

Middle School English Literature Selection Advisory Committee

4/21/21

Welcome!

Thanks for being here.



Agenda

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

Goals:

- ❑ Examine the 6th-grade pilot data, discuss takeaways, and vote on core lit recommendations
- ❑ Examine the 7th-grade focus group data, discuss takeaways, and vote on core lit recommendations
- ❑ Read through the 6th & 7th-grade supplemental menus, make any last revisions, and vote on supplemental lit recommendations

From Our Charge Statement:

Select 2 pieces of core literature to be recommended for use in grades 6, 7 and 8 beginning in August 2021.

Create a list of supplemental literature to be recommended for use in grades 6, 7 and 8 beginning in August 2021.

Sample Ballots

Poll 4: April 21: 6th-Grade Core Lit Re... ▼ ✎ Edit

1. I recommend re-adopting D'Aulaires' Greek Myths as core literature in 6th grade.

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. I recommend adopting The Hero Next Door as core literature in 6th grade.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Poll 5: April 21: 7th-Grade Core Lit R... ▼ ✎ Edit

1. I recommend re-adopting The Outsiders as core literature in 7th grade.

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. I recommend adopting Flying Lessons as core literature in 7th grade.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Sample Ballots

Poll 6: April 21: 6th & 7th-Grade Sup... ▼ ✎ Edit

1. I recommend adopting the 6th-Grade Supplemental Literature List put forward by the sixth-grade reading group.

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. I recommend adopting the 7th-Grade Supplemental Literature List put forward by the seventh-grade reading group.

☐ Yes

☐ No

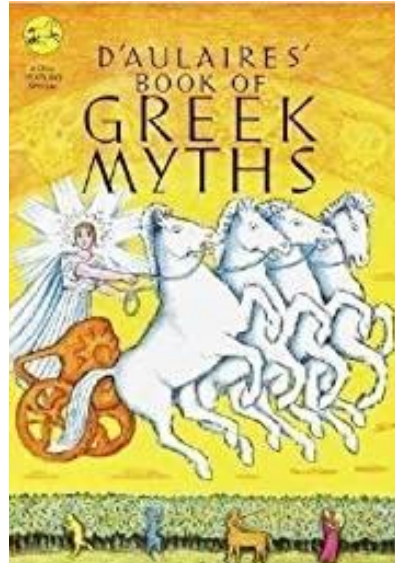
6th Grade Core Lit: Data, Discussion, Decision

6th-Grade Reading Group's Core Lit Recommendations:

6th Grade

Keep D'Aulaires'
Greek Myths

Pilot *Hero Next Door*



D'Aulaires' *Greek Myths*: Reflections from Reading Group

Students:

- High approval among middle schoolers (2019 student survey)
- Rick Riordan's assorted Greek hero/myth series remains hugely popular
- Checks the fantasy box (2019 student survey)

Teachers:

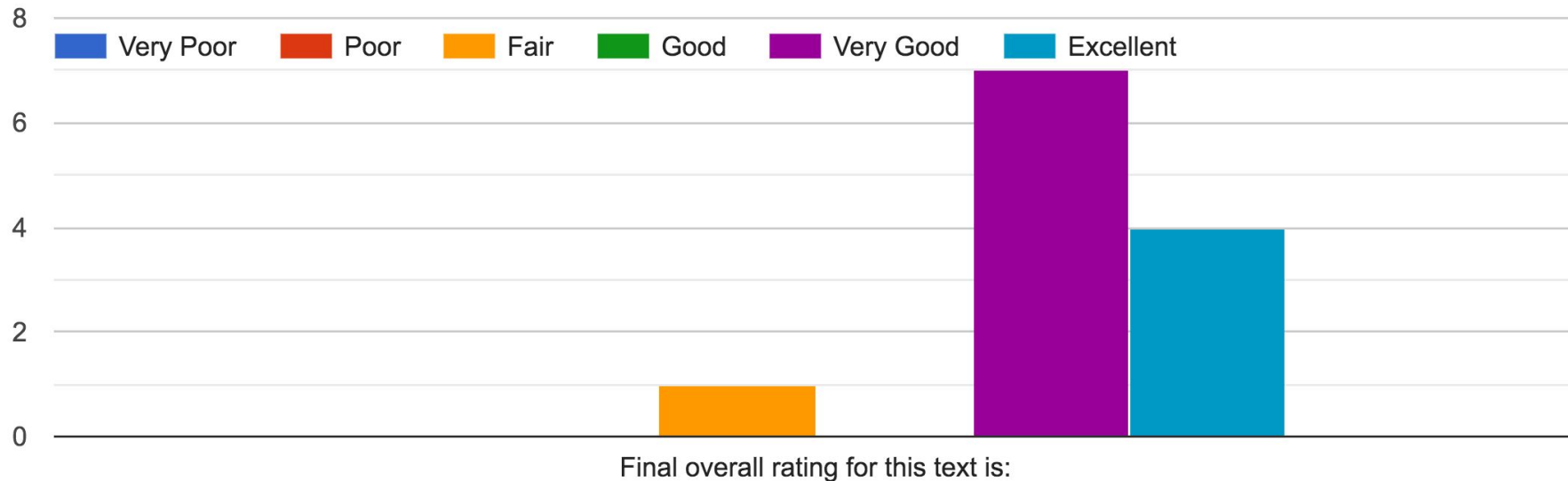
- Beautiful fit for interdisciplinary units with social studies
- Enables us to teach traditional literature/non-fiction (1962) as well as exposure to liberal arts base
- Provides rigor through vocabulary, context, and theme
- Variety of projects already developed at sites including Hero's Journey, plays, artwork

