



Students entering grades 6 and up will enjoy these compelling reads; rising 8th graders are encouraged to read at least one title marked with an asterisk*. These titles explore the theme of Identity formation, a common thread woven throughout our 8th grade humanities curriculum.

NF= Nonfiction, GN= Graphic Novel

Rising 6th graders are **required** to read
The Hero Next Door: A We Need Diverse Books Anthology
Edited by
Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich

***The Best at It** by Maulik Pancholy

Rahul Kapoor, a twelve-year-old Indian-American boy who thinks he might be gay, believes that all of his anxieties will disappear if he can just prove to the world that he's the best at something. But what? And what if he fails?

***The Boys in the Back Row** by Mike Jung

Best friends Matt and Eric plan a final adventure before Eric moves away: during the marching band competition at an Amusement Park, they'll sneak away to a nearby comics convention to meet their idol--a famous comic creator.

***Brown Girl Dreaming** by Jacqueline Woodson

In vivid poems, the National Book Award winner shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

***Children of Blood and Bone** by Tomi Adeyemi

Zélie remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and end the monarchy.

***Dragon Hoops** by Gene Luen Yang (GN)

Award winning Graphic Novelist and teacher Yang shares his life, his family, and the high school where he teaches - with a focus on race, ethnicity, and the school's basketball team, the Dragons in this graphic memoir sports story.

***Elatsoe** by Darcie Little Badger

Ellie, an Apache teen with ancestral knowledge about communicating with ghosts, must solve the mystery of her cousin's murder in this genre-blending, hauntingly-illustrated fantasy novel.

Fever Year: The Killer Flu of 1918 by Don Brown (NF, GN)

A graphic novel of one of the darkest episodes in American history: the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918.

***Flight of the Puffin** by Ann Brayden

Told in multiple voices, seventh-grader Libby sets off a chain of events that brings hope and encouragement to four different individuals across the country who are dealing with bullies, acceptance, homelessness, and grief.

***In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse** by Joseph M. Marshall III

Jimmy McClean's father is part white and part Lakota, and his mother is full Lakota. When he embarks on a journey with his grandfather, Nyles High Eagle, he learns more and more about his Lakota heritage, including the famous Crazy Horse.

***It Ain't So Awful Falafel** by Firoozeh Dumas

Eleven-year-old Zomorod, originally from Iran, tells her story of growing up Iranian in Southern California during the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis of the late 1970s.

****Lupe Wong Won't Dance*** by Donna Barba Higuera

Outspoken half-Chinese, half-Mexican seventh-grader Guadalupe “Lupe” Wong is on a crusade to cancel her school's PE square dancing unit. She's a pitcher, not a dancer!

March Trilogy by John Lewis , with Andrew Aydin, and illustrated and lettered by Nate Powell (GN, NF)
Autobiographical black and white graphic novel trilogy about the Civil Rights Movement, told through the perspective of civil rights leader and U.S. Congressman John Lewis.

****Nimona*** by Noelle Stevenson (GN)

Nimona is an impulsive young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy. Lord Ballister Blackheart is a villain with a vendetta. The pair are about to wreak some serious havoc.

****Piecing Me Together*** by Renée Watson

Every day, Jade rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider. She's tired of being singled out as someone who needs help, someone people want to fix.

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

A stirring mystery of past and present, as two kids search for a place in their families, city, and country.

Rick Riordan Presents Imprint by various authors

Love the action, adventure, myths and folklore in Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson series? This collection of #ownvoices series by historically underrepresented Authors of Color are rooted in mythologies of various world cultures.

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi (NF)

A history of racist and antiracist ideas in America, from their roots in Europe until today, adapted from the National Book Award winner *Stamped from the Beginning*

****We're Not From Here*** by Geoff Rodkey

Being an unwanted refugee on the planet Choom puts huge pressure on Lan, who must demonstrate that humans are acceptable. Awkward situations and plenty of humor demonstrate challenges in understanding alien perspectives and hint at contemporary, earth-bound events.

We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices edited by Cheryl Willis Hudson and Wade Hudson

What do we tell our children when the world seems bleak, and prejudice and racism run rampant? With 96 lavishly designed pages of original art and prose, fifty diverse creators lend voice to young activists.

You Call This Democracy?: How to Fix Our Democracy and Deliver Power to the People by Elizabeth Rusch (NF)

America is the greatest democracy in the world...isn't it? This book examines some of the more problematic aspects of our government but, more importantly, offers ways for young people to fix them.