

# **Middle School English Literature Selection Advisory Committee**

**9/7/21**

# As we are waiting for people, please make sure:

- ❑ Your camera is on
- ❑ You rename yourself as follows:
  - ❑ First and last name
  - ❑ Role on the committee: *IL, MS Teacher, HS Teacher, Parent, Student, Special Education Rep, English Language Rep, Teacher Librarian, Administrator, or Public Observer*



# Welcome!

Thanks for being here.



# Public Observers

- All our meetings are open to the public
- Observers may submit their questions, concerns, and observations in writing via the observer form
- Meeting notices, agendas, and notes are posted on the district webpage:  
<https://www.pausd.org/about-us/committees-task-forces/ms-literature-selection>

# Agenda

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

## Goals:

- ☐ Get acquainted
- ☐ Understand our charge
- ☐ Clarify progress to date and timeline for year
- ☐ View *Twelve Angry Men* student survey results
- ☐ Discuss & vote on core lit candidates
- ☐ Discuss anthologies & any other titles
- ☐ Work on supplemental menu

# Introductions

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# Introductions: New & Old Members

Please tell us your preferred name, the school you are affiliated with, and your role/roles on this committee



# In Breakout Rooms:

Get Acquainted



In *Pages & Co.: The Bookwanderers*, Tilly Pages discovers that she has the ability to wander into any story she chooses. If you had this ability, which book would you choose to visit?

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# Committee Membership

*A copy of the Committee Membership is in our shared folder.*

MS ENGLISH LITERATURE COMMITTEE: QUICK REFERENCE MEMBERSHIP			
DESCRIPTION	NAME		
ENGLISH INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER	Deanna Jones (6, 8) - IL Fletcher MS <a href="mailto:djones@pausd.org">djones@pausd.org</a>	Erin Chan (6) - IL Greene MS <a href="mailto:echan@pausd.org">echan@pausd.org</a>	Renee Johnson (7) – IL JLS MS <a href="mailto:rjohnson@pausd.org">rjohnson@pausd.org</a>
MS ENGLISH TEACHER	Ander Lucia (8) Fletcher MS <a href="mailto:alucia@pausd.org">alucia@pausd.org</a>	Jaime Veitch (8) Greene MS <a href="mailto:jveitch@pausd.org">jveitch@pausd.org</a>	Kari Nygaard (8) JLS MS <a href="mailto:knygaard@pausd.org">knygaard@pausd.org</a>
	Tanner Ziegelman (6-8) Fletcher MS <a href="mailto:tziegelman@pausd.org">tziegelman@pausd.org</a>	Kelly Zalatimo (8) Greene MS <a href="mailto:kzalatimo@pausd.org">kzalatimo@pausd.org</a>	Jennifer Valero (8, Writing Workshop) JLS MS <a href="mailto:jvalero@pausd.org">jvalero@pausd.org</a>
HS ENGLISH TEACHER	Shaina Holdener Gunn HS <a href="mailto:sholdener@pausd.org">sholdener@pausd.org</a>	TBD Paly HS	
PARENT REPRESENTATIVE	Kenny Ligda Fletcher parent <a href="mailto:kenligda@stanford.edu">kenligda@stanford.edu</a>	Fiona Wang Greene parent <a href="mailto:fiona.wangvinevine@gmail.com">fiona.wangvinevine@gmail.com</a>	Kathryn Schroeder JLS parent <a href="mailto:kthrschrdr@gmail.com">kthrschrdr@gmail.com</a>

# Our Charge

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# Committee's Charge

*A copy of the updated Charge Statement is in our shared folder.*

## Products:

- A recommendation for two core literature texts in grade 8 and a recommendation for a menu of supplemental literature in grade 8, no later than Spring Semester 2022 to the Board of Education. The recommendation is to include a written rationale for the selection(s) in comparison to those not chosen on the finalist list.