Pilot Evaluation Forms: Overview of the *Hero Next Door* Data

1. Teacher Evaluation Forms (12* piloting teachers)
2. Student Evaluation Forms (405 responses from 11* teachers' classes)
3. Parent Surveys (16 responses) – responding was optional

Teacher Responses: *Hero Next Door*

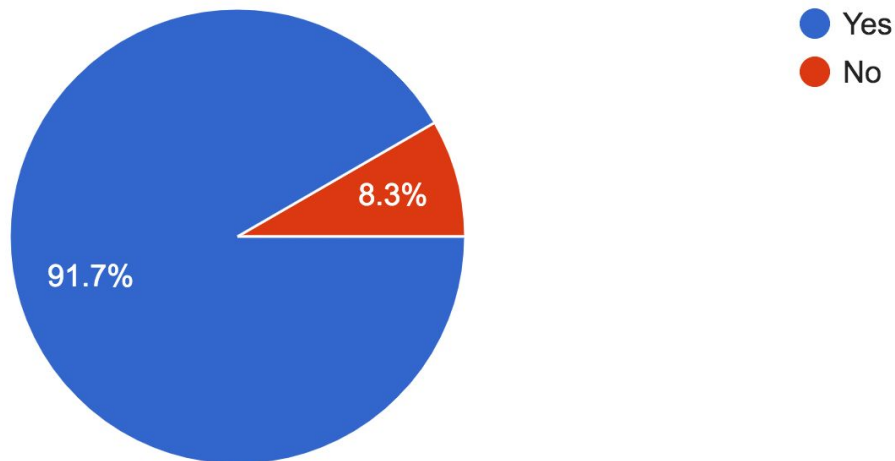
Please consider the text you are reporting on overall:



