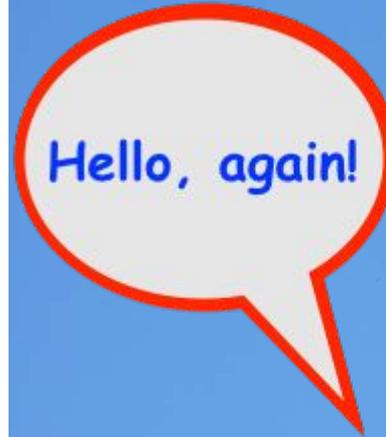


**Middle School English Literature  
Selection Advisory Committee:  
8th-Grade Reading Group**

**3/31/21**

# Welcome!

Thanks for being here.



# Agenda

*A copy of the agenda was emailed to you & is in our shared folder.*

## Goals:

- Review norms & expectations
- Discuss possible core lit candidates: *Poet X*, *Dragon Hoops*, *Port Chicago 50*, *This Land Is Our Land*, *Pet* (repeat)
- Vote on each candidate: Should this book stay in the running as a core lit contender?
- Identify additional titles to read for **May 19**
- Tidy up the supplemental menu

# Norms & Expectations

## NORMS:

- Be transparent: Speak publicly.
- Have the courage to speak your truth.
- Assume positive intent. Be aware of your impact.
- Keep the student experience front and center.
- Examine what we say, so it doesn't lead to bias.
- Call people in with respect and kindness. Receive "being called in" in the same spirit.

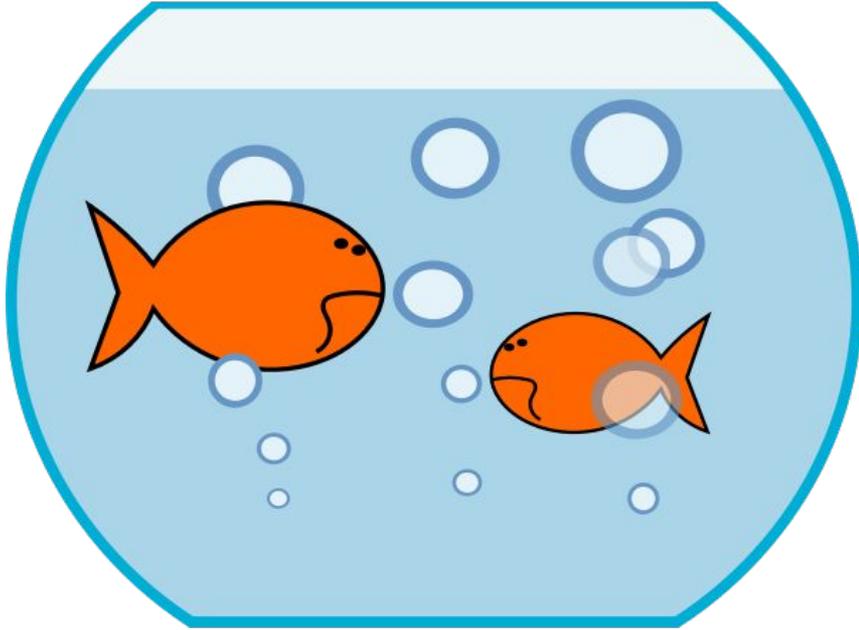
## WORK EXPECTATIONS:

- Work towards a solution.
- Before the end of the meeting, clarify tasks/to do's for next time.
- Take ideas back to sites and gather reactions from sites to bring back to Committee.
- Majority rules.
- Look for quality literature and a rich social experience.

# **Fishbowl Setup: Quick Reminders**

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# Fishbowl Structure



## Fishbowl participants:

**Is this text a good core lit candidate?**

Please monitor your speaking time, so everyone has a chance to be heard.

Signal interest in speaking by raising your electronic hand.

9-minute discussion followed by brief Q and A

# Fishbowl Structure



## Fishbowl observers:

Consider whether the text sounds like a good core lit candidate or not.

Save your questions/comments for brief Q and A after each discussion

After the fishbowls and Q and As, we will vote on whether to keep texts in the running for core lit.

