

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

**3/10/21**

# 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: *Pet, March, Take the Mic, Poet X, Port Chicago 50, This Land Is Our Land*
- ☐ Vote on each candidate: Should this book stay in the running as a core lit contender?
- ☐ Identify titles to read for March 31
- ☐ 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.

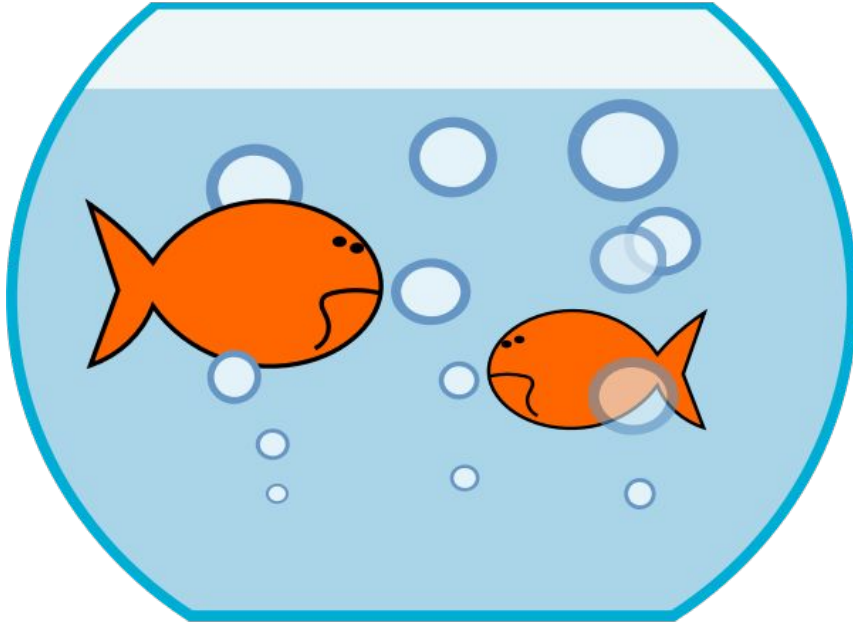
## **WORK EXPECTATIONS:**

- 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

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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.

**Any Questions Thus Far?**





# Fishbowl Discussions

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# *Pet* by Akwaeke Emezi

## 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

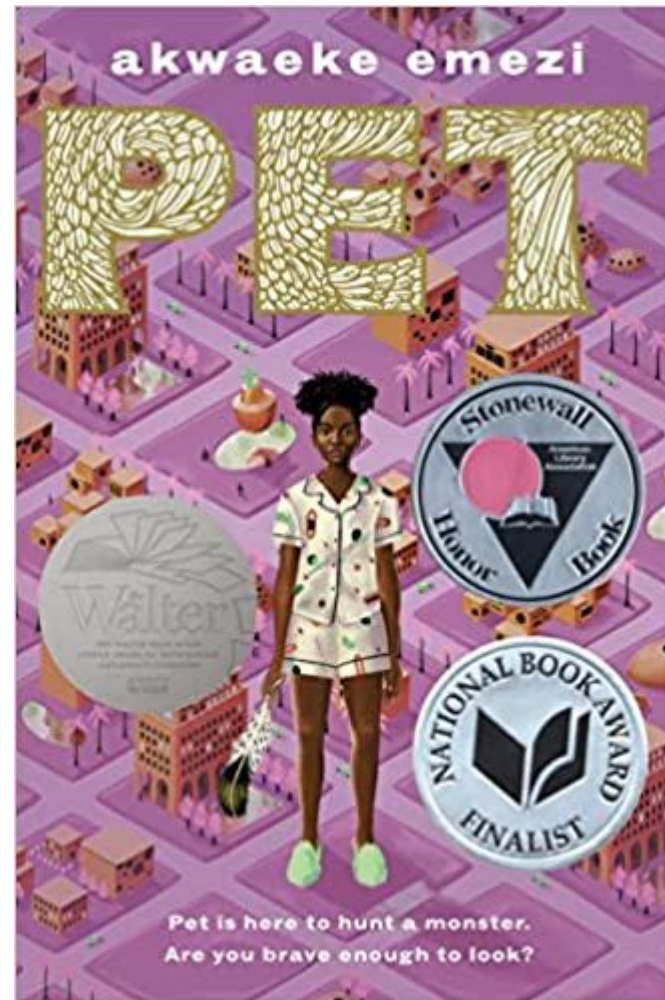
Publishers Weekly starred, 06/17/19

School Library Journal starred, 07/01/19

Stonewall Honor Book, 2020

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

SLJ: Grade 7+. The only world Jam has ever known is that of Lucille, a town where the angels have ostensibly banished the monsters and dismantled the structures that allowed monsters and monstrous deeds to pervade. Lucille is a post-prison, post-school shooting, post-police brutality society. A society where someone like Jam, a selectively mute transgender teen, can live with complete acceptance, support, and love.