Teacher Responses: *Hero Next Door*

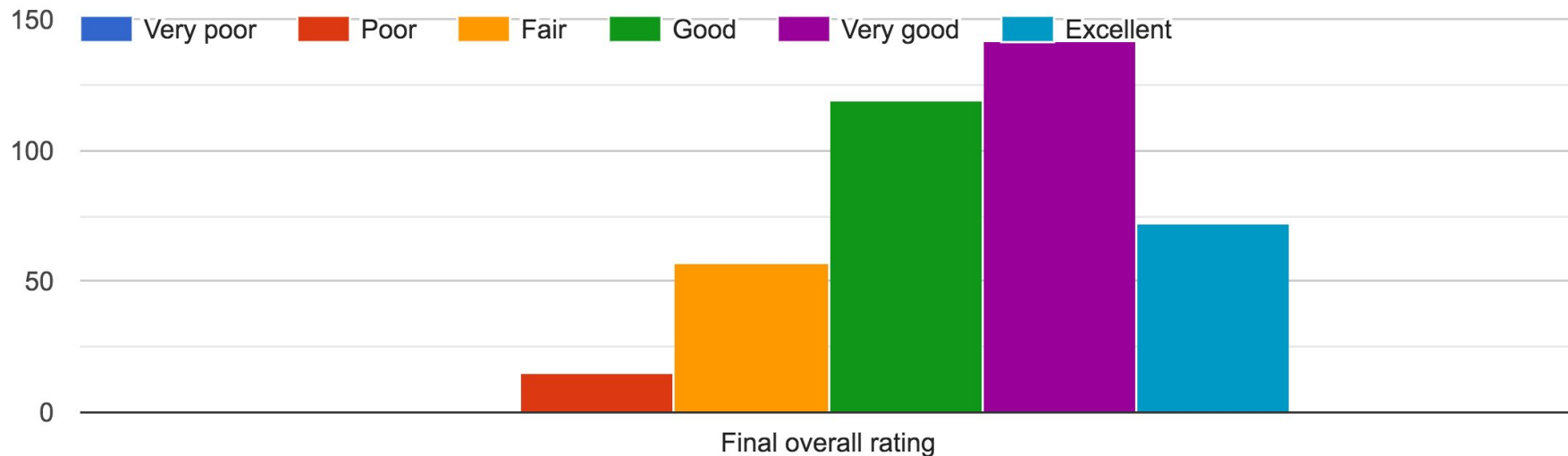
Should this text be core literature (required reading for all students in a grade level)?

12 responses



Student Responses: *Hero Next Door*

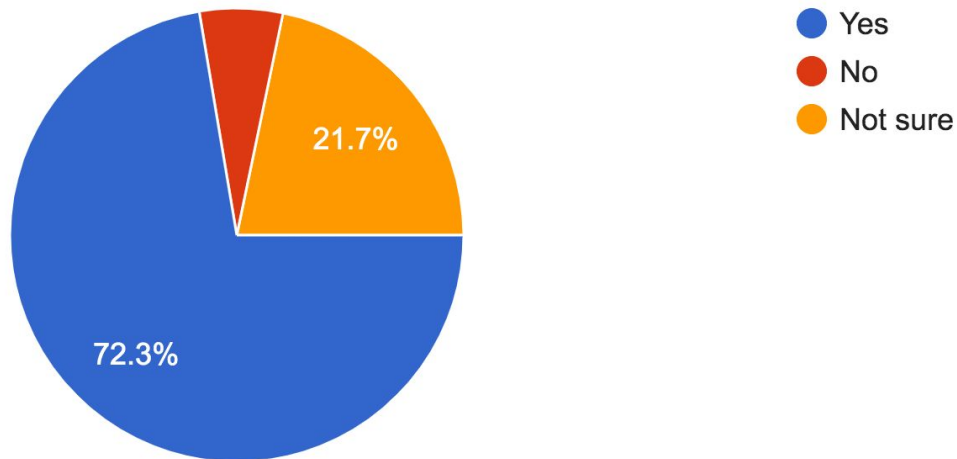
Based on your experience, how would you rate The Hero Next Door overall?



Student Responses: *Hero Next Door*

Should The Hero Next Door be taught in sixth grade next year?

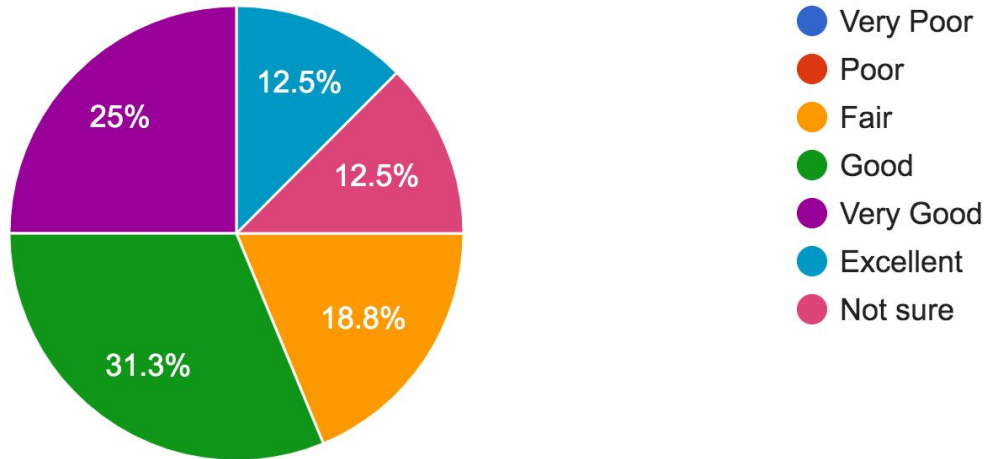
405 responses



Parent Responses: *Hero Next Door*

Based on your experience, please indicate your overall rating of this book for your student:

