

ELA Middle School Supplemental Book List

Revised, July 2024

Novels are organized into three categories: **green** (grade-level appropriate), **yellow** (special consideration - fill out [novel proposal form](#) and [parent notification form](#) - links located here and on novel list). *It will take 4-6 weeks for this novel to be reviewed once the proposal form has been submitted; allow an additional 2 weeks after sending the parent notification form.*, **red** (not recommended for use). Novels denoted as: **Course (C)** are part of the StudySync curriculum; **Teacher Selected (T)** are on the approved list but may not be available at all middle schools. **Warehouse (W)** can be ordered from the Warehouse.

6th Grade

Course Adopted Textbook: McGraw Hill, StudySync, © 2021

Course (C) Teacher Selected (T) Warehouse (W)	Title	Author	Novel Notes
Grade 6 - General Ed.			
T	<i>Among the Hidden</i>	Margaret Peterson Haddix	In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke, an illegal third child, has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm. Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside. Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows -- does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan? Can he afford not to?
T	<i>Brave</i>	Svetlana Chmakova	(Graphic Novel) This is the second book in the four-part Berrybrook Middle School series. The main protagonist, Jenson, daydreams of a hero's life, but his reality is that he struggles in class and with friends. Through class projects and clubs, he realizes what bullying really is and that he is a victim of bullying. He begins learning about different forms of bullying while reflecting on his own life and his observations of other middle schoolers. In the end, he learns more about himself as a student and a friend.
W	<i>Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie</i>	Jordan Sonnenblick	Steven has a totally normal life. He plays drums in the All-City Jazz Band, has a crush on the hottest girl in school, and is constantly annoyed by his younger brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey gets sick, Steven's world is turned upside down, and he is forced to deal with his brother's illness, his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece,

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			his homework, the band, girls, and Dangerous Pie.
C/W	<i>Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery</i>	Russell Freedman	<p>StudySync Unit 6</p> <p>This book traces the life of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who is widely recognized as the most influential woman of her time. She began life as a timid, lonely child of wealthy, yet unhappy parents. She considered herself an “ugly duckling” and was serious and reserved compared to other high society women. As First Lady, she went beyond the long-established position of White House hostess to act as FDR’s eyes and ears, traveling extensively to gather information and represent her husband in places he could not go. Mrs. Roosevelt became a passionate advocate for the weak and disadvantaged in American society. After her husband’s death in 1945, she continued her activities on a global scale, serving as an American delegate to the United Nations, where her work on behalf of human rights earned her the title “First Lady of the World.” She had a vast range of interests and activities including journalism, politics, and humanitarian efforts. The book includes around 140 well-chosen black and white photos and won the Newbery Honor Award.</p>
C	<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	Pam Munoz Ryan	<p>StudySync Unit 6</p> <p>Esperanza is a young girl who lives in Mexico during the 1920s. She thought she’d always be wealthy and live with her family on their ranch in Mexico. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn’t ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances - Mama’s life and her own, depend on it.</p>
T	<i>The False Prince</i>	Jennifer A. Nielsen	<p>In a discontented kingdom, civil war is brewing. To unify the divided people, Conner, a nobleman of the court, devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king’s long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince. Four orphans are recruited to compete for the role, including a defiant boy named Sage. Sage knows that Conner’s motives are more than questionable, yet his life balances on a sword’s point - he must be chosen to play the prince or he will certainly be killed. But Sage’s rivals have their own agendas as well.</p>
T/W	<i>Flipped</i>	Wendelin van Draanen	<p>This is a classic romantic comedy of errors told in alternating chapters by two fresh, funny voices.</p>
C/W	<i>Freedom Walkers</i>	Russell Freedman	<p>StudySync Unit 4</p> <p>This book focuses on one of the best known events of the American Civil Rights Movement, the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955-56. The book chronicles the event by sharing the stories of not only well-known figures like Claudette Colvin, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King, Jr., but the numerous people who contributed to the movement by organizing carpools, joining protests, and supporting legal defense efforts. The text includes eyewitness reports, photographs from the era, and primary sources. Freedman showcases the importance of</p>

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			cooperation and engagement, and the ways in which ordinary people can stand up for their beliefs and bring about meaningful change in the world around them.
C/W	<i>Hoot</i>	Carl Hiaasen	StudySync Unit 3 Everybody loves Mother Paula's pancakes. Everybody, that is, except the colony of cute but endangered owls that live on the building site of the new restaurant. Can the awkward new kid and his feral friend prank the pancake people out of town? Or is the owls' fate cemented in pancake batter?
C	<i>The Lightning Thief</i>	Rick Riordan	StudySync Unit 3 - currently listed as a 7th grade novel Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. His mom sends him to Camp Half Blood, a summer camp for demigods. Percy sets out on a quest across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.
T/W	<i>The Lions of Little Rock</i>	Kristin Levine	Twelve-year-old Marlee starts middle school in 1958 Little Rock, and meets Liz, the new girl at school. But when Liz leaves school without even a good-bye, the rumor is that Liz was caught passing for white. Marlee decides that doesn't matter. She just wants her friend back. And to stay friends, Marlee and Liz are even willing to take on segregation and the dangers their friendship could bring to both their families.
T	<i>The Little Prince</i>	Antoine De Saint-Exupery	The narrator introduces himself as a man who learned when he was a child that adults lack imagination and understanding. He is now a pilot who has crash-landed in a desert. He encounters a small boy who asks him for a drawing of a sheep, and the narrator obliges. The narrator, who calls the child the Little Prince, learns that the boy comes from a very small planet, which the narrator believes to be asteroid B-612. Over the course of the next few days, the Little Prince tells the narrator about his life.
C/W	<i>A Long Walk to Water</i>	Linda Sue Park	StudySync Unit 1 A powerful tale of perseverance and hope. Newbery Medalist Linda Sue Park interweaves the stories of two Sudanese children who overcome mortal dangers to improve their lives and the lives of others.
C	<i>The Miracle Worker</i>	William Gibson	StudySync Unit 5 - currently listed as a 7th grade novel Young Helen Keller, blind, deaf, and mute since infancy, is in danger of being sent to an institution because her inability to communicate has left her frustrated and violent. In desperation, her parents seek help from the Perkins Institute, which sends Annie Sullivan to tutor their daughter. Through persistence, love, and sheer stubbornness, Annie breaks through Helen's walls of silence and darkness and teaches her to communicate, bringing her into the world at last.
C/W	<i>One Crazy Summer</i>	Rita Williams Garcia	StudySync Unit 2 - Eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. But when the sisters arrive from Brooklyn to spend the

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			summer with their mother, Cecile is nothing like they imagined. While the girls hope to go to Disneyland and meet Tinker Bell, their mother sends them to a day camp run by the Black Panthers. Unexpectedly, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern learn much about their family, their country, and themselves during one truly crazy summer.
W	<i>Out of My Mind</i>	Sharon M. Draper	Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people; she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory and she's the smartest kid in her whole school. Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it... somehow.
C/W	<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>	Mildred D. Taylor	StudySync Unit 2 Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, even as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.
T	<i>The Stonekeeper: Amulet #1</i>	Kazu Kibuishi	(Graphic Novel) This novel begins in a typical world where life changes for a family when a tragic event takes place and the father dies. Short on money and grief stricken, the three remaining family members move to a family home in a remote location to begin a new life. Greeted by mystery, the children are transported to Gondoa Mountain after their mother is swallowed by a mythical creature. There, they meet their great-grandfather and his robotic attendants. Before taking his final breath, he explains the story and power of a unique pendant found by Emily who must decide whether to use the power to find their missing mother.
C	<i>The Story of My Life</i>	Helen Keller	StudySync Unit 5 When she was 19 months old, Helen Keller (1880–1968) suffered a severe illness that left her blind and deaf. Not long after, she also became mute. Her tenacious struggle to overcome these handicaps — with the help of her inspired teacher, Anne Sullivan — is one of the great stories of human courage and dedication.
W	<i>The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i>	Avi	Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle is excited to return home from her school in England to her family in Rhode Island in the summer of 1832. But when the two families she was supposed to travel with mysteriously cancel their trips, Charlotte finds herself the lone passenger on a long sea voyage with a cruel captain and a mutinous crew. What begins as an eagerly anticipated ocean crossing turns into a harrowing journey, where Charlotte gains a villainous enemy... and is put on trial for murder!

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C/W	<i>Walk Two Moons</i>	Sharon Creech	StudySync Unit 2 Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle travels from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents. Along the way, she tells them of the story of Phoebe Winterbottom. As Sal entertains her grandparents with Phoebe's outrageous story, her own story begins to unfold—the story of a thirteen-year-old girl whose only wish is to be reunited with her missing mother.
C	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	Madeleine L'Engle	StudySync Unit 1 Winner of the Newbery Medal in 1963, this is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe. They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem.
Grade 6 - Honors			
C	<i>Black Ships before Troy</i>	Rosemary Sutcliff	StudySync Unit 3 - CGP ONLY!
W	<i>The Boy on the Wooden Box</i>	Leon Leyson	This, the only memoir published by a former Schindler's list child, perfectly captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable. Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. With incredible luck, perseverance, and grit, Leyson was able to survive the sadism of the Nazis, including that of the demonic Amon Goeth, commandant of Plaszow, the concentration camp outside Krakow.
W	<i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i>	James L. Swanson	Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, this is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.
W	<i>Counting by 7s</i>	Holly Goldberg Sloan	Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. Willow manages to push through her grief and finds a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family.
W	<i>Echo</i>	Pam Munoz Ryan	Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each, in turn, become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together.