# Conflict of Interest

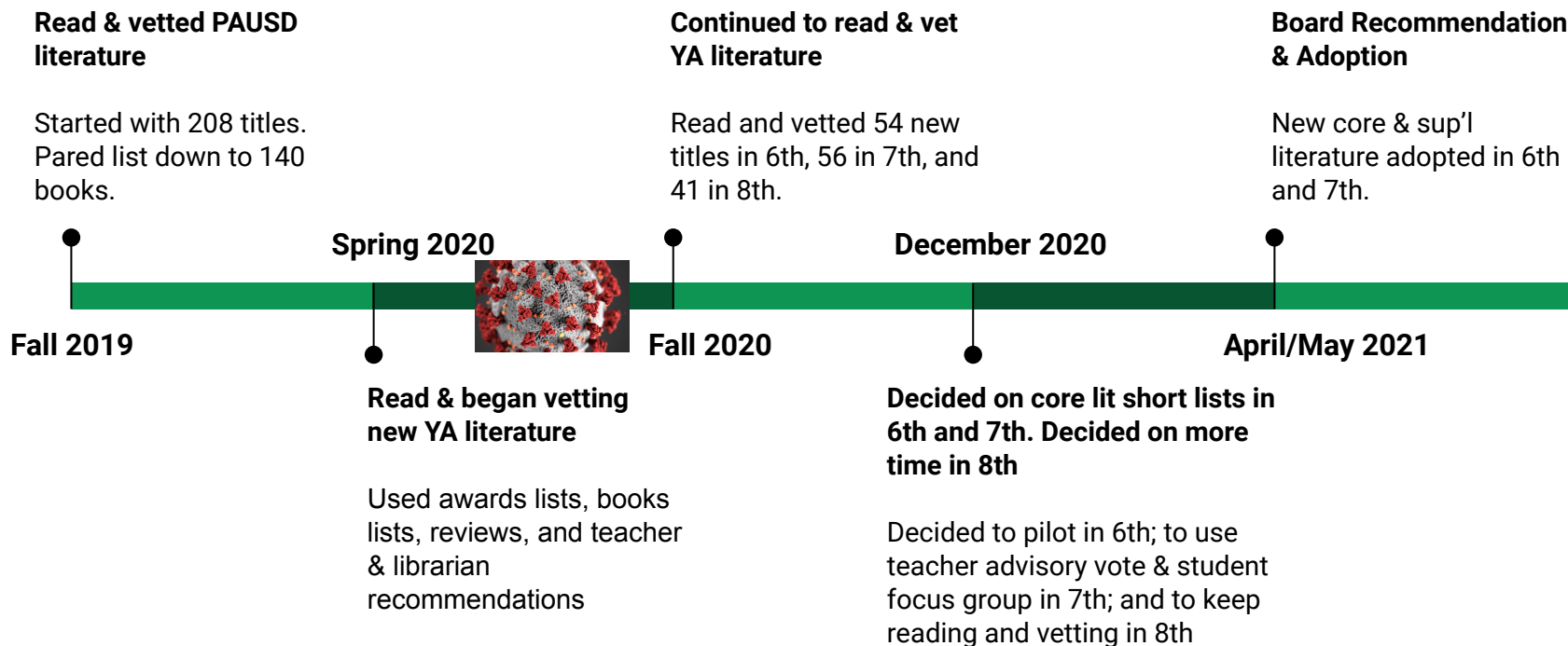
*A copy of the “Conflict of Interest” section of AR 6161.1 is in our shared folder.*



# **Progress to Date & Timeline Moving Forward**


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# MS Literature Committee's Work, 2019-2021



# April-May, 2021: Recommendation & Adoption

	Core Title #1	Core Title #2	Supp'l Lists
<b>6th Grade</b>	D'Aulaires' <i>Book of Greek Myths</i> (1962)	<i>The Hero Next Door</i> (2019)	PAUSD 6th-Grade Supplemental Literature List, 2021
<b>7th Grade</b>	<i>The Outsiders</i> (1967)	<i>Flying Lessons &amp; Other Stories</i> (2017)	PAUSD 7th-Grade Supplemental Literature List,
<b>8th Grade</b>	<i>Twelve Angry Men</i> (1955)		<i>Draft in process!</i>



# Meeting Schedule, 2021-22

*A copy of this year's Meeting Schedule was emailed to you & is in our shared folder.*

## MEETING SCHEDULE: 2021-22

All meetings are open to the public. The public may submit questions and observations in writing to the committee. Meeting dates, times, and frequency may change, depending on how work is progressing.

Date	Time	Purpose
Tues. Sept. 7 <i>SDC</i>	4 pm to 7 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status: What did we accomplish last year and where did we leave off? Where are we going this year? Timeline, process, and logistics</li> <li>Read, vet, and discuss core candidates</li> <li>Work on supplemental menu</li> </ul>
Wed. Sept. 29 <i>Aspen</i>	4 pm to 7 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to read, vet, and discuss core candidates</li> <li>Finalize short list of core candidates (for October decision)</li> <li>Consider how best to collect 8<sup>th</sup>-grade teacher feedback on short list (survey, other?)</li> <li>Work on supplemental menu</li> </ul>
Wed. Oct. 20 <i>Aspen</i>	4 pm to 7 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share 8<sup>th</sup>-grade teacher feedback</li> <li>Decide on core lit finalist(s) (max 3 books)</li> <li>Determine whether pilot(s) is advisable.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If pilot(s) is advisable, consider pilot plans.</li> <li>If pilot(s) is not advisable, consider how best to collect student feedback on finalist(s)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Work on supplemental menu</li> </ul>
Mon. Nov. 29 <i>Aspen</i>	8:30 am – 3:00 pm	Release Day for Piloting Teachers ( <b>Committee not included</b> ) – if needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot overview, including data collection</li> <li>Pilot expectations</li> <li>Unit planning time</li> </ul>
<b>Display pilot materials at the District Office and at each Middle School (physically or virtually). December – March: Potential pilots take place. Committee welcome to observe lessons.</b>		
Date	Time	Purpose
Tues. Jan. 25 <i>Aspen</i>	4 pm to 7 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of data collection for pilot (teacher and student evaluation forms are shared)</li> <li>Update on pilot(s) progress</li> <li>Work on supplemental menu. Can supplemental menu be finalized? If not, pick focus group to finish work and decide on dates for focus group to meet.</li> </ul>
<i>TBD</i> – likely 1/31 or 2/7 <i>Aspen</i>	8:30 am – 3:00 pm	Release Day for Piloting Teachers ( <b>Committee not included</b> ) – if needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data collection</li> <li>Unit planning time</li> </ul>
Wed. Apr. 20 <i>Aspen</i>	4 pm to 7 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher, student, and parent input on the pilot(s) is collected by <b>March 30</b></li> <li>Committee reviews pilot reports</li> <li>Committee makes recommendation:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Option 1: Recommend texts for adoption:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two core literature texts</li> <li>Menu of supplemental literature</li> </ul> </li> <li>Option 2: Recommend further reading and/or new pilots; plan reading and/or new pilots</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Wed. Apr. 27 <i>Aspen</i>	4 pm to 6 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee finalizes Board enclosures: documents and slides</li> </ul>
May <i>TBD</i>		Board presentation ( <b>Committee not expected to participate</b> )