16 responses



Pilot Evaluation Forms: A Deeper Dive into the *Hero Next Door* Data

Jigsaw:

1. You will be divided into 6 groups and assigned a part of the *Hero Next Door* data
2. You have **15** minutes to:
 - a. Examine your data
 - b. Comb through any comments
3. One of you will give a **brief** (3 min.) presentation, summarizing the group's conclusions. What are the **key takeaways**?

Rm 1	T: Standards, Complexity, Access	Jim	Kelly	Noel	Ana
Rm 2	T: Diversity & Cultures	Shala	Ander	Jedd	Liz
Rm 3	T: Relevance & Decision Time	Laura	Deanna	Kari	Maia
Rm 4	S: Reading Level & Diversity	Erin	Fenton	Iva	Kristen
Rm 5	S: Access & Relevance	Brooke	Olivia	Jenny	Kim Kathie
Rm 6	S: Decision Time & P: All	Hart	Arturo	Jen	Shaina

Hero Next Door Data

Link in chat

Big Question:

- How does this pilot data advise our decision?

Side Note:

- Teachers, if you see anything to advise a possible future implementation »» jot it down and save!

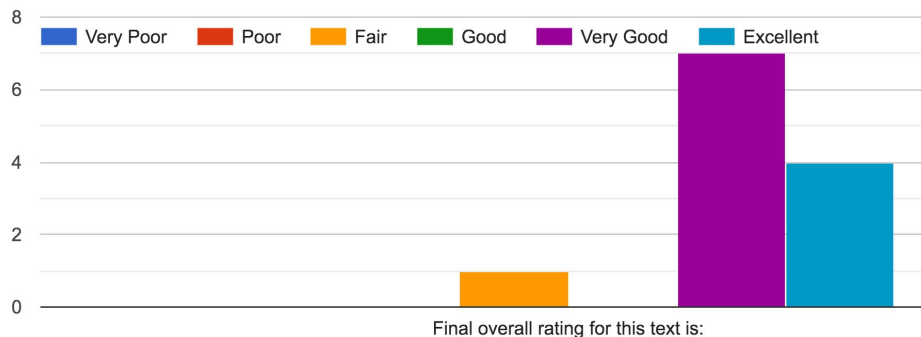
Pilot Evaluation Forms: Putting the Pieces Together

Present:

1. Decide who is going to speak
2. Explain what you found when you looked at your data sets and read through the comments
3. Summarize the group's conclusions. What were your key takeaways?
4. You have **3 minutes**

Let's Revisit the Side-by-Side Overall Ratings: *Hero Next Door*

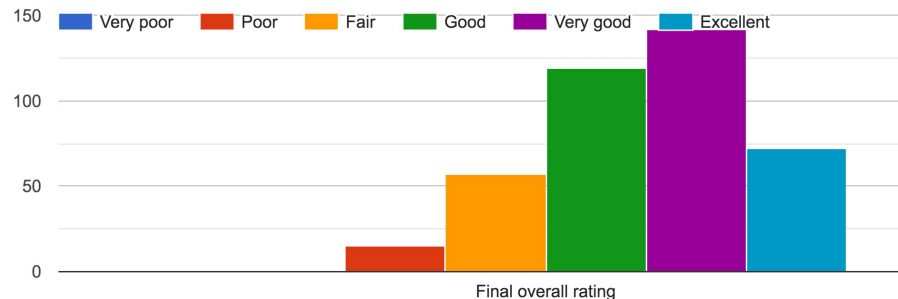
Please consider the text you are reporting on overall:



Teachers

Fair: 1
Very good: 7
Excellent: 4

Based on your experience, how would you rate The Hero Next Door overall?



Students

Poor: 15
Fair: 57
Good: 119
Very good: 142
Excellent: 72

Closing Comments:

Further considerations before voting?