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C/W	<i>I Am Malala</i>	Malala Yousafzai	StudySync Unit 4 This is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. <i>I Am Malala</i> will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.
W	<i>Inside Out and Back Again</i>	Thanhha Lai	Listed for grade 8 StudySync Unit 2 Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope—toward America.
T	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	William Shakespeare	This is also listed for grades 9 and 10. The Taming of the Shrew is a comedy by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written between 1590 and 1592. The main plot depicts the courtship of Petruchio and Katherina, the headstrong, obdurate shrew. Initially, Katherina is an unwilling participant in the relationship; however, Petruchio "tames" her until she becomes a desirable, compliant, and obedient bride. The subplot features a competition between the suitors of Katherina's younger sister, Bianca, who is seen as the "ideal" woman.
C	<i>Touching Spirit Bear</i>	Ben Mikaelson	StudySync Unit 6 - currently listed as 7th grade summer reading Ben Mikaelson paints a vivid picture of a juvenile offender, examining the roots of his anger without absolving him of responsibility for his actions, and questioning a society in which angry people make victims of their peers and communities. <i>Touching Spirit Bear</i> is a poignant testimonial to the power of a pain that can destroy, or lead to healing.
W	<i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham -1963</i>	Christopher Paul Curtis	When the Watson family—ten-year-old Kenny, Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron—sets out on a trip south to visit Grandma in Birmingham, Alabama, they don't realize that they're heading toward one of the darkest moments in America's history. The Watsons' journey reminds us that even in the hardest times, laughter and family can help us get through anything.
W	<i>The Wednesday Wars</i>	Gary D. Schmidt	Seventh grader Holling Hoodhood isn't happy. He is sure his new teacher, Mrs. Baker, hates his guts. Holling's domineering father is obsessed with his business image and disregards his family. Throughout the school year, Holling strives to get a handle on the Shakespeare plays Mrs. Baker assigns him to read on his own time, and to figure out the enigmatic Mrs. Baker. As the Vietnam War turns lives upside down, Holling comes to admire and respect both Shakespeare and Mrs. Baker, who have more to offer him than he imagined. And when his family is on the verge of coming apart, he also discovers his loyalty to his sister, and his ability to stand up to his father when it matters most.

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Grade 6: Other Books That Can Be Used for Both General and Honors			
T	<i>Call It Courage</i>	Armstrong Sperry	Maftu was afraid of the sea. It had taken his mother when he was a baby, and it seemed to him that the sea gods sought vengeance at having been cheated of Mafatu. So, though he was the son of the Great Chief of Hikuero, a race of Polynesians who worshiped courage, and he was named Stout Heart, he feared and avoided the sea, till everyone branded him a coward. When he could no longer bear their taunts and jibes, he was determined to conquer that fear or be conquered-- so he went off in his canoe, alone except for his little dog and pet albatross. A storm gave him his first challenge. Then days on a desert island found him resourceful beyond his own expectation. This is the story of how his courage grew and how he finally returned home.
T	<i>Catherine Called Birdy</i>	Karen Cushman	Catherine, a spirited and inquisitive young woman of good family, narrates in a diary form the story of her fourteenth year—the year 1290. A Newbery Honor Book.
T	<i>The Cay</i>	Theodore Taylor	Phillip is excited when the Germans invade the small island of Curaçao. War has always been a game to him, and he's eager to glimpse it firsthand—until the freighter he and his mother are traveling to the United States on is torpedoed. When Phillip comes to, he is on a small raft in the middle of the sea. Besides Stew Cat, his only companion is an old West Indian, Timothy.
T	<i>Doll Bones</i>	Holly Black	Zach, Poppy, and Alice have been friends forever. And for almost as long, they've been playing one continuous, ever-changing game of pirates and thieves, mermaids and warriors. Ruling over all is the Great Queen, a bone-china doll cursing those who displease her. But they are in middle school now. Zach's father pushes him to give up make-believe, and Zach quits the game. Their friendship might be over, until Poppy declares she's been having dreams about the Queen—and the ghost of a girl who will not rest until the bone-china doll is buried in her empty grave.
T	<i>The Egypt Game</i>	Zilpha Keatley Snyder	The first time Melanie Ross meets April Hall, she's not sure they have anything in common. But she soon discovers that they both love anything to do with ancient Egypt. When they stumble upon a deserted storage yard, Melanie and April decide it's the perfect spot for the Egypt Game. Before long there are six Egyptians, and they all meet to wear costumes, hold ceremonies, and work on their secret code. Everyone thinks it's just a game until strange things start happening. Has the Egypt Game gone too far?
T	<i>Farewell to Manzanar</i>	Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston	During World War II a community called Manzanar was hastily created in the high mountain desert country of California, east of the Sierras. Its purpose was to house thousands of Japanese American internees. One of the first families to arrive was the Wakatsukis, who were ordered to leave their fishing business in Long Beach and take with them only the belongings they could carry. At age thirty-seven, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston recalls life at Manzanar through the eyes of the child she was.

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T	<i>Fever 1793</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	It's late summer 1793, and the streets of Philadelphia are abuzz with mosquitoes and rumors of fever. Down near the docks, many have taken ill, and the fatalities are mounting. Fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook's concerns of fever are all but overshadowed by dreams of growing her family's small business into a thriving enterprise. But when the fever begins to strike closer to home, Mattie's struggle to build a new life must give way to a new fight—the fight to stay alive.
T	<i>Holes</i>	Louis Sachar	Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.
Grade 6 - Summer Reading - General			
T	<i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i>	Gennifer Choldenko	Today I moved to Alcatraz, a twelve-acre rock covered with cement and surrounded by water. I'm not the only kid who lives here. There are twenty-three other kids who live on the island because their dads work as guards or cooks or doctors or electricians for the prison, like my dad does. And then there are a ton of murderers, rapists, hit men, con men, stickup men, embezzlers, connivers, burglars, kidnappers and maybe even an innocent man or two, though I doubt it. The convicts we have are the kind other prisons don't want. I never knew prisons could be picky, but I guess they can. You get to Alcatraz by being the worst of the worst. Unless you're me. I came here because my mother said I had to.
T	<i>Ask Me No Questions</i>	Marina Budhos	Also for 6th Honors Since emigrating from Bangladesh, fourteen-year-old Nadira and her family have been living in New York City on expired visas, hoping to realize their dream of becoming legal US citizens. But after 9/11, everything changes. Suddenly being Muslim means you are dangerous, a suspected terrorist. When Nadira's father is arrested and detained at the US-Canada border, Nadira and her older sister, Aisha, are told to carry on as if everything is the same. The teachers at Flushing High don't ask any questions, but Aisha falls apart. Nothing matters to her anymore—not even college. It's up to Nadira to be the strong one and bring her family back together again.
T	<i>Crossing the Wire</i>	Will Hobbs	When falling crop prices threaten his family with starvation, fifteen-year-old Victor Flores heads north in an attempt to "cross the wire" from Mexico into America so he can find work and help ease the finances at home. But with no coyote money to pay the smugglers who sneak illegal workers across the border, Victor struggles to survive as he jumps trains, stows away on trucks, and hikes grueling miles through

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			the Arizona desert.
T	<i>Escape from Mr. Limoncello's Library</i>	Chris Grabenstein	<p>Also for 6th Honors.</p> <p>When Kyle learns that the world's most famous game maker, Luigi Lemoncello, has designed the town's new library and is having an invitation-only lock-in on opening night, he's determined to be there! But the tricky part isn't getting into the library—it's getting out. Because when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route!</p>
T	<i>How to Steal a Dog</i>	Barbara O'Connor	<p>Also for 6th Honors</p> <p>Georgina Hayes is desperate. Ever since her father left and they were evicted from their apartment, her family has been living in their car. With her mama juggling two jobs and trying to make enough money to find a place to live, Georgina is stuck looking after her younger brother, Toby. And she has her heart set on improving their situation. When Georgina spots a missing-dog poster with a reward of five hundred dollars, the solution to all her problems suddenly seems within reach. All she has to do is "borrow" the right dog and its owners are sure to offer a reward. What happens next is the last thing she expected.</p>
T	<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>	Scott O'Dell	<p>Also for 6th Honors</p> <p>Far off the coast of California looms a harsh rock known as the island of San Nicholas. Dolphins flash in the blue waters around it, sea otters play in the vast kelp beds, and sea elephants loll on the stony beaches. Here, in the early 1800s, according to history, an Indian girl spent eighteen years alone, and this beautifully written novel is her story. Karana's quiet courage, her Indian self-reliance and acceptance of fate, transform what to many would have been a devastating ordeal into an uplifting experience. From loneliness and terror come strength and serenity in this Newbery Medal-winning classic.</p>
T	<i>The Ranger's Apprentice: Ruins of Gorlan</i>	John Flanagan	<p>They have always scared him in the past—the Rangers, with their dark cloaks and shadowy ways. The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to ordinary people. And now 15-year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. What he doesn't yet realize is that the Rangers are the protectors of the kingdom. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, they fight the battles before the battles reach the people. And as Will is about to learn, there is a large battle brewing. The exiled Morgarath, Lord of the Mountains of Rain and Night, is gathering his forces for an attack on the kingdom. This time, he will not be denied. . .</p>
T	<i>When You Reach Me</i>	Rebecca Stead	<p>Shortly after a fall-out with her best friend, sixth grader Miranda starts receiving mysterious notes, and she doesn't know what to do. The notes tell her that she must write a letter—a true story, and that she can't share her mission with anyone.</p> <p>It would be easy to ignore the strange messages, except that whoever is leaving them has an uncanny ability to predict the future. If that is the</p>