# Questions/Thoughts?



Core Lit Title #1: *Twelve  
Angry Men*

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# *Twelve Angry Men:* Student Survey

Spring 2021

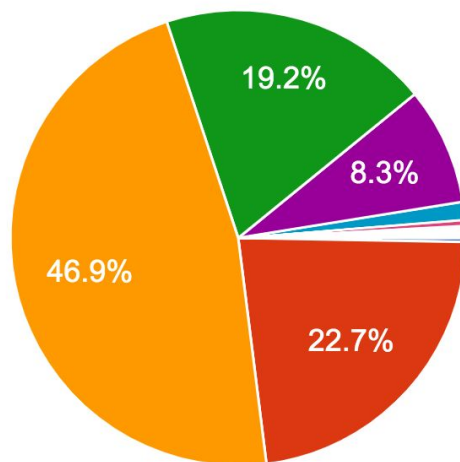
708 responses (84%  
of total 8th graders)

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# Survey Responses

What did you think of Reginald Rose's Twelve Angry Men?

708 responses

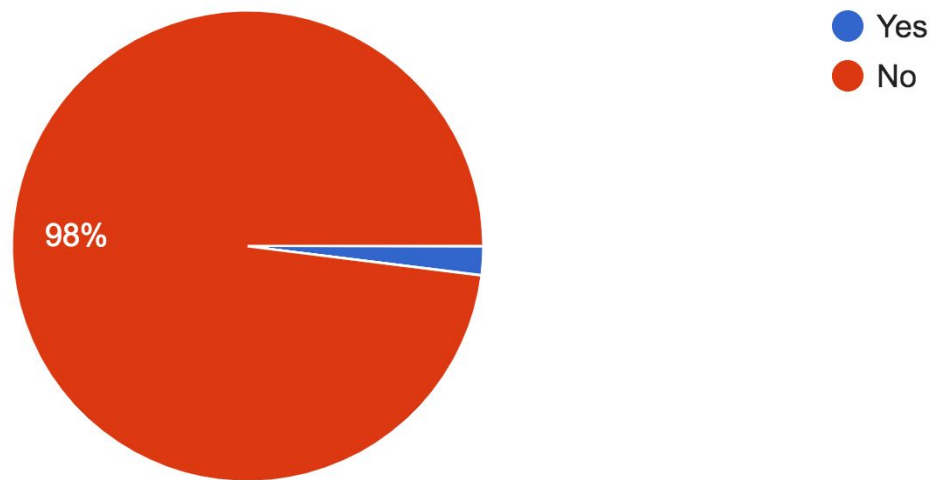


- Never read it or teacher did not get to it.
- I loved reading Twelve Angry Men!
- I liked reading Twelve Angry Men.
- I was neutral about reading Twelve An...
- I didn't really care for Twelve Angry Men
- I hated reading Twelve Angry Men
- I am new to PAUSD and did not read...
- I'm what you could say "neutral" about...

# Survey Responses

Had you read Twelve Angry Men previously (before eighth grade)?

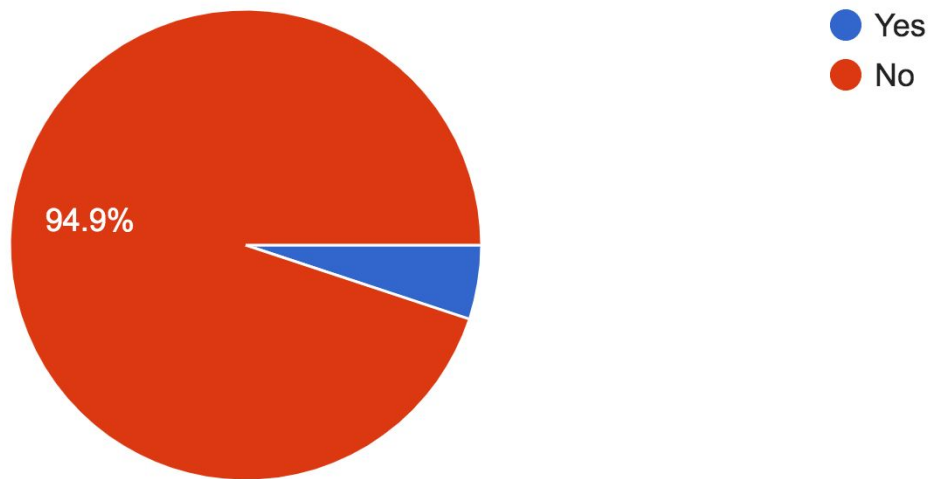
708 responses



# Survey Responses

Had you the seen the movie version of Twelve Angry Men previously (before eighth grade)?

708 responses



# Survey Responses

Is there anything you would like to tell us about your experiences reading *Twelve Angry Men*?

Student responses linked here

# **Discuss Core Lit Candidates**

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# What Constitutes a Good Core Candidate?

8th-Grade Curriculum:

Themes

Topics

Units

# What are we doing during this part of the meeting?

We will:

- Remind ourselves of the books that we identified last year as possible core lit contenders & review some of our thoughts about them
- Have an opportunity to bring up new thoughts
- Move ever closer to deciding what our core lit finalists are going to be  
➤ decision at our October meeting

# Sample Ballot

1. Should Pet stay in the running as a core lit contender? (Single Choice) \*

- ☐ Yes, Pet should stay in the running as a core lit contender until our next meeting.
- ☐ No, let's move Pet to our supplemental list.
- ☐ No, Pet shouldn't be a core lit contender nor should it be on our supplemental list.