# What Constitutes a Good Core Candidate?

8th-Grade Curriculum:

Themes

Topics

Units

# **Fishbowl Discussions**

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# Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo

## Reviews & Awards

Booklist, 11/01/17

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, 03/01/18

Horn Book Guide starred, 11/01/18

Horn Book Magazine starred, 03/01/18

Kirkus Reviews starred, 01/15/18

Michael L. Printz Award, 2019

New York Times, 04/22/18

Publishers Weekly starred, 01/22/18

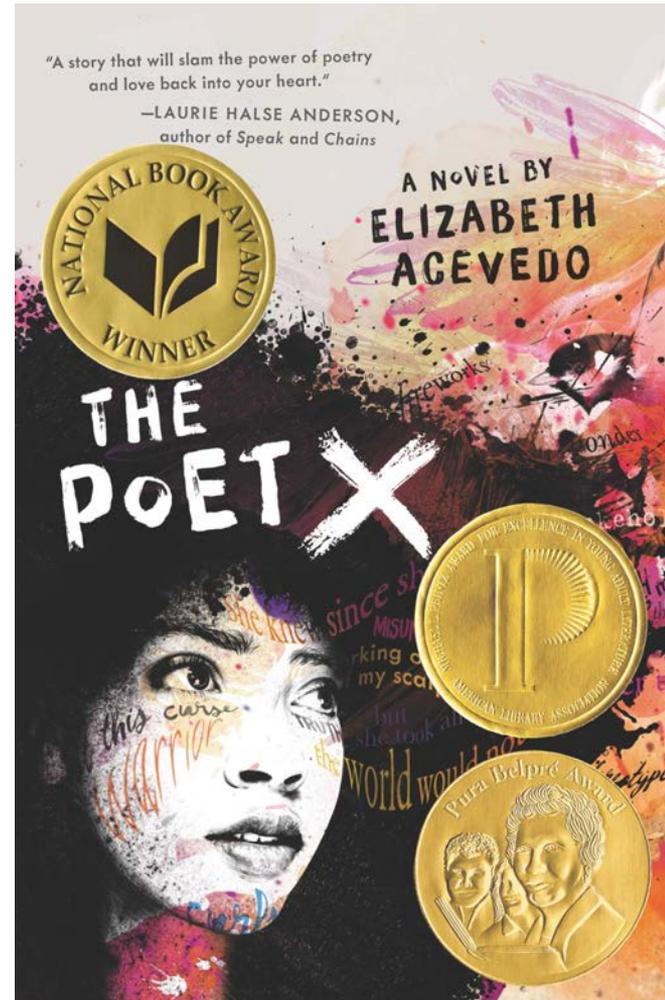
Pura Belpre Author Award, 2019

School Library Journal starred, 03/01/18

Teacher Librarian, 02/01/19

Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA), 02/01/18

SLJ: Gr 7 Up—Magnificently crafted, Acevedo's bildungsroman in verse is a stunning account of a teen girl's path to poetry. Sophomore Xiomara Batista is simultaneously invisible and hyper visible at home, school, and in her largely Dominican community in Harlem—her body is "unhide-able" she tells readers early on, yet she bristles at how others project their desires, insecurities, failures, patriarchal attitudes toward her.



# *Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo

## Fishbowl Participants:

Jen

Jedd

Brooke

Kim

Deanna

Kari

Ander

Kelly

Would anyone else like to join?



**Is this text a good  
core lit candidate?**

# *Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo

## Fishbowl Observers:

Any questions/comments?



