrey  
 Lurlene McDaniel  
 Walter Dean Myers  
 Joan Lowery Nixon  
 Gary Paulsen  
 Richard Peck  
 Philip Pullman  
 J. K. Rowling  
 Louis Sachar  
 Gary Soto  
 Jerry Spinelli  
 J. R. R. Tolkien  
 Cynthia Voigt  
 Patricia Wrede  
 Laurence Yep

**3rd quarter****Theme: Society, Culture , and History Influence Personal Choices**

*Students will read various pieces of literature that reflect the influences of history and culture.*

### **Suggested Novels**

Crew, Linda. ***Children of the River***. New York: Delacorte, 1989.

*Having fled Cambodia four years earlier from the Khmer Rouge army, seventeen-year-old Sundara is torn between remaining faithful to her own people and adjusting to life in her Oregon high school as a "regular" American.*

Hunt, Irene. ***No Promises in the Wind***. Chicago: New York: Follett Pub. Co., Berkley Books, 1970.

*A fifteen-year-old boy struggles to survive and come to terms with inner conflicts in the desperate world of the Depression.*

Taylor, Mildred D. ***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry***. New York: Dial, 1976.

*An African-American family living in the South during the 1930's is faced with prejudice and discrimination that its children don't understand.*

### **Suggested read-alouds, literature circles, or independent reading choices**

#### **Section I: Hidden Truths and Making Choices**

Bauer, Joan. ***Backwater***. New York: Putnam's, 1999.

*While compiling a genealogy of her family of successful attorneys, sixteen-year-old history buff Ivy Breedlove treks into the mountain wilderness to interview a reclusive aunt with whom she identifies and who in turn helps her to truly know herself and her family.*

Duncan, Lois. ***I Know What You Did Last Summer***. Boston: Little Brown, 1973.

*Four teenagers who have desperately tried to conceal their responsibility for a hit-and-run accident are pursued by a mystery figure seeking revenge.*

Kehret, Peg. ***Cages***. New York: Cobblehill Books/Dutton, 1991.

*After losing an acting role and fighting with her alcoholic stepfather, Kit is arrested for shoplifting and ordered to work, as part of her sentence, at an animal shelter.*

Lipsyte, Robert. ***The Contender***. New York: Harper Collins, 1967.

*A Harlem high school dropout escapes from a gang of punks into a boxing gym. He learns being a contender is hard and often-discouraging work and that you don't know anything until you try.*

3rd quarter. continued

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. ***Shiloh***. New York: Atheneum, 1991.

*When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.*

### **Other suggested literature**

Torrence, Jackie. (retold) **“Brer Possum’s Dilemma”**

*This African American fable tells the story of how Brer Snake is able to take advantage of Brer Possum because of the possum’s naïve and kind nature.*

**The Grand Council Fire of American Indians. “The First Americans”**

*This persuasive essay, presented as an address in 1927 to Chicago mayor William Hale Thompson, sought to reform the stereotypical image of American Indians in history texts and classes.*

Henry, O. **“Ransom of Red Chief”**

*This tale uses a variety of humorous elements (verbal irony, malapropism, hyperbole, and slapstick) to tell the story of Bill and Sam, two con men who decide to kidnap a banker’s son, Johnny Dorset. However, they are disappointed to discover that Johnny talks non-stop, loves the cave hideout, attempts to scalp Bill, and doesn’t want to go home.*

Jackson, Shirley. **“Charles”**

*A mother narrates this story about her son, Laurie during his year in kindergarten. Each day after school, Laurie entertains the family with his humorous descriptions about an extremely mischievous classmate named Charles. The story ends with a twist when it is revealed that “Charles” is actually Laurie.*

**Fellton, Harold W. “Pecos Bill and the Mustang”**

*This tall tale recounts how the Wild West hero became the first cowboy and got his first horse.*

Zindel, Paul. **“Let Me Hear You Whisper”** (Teleplay)

*Helen, a new cleaning woman at a research lab in New York, becomes emotionally involved in an experiment in which scientists claim they will kill a dolphin after their attempts to teach it to speak have apparently failed.*

*3rd quarter, continued*

## **Section II: Historical Fiction**

Collier, James Lincoln. ***My Brother Sam is Dead***. New York: London : Four Winds Press; Collier Macmillan, 1974.

*Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.*

Fox, Paula. ***The Slave Dancer***. New York : Bradbury, 1973.

*Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa-bound ship, a thirteen-year-old boy discovers to his horror that he is on a slaver ship and his job is to play music for the exercise periods of the human cargo.*

Greene, Bette. ***Summer of My German Soldier***. New York: Laurel Leaf Books, Dell, Dial Books for Young Readers, 1973.