# ***Pet*** by Akwaeke Emezi

## Fishbowl Participants:

Kristen

Kelly

Ander

Olivia

Kari

Shaina

Jen

Would anyone else like to join?



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

# ***Pet*** by Akwaeke Emezi

## **Fishbowl Observers:**

Any questions/comments?



# *March Book 3* by Andrew Aydin and John Lewis

## Reviews & Awards

Booklist starred, 08/01/16

Christian Library Journal, 07/01/17

Coretta Scott King Author Award, 2017

Horn Book Guide starred, 04/01/17

Horn Book Magazine starred, 09/01/16

Kirkus Reviews starred, 07/15/16

Library Journal - web only starred, 09/02/16

Library Journal starred, 11/15/16

Michael L. Printz Award, 2017

Publishers Weekly starred, 08/29/16

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal, 2017

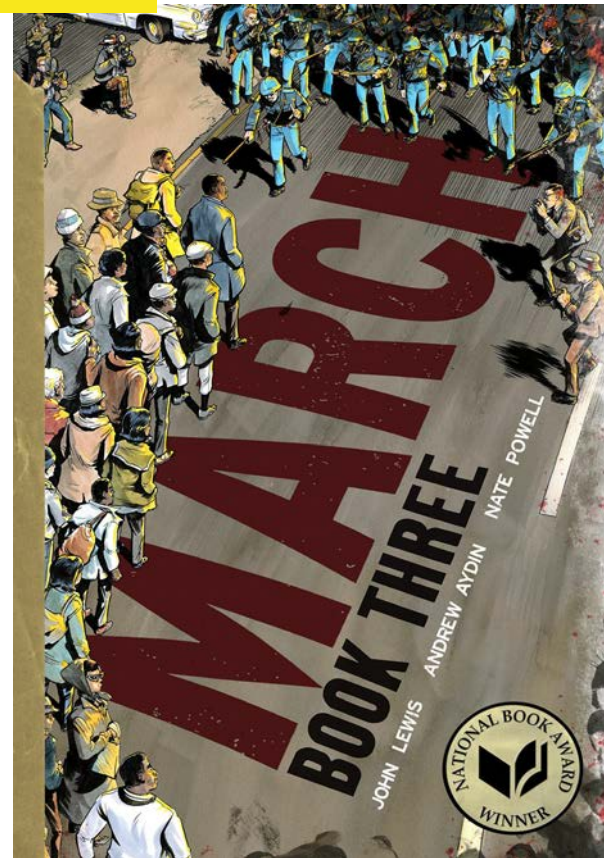
School Library Connection starred, 01/01/17

School Library Journal starred, 08/01/16

Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) starred, 10/01/16

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

SLJ: Gr 8 Up-The final installment in the celebrated graphic novel trilogy that documents Congressman Lewis's role in the civil rights movement, this visually arresting volume covers crucial events such as the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church, with Lewis's resounding voice adding a nuanced, deeply emotional perspective. The personal and the political combine for a historical tour de force.



# ***March Book 3* by Andrew Aydin and John Lewis**

## **Fishbowl Participants:**

Ander  
Kristen  
Kelly  
Olivia  
Brooke  
Jedd

Would anyone else like to join?



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

# ***March Book 3* by Andrew Aydin and John Lewis**

## **Fishbowl Observers:**

Any questions/comments?