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			case, then Miranda has a big problem—because the notes tell her that someone is going to die, and she might be too late to stop it.
T	<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>	Wilson Rawls	<p>Also for 6th Honors</p> <p>A boy's yearning for two Redbone Hound dogs, which his parents can't afford during the desolate times of the Depression in the Ozarks, is the setting for this truly triumphant story. Billy faces adventure, suspense, tragedy and ultimately, a love and loyalty of family and friendship to realize his dream.</p>
Grade 6 - Summer Reading - Honors			
T	<i>The Black Pearl</i>	Scott O'Dell	<p>From the depths of a cave in the Vermilion Sea, Ramon Salazar has wrested a black pearl so lustrous and captivating that his father, an expert pearl dealer, is certain Ramon has found the legendary Pearl of Heaven. Such a treasure is sure to bring great joy to the villagers of their tiny coastal town, and even greater renown to the Salazar name. No diver, not even the swaggering Gaspar Ruiz, has ever found a pearl like this! But is there a price to pay for a prize so great? When a terrible tragedy strikes the village, old Luzon's warning about El Diablo returns to haunt Ramon. If El Diablo actually exists, it will take all Ramon's courage to face the winged creature waiting for him offshore.</p>
T	<i>Johnny Tremain</i>	Esther Forbes	<p>Fourteen-year old Johnny Tremain, an apprentice silversmith with a bright future ahead of him, injures his hand in a tragic accident, forcing him to look for other work. In his new job as a horse-boy, riding for the patriotic newspaper, the <i>Boston Observer</i>, and as a messenger for the Sons of Liberty, he encounters John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and Dr. Joseph Warren. Soon Johnny is involved in the pivotal events shaping the American Revolution from the Boston Tea Party to the first shots fired at Lexington.</p>
T	<i>My Side of the Mountain</i>	Jean Craighead George	<p>Sam Gribley is terribly unhappy living in New York City with his family, so he runs away to the Catskill Mountains to live in the woods—all by himself. With only a penknife, a ball of cord, forty dollars, and some flint and steel, he intends to survive on his own. Sam learns about courage, danger, and independence during his year in the wilderness, a year that changes his life forever.</p>
T	<i>Schooled</i>	Gordon Korman	<p>Capricorn lived every day of his life on Garland Farm growing fruits and vegetables. He was homeschooled by Rain, the only person he knew in the world. When Rain falls out of a tree while picking plums and is hospital-ridden, he has to attend the local middle school and live with his new guidance counselor and her irritable daughter. While Cap knew a lot about Zen Buddhism, no amount of formal education could ready him for the trials and tribulations of public middle school.</p>

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7th Grade

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Grade 7 –General Ed.			
Course (C) Teacher Selected (T) Warehouse (W)	Title	Author	Novel Notes
W	<i>Across Five Aprils</i>	Irene Hunt	Also listed for grade 8: StudySync Unit 4 In 1861, America is on the cusp of war, and young Jethro Creighton is just nine-years-old. His brother, Tom, and his cousin, Eb, are both of fighting age. As Jethro's family is pulled into the conflict between the North and the South, loyalties are divided, dreams are threatened, and their bonds are put to the test in this heart-wrenching, coming of age story.
C	<i>An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793</i>	Jim Murphy	StudySync Unit 4 Long before COVID and the West Nile virus, yellow fever was a medical mystery that forced thousands in Philadelphia, the nation's temporary capital, to flee and brought the workings of the federal government to a virtual halt. This is the story of how half the city's residents fled and half of those who remained died; neighboring towns, cities and states barricaded themselves; George Washington himself fled, setting off a constitutional crisis. It is also the story of a little known chapter in Black history in which free Blacks nursed the sick only to be later condemned for their heroic efforts. Meticulously researched, first-hand accounts, newspaper clippings, death lists, and period engravings recreate the fear and panic while exploring the political, social, cultural, medical and scientific history of the times.
C	<i>Barrio Boy</i>	Ernesto Galarza	StudySync Unit 4 Originally published in 1971. This is the story of one boy's journey from a Mexican village so small that its main street didn't have a name, to the barrio of Sacramento, California, bustling and thriving in the early decades of the twentieth century. A vivid and dramatic autobiography

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			that provides exciting and incisive insights into the process of acculturation of a young boy from a relatively simple existence in a Mexican village to a somewhat hectic and complex life in a different culture and in an urban setting.
T	<i>A Boy's Story, A Man's Memory: Remember the Holocaust 1933-1945</i>	Oskar Knoblauch	(Needs support from Social Studies) In this true account, Oskar Knoblauch (born in 1925 in Leipzig, Germany) reflects on his childhood and youth while growing up in his native Germany. Thrust into the dark years of Nazi Germany's hatred and brutality of Jews, Oskar writes of his family's struggle to survive the Holocaust of World War II (1933-1945). During this time, as Oskar moves from boyhood to manhood, he never loses hope and faith not only in himself, but in the unlikely people who would make the ultimate difference in this "life or death" time of his life.
C	<i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>	William Kamkwamba	StudySync Unit 4 - CGP ONLY!
W	<i>Chains</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, become the property of a New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.
T	<i>Cinder</i>	Marissa Meyer	Set in a plague-ridden Earth, the story revolves around 16-year-old Cinder, a cyborg mechanic living in New Beijing. She faces discrimination due to her cyborg status. When Prince Kai seeks her mechanical expertise, Cinder unwittingly becomes entangled in an intergalactic conflict between Earthens and Lunars. The novel blends futuristic technology, romance, and rebellion.
C	<i>Flesh & Blood So Cheap</i>	Albert Marrin	StudySync Unit 2 On March 25, 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City burst into flames. The factory was crowded. The doors were locked to ensure workers stay inside. One hundred forty-six people—mostly women—perished; it was one of the most lethal workplace fires in American history until September 11, 2001. But the story of the fire is not the story of one accidental moment in time. It is a story of immigration and hard work to make it in a new country, as Italians and Jews and others traveled to America to find a better life. It is the story of poor working conditions and greedy bosses, as garment workers discovered the endless sacrifices required to make ends meet. It is the story of unimaginable, but avoidable, disaster. And it the story of the unquenchable pride and activism of fearless immigrants and women who stood up to business, got America on their side, and finally changed working conditions for our entire nation, initiating radical new laws we take for granted today.

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C/W	<i>Ghost</i>	Jason Reynolds	StudySync Unit 2 The novel follows seventh-grader Castle “Ghost” Cranshaw as he joins a track team and struggles to deal with his past and his present. As a child, Ghost had to flee his apartment with his mother when his father, in a drunken rage, tried to kill them. They took shelter at Mr. Charles’s shop, where Mr. Charles took care of them and called the police, thus saving their lives. Years later, Ghost remains loyal and friendly with Mr. Charles, visiting him daily to buy sunflower seeds. Mr. Charles constantly encourages Ghost like a grandfather, always urging Ghost to do his best and break a world record. Ghost often studies a <i>Guinness Book of World Records</i> , given to him by Mr. Charles.
T	<i>Ghosts</i>	Raina Telgemeier	(Graphic Novel) Catrina and her family are moving to the coast of Northern California because her little sister, Maya, is sick. Cat isn’t happy about leaving her friends for Bahia de la Luna, but Maya has cystic fibrosis and will benefit from the cool, salty air that blows in from the sea. As the girls explore their new home, a neighbor lets them in on a secret: There are ghosts in Bahia de la Luna. Maya is determined to meet one, but Cat wants nothing to do with them. As the time of year when ghosts reunite with their loved ones approaches, Cat must figure out how to put aside her fears for her sister’s sake - and her own.
C	<i>Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad</i>	Ann Petry	StudySync Unit 3 This biography was written in 1955. This book takes the reader on a journey through Harriet Tubman’s life, from her birth to enslaved parents on a Maryland plantation to her death as a free woman in New York in 1913. Tubman is a well-known figure in American history and is best known for her heroic actions as a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad. After escaping from slavery, she helped over 300 Black Americans flee southern plantations by guiding them through the Underground Railroad network. Petry’s book remains a valuable resource about Tubman’s life and the experiences of enslaved Black Americans in the 19th century. This book received the ALA Notable Book Award from the American Library Association and was named Outstanding Book by the <i>New York Times</i> ,
C/W	<i>Hidden Figures</i>	Margot Lee Shetterly	StudySync Unit 6 Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.
C	<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Suzanne Collins	StudySync Unit 5 <i>Also listed for Grade 9 myPerspectives Unit 2</i> In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by 12 outlying districts. The Capitol keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18 to participate in the annual Hunger Games,