One vote/committee member

Majority rules

# 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.

# *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

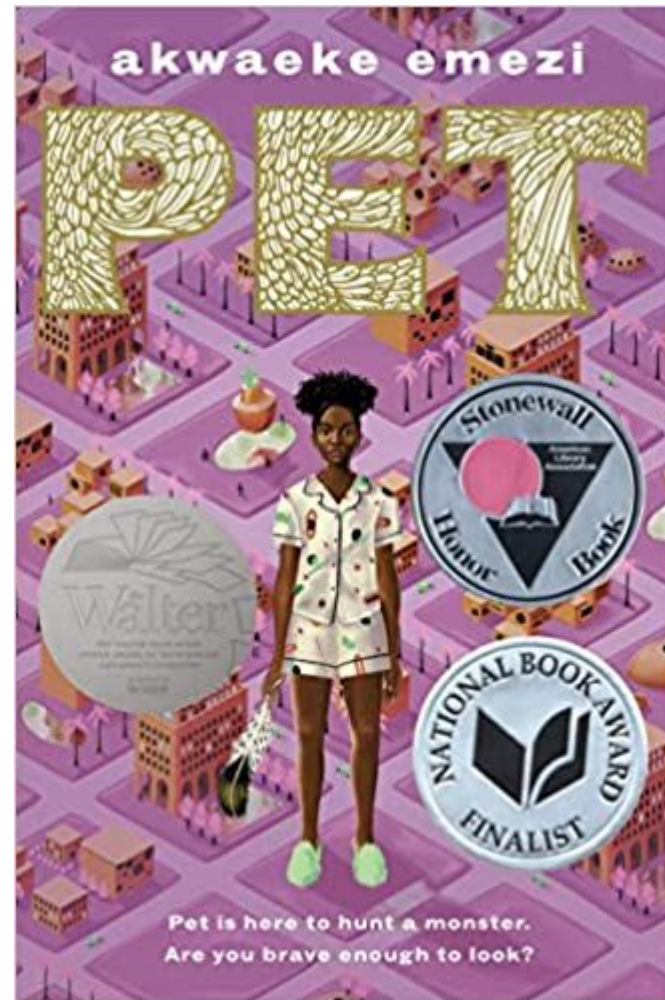
Publishers Weekly starred, 06/17/19

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

## PROS

- Representation of underrepresented communities
- Lots of layers to the book: can be read as a fantasy or as social commentary
- Checks boxes on student survey: fantasy, student of color, LGBTQ+
- Jam just gets to exist. No struggle or trauma. Part of a loving family.
- Language and layers give teachers a lot to work with
- Springboard for thinking forward - what does a positive society look like?

## COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- Is this topnotch literature?
- Is it too simple? Just a hunt?
- Is there enough character development?



# *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

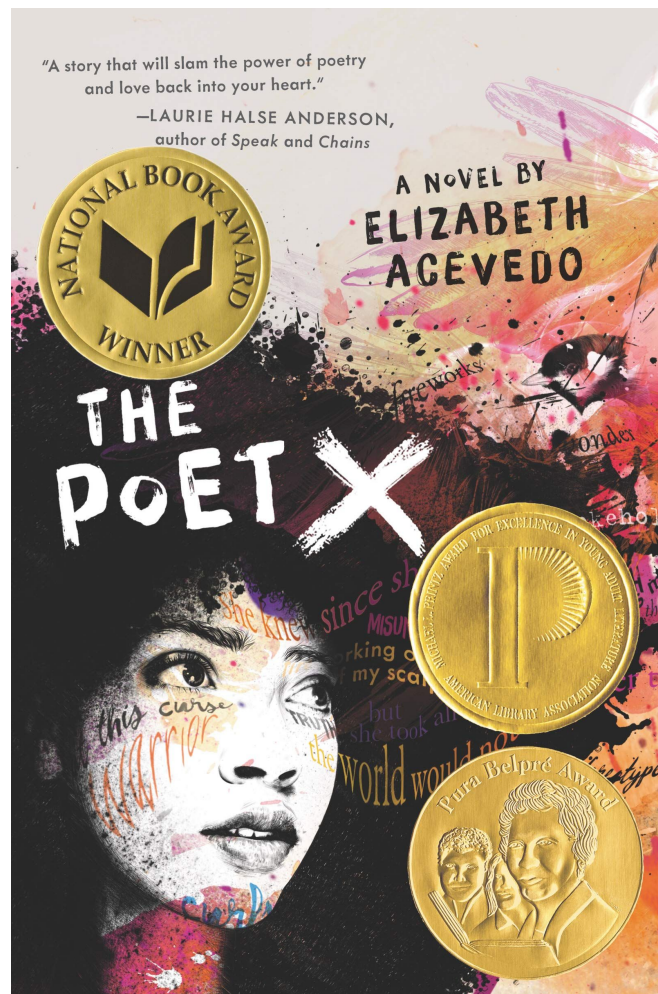
Pura Belpre Author Award, 2019

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

## PROS

- Written in verse, clear climax and resolution
- Members mentioned being able to relate to struggles of faith, processing life through writing, finding sanctuary in the written word, struggle with sexuality
- Positive portrayal of relationships and sexuality
- Good to talk about more mature topics within the structure of a class
- Beautifully written; a number of readers said they “loved” this book

## COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- Content: Too mature? Relatable?
- Would this mainly be a window for students, rather than a mirror?
- Language?