Decision Time: Vote on 6th-Grade Core

Poll 4: April 21: 6th-Grade Core Lit Re... ▾ ✎ Edit

1. I recommend re-adopting D'Aulaires' Greek Myths as core literature in 6th grade.

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. I recommend adopting The Hero Next Door as core literature in 6th grade.

☐ Yes

☐ No

One vote/committee member

No abstentions

7th Grade Core Lit: Data, Discussion, Decision

7th-Grade Reading Group's Core Lit Recommendations

7th Grade

Keep *Outsiders*

Use Student Focus
Group to help evaluate
*Flying Lessons & Other
Stories*



The Outsiders: Reflections from Reading Group & Grade-Level Teachers

Committee:

- Widely popular with 7th graders – 2019 student survey
- Historical significance – start of Y.A. literature
- Novel – first required novel study in Middle School
- Thematic opportunities – resonates with students
- “Window” into another time period and region

Teachers:

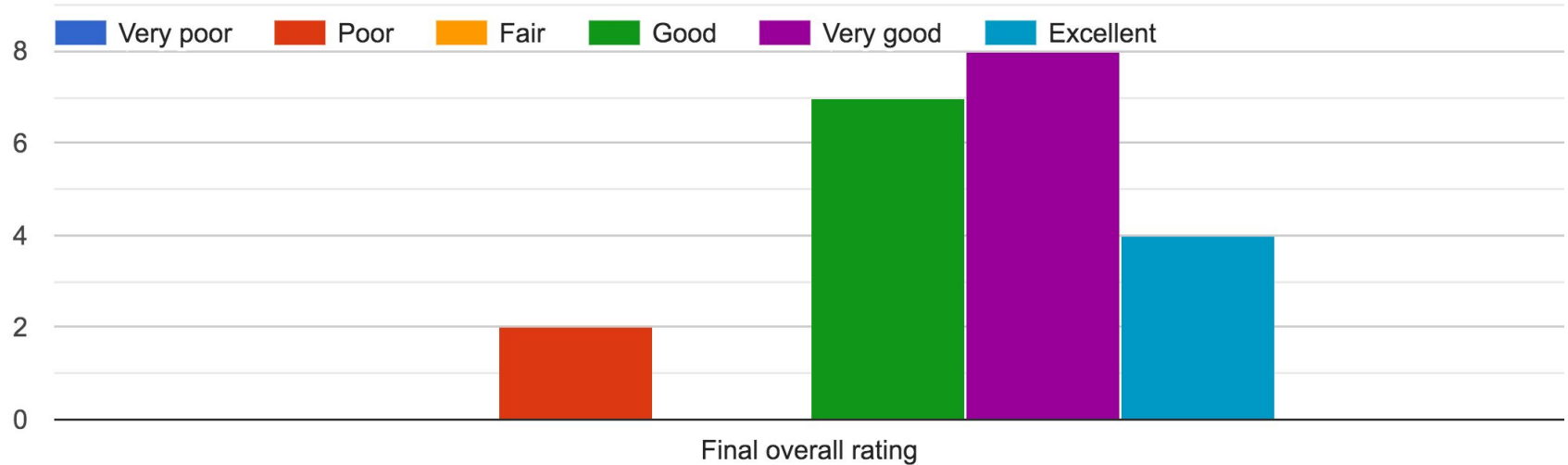
- “*The Outsiders* is a book that students actually want to read”
- “[My ELLs], just like the greasers, felt disenfranchised and for the first time saw themselves in a novel”
- “*The Outsiders* ... deals with ever relevant issues about social class, stereotypes, and finding a common understanding...”
- “This novel engages even my most reluctant readers”

Student Focus Group Forms: Overview of *Flying Lessons* Data

- Student Focus Group Forms (20 responses from volunteer MS students)