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			a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she steps forward to take her sister's place in the Games. But Katniss has been close to death before - and survival, for her, is second nature. Still, if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weigh survival against humanity and life against love.
T	<i>Nimona</i>	Noelle Stevenson	(Graphic Novel) The story takes place in a fantasy kingdom with subverted fairytale tropes. The Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics keeps order by training Heroes and Villains who keep balance in the world by going on quests and facing off in battle. Lord Ballister Blackheart is the designated villain in this story, and the Institution's champion Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin is Blackheart's former best friend turned nemesis. They trained together growing up until Goldenloin cheated at a joust, leading Blackheart to lose an arm, which Goldenloin claims was an accident. Blackheart is approached by a mysterious young girl named Nimona who convinces him to hire her as his sidekick. Nimona has an unusual ability to shapeshift and her carefree, enthusiastic attitude contrasts with Blackheart's more restrained personality.
W	<i>Nothing But the Truth</i>	Avi	In this thought-provoking examination of freedom, patriotism, and respect, ninth-grader, Philip Malloy, is kept from joining the track team by his failing grades in English class. Convinced that the teacher just doesn't like him, Philip concocts a plan to get transferred out of her class. Breaking the school's policy of silence during the national anthem, he hums along, and ends up in a crisis at the center of the nation's attention.
C/3 copies at W	<i>The Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir</i>	Farah Ahmedi	StudySync Unit 5 This is the memoir of Farah Ahmedi, a young girl living in Afghanistan between 1987 and 1997 during its Soviet occupation and then the Taliban rule. Living in Afghanistan with her family, Farah steps on a landmine on her way to school at the age of 7. Her leg was amputated and she spent 18 months in a German hospital. Upon returning to Afghanistan, her father and two sisters were killed and she fled with her mother to Pakistan as refugees. After several years there, she was able to resettle in the U.S. at the age of 14. At 17 she wrote her story and entered it in a competition which she won. This book highlights the central ideas of survival and helping others. Her story can also be tied to the "hero's journey."
W	<i>Out of the Dust</i>	Karen Hesse	A terrible accident has transformed Billie Jo's life, scarring her inside and out. Her mother is gone. Her father can't talk about it. And the one thing that might make her feel better -- playing the piano -- is impossible with her wounded hands. To make matters worse, dust storms are devastating the family farm and all the farms nearby. While others flee from the dust bowl, Billie Jo is left to find peace in the bleak landscape of Oklahoma -- and in the surprising landscape of her own heart.
W	<i>The Outsiders</i>	S.E. Hinton	Also listed for grade 8: StudySync Unit 2 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

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			<p>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.</p>
W	<i>Red Pyramid</i>	Rick Riordan	<p>Since their mother’s death, Carter and Sadie have become near strangers. While Sadie has lived with her grandparents in London, her brother has traveled the world with their father, the brilliant Egyptologist, Dr. Julius Kane. One night, Dr. Kane brings the siblings together for a "research experiment" at the British Museum, where he hopes to set things right for his family. Instead, he unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes him to oblivion and forces the children to flee for their lives. Soon, Sadie and Carter discover that the gods of Egypt are waking, and the worst of them--Set--has his sights on the Kanes. To stop him, the siblings embark on a dangerous journey across the globe.</p>
C/W	<i>Refugee</i>	Alan Gratz	<p>Also list for grade 8: StudySync Unit 5 JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . . ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . . MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . . All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of <i>tomorrow</i>. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.</p>
C	<i>Stargirl</i>	Jerry Spinelli	<p>StudySync Unit 1 Also listed for Grade 9 myPerspectives Unit 1 She's as magical as the desert sky. As strange as her pet rat. As mysterious as her own name. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different. And Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal.</p>
C/W	<i>Tangerine</i>	Edward Bloor	<p>StudySync Unit 2 Paul Fisher sees the world from behind glasses so thick he looks like a bug-eyed alien. But he’s not so blind that he can’t see there are some very unusual things about his family’s new home in Tangerine County, Florida. Life in Tangerine isn’t easy for Paul—until he joins the soccer team at his middle school. With the help of his new teammates, Paul begins to discover what lies beneath the surface of his strange new hometown. And he also gains the courage to face up to some secrets his family has been keeping from him for far too long..</p>

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W	<i>The Thing About Jellyfish</i>	Ali Benjamin	After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.
W	<i>Twelfth Night</i>	William Shakespeare	Also listed for 7th Honors Named for the twelfth night after Christmas, the end of the Christmas season, <i>Twelfth Night</i> plays with love and power. The Countess Olivia, a woman with her own household, attracts Duke (or Count) Orsino. Two other would-be suitors are her pretentious steward, Malvolio, and Sir Andrew Aguecheek. Onto this scene arrive the twins Viola and Sebastian; caught in a shipwreck, each thinks the other has drowned. Viola disguises herself as a male page and enters Orsino's service. Orsino sends her as his envoy to Olivia—only to have Olivia fall in love with the messenger. The play complicates, then wonderfully untangles, these relationships.
C/W	<i>We Beat the Street</i>	Dr. George Jenkins, et.al.	StudySync Unit 3 Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. But when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors. It took a lot of determination—and a lot of support from one another—but despite all the hardships along the way, the three succeeded.
Grade 7 - Honors			
T	<i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>	William Kamkwamba	Junior edition - CGP ONLY
W	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she 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. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.
W	<i>The Call of the Wild</i>	Jack London	Also listed for grade 8: StudySync Unit 3 & Grade 9 myPerspectives Unit 2 The domesticated life of a powerful St. Bernard-Shepherd mix named

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			Buck is quickly turned on end when he is stolen away from his master and put to work as a sled dog in Alaska. His once life of luxury turns into a life of survival and adaptation as he learns the ways of the wilderness. Set in the Klondike region of Canada during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush, <i>The Call of the Wild</i> showcases the transformation of a canine as he learns to adapt to what life has given him, fair or not.
W	<i>Freak the Mighty</i>	Rodman Philbrick	Two boys - a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces - forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force. This is the powerful story of a unique friendship between a troubled, oversized boy and the tiny, physically challenged genius who proves that courage comes in all sizes. This simple yet timeless story explores many themes, including bullying -- an important topic in today's schools.
C/W	<i>The Giver</i>	Lois Lowry	StudySync Unit 6 <i>This is on the 8th grade reading list.</i> The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community. This is a 1994 Newbery Medal winner.
T	<i>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien	FOR CGP ONLY
W	<i>The Red Pony</i>	John Steinbeck	Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck draws on his memories of childhood in these stories about a boy who embodies both the rebellious spirit and the contradictory desire for acceptance of early adolescence.
W	<i>Twelve Angry Men</i>	Reginald Rose	The play centers on Juror Eight, who is at first the sole holdout in an 11-1 guilty vote. Eight sets his sights not on proving the other jurors wrong but rather on getting them to look at the situation in a clear-eyed way not affected by their personal prejudices or biases. Reginald Rose deliberately and carefully peels away the layers of artifice from the men and allows a fuller picture to form of them—and of America, at its best and worst.
W	<i>The Warrior's Heart</i>	Eric Greitens	In this adaptation of his best-selling book, <i>The Heart and the Fist</i> , Eric speaks directly to teens, interweaving memoir and intimate second-person narratives that ask readers to put themselves in the shoes of himself and others. Readers will share in Eric's evolution from average kid to humanitarian to warrior, training and serving with the most elite military outfit in the world. Along the way, they'll be asked to consider the power of choices, of making the decision each and every day to act with courage and compassion so that they grow to be tomorrow's heroes.
W	<i>The Wave</i>	Todd Strasser	<i>The Wave</i> is based on a true incident that occurred in a high school history

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			<p>class in Palo Alto, California, in 1969.</p> <p>The powerful forces of group pressure that pervaded many historic movements such as Nazism are recreated in the classroom when history teacher Burt Ross introduces a "new" system to his students. And before long "The Wave," with its rules of "strength through discipline, community, and action, " sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. And as most of the students join the movement, Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognize the frightening momentum of "The Wave" and realize they must stop it before it's too late.</p>
Grade 7: Other Books That Can Be Used for Both General and Honors			
T	<i>All But My Life</i>	Gerda Weissmann Klein	<p>Gerda's serene and idyllic childhood is shattered when Nazis march into Poland on September 3, 1939. Although the Weissmanns were permitted to live for a while in the basement of their home, they were eventually separated and sent to German labor camps. Over the next few years Gerda experienced the slow, inexorable stripping away of "all but her life." By the end of the war she had lost her parents, brother, home, possessions, and community; even the dear friends she made in the labor camps, with whom she had shared so many hardships, were dead. Despite her horrifying experiences, Klein conveys great strength of spirit and faith in humanity. In the darkness of the camps, Gerda and her young friends manage to create a community of friendship and love. Although stripped of the essence of life, they were able to survive the barbarity of their captors.</p>
T	<i>Ashes of Roses</i>	Mary Jane Auch	<p>When Rose Nolan arrives on Ellis Island as a seventeen-year-old Irish immigrant, she is looking for a land of opportunities; what she finds is far from all she'd dreamed. Stubborn and tenacious, she refuses to give up. Left alone to fend for herself and her younger sister, Rose is thrust into a hard-knock life of tenements and factory work.</p>
T	<i>The Bridge Home</i>	Padma Venkatraman	<p>Life is harsh on the teeming streets of Chennai, India, so when runaway sisters Viji and Rukku arrive, their prospects look grim. Very quickly, eleven-year-old Viji discovers how vulnerable they are in this uncaring, dangerous world. Fortunately, the girls find shelter--and friendship--on an abandoned bridge that's also the hideout of Muthi and Arul, two homeless boys, and the four of them soon form a family of sorts. And while making their living scavenging the city's trash heaps is the pits, the kids find plenty to take pride in, too. After all, they are now the bosses of themselves and no longer dependent on untrustworthy adults. But when illness strikes, Viji must decide whether to risk seeking help from strangers or to keep holding on to their fragile, hard-fought freedom.</p>
T	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>	Anne Frank	<p>Also listed for grade 8: StudySync Unit 5</p> <p>In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death.</p>