# *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

## Reviews & Awards

Booklist starred, 12/15/16

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books starred,  
03/01/17

Coretta Scott King Author Honor, 2018

Horn Book Guide starred, 10/01/17

Horn Book Magazine starred, 03/01/17

Kirkus Reviews starred, 12/15/16

Michael L. Printz Honor, 2018

New York Times, 02/26/17

Publishers Weekly starred, 11/28/16

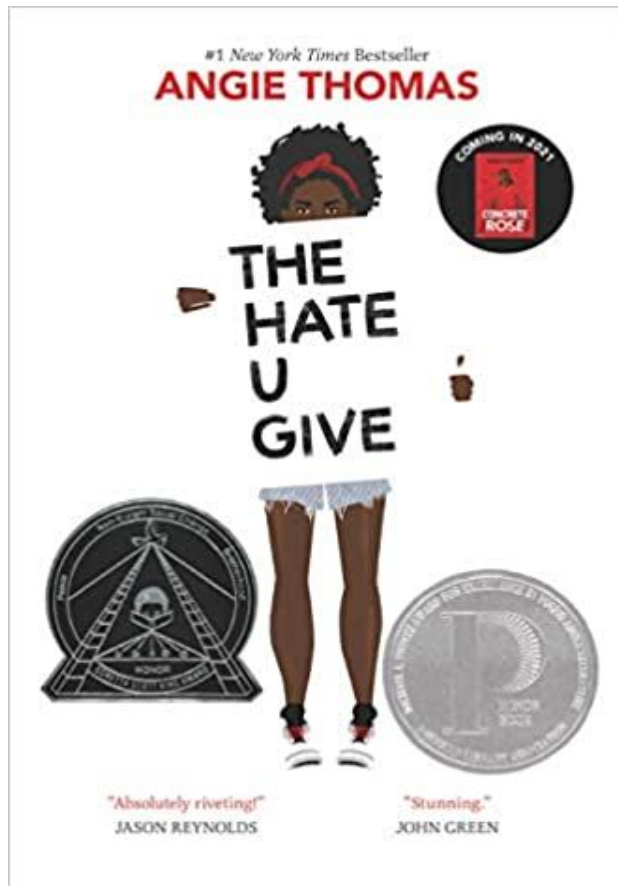
School Library Journal starred, 01/01/17

Teacher Librarian, 12/01/17

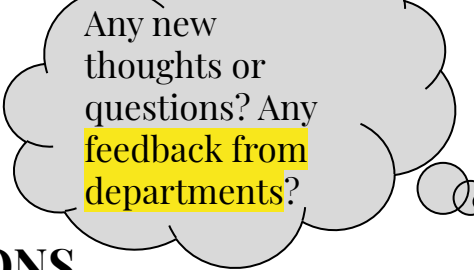
Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) starred, 02/01/17

William C. Morris YA Debut Award, 2018

SLJ: Gr 8 Up—After Starr and her childhood friend Khalil, both black, leave a party together, they are pulled over by a white police officer, who kills Khalil. The sole witness to the homicide, Starr must testify before a grand jury that will decide whether to indict the cop, and she's terrified, especially as emotions run high.



# *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas



Any new thoughts or questions? Any feedback from departments?

## PROS

- Upraise voices that have historically been silenced
- Bold choice - having everyone grapple with this text. A mandate to address complicated issues, systemic racism
- An opportunity to make change/look at curriculum in a new way
- Positive representation of underrepresented communities
- Deep dive on racism is important, timely and relevant
- Good to do full-length novel before moving on to HS

## COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- Concern about trauma: don't want the black experience to be primarily about trauma
- *Hate U Give* included in extensive justice unit as one book choice out of many currently
- Offering *Hate U Give* as part of a menu of choices allows for different reading levels, multi-faceted exploration of systemic racism
- Teaching *Stamped* in 8th. Opportunity to bring in other African-American literature
- Language?
- Too long for whole-class text?

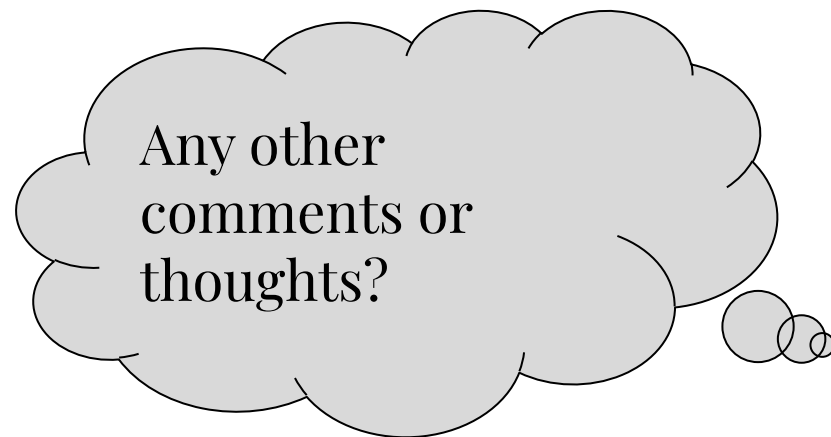
# Feedback from Public Observers

Feedback from May 19, 2021 meeting

Feedback is being read now as much of it pertains to *The Hate U Give*

Facilitators will read feedback from public observers, anonymizing it to the extent possible

