



11th Grade Summer Reading

ENG III College Prep

ENG III
College
Prep
students
must
choose
one:

People of the Whale by Linda Hogan

Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang

Black Boy by Richard Wright

You Sound Like a White Girl
by Julissa Arce

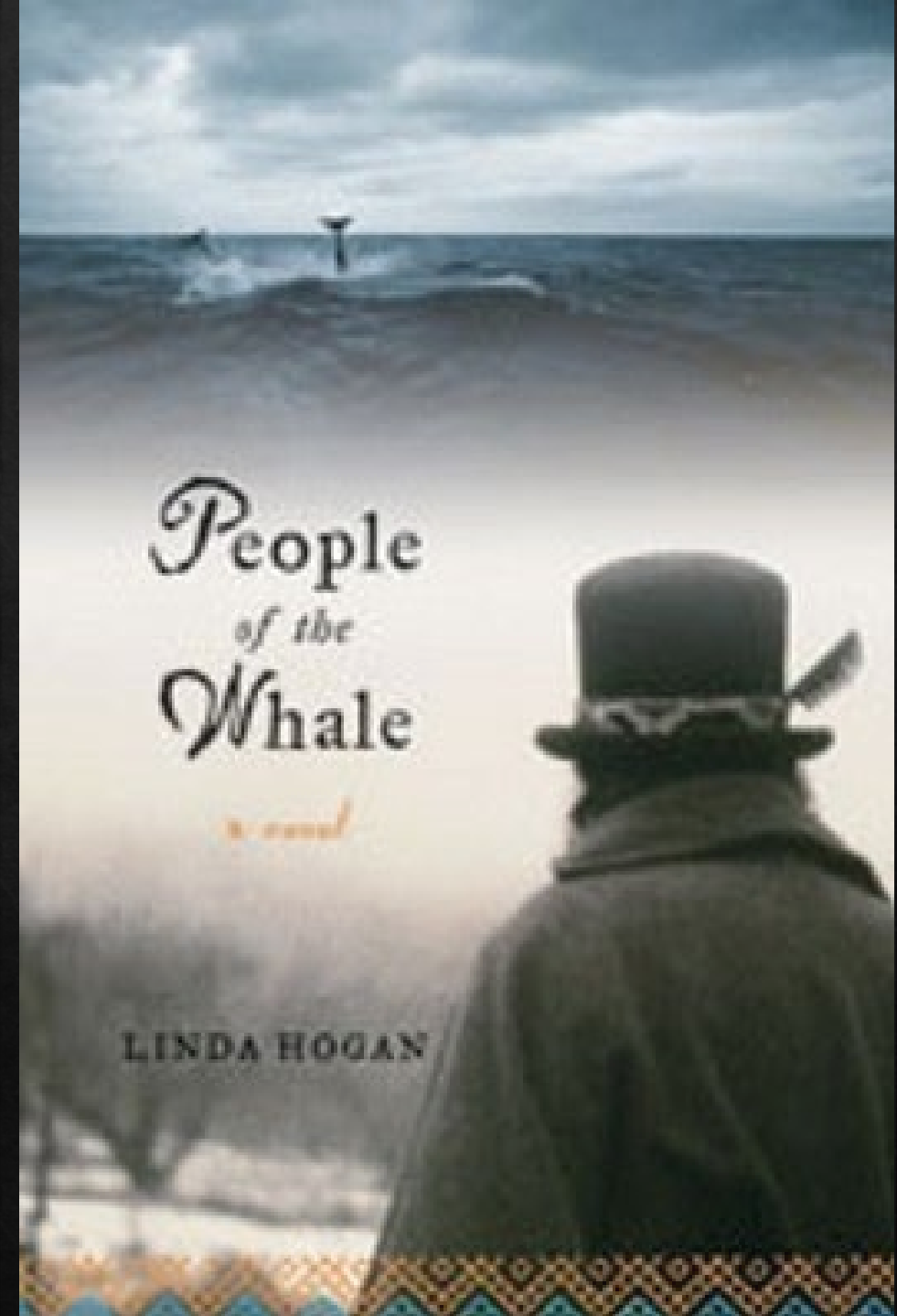
People of the Whale

Linda Hogan's novel follows Thomas Witka Just, a member of a Native American coastal community in the Pacific Northwest that follows traditional ways of life.