# *Dragon Hoops* by Gene Luen Yang

## Reviews & Awards

Booklist starred, 02/15/20

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books starred,  
03/01/20

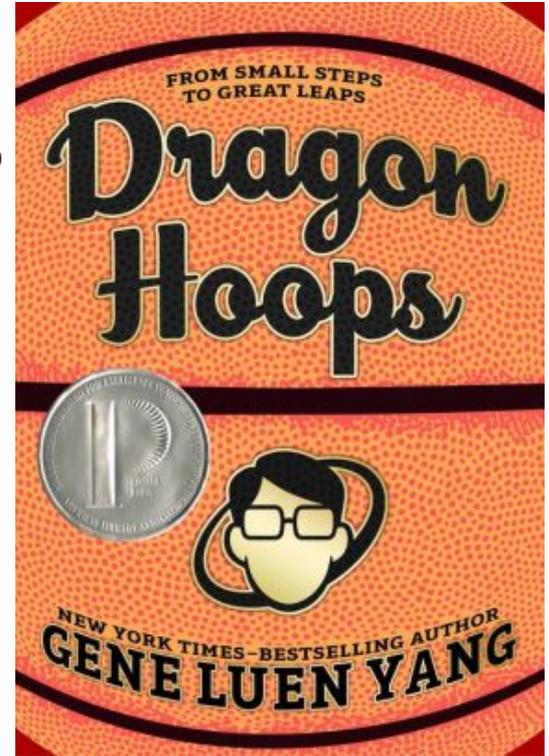
Horn Book Magazine starred, 05/01/20

Kirkus Reviews, 01/15/20

Publishers Weekly starred, 01/06/20

School Library Journal Xpress starred, 01/24/20

SLJ: Gr 8 Up—A year after publishing his well-received *Boxers and Saints*, graphic novelist and math teacher Yang was beset by writer's block. But his curiosity was piqued by the Dragons, his school's men's varsity basketball team. Over the years, they had come close to winning a state championship, and 2015, the rumor mill whispered, was their year. Though a self-proclaimed nerd, Yang overcame his aversion to sports and decided to follow alumnus Coach Lou and a diverse squad of young men on their quest for the ultimate accolade.



# *Dragon Hoops* by Gene Luen Yang

## Fishbowl Participants:

Kristen

Kelly

Olivia

Ander

Jen

Shaina

Would anyone else like to join?



**Is this text a good  
core lit candidate?**

# *Dragon Hoops* by Gene Luen Yang

## Fishbowl Observers:

Any questions/comments?



# *The Port Chicago 50* by Steve Sheinkin

## Reviews & Awards

Booklist, 02/01/14

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, 02/01/14

Horn Book Guide, 10/01/14

Horn Book Magazine, 03/01/14

Kirkus Reviews starred, 12/15/13

Library Media Connection starred, 03/01/14

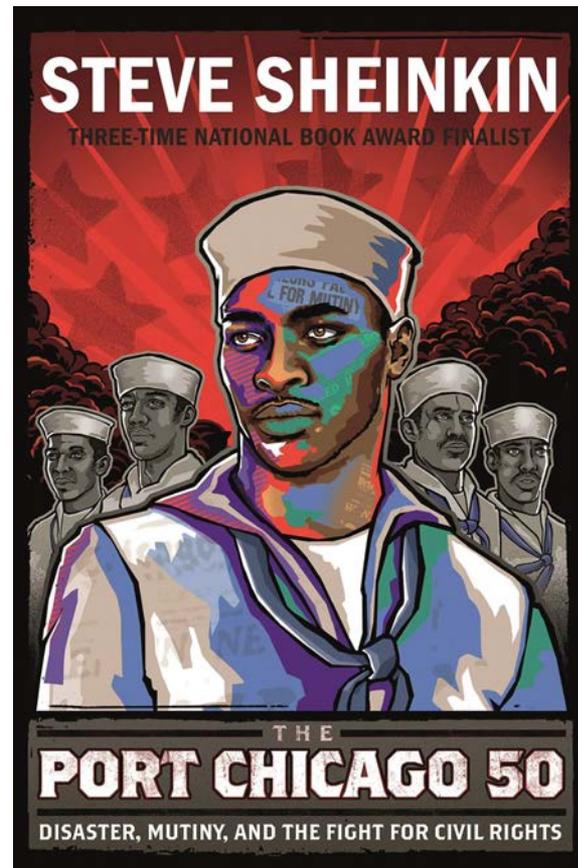
Margaret A. Edwards Award, 2020

Publishers Weekly starred, 11/11/13

School Library Journal starred, 02/01/14

YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults-Nominees, 2015

SLJ: Gr 7 Up-In the summer of 1944, 50 sailors, all of them African American, were tried and convicted of mutiny by the U.S. Navy. They had refused to follow a direct order of loading dangerous rockets and munitions on ships bound for battle in the Pacific after an enormous explosion had killed more than 300 of their fellow sailors and other civilians working on the dock.