Committee listens



# *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei

## Reviews & Awards

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Award, 2020

Booklist starred, 07/01/19

Horn Book Magazine, 09/01/19

Kirkus Reviews starred, 12/01/19

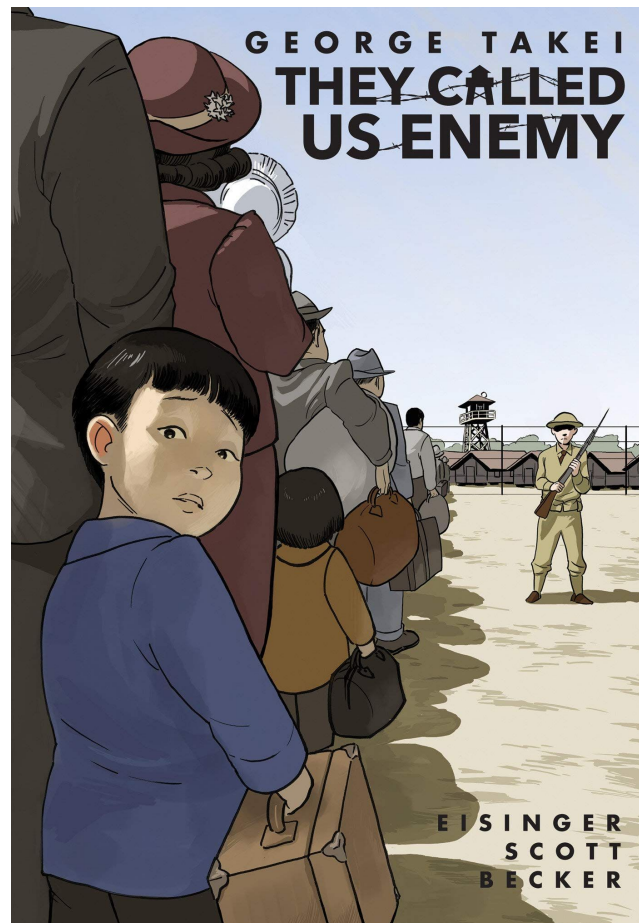
Library Journal - web only, 07/26/19

Publishers Weekly starred, 07/08/19

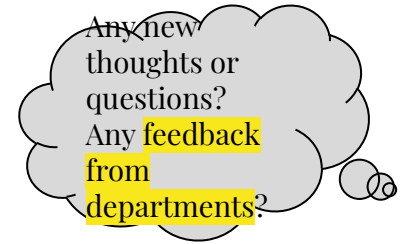
School Library Journal Xpress, 06/28/19

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

SLJ: Gr 7 Up—In the wake of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, 120,000 Japanese Americans were rounded up, incarcerated in camps, and stripped of freedoms... Among them was future television star and political activist Takei, who as a child was imprisoned along with his family by the U.S. government. Takei, joined by writers Eisinger and Scott, tells a powerful, somewhat nonlinear story spanning 80 years of U.S. history, starting right after Executive Order 9066 was enacted in 1942.



# *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei



## PROS

- Beautiful artwork
- Represents a part of American history that is often overlooked
- Representation of Asian Americans and Takei is active in LGBTQ+ community
- Majority of our students are Asian
- Very accessible for our students
- Teachers could pull in current events when teaching book
- Has advantage of older person reflecting back, so several historical moments get filled in/explained

## COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- Too short?
- Parent perception of having a graphic novel as core?
- How to teach graphic novel with fidelity within the standards we have?
- Would we need to teach a lot of history to make book understandable to students?
- Wish there had been more of a connection to what is currently happening