*Sheltering an escaped German prisoner of war is the beginning of some shattering experiences for a 12-year-old Jewish girl in Arkansas.*

Ho, Minfong. ***The Clay Marble***. New York : Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1991.

*In the late 1970's twelve-year-old Dara joins a refugee camp in war-torn Cambodia and becomes separated from her family.*

Ho, Minfong. ***Rice Without Rain***. New York : Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1990.

*After social rebels convince the headman of a small village in northern Thailand to resist the land rent, his seventeen-year-old daughter Jinda finds herself caught up in the student uprising in Bangkok.*

Mazer, Harry. ***The Last Mission***. New York: Dell, 1979.

*In 1944, a fifteen-year-old Jewish boy tells his family he will travel in the West but instead enlists in the United States Air Corps and is subsequently taken prisoner by the Germans.*

Moeri, Louise. ***Save Queen of Sheba***. New York: Dutton, 1981.

*After miraculously surviving a Sioux Indian raid on the trail to Oregon, a brother and sister set out with few provisions to find the rest of the settlers.*

O'Dell, Scott. ***Sing Down the Moon***. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1970.

*A young Navajo girl recounts the events of 1864 when her tribe was forced to march to Fort Sumner as prisoners of the white soldiers.*

Salisbury, Graham. ***Under the Blood-Red Sun***. New York: Delacorte Press, 1994.

*Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.*

3rd quarter. continued

Schulman, Audrey. ***The Cage***. Chapel Hill, N.C.: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill,

1994.

*Beryl, a nature photographer, joins an expedition to photograph polar bears in Manitoba; when things go disastrously wrong, she and three others must make their way past starving bears and cross frozen tundra and treacherous ice floes to reach the safety of the town of Churchill.*

Reiss, Johanna. *The Upstairs Room*. New York, N.Y.: HarperCollins Publishers, 1972.

*A Dutch Jewish girl describes the two-and-one-half years she spent in hiding in the upstairs bedroom of a farmer's house during World War II.*

### **Additional Suggested Literature**

Bode, Janet. **“Coming to America”**

*Two teenage immigrants—one from India, one from China—recount their parents’ struggles to fulfill the American dream for their children.*

Hughes, Langston. **“Refugee in America”** (poem)

*This lyric poem contrasts feelings about the synonyms freedom and liberty.*

Jimenez, Francisco. **“The Circuit”**

*The “circuit” is the path followed by migrant workers from harvest to harvest. When a teacher tutors the narrator (Panchito) in English and then thrills him by offering trumpet lessons, Panchito rushes home with excitement, only to find the family belongings packed, ready for the next move.*

King, Jr., Martin Luther. from **“I Have A Dream”**

*This excerpt from the famous 1963 speech begins with King’s premise that all people are created equal.*

Petry, Ann. from *Harriet Tubman, Conductor on the Underground Railroad*.

*This excerpt from Tubman’s biography describes how she led a group of people out of slavery and into freedom.*

Hunt, Irene. **“The Deserter” from Across Five Aprils**

*This excerpt reveals the conflicts of the American Civil War as witnessed by 11-year-old Jethro who must work on the farm while his brothers are in combat. He is faced with the challenging decision of reporting his cousin as a deserter.*

**4th quarter**

**Theme: Knowledge Prepares Us for Exploring and Surviving Our Unknown Future**

*The students will explore the possibilities of their futures by*

reading about characters that search the unknown for answers.

### **Suggested Novels**

Hickam, Jr., Homer. ***October Sky (Rocket Boys)***. (**Non-fiction: Science and Technology**)

*Homer Hickam, the son of a coal miner, nurtured a dream of sending a rocket into space. He and a group of misfits learned not only how to turn scraps of metal into sophisticated rockets but how to sustain their hope in a town that swallowed its mean alive.*

Tolkien, J. R. R. 1892-1973. ***The Hobbit; or, There and Back Again***. New York: **Ballantine Books, 1966**. (Fantasy)

*The adventures of the well-to-do hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who lived happily in his comfortable home until a wandering wizard granted his wish.*

White, Robb. ***Deathwatch***. Garden City, N.Y: Doubleday, 1972. (Survival)

*Needing money for school, a college boy accepts a job as a guide on a desert hunting trip and nearly loses his life.*

### **Suggested read-alouds, literature circles, or independent reading choices**

#### **Fantasy**

McCaffrey, Anne. ***Dragonsinger***. New York: Atheneum, 1977.

*Pursuing her dream to be a Harper of Pern, Menolly studies under the Masterharper learning that more is required than a facility with music and a clever way with words (Other books in series: **Dragonsong** , **Dragondrums**)*

Pullman, Philip. ***The Golden Compass***. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995.

*Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North. (Other book in trilogy: **The Subtle Knife**, **The Amber Spyglass**)*

Rowling, J. K. ***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone***. New York: A.A. Levine Books, 1998.

*Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches. (Other books in series: **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, **Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**)*

*4<sup>th</sup> quarter, continued*

Tolkien, J. R. R. (John Ronald Reuel). ***The Fellowship of the Ring : Being the First Part of The Lord of the Rings***. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1994.

*The first volume of a three-volume epic adventure set in the fantasy world of the Third Age of Middle-earth, a world inhabited by many strange beings. (Other books in series: **The Two Towers: Being the Second Part of The Lord of the Rings**, **The Return of the King: Being the Third Part of The Lord of the Rings**)*

Wrede, Patricia C. **Searching for Dragons**. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1991.

*With the aid of King Mandanbar, Princess Cimorene rescues the dragon Kazul and saves the Enchanted Forest from a band of wicked wizards. (Other books in series: **Calling on Dragons**, **Dealing with Dragons**, **Talking to Dragons**)*

### Science Fiction

Adams, Douglas. **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**. New York: Harmony, 1980.

*Seconds before Earth is demolished to make room for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy.*

Barron, T. A. **The Ancient One**. New York: Philomel, 1992.

*While helping her Great Aunt Melanie try to protect an Oregon redwood forest from loggers, thirteen-year-old Kate goes back five centuries through a time tunnel and faces the evil creature Gashra, who is bent on destroying the same forest.*

Bradbury, Ray. **The Martian Chronicles**. New York: Avon Books, 1997.

*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.*

Card, Orson Scott. **Ender's Game**. New York: Tor, 1992.

*Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer-simulated war games at the Battle School; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. (Other books by author: **Ender's Shadow**,*

Christopher, John. **When the Tripods Came**. New York: Dutton, 1988.

*Fourteen-year-old Laurie and his family attempt to flee England when the Tripods descend from outer space and begin brainwashing everyone with their hypnotic Caps. (Other books by author: **The Pool of Fire**, **The White Mountains**, **Empty World**)*

Crichton, Michael. **Jurassic Park**. New York: Ballantine, 1990.

*Greedy scientists use genetic engineering to create a theme park full of cloned dinosaurs and something goes wrong. (Other books by author: **Sphere**, **The Lost World**)*

4<sup>th</sup> quarter, continued

L'Engle, Madeleine. **A Wrinkle in Time**. New York: Ariel Books, 1962.

*When an atomic physicist disappears on a secret mission, his son, daughter and*

their friend search for him, going on an interplanetary journey through time and space. (Other books by author: *A Wind in the Door*, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, *A Ring of Endless Light*)

### Survival

George, Jean Craighead. *River Rats, Inc.* New York: Dutton, 1979.

*Traveling illegally at night on the Colorado River with a mysterious cargo, two boys are shipwrecked and must depend for survival on their own ingenuity and a wild boy they find living along the river.* (Other books by author: *Julie of the Wolves*)

Hobbs, Will. *Far North.* New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1996.

*After the destruction of their floatplane, sixteen-year-old Gabe and his Dene friend, Raymond, struggle to survive a winter in the wilderness of the Northwest Territories of Canada.*

Kehret, Peg. *Earthquake Terror.* New York : Cobblehill Books, 1996.

*When an earthquake hits the isolated island in northern California where his family had been camping, twelve-year-old Jonathan Palmer must find a way to keep himself, his partially paralyzed younger sister, and their dog alive until help arrives.*

Mazer, Harry. *Snow bound.* New York: Dell, 1975.

*Two teenagers caught in a snowstorm face a fight for survival in a desolate area.*

O'Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1960.

*Records the courage and self-reliance of an Indian girl who lived alone for eighteen years on an isolated island off the California coast when her tribe emigrated and she was left behind.*

Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet.* New York : Bradbury Press, 1987.

*After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.*

### Other Suggested Literature

Bradbury, Ray. *“There Will Come Soft Rains”*

*This science fiction story is set in the year 2026, when certain technological marvels have become routine. The city has been destroyed by an atomic bomb and this is the only house left standing, and it continues its usual rituals as if everything is normal.*

4<sup>th</sup> quarter, continued

Dahl, Roald. *“The Landlady”*

*When Billy arrives in Bath on business and needs a place to stay, he is drawn to a sign advertising a bed and breakfast. When he meets the Landlady, he realizes that appearances can be deceiving; there is more to her (and the bed and breakfast) than meets the eye.*

Jacobs, W.W. **“The Monkey’s Paw”**

*A dramatization of this classic eerie tale about the three wishes granted by a monkey’s paw and the conflict between the characters over whether or not it will bring them harm.*

Namioka, Lensey. **“The Inn of Lost Time”**

*This is a framework story with two inner stories- a short folktale told by one of the characters to his children and a longer personal narrative told by another character. Both characters tell their accounts of lost time and the story ends with an ironic twist.*