He enlists in the army and is shipped to Vietnam, leaving his wife Ruth and their son behind. Overwhelmed by the atrocities of the war and cut off from his people, Thomas moves into a Vietnamese village and marries a local woman, fathering another child.

Then, army troops find and return Thomas to his Native community, where Ruth has been raising their son alone in the traditions they have always followed. Thomas is home but his experiences have changed and traumatized him. He suffers from flashbacks and nightmares.

Thomas also returns to conflict at home: the tribe has decided to hunt a whale, a decision necessary for their survival but one opposed by animal rights' groups. Thomas seeks to return to the traditions and spirit of his ancestors, while Ruth seeks to defend the natural world.

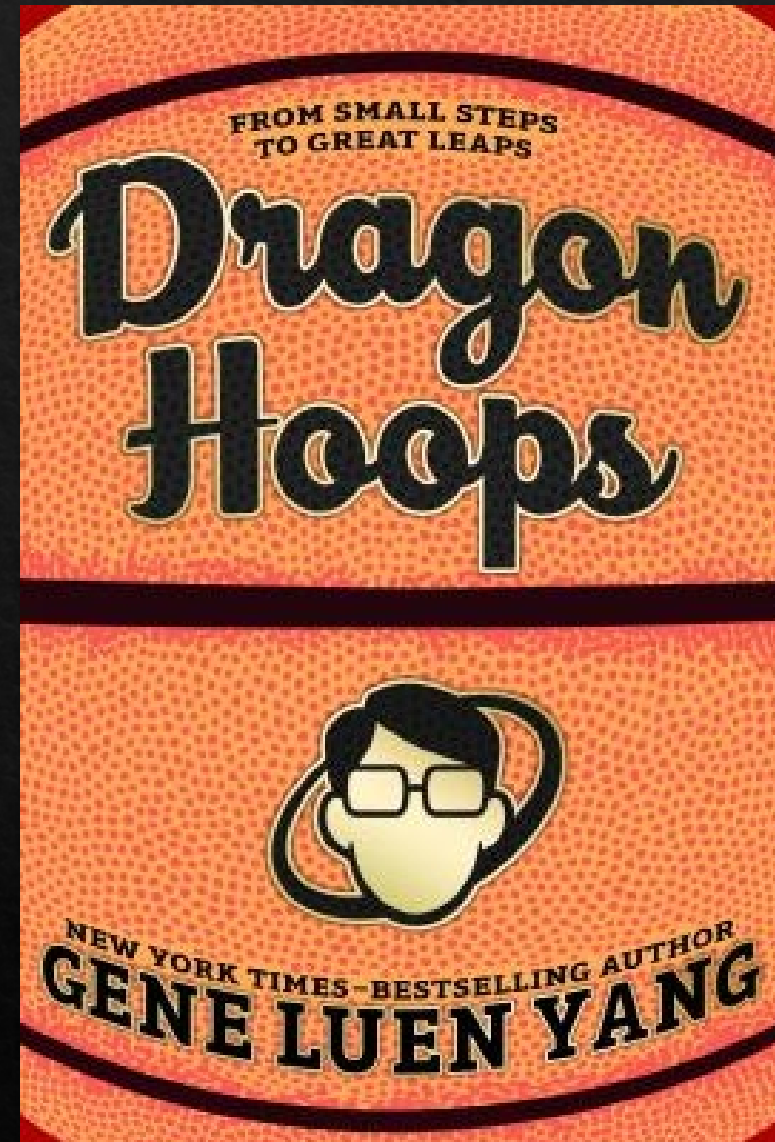


Dragon Hoops

Gene Luen Yang is an award-winning graphic novelist. He also teaches high school at Bishop O'Dowd.

Gene's stories are usually told in comics, where the hero always wins. But he becomes interested in telling the story of his high school's basketball team the year they are heading for the California State Championships after years of almost winning State.

Gene had never been a sports guy until he started following the hard work of the teams, the family lives of the players, and the history of basketball.

