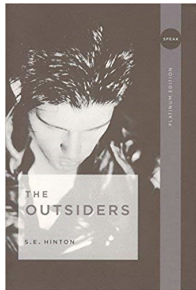




Summer reading – 8th Grade 2022

Required Book –

To be read by all students.



The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

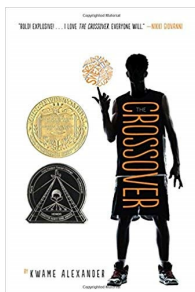
“No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on ‘greasers’ like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.”

-Penguin Publishers

Choice Book –

Select one of the following novels in verse, which pair thematically with *The Outsiders*.

Please research your choice carefully for interest and appropriateness or reach out to Mrs. DiMatteo for support. Some books may contain scenes or themes which readers find sensitive.

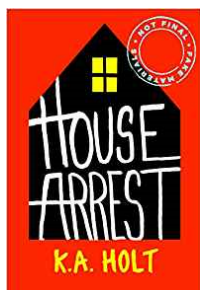


Crossover by Kwame Alexander

“The Bell twins are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life. While there are some differences—Josh shaves his head and Jordan loves his locks—both twins adhere to the Bell basketball rules: In this game of life, your family is the court, and the ball is your heart. With a former professional basketball player dad and an assistant principal mom, there is an intensely strong home front supporting sports and education in equal measures. When life intervenes in the form of a new girl, the balance shifts and growing apart proves painful.”

– Booklist

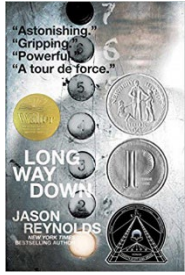
House Arrest by K.A. Holt



“Timothy stole a wallet, and now he's a delinquent. The only places he's allowed to go are to school and to appointments with his therapist and probation officer. Also, the judge gave him a journal-writing assignment. If Timothy shows signs of remorse and doesn't get into more trouble, he may be able to avoid being sent to juvie. But Timothy didn't take the wallet for himself. His family is in dire financial straits ever since his father left and his younger brother was born with serious health issues. Now, with plenty of spare time on his hands, Timothy can fully explore his feelings about his current family situation. He knows one thing, though: stealing the wallet may have been wrong, but if there's a way he can help his struggling family, he won't hesitate.”

-School Library Journal

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds



“Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That’s where Will’s now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother’s gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he’s after. Or does he? This is Jason Reynolds’s electrifying novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he’s going to murder the guy who killed his brother.”

-Amazon.com

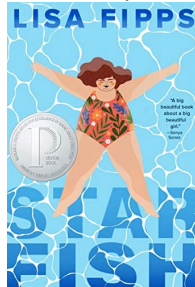
Red, White, and Whole by Rajana LaRocca



“Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she’s the only Indian American student, and home, with her family’s traditions and holidays. But Reha’s parents don’t understand why she’s conflicted—they only notice when Reha doesn’t meet their strict expectations. Reha feels disconnected from her mother, or Amma, although their names are linked—Reha means “star” and Punam means “moon”—but they are a universe apart. Then Reha finds out that her Amma is sick. Really sick. Reha, who dreams of becoming a doctor even though she can’t stomach the sight of blood, is determined to make her Amma well again. She’ll be the perfect daughter, if it means saving her Amma’s life.”

– Amazon.com

Starfish by Lisa Fipps

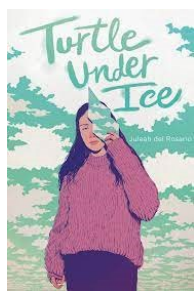


“Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules—like "no making waves," "avoid eating in public," and "don't move so fast that your body jiggles." And she's found her safe space—her swimming pool—where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. It's also where she can get away from her pushy mom, who thinks criticizing Ellie's weight will motivate her to diet.

Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life--by unapologetically being her own fabulous self.”

-Amazon.com

Turtle Under Ice by Juleah del Rosario



“Rowena feels like her family is a frayed string of lights that someone needs to fix with electrical tape. After her mother died a few years ago, she and her sister, Ariana, drifted into their own corners of the world, each figuring out in their own separate ways how to exist in a world in which their mother is no longer alive. But then Ariana disappears under the cover of night in the middle of a snowstorm, leaving no trace or tracks. When Rowena wakes up to a world of snow and her sister’s empty bedroom, she is left to piece together the mystery behind where Ariana went and why, realizing along the way that she might be part of the reason Ariana is gone. Haunting and evocative—

and told in dual perspectives—*Turtle Under Ice* examines two sisters frozen by grief as they search for a way to unthaw.”

-Amazon.com

Students should read to *understand* and *enjoy* their books this summer. Annotation is welcome but not required.

For the choice novel in verse, students should also earmark or identify their favorite chapter/poem, which will be used for a writing exercise during the first week of school.

The first two weeks of instruction will be grounded in these texts. Plan to have copies available through September 1.