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T	<i>Flowers for Algernon</i>	Daniel Keyes	<p>Charlie Gordon is about to embark upon an unprecedented journey. Born with an unusually low IQ, he has been chosen as the perfect subject for an experimental surgery that researchers hope will increase his intelligence—a procedure that has already been highly successful when tested on a lab mouse named Algernon.</p> <p>As the treatment takes effect, Charlie's intelligence expands until it surpasses that of the doctors who engineered his metamorphosis. The experiment appears to be a scientific breakthrough of paramount importance, until Algernon suddenly deteriorates. Will the same happen to Charlie?</p> <p>Concerns: (Sexual awakening, abuse - alcohol, physical, mental. Written for adults with adult themes.)</p>
T	<i>Ghost Boys</i> Novel Proposal Form	Jewell Parker Rhodes Parent Notification Form	<p>Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.</p> <p>Concerns:(social commentary concerns)</p>
T	<i>Here, There Be Dragons</i>	James A. Owen	<p>An unusual murder brings together three strangers, John, Jack, and Charles, on a rainy night in London during the first World War. An eccentric little man called Bert tells them that they are now the caretakers of the <i>Imaginarium Geographica</i>: an atlas of all the lands that have ever existed in myth and legend, fable and fairy tale. These lands, Bert claims, can be traveled to in his ship the <i>Indigo Dragon</i>, one of only seven vessels that is able to cross the Frontier between worlds into the Archipelago of Dreams. Pursued by strange and terrifying creatures, the companions flee London aboard the Dragonship. Traveling to the very realm of the imagination itself, they must learn to overcome their fears and trust in one another if they are to defeat the dark forces that threaten the destiny of two worlds.</p>
T	<i>Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus</i>	Dusti Bowling	<p>Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again. Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.</p>
T/C	<i>The Lightning Thief</i>	Rick Riordan	<p>Also listed in 6th grade StudySync Unit 3</p> <p>Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. His mom sends him to Camp Half Blood, a summer camp for demigods. Percy sets out on a quest across the United</p>

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			States to reach the gates of the Underworld and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.
T	<i>Maus I & II</i>	Art Spiegelman	A brutally moving work of art—widely hailed as the greatest graphic novel ever written— <i>Maus</i> recounts the chilling experiences of the author’s father during the Holocaust, with Jews drawn as wide-eyed mice and Nazis as menacing cats.
T	<i>Milkweed</i>	Jerry Spinelli	He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who steals food for himself and the other orphans. He's a boy who believes in bread and mothers and angels. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi someday, with tall, shiny jackboots and a gleaming Eagle hat of his own. Until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind. And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he's a boy who realizes it's safest of all to be nobody.
T	<i>The Miracle Worker</i>	William Gibson	Also listed for 6th grade StudySync Unit 5 Young Helen Keller, blind, deaf, and mute since infancy, is in danger of being sent to an institution because her inability to communicate has left her frustrated and violent. In desperation, her parents seek help from the Perkins Institute, which sends Annie Sullivan to tutor their daughter. Through persistence, love, and sheer stubbornness, Annie breaks through Helen's walls of silence and darkness and teaches her to communicate, bringing her into the world at last
T	<i>Peak</i>	Roland Smith	After 14-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in juvenile detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. Big strings. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit - and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life.
T	<i>The Pigman</i>	Paul Zindel	John Conlan is nicknamed “The Bathroom Bomber” after setting off firecrackers in the boys’ bathroom 23 times without ever getting caught. John and his best friend, Lorraine, can never please their parents, and school is a chore. To pass the time, they play pranks on unsuspecting people, and it's during one of these pranks that they meet the “Pigman”. In spite of themselves, John and Lorraine soon get caught up in Mr. Pignati’s zest for life. In fact, they become so involved that they begin to destroy the only corner of the world that has ever mattered to them. Can they stop before it’s too late?

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T	<i>So Far from the Bamboo Grove</i>	Yoko Kawashima Watkins	In the final days of World War II, Koreans were determined to take back control of their country from the Japanese and end the suffering caused by the Japanese occupation. As an eleven-year-old girl living with her Japanese family in northern Korea, Yoko is suddenly fleeing for her life with her mother and older sister, Ko, trying to escape to Japan, a country Yoko hardly knows. Their journey is terrifying — and remarkable. It's a true story of courage and survival that highlights the plight of individual people in wartime. In the midst of suffering, acts of kindness, as exemplified by a family of Koreans who risk their own lives to help Yoko's brother, are inspiring reminders of the strength and resilience of the human spirit.
T	<i>Soldier's Heart</i>	Gary Paulsen	In June 1861, when the Civil War began, Charley Goddard enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteers. He was 15. He didn't know what a "shooting war" meant or what he was fighting for. But he didn't want to miss out on a great adventure. The "shooting war" turned out to be the horror of combat and the wild luck of survival; how it feels to cross a field toward the enemy, waiting for fire. When he entered the service he was a boy. When he came back he was different; he was only 19, but he was a man with "soldier's heart," later known as "battle fatigue."
T	<i>Summer of My German Soldier</i>	Bette Green	The summer that Patty Bergen turns twelve is a summer that will haunt her forever. When her small hometown in Arkansas becomes the site of a camp housing German prisoners during World War II, Patty learns what it means to open her heart. Even though she's Jewish, she begins to see a prison escapee, Anton, not as a Nazi, but as a lonely, frightened young man with feelings not unlike her own. While patriotic feelings run high, Patty risks losing family, friends — even her freedom — for this dangerous friendship. It is a risk she has to take and one she will have to pay a price to keep.
T	<i>The Westing Game</i>	Ellen Raskin	A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, one thing's for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game!
Summer Reading - General Ed.			
T	<i>Eighth Grade Bites</i>	Zac Brewer	Thirteen-year-old Vladimir Tod really hates junior high. Bullies harass him, the principal is dogging him, and the girl he likes prefers his best friend. Oh, and Vlad has a secret: His mother was human, but his father was a vampire. With no idea of the extent of his powers, Vlad struggles daily with his blood cravings and his enlarged fangs. When a substitute teacher begins to question him a little too closely, Vlad worries that his cover is about to be blown. But then he faces a much bigger problem: He's being hunted by a vampire killer.
T	<i>Heir Apparent</i>	Vivian Vande	In the virtual reality game Heir Apparent, there are way too many ways to get killed, and Giannine seems to be finding them all. Which is a darn

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		Velde	shame, because unless she can get the magic ring, locate the stolen treasure, answer the dwarf's dumb riddles, impress the head-chopping statue, charm the army of ghosts, fend off the barbarians, and defeat the man-eating dragon, she'll never win. And she has to, because losing means she'll die, for real this time.
T	<i>Hour of the Bees</i>	Lindsay Eagar	While her friends are spending their summers having pool parties and sleepovers, twelve-year-old Carol is spending hers in the middle of the New Mexico desert, helping her parents move the grandfather she's never met into a home for people with dementia. At first, Carol avoids prickly Grandpa Serge. But as the summer wears on and the heat bears down, Carol finds herself drawn to him, fascinated by the crazy stories he tells her about a healing tree, a green-glass lake, and the bees that will bring back the rain and end a hundred years of drought. As the thin line between magic and reality starts to blur, Carol must decide for herself what is possible - and what it means to be true to her roots..
W	<i>Lupita Manana</i>	Patricia Beatty	Crossing over the border is a dangerous business... ...But Lupita must cross from Mexico to America. After her father dies in a fishing boat accident in the seas near their small Mexican village, Lupita's family is left in poverty. Lupita and her big brother, Salvador, must smuggle themselves into the United States to earn money to support their mother and young siblings. America is not the land of opportunity they had hoped. A new language, hard labor, and the constant threat of <i>la migra</i> -- the immigration police--make every day a difficult challenge. But for feisty Lupita, there is always hope for a better manana -- tomorrow.
T	<i>Navigating Early</i>	Clare Vanderpool	When Jack Baker's father sends him from his home in Kansas to attend a boys' boarding school in Maine, Jack doesn't know what to expect. Certainly not Early Auden, the strangest of boys. Early keeps to himself, reads the number Pi as a story, and refuses to accept truths others take for granted. Jack, feeling lonely and out of place, connects with Early, and the two become friends. During a break from school, the boys set out for the Appalachian Trail on a quest for a great black bear. As Jack and Early travel deeper into the mountains, they meet peculiar and dangerous characters, and they make some shocking discoveries. But their adventure is only just beginning.
T	<i>Novio Boy</i>	Gary Soto	Also listed for 7th Honors. Ninth grader Rudy has a date with eleventh grader Patricia. Now he has to come up with the money, the poise, and the conversation to carry it off. This one-act play, by turns heartwarming and heart-wrenching, follows Rudy from his desperate search for guidance through the hilarious date itself--all the way to its happy conclusion.
T	<i>Pax</i>	Sara Pennypacker	Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather's house, three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn't where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with