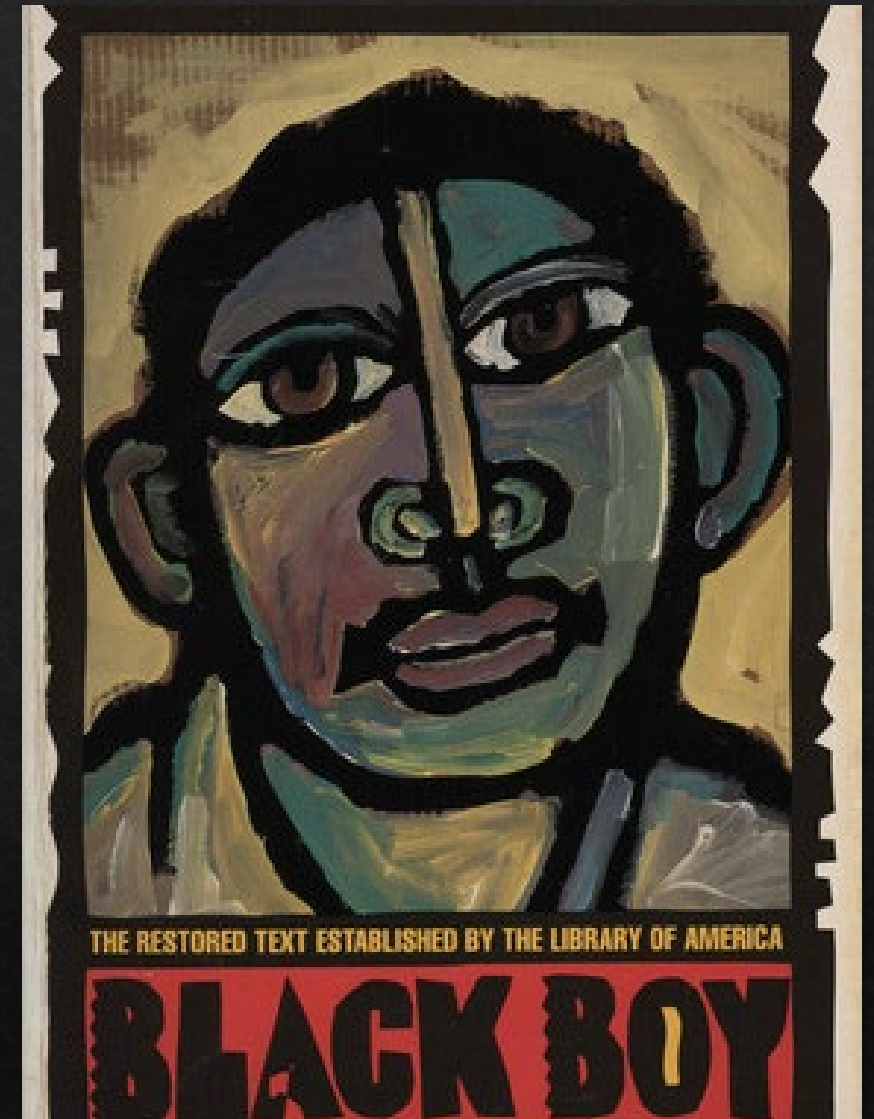


Black Boy

Richard Wright's memoir of growing up in rural Mississippi and Memphis, TN, during the Jim Crow era. Wright grew up in poverty. After his father left the family, Wright's mother moved them from place to place. When he was 12, the family eventually settled in Jackson, MS, with his maternal grandparents, and he was able to attend school consistently.

At 17, Wright moved to Memphis to work but longed to continue his education. Denied access to the segregated public library, Wright came up with a plan to check out books with a white coworker's library card. He read at night, educating himself about history and the modern world.

He wrote in *Black Boy*, "I had a new hunger. In buoying me up, reading also cast me down, made me see what was possible, what I had missed."



YOU LIKE
SOUND LIKE
A WHITE
GIRL

*The Case For Rejecting
Assimilation*

JULISSA
ARCE

You Sound Like a White Girl *The Case for Rejecting Assimilation*

“National bestselling author Julissa Arce beautifully interweaves her own experiences with cultural commentary to dispel the myth that assimilation leads to happiness and belonging for immigrants in America, and instead calls for a celebration of our uniqueness, our origins, our heritage, and the beauty of the differences that actually make us Americans.” (from the summary on Goodreads)

Arce grew up in Mexico before moving with her parents to Texas when she was 11. She worked for years to shed aspects of herself that would keep her from fitting in, striving to assimilate and fulfill her parents’ understanding of “the American dream.” She received a degree from the University of Texas at Austin. She worked at Goldman Sachs, eventually becoming a vice-president. For most of those years, Arce lived undocumented.

In this book, she shares her personal story and argues against assimilation when that means pushing people to give up their authentic selves and unique identities.