Student Focus Group Responses: *Flying Lessons*

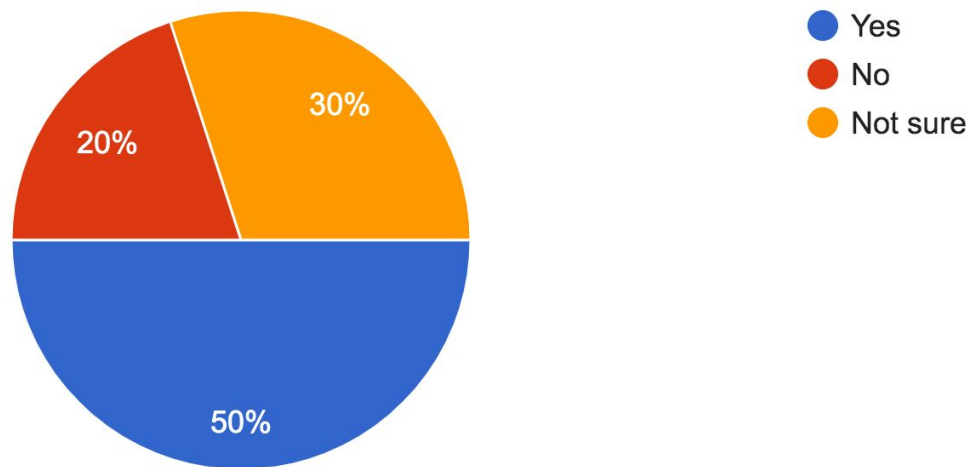
Based on your experience, how would you rate Flying Lessons overall?



Student Focus Group Responses: *Flying Lessons*

Should Flying Lessons be taught in seventh grade next year?

20 responses



Student Focus Group: A Deeper Dive into the *Flying Lesson* Data

Jigsaw:

1. You will be divided into the same 6 groups and assigned a part of the *FL* data
2. You have **10** minutes to:
 - a. Examine your data
 - b. Comb through any comments
3. One of you will give a **brief** (3 min.) presentation, summarizing your group's conclusions. What are the **key takeaways**?

Rm 1	S: General, Reading, Diversity	Jim	Kelly	Noel	Ana
Rm 2	S: General, Reading, Diversity	Shala	Ander	Jedd	Liz
Rm 3	S: General, Reading, Diversity	Laura	Deanna	Kari	Maia
Rm 4	S: Access, Relevance, Decision	Erin	Fenton	Iva	Kristen
Rm 5	S: Access, Relevance, Decision	Brooke	Olivia	Jenny	Kim Kathie
Rm 6	S: Access, Relevance, Decision	Hart	Arturo	Jen	Shaina

Flying Lessons Data

Link in chat

Big Question:

- How does this focus group data advise our decision?

Side Note:

- Teachers, if you see anything to advise a possible future implementation »» jot it down and save!

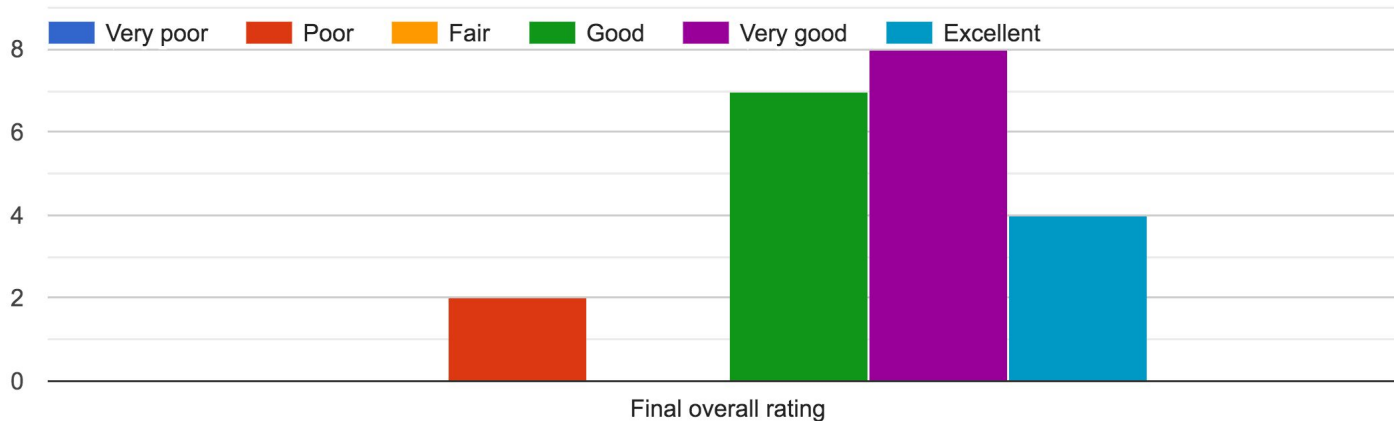
Student Focus Group: Putting the Pieces Together

Present:

1. A couple groups will be asked to speak
2. Explain what you found when you looked at your data sets and read through the comments
3. Summarize any conclusions for the group. What were your key takeaways?
4. You have **3 minutes**

Let's Revisit the Overall Ratings: *Flying Lessons*

Based on your experience, how would you rate Flying Lessons overall?