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			his fox. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own. . . .
T	<i>Seraphina</i>	Rachel Hartman	<p>In the kingdom of Goredd, dragons and humans live and work side by side – while below the surface, tensions and hostility simmer. The newest member of the royal court, a uniquely gifted musician named Seraphina, holds a deep secret of her own. One that she guards with all of her being.</p> <p>When a member of the royal family is brutally murdered, Seraphina is drawn into the investigation alongside the dangerously perceptive—and dashing—Prince Lucien. But as the two uncover a sinister plot to destroy the wavering peace of the kingdom, Seraphina’s struggle to protect her secret becomes increasingly difficult... while its discovery could mean her very life.</p>
T	<i>Zen and the Art of Faking It</i>	Jordan Sonnenblick	<p><u>Also listed for 7th Honors.</u></p> <p>Meet San Lee, a (sort of) innocent teenager, who moves against his will to a new town. Things get interesting when he (sort of) invents a new past for himself, which makes him incredibly popular. In fact, his whole school starts to (sort of) worship him, just because he (sort of) accidentally gave the impression that he's a reincarnated mystic. When things start to unravel, San needs to find some real wisdom in a hurry.</p>
T	<u>Graceling Novel Proposal Form</u>	Kristin Cashore <u>Parent Notification Form</u>	<p><u>Also listed for 7th Honors.</u></p> <p>Set in a world where some people are born with a Grace - a unique, sometimes uncanny, gift - this is the story of Katsa, whose Grace, demonstrated at an uncomfortably early age, is for killing. This makes her a perfect tool for her uncle, King Randa. But Katsa chafes at the way she is being used - and even more at the injustices she sees around her. Then she meets Prince Po, who has a Grace to match hers... perhaps.</p> <p>Concerns: <i>(mature themes; violence)</i></p>
Summer Reading - Honors			
T	<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>	Mark Twain	<p><u>Also listed for grade 11.</u></p> <p>Tom and Huck Finn conceal themselves in the town cemetery, where they witness a grave robbery and a murder. Later, the boys, feeling unappreciated, hide out on a forested island while the townspeople conduct a frantic search and finally mourn them as dead. The friends triumphantly return to town to attend their own funeral, in time for a dramatic trial for the graveyard murder. A three-day ordeal ensues when Tom and his sweetheart, Becky Thatcher, lose their way in the very cave that conceals the murderer.</p>
T	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	Lucy Maud Montgomery	<p>Eleven-year-old Anne Shirley has never known a real home. Since her parents' deaths, she's bounced around to foster homes and orphanages. When she is sent by mistake to live with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert at the snug white farmhouse called Green Gables, she wants to stay forever. But Anne is not the sturdy boy Matthew and Marilla were expecting. She's a mischievous, talkative redheaded girl with a fierce temper, who tumbles into one scrape after another. Anne is not like</p>

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			anybody else, the Cuthberts agree; she is special, a girl with an enormous imagination. All she's ever wanted is to belong somewhere. And the longer she stays at Green Gables, the harder it is for anyone to imagine life without her.
T	<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>	Agatha Christie	Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning, the millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Without a shred of doubt, one of his fellow passengers is the murderer. Isolated by the storm, detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer among a dozen of the dead man's enemies, before the murderer decides to strike again.
T	<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>	Ernest Hemingway	This is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal: a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Using the simple, powerful language of a fable, Hemingway takes the timeless themes of courage in the face of defeat and personal triumph won from loss and transforms them into a magnificent twentieth-century classic.
T	<i>Touching Spirit Bear</i>	Ben Mikaelson	StudySync Unit 6 for grade 6. After severely injuring Peter Driscall in an empty parking lot, mischief-maker Cole Matthews is in major trouble. But instead of jail time, Cole is given another option: attend Circle Justice, an alternative program that sends juvenile offenders to a remote Alaskan Island to focus on changing their ways. Desperate to avoid prison, Cole fakes humility and agrees to go. While there, Cole is mauled by a mysterious white bear and left for dead. Thoughts of his abusive parents, helpless Peter, and his own anger cause him to examine his actions and seek redemption—from the spirit bear that attacked him, from his victims, and, most importantly, from himself.
T	<i>White Fang</i>	Jack London	The story details White Fang's journey to domestication in Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush.

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Novels are organized into three categories: **green** (grade-level appropriate), **yellow** (special consideration - fill out [novel proposal form](#) and [parent notification form](#) - links located here and on novel list) *It will take 4-6 weeks for this novel to be reviewed once the proposal form has been submitted; allow an additional 2 weeks after sending the parent notification form.*, **red** (not recommended for use). Novels denoted as: **Course (C)** are part of the StudySync curriculum; **Teacher Selected (T)** are on the approved list but may not be available at all middle schools. **Warehouse (W)** can be ordered from the Warehouse

8th Grade

Course Adopted Textbook: McGraw Hill, StudySync, © 2021

Course (C) Teacher Selected (T) Warehouse (W)	Title	Author	Novel Notes
Grade 8 - General Ed			
C/W	<i>Across Five Aprils</i>	Irene Hunt	StudySync Unit 5 <i>Also listed for grade 7</i> In 1861, America is on the cusp of war, and young Jethro Creighton is just nine-years-old. His brother, Tom, and his cousin, Eb, are both of fighting age. As Jethro's family is pulled into the conflict between the North and the South, loyalties are divided, dreams are threatened, and their bonds are put to the test in this heart-wrenching, coming of age story.
C	<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>	Mark Twain	StudySync Unit 4 <i>Also listed for grade 7 Honors summer reading and grade 11.</i> Tom and Huck Finn conceal themselves in the town cemetery, where they witness a grave robbery and a murder. Later, the boys, feeling unappreciated, hide out on a forested island while the townspeople conduct a frantic search and finally mourn them as dead. The friends triumphantly return to town to attend their own funeral, in time for a dramatic trial for the graveyard murder. A three-day ordeal ensues when Tom and his sweetheart, Becky Thatcher, lose their way in the very cave that conceals the murderer.
W	<i>The Alchemist</i>	Paulo Coelho	This tells the magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. The story of the treasures Santiago finds along the way teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, above all, following our dreams.
T	<i>American Born Chinese</i>	Gene Luen Yang	(Graphic Novel) Jin Wang starts a new school where he's the only Chinese-American student. When a boy from Taiwan joins his class, Jin

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			<p>doesn't want to be associated with a FOB (Fresh off the Boat) like him. Jin wants to be an all-American boy, because he's in love with an all-American girl. Danny is an all-American boy, but his obnoxious Chinese cousin Chin-Kee's annual visit is such a disaster that it ruins Danny's reputation at school. The Monkey King has lived for thousands of years and mastered the arts of kung fu and the heavenly disciplines. He's ready to join the ranks of the immortal gods in heaven, but there's no place in heaven for a monkey. This graphic novel tells and weaves these stories together culminating in one simple goal: to fit in.</p>
T	<i>And Then There Were None</i>	Agatha Christie	<p>Ten people, each with something to hide and something to fear, are invited to an isolated mansion on Soldier Island by a host who, surprisingly, fails to appear. On the island they are cut off from everything but each other and the inescapable shadows of their own past lives. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts. And one by one they die . . .</p>
C	<i>Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl</i>	Anne Frank	<p>StudySync Unit 5 <i>Also listed for grade 7</i></p> <p>In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death.</p>
W	<i>Boy</i>	Roald Dahl	<p>From his own life, Roald Dahl's tales of his own childhood are completely fascinating and fiendishly funny. Did you know that Roald Dahl nearly lost his nose in a car accident? Or that he was once a chocolate candy tester for Cadbury's? Have you heard about his involvement in the Great Mouse Plot of 1924? If not, you don't yet know all there is to know about Roald Dahl.</p>
W	<i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i>	John Boyne	<p>Berlin, 1942: When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people in the distance. But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different from his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.</p>
C/W	<i>The Call of the Wild</i>	Jack London	<p>StudySync Unit 3 <i>Also listed for grade 7 Honors</i></p> <p>The domesticated life of a powerful St. Bernard-Shepherd mix named Buck is quickly turned on end when he is stolen away from his master and put to work as a sled dog in Alaska. His once life of luxury turns into a life of survival and adaptation as he learns the ways of the wilderness. Set in the Klondike region of Canada during the 1890s Klondike Gold</p>

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			Rush, <i>The Call of the Wild</i> showcases the transformation of a canine as he learns to adapt to what life has given him, fair or not.
W	<i>Code Talker</i>	Joseph Bruchac	Also on grade 11 reading list. Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy becomes a code talker. His grueling journey is eye-opening and inspiring.
C	<i>The Dark is Rising</i>	Susan Cooper	StudySync Unit 6 Can be used both in Gen. Ed. and Honors On the Midwinter Day that is his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers a special gift: he is the last of the Old Ones, immortals dedicated to keeping the world from domination by the forces of evil, the Dark. At once, he is plunged into a quest for the six magical Signs that will one day aid the Old Ones in the final battle between the Dark and the Light. And for the twelve days of Christmas, while the Dark is rising, life for Will is full of wonder, terror, and delight. Interweaving ancient Celtic and English traditions with the legends of the Buckinghamshire hills and valleys where she grew up, Susan Cooper has written a superlative dramatic fantasy of the eternal conflict between good and evil out of which all myth is made.
W	<i>The Giver</i>	Lois Lowry	StudySync Unit 6 for grade 7. The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community. This is a 1994 Newbery Medal winner.
C/W	<i>Great Tales & Poems</i>	Edgar Allan Poe	StudySync Unit 1 Can be used both in Gen. Ed. and Honors The melancholy, brilliance, passionate lyricism, and torment of Edgar Allen Poe are all well represented in this collection. Here, in one volume, are his masterpieces of mystery, terror, humor, and adventure, including stories such as <i>The Tell-Tale Heart</i> , <i>The Cask of Amontillado</i> , <i>The Black Cat</i> , <i>The Masque of the Red Death</i> , <i>The Murders in the Rue Morgue</i> , and <i>The Pit and the Pendulum</i> , and his finest lyric and narrative poetry— <i>The Raven</i> and <i>Annabel Lee</i> , to name just a few—that defined American romanticism and secured Poe as one of the most enduring literary voices of the nineteenth century.
C/W	<i>Inside Out and Back Again</i>	Thanhha Lai	StudySync Unit 2 Listed for grade 6 Honors Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope—toward America.
T	<i>Legend</i>	Marie Lu	What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a

