



# MIDDLE SCHOOL READING MATERIALS

## GRADE 6: BUILD CONFIDENCE AND CORE READING HABITS

6th grade emphasizes momentum, comprehension, and craft - tracking plot threads, making inferences, and explaining character choices with evidence.

- ***The Westing Game*** builds “reader as detective” thinking (logic, clues, patterns).
- ***Posted*** and ***Walk Two Moons*** deepen theme and perspective.
- ***Hoot*** introduces civic responsibility and ethical decision-making through an accessible story.

## GRADE 7: PERSPECTIVE, HISTORY, AND VOICE (INCLUDING SHAKESPEARE AS PERFORMANCE)

7th grade expands students’ ability to read across form and context and to discuss ideas with empathy and clarity.

- ***When Stars Are Scattered*** strengthens visual literacy and perspective-taking through a graphic memoir.
- ***Diary of Anne Frank*** grounds students in historical witness and primary-source reading.
- ***The Outsiders*** supports rich discussion about identity, belonging, and loyalty.
- ***A Midsummer Night’s Dream*** is taught actively (reading aloud, scene work), helping students gain confidence with complex Shakespearean language.

## GRADE 8: COMPLEXITY AND CIVIC LITERACY

8th grade prepares students for high school-level analysis by tackling satire, moral ambiguity, and historical context - always anchored in evidence.

- ***Refugee*** builds global awareness and empathy through interwoven narratives.
- ***A Christmas Carol*** and ***Romeo and Juliet*** develop interpretive depth, argument, and attention to language.
- ***Animal Farm*** teaches allegory and how power and propaganda work.
- ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** supports careful discussion about justice, empathy, and moral courage, with clear framing and guidance from teachers.