# *Take the Mic* edited by Bethany Morrow

## Reviews & Awards

Booklist, 09/01/19

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, 11/01/19

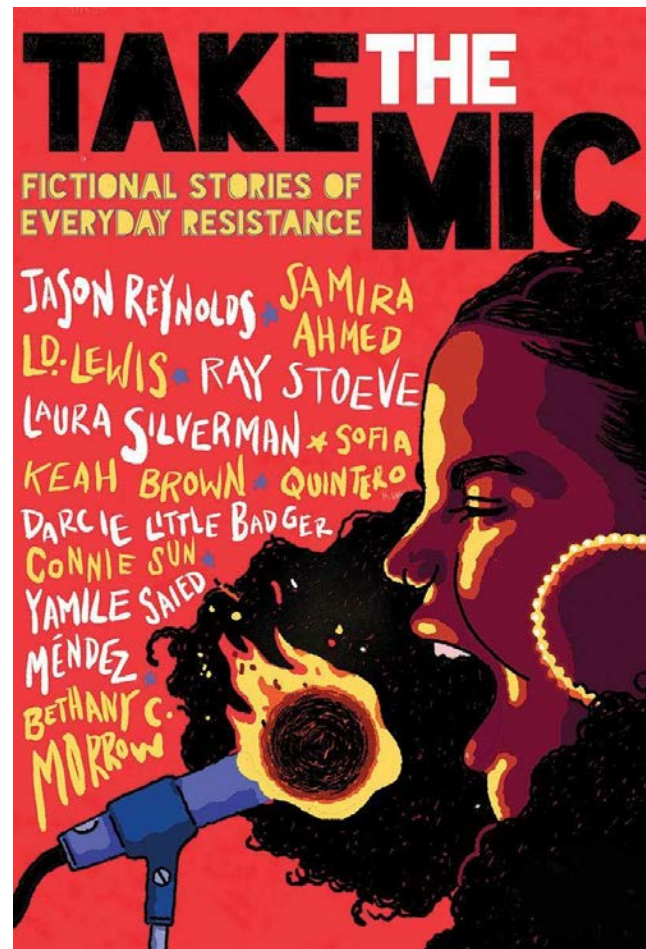
Kirkus Reviews, 08/15/19

School Library Connection, 10/01/19

School Library Journal, 10/01/19

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

SLJ: Gr 7 Up—With situations and language that feel contemporary and up-to-the-minute, this collection of short stories, poetry, and art capture small moments of everyday resistance. Editor Morrow has gathered works from a mix of big names and new faces, each demonstrating the tiny moments that underlie what it means to be a teen of color, to worship differently, to live with a disability, or to be your school's lone representative of your culture.





# ***Take the Mic* edited by Bethany Morrow**

## **Fishbowl Participants:**

Kari

Shaina

Jen

Kristen

Kelly

Ander

Olivia

Would anyone else like to join?



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

# ***Take the Mic* edited by Bethany Morrow**

## **Fishbowl Observers:**

Any questions/comments?



# *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

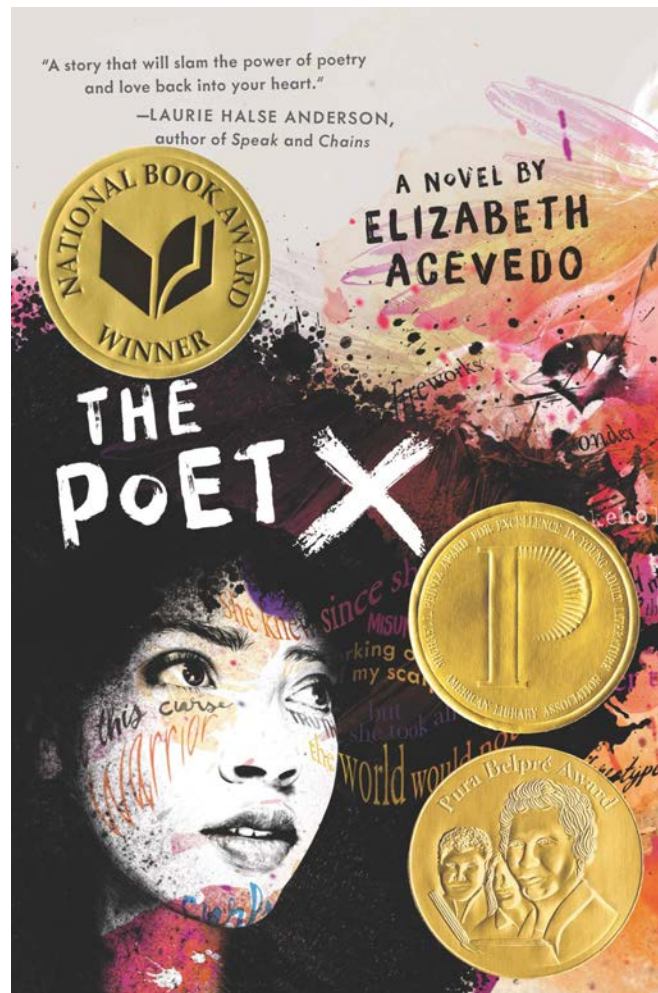
Pura Belpre Author Award, 2019

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

Would anyone else like to join?