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			prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths - until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death.
T	<i>Legend</i>	Marie Lu	Graphic Novel <i>See novel description listed above.</i>
W	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	William Shakespeare	Also listed for grade 8 Honors. Theseus and Hippolyta, about to marry, are figures from mythology. In the woods outside Theseus's Athens, two young men and two young women sort themselves out into couples—but not before they form first one love triangle, and then another. Also in the woods, the king and queen of fairyland, Oberon and Titania, battle over custody of an orphan boy; Oberon uses magic to make Titania fall in love with a weaver named Bottom, whose head is temporarily transformed into that of a donkey by a hobgoblin or “puck,” Robin Goodfellow. Finally, Bottom and his companions ineptly stage the tragedy of “Pyramus and Thisbe.”
C	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>	Frederick Douglass	StudySync Unit 3 Published in 1845, this is a memoir and treatise on abolition written by the famous author and former slave Frederick Douglass. It is generally considered to be the most famous of a number of abolition narratives written by former slaves in the same era. The narrative describes the events in Douglass's life over 11 chapters, as a slave and his ambition to become a free man. It contains two introductions by well-known white abolitionists: a preface by William Lloyd Garrison, and a letter by Wendell Phillips, both arguing for the veracity of the account and the literacy of its author.
C/W	<i>A Night to Remember</i>	Walter Lord	StudySync Unit 3 Can be used both in Gen. Ed. & Honors First published in 1955, this is a completely riveting account of the <i>Titanic's</i> fatal collision and the behavior of the passengers and crew, both noble and ignominious. Some sacrificed their lives, while others fought like animals for their own survival. Wives beseeched husbands to join them in lifeboats; gentlemen went taut-lipped to their deaths in full evening dress; and hundreds of steerage passengers, trapped below decks, sought help in vain. Walter Lord's classic minute-by-minute re-creation is as vivid now as it was upon first publication fifty years ago. From the initial distress flares to the struggles of those left adrift for hours in freezing waters, this semicentennial edition brings that moonlit night in 1912 to life for a new generation of readers.
C	<i>The Outsiders</i>	S.E. Hinton	StudySync Unit 2 Also listed for grade 7. 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

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			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.
C/W	<i>Refugee</i>	Alan Gratz	StudySync Unit 5 <i>Also listed for grade 7</i> JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . . ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . . MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . . All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of <i>tomorrow</i> . And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.
C	<i>Ten Days in a Mad-House</i>	Nellie Bly	StudySync Unit 1 This book was written in 1887 by American journalist Nellie Bly. It was initially published as a series of articles for the <i>New York World</i> . Bly was on an undercover assignment, feigning insanity at a women’s boarding house so as to be involuntarily committed to the Women’s Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell’s Island to investigate the reports of brutality and neglect. The book received widespread acclaim. The combination of her reportage and the release of her content brought her fame and led to a grand jury investigation and financial increase in the Department of Public Charities and Corrections.
W	<i>Ungifted</i>	Gordon Korman	When Donovan Curtis pulls a major prank at his middle school, he thinks he’s finally gone too far. But thanks to a mix-up by one of the administrators, instead of getting in trouble, Donovan is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students. Although it wasn’t exactly what Donovan had intended, the ASD couldn’t be a more perfectly unexpected hideout for someone like him. But as the students and teachers of ASD grow to realize that Donovan may not be good at math or science), he shows that his <i>gifts</i> may be exactly what the ASD students never knew they needed.
T/W	<i>Unwind</i>	Neal Shusterman	After America’s Second Civil War, the Pro-Choice and Pro-Life armies came to an agreement. According to their Bill of Life, human life may not be terminated from the moment of conception until the age of thirteen. But between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, the child may be gotten rid of by their parent through a process called “unwinding.” By repurposing a teen’s organs and other body parts in living recipients, the unwound child’s life doesn’t <i>technically</i> end. According to society’s leaders, unwinding leads to a healthier and safer community, as troublesome and unwanted teens are used for the greater good. Curtis is a rebel whose unwinding was ordered by his parents. Rita, a ward of the state, has been slated for unwinding due to cost cutting. And Lev, his parents’ tenth child, has been destined for unwinding since birth as a religious tithe. As

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			their paths intersect, they start to fight for their own destinies. But do they stand a chance of escaping their fate or proving their lives are worth saving?
C	<i>The War of the Worlds</i>	H.G. Wells	StudySync Unit 6 This is the first-person narrative of an unnamed protagonist in Surrey and that of his younger brother in London as Earth is invaded by Martians. Written between 1895 and 1897, it is one of the earliest stories that detail a conflict between mankind and an extraterrestrial race. The novel is one of the most commented-on works in the science fiction canon. The narrator, a philosophically inclined author, struggles to return to his wife while seeing the Martians lay waste to the southern country outside London. Book One also imparts the experience of his brother, also unnamed, who describes events as they deteriorate in the capital, forcing him to escape the Martian onslaught by boarding a paddle steamer near Tillingham, on the Essex coast.
W	<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	L. Frank Baum	Dorothy thinks she is lost forever when a terrifying tornado crashes through Kansas and whisks her and her dog, Toto, far away to the magical land of Oz. To get home Dorothy must follow the yellow brick road to Emerald City and find the wonderfully mysterious Wizard of Oz. Together with her companions the Tin Woodman, the Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion whom she meets on the way, Dorothy embarks on a strange and enchanting adventure.
Grade 8 - Honors			
W	<i>Animal Farm</i>	George Orwell	A farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, they set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. Thus the stage is set for one of the most telling satiric fables ever penned—a razor-edged fairy tale that records the evolution from revolution against tyranny to a totalitarianism just as terrible.
W	<i>The Book Thief</i>	Markus Zusak	<i>When Death has a story to tell, you listen.</i> It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.
C	<i>Children of Blood and Bone</i>	Tomi Adeyemi	StudySync Unit 6 - mature content; better for high school
W	<i>Dead End in Norvelt</i>	Jack Gantos	This is a novel about an incredible two months for a kid named Jack Gantos, whose plans for vacation excitement are shot down when he is "grounded for life" by his feuding parents, and whose nose spews bad blood at every little shock he gets. But plenty of excitement (and shocks) are coming Jack's way once his mom loans him out to help a feisty old

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			neighbor with a most unusual chore — typewriting obituaries filled with stories about the people who founded his utopian town. As one obituary leads to another, Jack is launched on a strange adventure involving molten wax, Eleanor Roosevelt, twisted promises, a homemade airplane, Girl Scout cookies, a man on a trike, a dancing plague, voices from the past, Hells Angels . . . and possibly murder.
W	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Ray Bradbury	Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family". But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television. When Mildred attempts suicide and Clarisse suddenly disappears, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known. He starts hiding books in his home, and when his pilfering is discovered, the fireman has to run for his life.
W	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	William Shakespeare	<u>Also listed for grade 8 General Ed.</u> Theseus and Hippolyta, about to marry, are figures from mythology. In the woods outside Theseus's Athens, two young men and two young women sort themselves out into couples—but not before they form first one love triangle, and then another. Also in the woods, the king and queen of fairyland, Oberon and Titania, battle over custody of an orphan boy; Oberon uses magic to make Titania fall in love with a weaver named Bottom, whose head is temporarily transformed into that of a donkey by a hobgoblin or "puck," Robin Goodfellow. Finally, Bottom and his companions ineptly stage the tragedy of "Pyramus and Thisbe."
T	<i>Monster</i>	Walter Dean Myers	CGP ONLY!
W	<i>The Pearl</i>	John Steinbeck	John Steinbeck retells an old Mexican folk tale: the story of the great pearl, how it was found, and how it was lost. For the diver Kino, finding a magnificent pearl means the promise of a better life for his impoverished family. His dream blinds him to the greed and suspicions the pearl arouses in him and his neighbors, and even his loving wife cannot temper his obsession or stem the events leading to the tragedy.
W	<i>Uglies</i>	Scott Westerfeld	Tally lives in a world where your 16th birthday brings aesthetic perfection: an operation that erases all your flaws, transforming you from an "Ugly" into a "Pretty". She is on the eve of this important event and cannot wait for her life to change. As well as guaranteeing supermodel looks, life as a Pretty seems to revolve around having a good time. But then she meets Shay, who is also 15 - but with a very different outlook on life. Shay isn't sure she wants to be Pretty and plans to escape to a community in the forest - the Rusty Ruins - where Uglies go to escape