# *We Are Not Free* by Traci Chee

## Reviews & Awards

Booklist starred, 04/01/20

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, 09/01/20

Horn Book Magazine, 09/01/20

Kirkus Reviews starred, 07/15/20

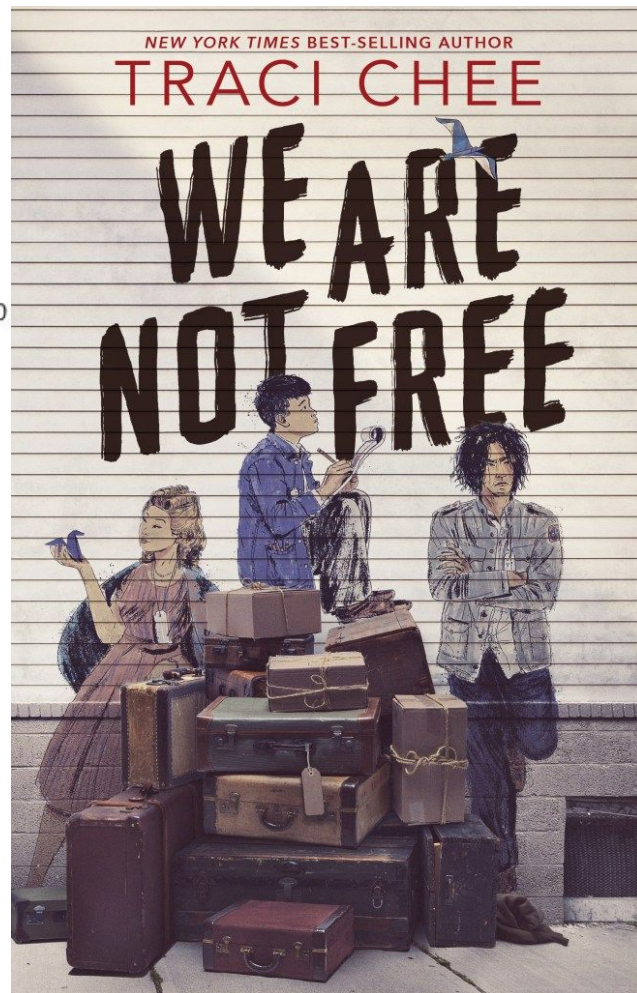
Michael L. Printz Honor, 2021

Publishers Weekly starred, 07/06/20

School Library Connection starred, 05/01/20

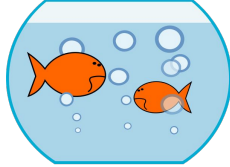
School Library Journal starred, 04/01/20

SLJ: Gr 7 Up-Fourteen teens form a bond growing up together in California. They go to school, work hard to be good kids in their community, and try their best to find happiness in various hobbies. American-born, they are of Japanese descent, and surrounded by people who do not trust their right to be in the U.S. World War II turns their already strained lives upside down. Taken and forced into desolate internment camps, these young kids must rally together as racism threatens to tear them apart.



# ***We Are Not Free: Fishbowl and Q & A***

**Fishbowl participants:**



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

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

**Fishbowl observers:**



**Consider: Does this text sound like a good core lit candidate?**

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



# ***We Are Not Free*** by Traci Chee

## **Fishbowl Participants:**

Deanna

Kathie

Would anyone else like to join?



Is this text a good  
core lit candidate?



# ***We Are Not Free*** by Traci Chee

## **Fishbowl Observers:**

Any questions/comments?



# Summary Chart

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

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
✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		Printz Award	
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		William Morris Award
✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Printz Award Coretta Scott King Award	
			✓	✓	✓		Stonewall Honor	
		✓	✓	✓	✓		Printz Award/ Pura Belpre	

Side-by-side comparison of core lit contenders' starred reviews/awards

Link in chat:

## Closing Comments:

Further considerations before voting?

**Vote on Core Lit Candidates**

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# Decision Time: Which Candidates Should Stay in the Running?

1. Should Pet stay in the running as a core lit contender? (Single Choice) \*

- ☐ Yes, Pet should stay in the running as a core lit contender until our next meeting.
- ☐ No, let's move Pet to our supplemental list.
- ☐ No, Pet shouldn't be a core lit contender nor should it be on our supplemental list.

One vote/committee member

Majority rules

**Any Questions Thus Far?**



# Discuss Anthologies

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# Helpful Resources

Find and open the Resource Repository:

- MS Anthologies Starred Reviews list
- 8th Grade Core & Supplemental Lists Organizer



# ***Foreshadow: Stories to Celebrate the Magic of Reading and Writing YA* edited by Emily Pan and Nova Ren Suma**

## **Reviews & Awards**

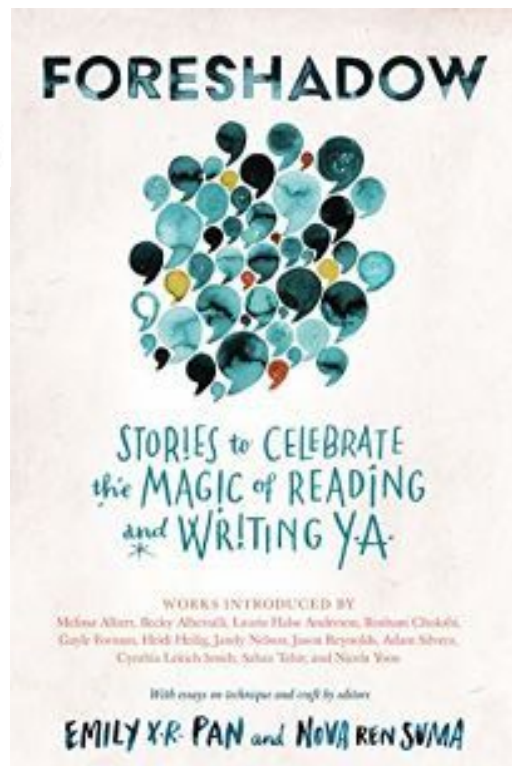
**Booklist**, 10/01/20

**Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**, 11/01/20

**Kirkus Reviews**, 09/01/20

**School Library Journal** starred, 10/01/20

SLJ: Gr 8 Up—An anthology designed to showcase underrepresented voices in short stories. The formula is simple: A story, followed by a multi-paragraph explanation by the author, and last, Pan or Suma dissect the strategies the author used. Thus, readers are simultaneously entertained and educated. The 13 engaging and original stories in a variety of genres range from a strained relationship between mother and daughter in Tanya Aydelott's "Flight" to the end of the world in Joanna Truman's "Glow."



# ***Foreshadow: Stories to Celebrate the Magic of Reading and Writing YA*** edited by Emily Pan and Nova Ren Suma

## **Fishbowl Participants:**

Kelly

Ander

Kristen



Would anyone else like to join?

**Do we still think this text is a good supplemental text or does it rise to the level of core?**

# ***Foreshadow: Stories to Celebrate the Magic of Reading and Writing YA*** edited by Emily Pan and Nova Ren Suma

## **Fishbowl Observers:**

Any questions/comments?