Students

Poor: 2

Good: 7*

Very Good: 8*

Excellent: 4

Closing Comments:

Further considerations before voting?

Decision Time: Vote on 7th-Grade Core

Poll 5: April 21: 7th-Grade Core Lit R... ▾ ✎ Edit

1. I recommend re-adopting *The Outsiders* as core literature in 7th grade.

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. I recommend adopting *Flying Lessons* as core literature in 7th grade.

☐ Yes

☐ No

One vote/committee member

No abstentions

**6th and 7th-Grade
Supplemental Menus: Last
Look, Revisions, Decision**

6th and 7th-Grade Supplemental Menus

1. Google docs:
 - a. PAUSD 6th-Grade Core and Supplemental Literature, 2021
 - b. PAUSD 7th-Grade Core and Supplemental Literature, 2021

2. TeachingBooks Lists:
 - a. 6th:
 - b. 7th:

The Supplemental Menus Are Living Documents

We want to ensure that the supplemental menus remain up-to-date and responsive to new publications.

Annual updating process:

1. Teacher (or teacher team) identifies likely text that speaks to the Lit Committee's Guiding Questions. Teacher vets new book.
2. Departments have opportunity to weigh in on proposed additions and deselections.
3. ILs collect teacher feedback & bring to February Steering meeting. ILs weigh feedback and determine whether to add/take off each text.
4. At March Steering, ILs update each grade level's supplemental menu
5. Revised supplemental menus are submitted to Board for approval in April.

Supplemental Menus: A Last Look

Jigsaw:

1. You will be divided into the same 6 groups and assigned one of the sup'l menus
2. You have 10 minutes to:
 - a. Read over your Supplemental Menu one last time
 - b. Propose any absolutely necessary revisions
3. You will **briefly** share any **proposed changes** with the group.

Rm 1	6th-grade Sup'l Menu	Jim	Kelly	Noel	Ana
Rm 2	7th-grade Sup'l Menu	Shala	Ander	Jedd	Liz
Rm 3	6th-grade Sup'l Menu	Laura	Deanna	Kari	Maia
Rm 4	6th-grade Sup'l Menu	Erin	Fenton	Iva	Kristen
Rm 5	7th-grade Sup'l Menu	Brooke	Olivia	Jenny	Kim Kathie
Rm 6	7th-grade Sup'l Menu	Hart	Arturo	Jen	Shaina

Supplemental Menus

Links in chat:

- a. PAUSD 6th-Grade Core and Supplemental Literature, 2021
- b. PAUSD 7th-Grade Core and Supplemental Literature, 2021

Absolutely Necessary Revisions Only:



- Glaring mistakes
- Huge problems
- This is not the time to add new texts, dramatically change the format, or otherwise redo the menus. Instead, it is a “last read-through”

Supplemental Menus: Putting the Pieces Together

Present:

1. Decide who will speak
2. Briefly share any proposed changes with the group. If you don't have any changes, feel free to pass.
3. You have **2 minutes**

Decision Time: Vote on Supplemental Menus

Poll 6: April 21: 6th & 7th-Grade Sup...   Edit

1. I recommend adopting the 6th-Grade Supplemental Literature List put forward by the sixth-grade reading group.

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. I recommend adopting the 7th-Grade Supplemental Literature List put forward by the seventh-grade reading group.

☐ Yes

☐ No

One vote/committee member

No abstentions

A black and white photograph of fireworks exploding in the night sky. The fireworks are depicted as numerous bright, radiating lines of light against a dark background. A central white rectangular box contains the text "Very well done, everyone!".

Very well done, everyone!

Agenda Items for Last Meeting

Wednesday, Apr. 28, 2021, from 4:10–6:10

- Committee finalizes Board presentation
- Committee familiarizes itself with materials in Board packet and offers feedback if needed
- Board presentation is on May 11. Committee encouraged to attend.
- Possibly: Time for teachers to discuss implementation ideas

Thank you! Good night!