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			"turning". Tally won't be persuaded to join her, as this would involve sacrificing everything she's ever wanted for a lot of uncertainty. When she is taken in for questioning on her birthday, however, Tally gets sent to the Ruins anyway - against her will. The authorities offer Tally the worst choice she could ever imagine: Find her friend, Shay, and turn her in or never turn Pretty at all. What she discovers in the Ruins reveals that there is nothing "pretty" about the transformations...and the choice Tally makes will change her world forever.
W	<i>Unbroken</i>	Laura Hillenbrand	On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War. The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a foundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.
W	<i>Watership Down</i>	Richard Adams	Fiver could sense danger. Something terrible was going to happen to the warren; he felt sure of it. They had to leave immediately. So begins a long and perilous journey of survival for a small band of rabbits. Fiver's vision finally leads them to Watership Down, an upland meadow. But here they face their most difficult challenges of all.
Summer Reading - General Ed.			
T	<i>The Crossover</i>	Kwame Alexander	Also grade 8 Honors summer reading "With a bolt of lightning on my kicks... The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dreadlocked 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother, Jordan, are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood. He's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game changer for the entire family.
T	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i>	Mark Haddon	Also on the grade 9 reading list and grade 8 Honors summer reading. Fifteen-year-old Christopher Boone has Asperger's Syndrome, a condition similar to autism. He doesn't like to be touched or meet new people, he cannot make small talk, and he hates the colors brown and yellow. He is a math whiz with a very logical brain who loves solving puzzles that have definite answers. One night, he observes that the neighbor's dog has been

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			killed, since it is not moving and has a large garden fork stuck in its body. Christopher knows this is wrong. He has never left his street on his own before, but now he'll have to in order to find out who killed the dog. What he discovers will shake the very foundation of his perfectly ordered life.
T	<i>The Devil's Arithmetic</i>	Jane Yolen	Hannah is tired of holiday gatherings—all her family ever talks about is the past. In fact, it seems to her that's what they do every Jewish holiday. But this year's Passover Seder will be different—Hannah will be mysteriously transported into the past . . . and only she knows the unspeakable horrors that await.
T	<i>Feed</i>	M.T. Anderson	<i>Also grade 8 Honors summer reading.</i> For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon - a chance to party during spring break and play with some stupid low-grav at the Ricochet Lounge. But that was before the crazy hacker caused all their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital to lie around with nothing inside their heads for days. And it was before Titus met Violet, a beautiful, brainy teenage girl who has decided to fight the feed and its omnipresent ability to categorize human thoughts and desires. Concerns: language, sexual content, alcohol use
T	<i>The Great Greene Heist</i>	Varian Johnson	Jackson Greene swears he's given up scheming. Then school bully Keith Sinclair announces he's running for Student Council president, against Jackson's former friend Gaby de la Cruz. Gaby wants Jackson to stay out of it -- but he knows Keith has "connections" to the principal, which could win him the presidency no matter the vote count. So Jackson assembles a crack team: Hashemi Larjani, tech genius. Victor Cho, bankroll. Megan Feldman, science goddess. Charlie de la Cruz, reporter. Together they devise a plan that will take down Keith, win Gaby's respect, and make sure the election is done right. If they can pull it off, it will be remembered as the school's greatest con ever -- one worthy of the name THE GREAT GREENE HEIST.
T	<i>If I Stay</i>	Gayle Forman	<i>Also grade 8 Honors summer reading.</i> In a single moment, everything changes. Seventeen year-old Mia has no memory of the accident; she can only recall riding along the snow-wet Oregon road with her family. Then, in a blink, she finds herself watching as her own damaged body is taken from the wreck. A sophisticated, layered, and heartachingly beautiful story about the power of family and friends, the choices we all make - and the ultimate choice Mia commands.
C	<i>Little Women</i>	Louisa May Alcott	StudySync Unit 4 <i>Also grade 8 Honors summer reading.</i> Little Women or, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy is a novel by American author Louisa May Alcott. Written and published in two parts in 1868 and 1869, the novel tells the story of a year in the life of the March family. We hear of their troubles and joys and come to sympathize with each character: maturing Meg, gifted Jo, gentle Beth and lively Amy, as they extend their kindness to all around them.

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T	<i>Matched</i>	Ally Condie	In the Society, Officials decide. Who you love. Where you work. Cassia has always trusted the Society's choices. And when her best friend appears on the Matching screen, she is certain he's the one - until she sees another face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. Now she is faced with impossible choices: Between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's ever known and a path no one has dared to follow...between perfection and the truth.
T	<i>The Red Umbrella</i>	Christina Diaz Gonzalez	In 1961, two years after the Communist revolution, Lucía Álvarez still led a carefree life, dreaming of parties and her first crush. But when the soldiers come to her sleepy Cuban town, everything begins to change. Freedoms are stripped away. Neighbors disappear. And soon, Lucía's parents make the heart-wrenching decision to send her and her little brother to the United States—on their own. Suddenly plunked down in Nebraska with well-meaning strangers, Lucía struggles to adapt to a new country, a new language, a new way of life. But what of her old life? Will she <i>ever</i> see her home or her parents again? And if she does, will she still be the same girl? <i>The Red Umbrella</i> is a touching story of country, culture, family, and the true meaning of home.
T	<i>Treasure Island</i>	Robert Louis Stevenson	<i>Also grade 8 Honors summer reading.</i> From the moment young Jim Hawkins first encounters the sinister Blind Pew at the Admiral Benbow Inn until the climactic battle for treasure on a tropic isle, the novel creates scenes and characters that have fired the imaginations of generations of readers. The story centers upon the conflict between good and evil - but in this case a particularly engaging form of evil. It is the villainy of that most ambiguous rogue Long John Silver that sets the tempo of this tale of treachery, greed, and daring.
Summer Reading - Honors			
T	<i>Gulliver's Travels</i>	Jonathan Swift	<i>Also on grade 12 reading list.</i> <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> recounts the story of Lemuel Gulliver, a practical-minded Englishman trained as a surgeon who takes to the seas when his business fails. In a deadpan first-person narrative that rarely shows any signs of self-reflection or deep emotional response, Gulliver narrates the adventures that befall him on these travels.
T	<i>The Hobbit</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien	<i>Also listed for grade 9</i> Like every other hobbit, Bilbo Baggins likes nothing better than a quiet evening in his snug hole in the ground, dining on a sumptuous dinner in front of a fire. But when a wandering wizard captivates him with tales of the unknown, Bilbo becomes restless. Soon he joins the wizard's band of homeless dwarves in search of giant spiders, savage wolves, and other dangers. Bilbo quickly tires of the quest for adventure and longs for the security of his familiar home. But before he can return to his life of comfort, he must face the greatest threat of all - a treasure-troving dragon named Smaug.

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T	<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>	Betty Smith	<p><i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> follows the lives of 11-year-old Francie Nolan, her younger brother Neely, and their parents, Irish immigrants who have settled in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. Johnny Nolan is as loving and fanciful as they come, but he is also often out of work, unable to find his place in the land of opportunity. His wife Katie scrubs floors to put food on the table and clothes on her children's backs, instilling in them the values of being practical and planning ahead. When Johnny dies, leaving Katie pregnant, Francie, smart, pensive and hoping for something better, cannot believe that life can carry on as before. But with her own determination, and that of her mother behind her, Francie is able to move toward the future of her dreams, completing her education and heading off to college, always carrying the beloved Brooklyn of her childhood in her heart.</p>
T	<i>October Sky</i> Novel proposal form	Homer Hickam Parent notification form	<p>It was 1957, the year Sputnik raced across the Appalachian sky, and the small town of Coalwood, West Virginia, was slowly dying. Faced with an uncertain future, Sonny Hickam nurtured a dream: to learn how to build a rocket so he could work in the space business. Sonny gathered five other boys and convinced them to help him. Along the way, the boys learn not only how to turn scraps of metal into sophisticated rockets but manage to give the people of Coalwood hope that the future will be brighter, at least for their children.</p> <p>Concerns: sexual content/innuendo</p>

Secondary Novel Review Committee:

The Secondary Novel Review Committee has been formed to facilitate book proposals and/or book reviews to the currently adopted curriculum. This committee is composed of ELA teachers, administrators, district personnel, and parents. If anyone would like to join this committee, please click on this link: <https://www.susd.org/Committees>.

This committee meets on an as needed basis, especially when:

- A teacher would like to suggest a new book to be added to the curriculum.
- A review is suggested of a current book that is part of the already approved curriculum.

Process to Propose a New Book to the Curriculum:

- A teacher who wishes to propose a new book to be added to the curriculum completes a [proposal form](#) that details the summary, instructional purpose, and content concerns.
- The teacher submits the form to the Secondary Novel Review Committee for evaluation.
- The Secondary Novel Review Committee reads and evaluates the book using a rubric. This rubric is used to focus the discussion of the committee and formulate a recommendation.
- The Committee would then come to a consensus regarding a recommendation.
- Recommendations are taken to the Governing Board for final approval.
- If approved, the recommendation would be to add the title to the Supplemental Book List.



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Process to Change a Level of a Book:

- A teacher who wishes to request that a book be moved from one grade level to another submits the request to the campus's curriculum team representative.
- The suggestion of the grade level change of a book is added to the agenda of the upcoming curriculum team meeting.
- The curriculum team discusses the merits of changing the level of the book and makes a recommendation.
- If the curriculum team cannot come to a consensus with a decision, the suggestion of the grade level change would be added to the agenda of the Secondary Novel Review Committee.
- The Secondary Novel Review Committee discusses the merits of the grade level change of the book and makes its recommendation, which would then be reflected on the ELA Middle School Supplemental Book List.

Process to Suggest a Review of a Book:

- A community member suggests a review of a book that is already approved for instructional use.
- The community member discusses his or her concerns with a teacher, a media specialist, or an administrator regarding the book's placement.
- The community member fills out a form outlining his or her concerns and submits the form to the Secondary Novel Review Committee.
- The Secondary Novel Review Committee reads and evaluates the book using a rubric. This rubric is to focus the discussion of the committee.
- The Committee makes its recommendation to either keep or remove the book for classroom use. The committee may also suggest a different grade level placement of the book.