



7th Grade:

***Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds**

[Amazon Link](#)

**Note: Please read the original novel in verse, NOT the graphic novel.

Write 200-300 words for each question. Your teacher will collect these on the first day of class.

1. Why do you think the author has written this novel in verse form?
2. A majority of the book takes place in an elevator. Why has the author used an elevator as his setting? Think of what an elevator's function is! Think of the book's title to help you answer this question!
3. Every good story has a conflict and the conflict is often about the book's main character. Can you identify the main conflict in *Long Way Down* and how it relates to its main character, Will?

8th Grade:

***Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo**

[Amazon Link](#)

Write 200-300 words for each question. Your teacher will collect these on the first day of class.

1. What did you think of Acevedo's decision to write the novel in verse? What effect did this have on the telling of the story?
2. How did Acevedo's setting and language create an image of Xiomara's home and culture? What was most effective about her descriptions?
3. Was there one school assignment or essay written by Xiomara that stood out to you? If so, why?

9th and 10th Grade:

***Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro**

[Amazon Link](#)

Write 300-400 words for each question. Your teacher will make a dropbox on Managebac before the start of the school year:

1. What role does the sun play in the novel, not just for Klara but as a literary motif?
2. Choose two characters and analyze the dynamics of their relationship.

3. What is Ishiguro using the genre of science fiction to write a commentary on?

11th and 12th Grade:

***A Swim in a Pond in the Rain* by George Saunders**

[Amazon Link](#)

Write 400-500 words for each question. Your teacher will make a dropbox on Managebac before the start of the school year:

1. What did you learn about author's craft, either from George Saunders' personal reflections on writing or from his commentary on what makes these Russian stories great?
2. Discuss the role a reader plays when engaging with a work of literature and the exchange between author and audience.
3. Select one of the stories. In what way has Saunders helped you to appreciate the merits of this par