Is this text a good  
core lit candidate?

# ***Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo**

## **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

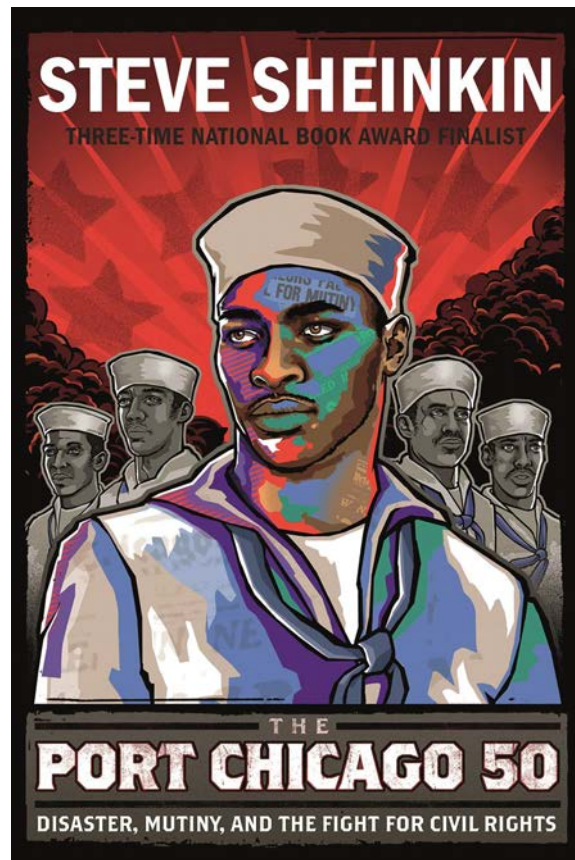
Margaret A. Edwards Award, 2020

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

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

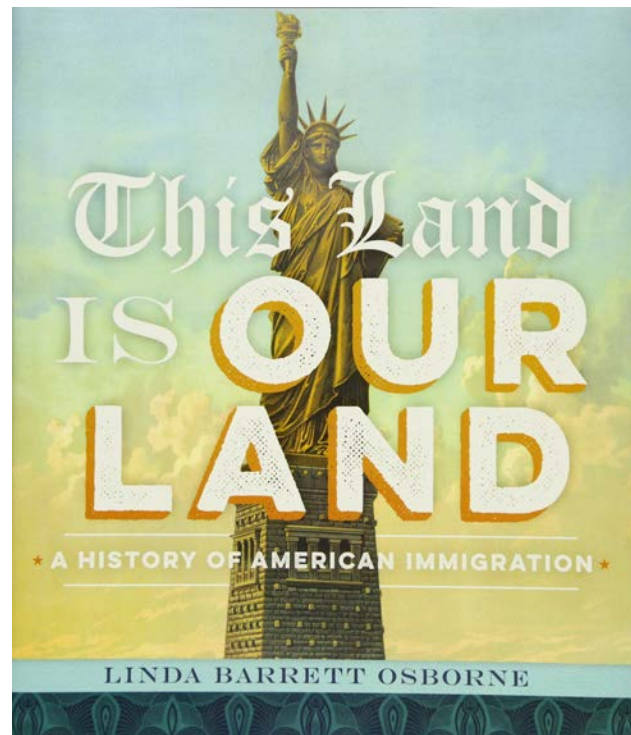
Publishers Weekly, 05/23/16

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?



