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

3/31/21
Welcome!

Thanks for being here.
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
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
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?
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?
Any questions/comments?
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

Any new thoughts or questions?
### Vote:

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

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#### Summary Chart + Vote

8th Grade Possible Core Candidates Starred Reviews/Other Considerations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>F/G/JLS</th>
<th>Printz Award</th>
<th>Other Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March Book 3 (Lewis)</td>
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<td>Library Media Connection/Margaret Edwards Awards/ YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults/Nominations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pet (Emaze)</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td>Printz Award/Pura Belpre</td>
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<td>Petr X (Acrevo)</td>
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<td>Pet! Chicago 50 (Shwesker)</td>
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<tr>
<td>This Land Is Our Land (Osborne)</td>
<td>✔️</td>
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<td>Printz Award/Pura Belpre</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Voting Results + Next Steps

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

Find and open the Resource Repository:

- New Resource: MS Anthologies Starred Reviews list
## 8th-Grade Reading Groups

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

GOOD BYE