# *The Port Chicago 50* by Steve Sheinkin

## Fishbowl Participants:

Kelly

Kristen

Kim

Jedd

Deanna

Olivia

Would anyone else like to join?



**Is this text a good  
core lit candidate?**

# ***The Port Chicago 50* by Steve Sheinkin**

## **Fishbowl Observers:**

Any questions/comments?



# *This Land Is Our Land* by Linda Barrett Osborne

## Reviews & Awards

Booklist, 03/15/16

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, 05/01/16

Christian Library Journal, 07/01/17

Horn Book Guide, 10/01/16

Kirkus Reviews, 01/15/16

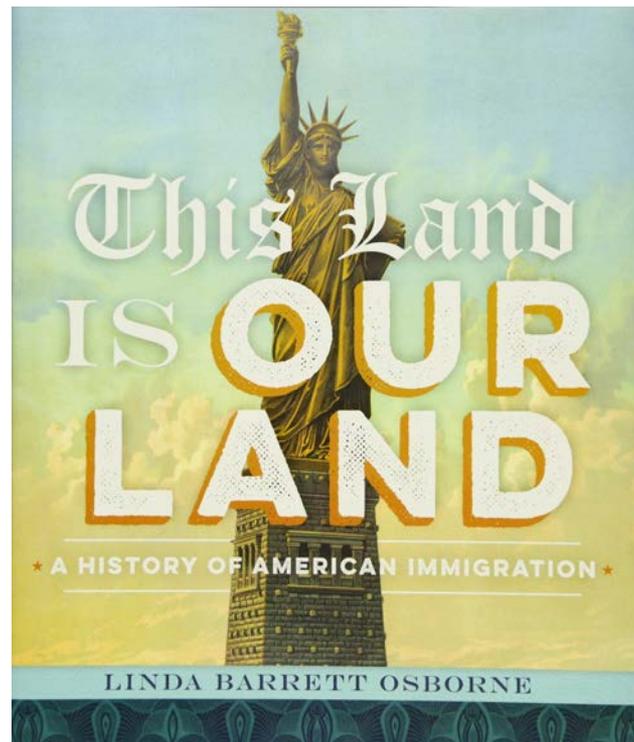
Publishers Weekly, 05/23/16

School Library Connection starred, 08/01/16

School Library Journal starred, 03/01/16

YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults-Nominees, 2017

SLJ: Gr 6-10-This exceptional work explores the history of American immigration from the early colonization of the continent to the contemporary discussions involving undocumented aliens. The so-called American melting pot has a history of exclusion, discrimination, and strife that has resulted in anti-immigration laws, segregation, and, in the case of the Japanese during World War II, unjustified internment.



# *This Land Is Our Land* by Linda Barrett Osborne

## Fishbowl Participants:

Kelly

Kristen

Deanna

Kathie

Iva

Would anyone else like to join?



Is this text a good  
core lit candidate?

# ***This Land is Our Land*** by Linda Barrett Osborne

## **Fishbowl Observers:**

Any questions/comments?