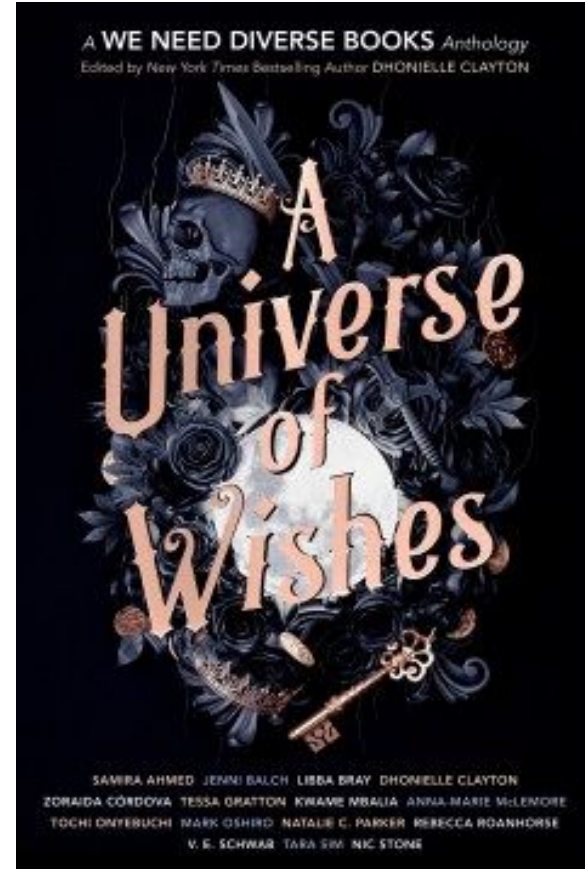
# *Universe of Wishes* edited by Dhonielle Clayton

## Reviews & Awards

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, 11/01/20  
Publishers Weekly Annex starred, 11/16/20

School Library Journal, 12/01/20

SLJ: Gr 8 Up—This collection of speculative fiction featuring LGBTQIA+ protagonists and characters of color includes contributions by Libba Bray, V.E. Schwab, Kwame Mbalia, Nic Stone, and others. Some of the standout stories: A young warrior fighting to become the consort of the kingdom's ruler is drawn to one of her fellow combatants instead; to save her two mothers, a young Latina seeks an audience with a trans prince; a Black colonist aboard a spaceship is determined to take some of his history with him; a brown-skinned genie is summoned by a girl living in a research station in the clouds of Venus (...)



# *Universe of Wishes* edited by Dhonielle Clayton

## Fishbowl Participants:

Kelly

Jen

Brooke



Would anyone else like to join?

**Do we still think this text is a good supplemental text or does it rise to the level of core?**

# *Universe of Wishes* edited by Dhonielle Clayton

## Fishbowl Observers:

Any questions/comments?



Recap: What is  
our decision on  
these two  
anthologies?

*Any*  
**Bring Forward Other Ideas**

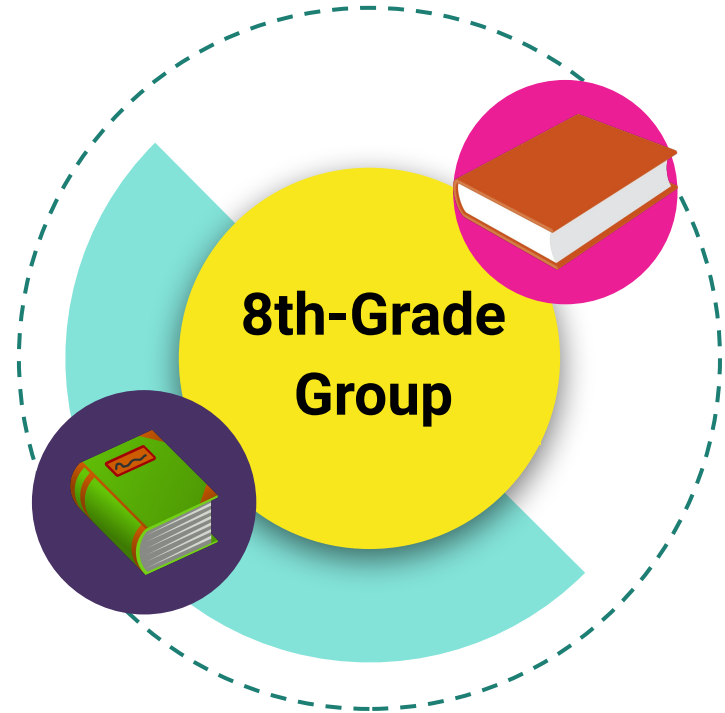
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# Share - Other Ideas?

If you have read anything else that possibly rises to the level of core, please share!

- If it sounds like a good candidate to the group, we'll need to read it for next time.



# Identify Titles to Read for September 29

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

1. Are there any Core Lit Candidates that you need to read?
2. Have any new titles risen to the level of core tonight that you need to read (anthologies, other books)?
3. Do any of these titles need to be vetted and are you willing to do it?

We'll share plans in a moment!

# Supplemental Menu

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# Helpful Resources

Find and open the Resource Repository:

- 8th Grade Core & Supplemental Lists Organizer

# 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 September 29, please:

- Read any Core Lit Candidates that you signed up for
- Read & vet any new book/anthology that you selected
- Collect department feedback on Core Lit Candidates, especially from any 8th-grade colleagues who are not on our Committee:
  - Use Department Feedback form to record feedback

# Thank You and Good Night!

Thank you so much for participating tonight!

**Thank You Thank You Thank You**