# Summary Chart + Vote

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

Title	Owned by Fletcher/ JLS/Gree- ne 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	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	Printz Award			☑
Pet (Emezi)	F/G/JLS				☑	☑	☑		Stonewall Honor			☑
Poet X (Acevedo)	F/G			☑	☑	☑	☑		Printz Award/Pura Belpre		☑	☑
Port Chicago 50 (Sheinkin)	F/G/JLS				☑	☑	☑			Library Media Connection/ Margaret Edwards Award/ YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults-Nomin- ees	☑	☑
Take the Mic...												
This Land is Our Land (Osborne)	F						☑			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 3/31?
<b><i>March Book 3</i></b> - Ander, Kristen, Kelly, Olivia, Brooke, Jedd	Sup'l (6 votes) Core (5 votes)	See notes in email!
<b><i>Pet</i></b> - Kristen, Kelly, Ander, Olivia, Kari, Shaina, Jen	Core (11 votes) Sup'l (0 votes)	
<b><i>Poet X</i></b> - Jedd, Brooke, Kim, Deanna, Kari, Jen	Didn't get to	
<b><i>Port Chicago 50</i></b> - Kelly, Kristen, Kim, Jedd	Didn't get to	
<b><i>Take the Mic</i></b> - Kari, Shaina, Jen, Kristen, Kelly, Ander, Olivia	Not sup'l and not core Not sup'l (8 votes) Sup'l (4 votes)	
<b><i>This Land Is Our Land</i></b> - Kelly, Kristen, Deanna, Kathie, Iva	Didn't get to	

**Small Groups: Identify Titles  
to Read for 3/31**

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# Online Resources

Find and open the Resource Repository:

- » Shared folder “MS English Literature Advisory Committee 2019–21”
  - » Subfolder “Resources”
- Link also in Chat

# 8th-Grade Reading Groups

Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
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: Finish by 5:35?

1. If necessary, decide which Fishbowl book(s) to read next.
2. Debrief any new book(s) you read for today:
  - a. Share feedback from your department.
  - b. What was your vetting verdict: Yes or No? Core or Supplemental? Why?
  - c. Add the book to either “Core Candidates” or “Supplemental Menu”
  - d. Be ready to share thoughts with the whole group. If a book is a core candidate, it will need to be read by other reading groups.
3. Look at your group's book lists and pick a new book(s) to read and vet.

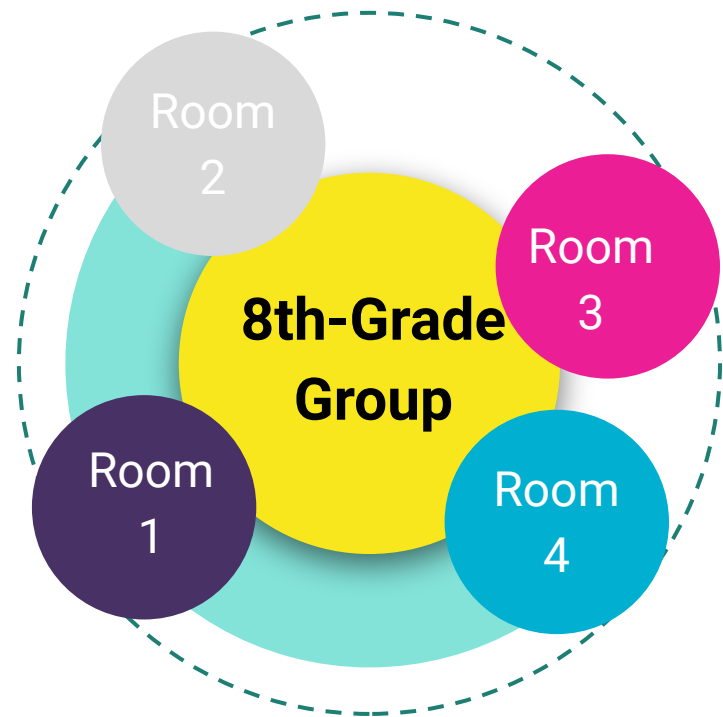
Record your decisions in the 8th Grade: Core & Supplemental Lists.

# Share Progress with the Whole Group

What is your group reading for 3/31?

If your group read something new for tonight, please report on it:

- Core or Supplemental? Why?
- For Core Candidates, decide which group will read the book next.



# 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
- Social Studies teachers & the Supplemental Menu

# To Do's

For Wednesday, Mar. 31, 2021, 4:00–6:00, please:

- Read any Fishbowl Core Candidates that you signed up for
- Read & vet any new book(s) your group selected
- 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!**