# *Pet* by Akwaeke Emezi - Again!

## Reviews & Awards

Booklist, 07/01/19

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books starred,  
09/01/19

Horn Book Magazine, 11/01/19

Kirkus Reviews starred, 07/15/19

New York Times, 10/20/19

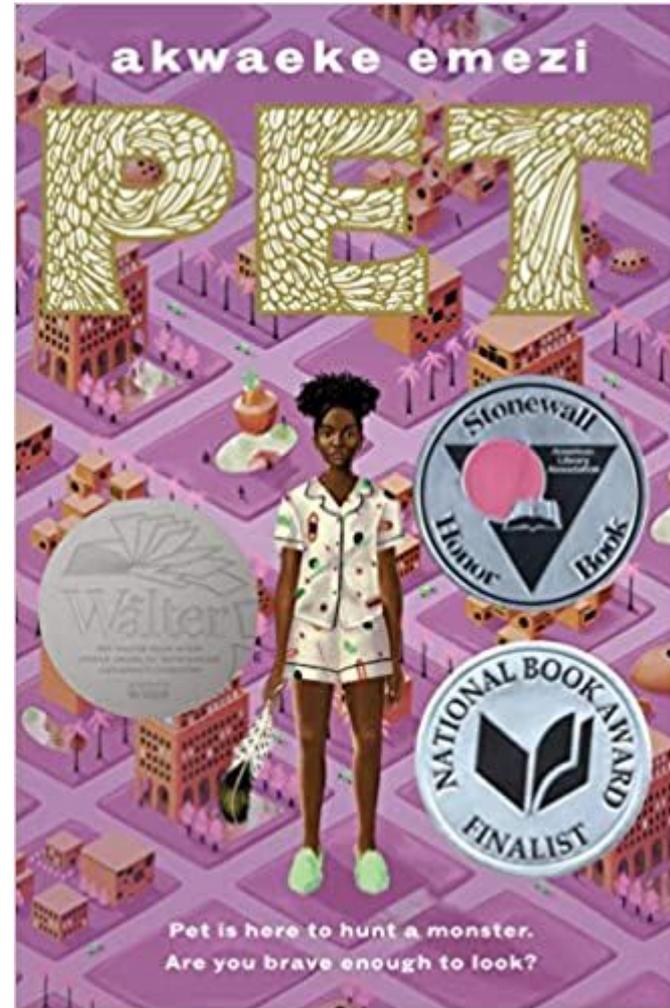
Publishers Weekly starred, 06/17/19

School Library Journal starred, 07/01/19

Stonewall Honor Book, 2020

Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA), 10/01/19

We discussed this one last time and voted 11 to 0 to keep it in the running for Core.



# ***Pet*** by Akwaeke Emezi

## Fishbowl Participants: 3/10

Kristen  
Kelly  
Ander  
Olivia  
Kari  
Shaina  
Jen  
Deanna

## Additional Readers: 3/31

Iva  
Brooke  
Kim  
Jedd



# Summary Chart + Vote

## 8th Grade Possible Core Candidates Starred Reviews/Other Considerations

Title	Owned by Fletcher/JLS/Greene Libraries?	Booklist	Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books	Horn Book	Kirkus	Publisher's Weekly	Library Journal/SLJ	VOYA/YALSA	Coretta Scott King/Newbery/Printz/Pura Belpre/Stonewall	Other Awards	CA Dept. Education Listed?	MS/PACL OverDrive?
March Book 3 (Lewis)	F/G/JLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Printz Award			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Pet (Emezi)	F/G/JLS				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Stonewall Honor			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Poet X (Acevedo)	F/G			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Printz Award/Pura Belpre		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Port Chicago 50 (Sheinkin)	F/G/JLS				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Library Media Connection/Margaret Edwards Award/YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults-Nominees		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Take the Mic...												
This Land is Our Land (Osborne)	F						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction			

## Vote:

Which texts should stay in the running (for now) as core lit contenders?



# Voting Results + Next Steps

Title	Still in the Running for Core?	Who Else Will Read by 5/19? Decide in groups!
<b><i>Dragon Hoops</i></b> - Kristen, Kelly, Olivia, Ander, Jen, Shaina	3/31: Core (5); Sup'l (6);	
<b><i>Pet</i></b> - Kristen, Kelly, Ander, Olivia, Kari, Shaina, Jen, Deanna, Iva, Brooke, Kim, Jedd	<b>3/10:</b> Core (11 votes) Sup'l (0 votes) <b>3/31:</b> core (11); sup'l (0)	
<b><i>Poet X</i></b> - Jedd, Brooke, Kim, Deanna, Kari, Jen, Ander, Kelly	3/31: Core (9); sup'l (2)	
<b><i>Port Chicago 50</i></b> - Kelly, Kristen, Kim, Jedd, Deanna, Olivia	3/31: Core (1); sup'l (9); off (1)	
<b><i>This Land Is Our Land</i></b> - Kelly, Kristen, Deanna, Kathie, Iva	3/31: Core (3) Sup'l (8)	

**Small Groups: Identify Titles  
to Read for 5/19**

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# Online Resources

Find and open the Resource Repository:

- New Resource: MS Anthologies Starred Reviews list

# 8th-Grade Reading Groups

<b>Room 1</b>	<b>Room 2</b>	<b>Room 3</b>	<b>Room 4</b>
Publishers Weekly, ALA Youth Media Awards, Best Fiction for Young Adults	California Young Reader, Coretta Scott King Awards, Great Graphic Novels	Printz Award, National Book Award, Newbery Medal, Schneider Family	Stonewall Awards, YALSA Award for Nonfiction, YALSA's Teens' Top Ten
Deanna Jones Kathie Laurence Iva Reid	Shaina Holdener Kari Nygaard Jen Valero	Jedd Bloom Kim Lohse Brooke Tassa	Kristen Lee Ander Lucia Olivia Souter Kelly Zalatimo

## Group Task: Identify New Titles to Read for 5/19

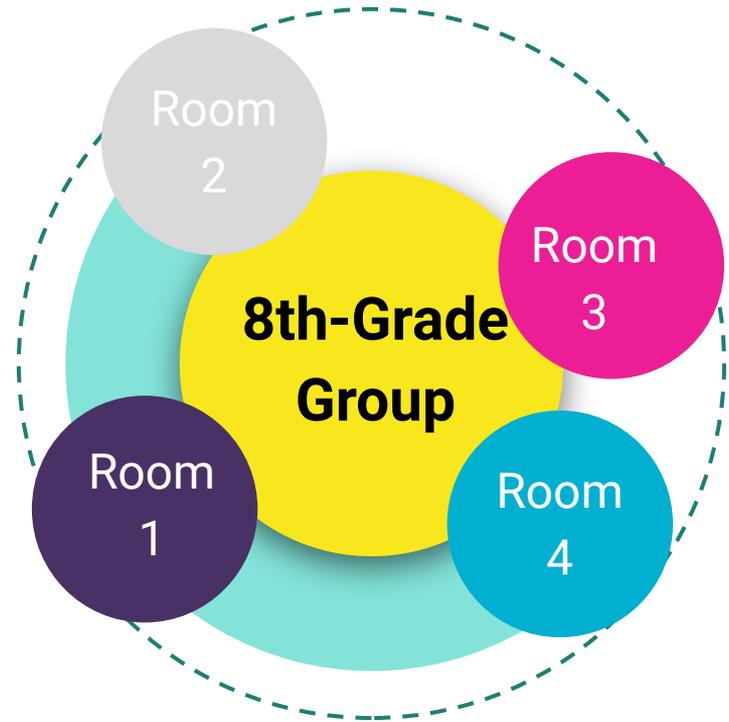
1. Decide which Fishbowl book(s) to read next.
2. Debrief any new book(s) you read: *I'll Be the One, They Called Us Enemy* → take notes in 3/10 Chart. Should anyone else read these titles?
3. Look at book lists & at our new Anthologies list and pick a new book(s) to read and vet.
4. *The Hate U Give*: If you haven't read this one yet, we will discuss it next time, too.

Record your decisions in the 8th Grade: Core & Supplemental Lists.

# Share Progress with the Whole Group

What is your group reading for 5/19?

If your group read something new for tonight, please report on it. Are other readers needed for these new books?



# Supplemental Menu

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# Tidy Up the Supplemental Menu

With the time remaining:

- Starred titles: *Long Walk to Water*\*
- Pink titles: *Hey, Kiddo*
- Titles marked in **orange**: Decide whether we are keeping these or not

## To Do's

For **Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 4:10–6:10**, please:

- Read any Fishbowl Core Candidates that you signed up for
- Read & vet any new book/anthology that your group selected
- Read *The Hate U Give* (if necessary)
- Be ready to continue working on the Supplemental Menu
- Talk to your department and/or course-alike team about the books you are reading. Solicit their thoughts and tell them yours.

**Thank you!**

