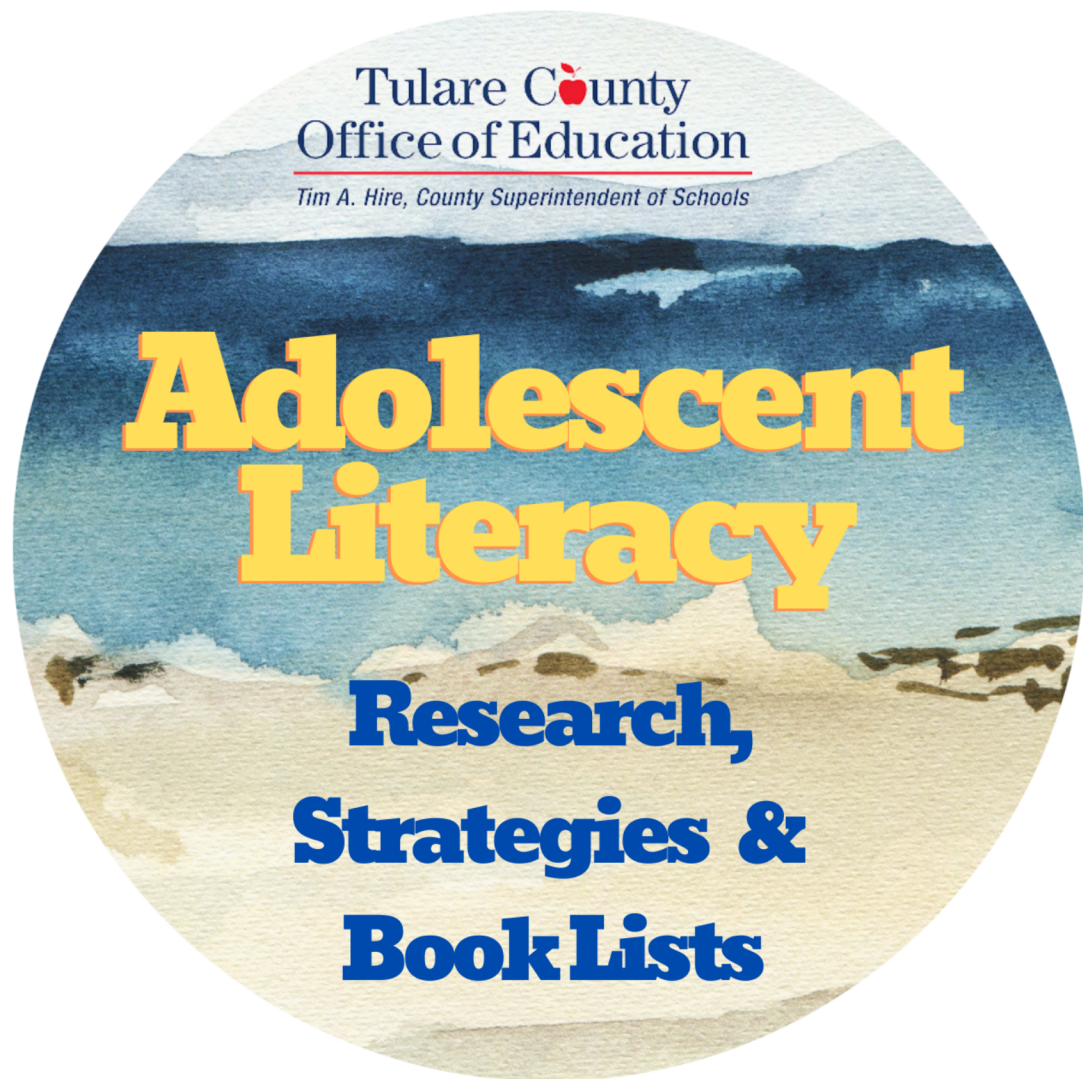


Readership CLSD Priority 6



Resource Guidebook

Curated by: Jenean Bray & Tammy Milligan

Readership

CLSD Readership Priority 6

(Grades 6-12)

Resource Guidebook

All material in this book is available for use by classroom teachers and coaches throughout California. No materials in this book may be sold or used for commercial purposes.

Digital Access



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Jennifer Howerter: Literacy Consultant in the Educator Excellence and Equity Division of the California Department of Education



Erika St. Andre: Education Program Consultant in the Educator Excellence and Equity Division of the California Department of Education

It has been our pleasure to work with Jenean and Tammy as they led the CLSD Priority 6 team for the past three years. Their extensive planning and work have allowed the Readership project to accomplish so much during this short time. **We have been thrilled to support Readership in their incredibly important work, and we know that this resource guide will continue to increase teacher knowledge around the importance of motivation and engagement in reading.**

Readership understood from the very beginning that there was a need to **shift the school and community culture to one that values and centers literacy.** They saw that so many of our secondary students begin to lose interest in reading and recognized that one of the reasons for this is a lack of **books that speak to the students: reflecting their lives, their experiences, and perspectives** while also challenging them to examine and empathize with experiences unlike their own.

School teams were supported to create strong home-school connections as they worked with Readership coaches to build a culture of literacy throughout the entire community. **Readership made family and community engagement a cornerstone of their approach.** They partnered with community organizations and met families where they already gather to distribute books for the whole family as well as resources to spark conversations within the family about the books that they are reading. **Over the course of a three-year period, they distributed over 100,000 books to school libraries, classrooms, families, and the community.** We know that even a few books in a home library have the potential to increase student achievement and success, and Readership ensured that families throughout the county were given opportunities to increase their children's access to books in a variety of ways.

As part of their work, Readership bolstered school and classroom libraries and increased community book access, all with carefully curated book lists designed to meet students where they're at and spark their hunger for the next title.

Readership increased circulation in libraries and championed the creation of little free libraries, many times putting students in charge of their upkeep, increasing their buy-in.

And it worked: teachers on campus report students reading outside of class, talking to each other about books, and reflecting that love of reading and literacy that Readership is so committed to. **A culture of literacy could never succeed, though, without committed educators at the center.**

Readership focused specifically on supporting English learners and multilingual students. We can see this reflected throughout this resource guide, but they also bolstered knowledge and visibility of the State Seal of Bilingual – helping students and families understand the value of this accomplishment through videos, celebrations, and more. This work led to an increase in students earning the **State Seal of Bilingual from 164 students to 247 students countywide** and a **dramatic increase in student achievement across the majority of the participating schools.**

Throughout the project, Readership underscored an asset-based approach, encouraging teachers to believe in their students and their ability to rise to meet the academic challenges before them. To support this culture shift, Readership brought in coaches to work with teachers as they engaged in plan, do, study, act cycles to study and implement the strategies that they learned at network convenings. This method of picking strategies to work with as a team and to partner with a coach while weaving them into classroom instruction **allowed teachers to integrate strategies like independent reading time and quick student conferences to build student reader identity and cement that teacher-student relationship that is so valuable in ensuring that students remain engaged and connected to school.** This is especially important in the secondary grades – the **English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework** discusses the importance of “reading widely and independently” as “essential to building proficiency in reading and knowledge across all content areas” (55) and says that these books must stir “the imaginations and interests of children and young people” (56). **Sustaining an independent reading program, as the Framework suggests, is a critical component to making this culture of literacy a permanent shift.** The PDSA cycle and support from coaches helped educators see the value in this strategy and others, all of which have led to increased student achievement.

This resource guide is the result of three years of hard work and dedication to students and educators and the firm belief that reading achievement, motivation, and engagement go hand in hand.

We encourage you to share this book, the videos, and other resources that Readership has created! The goal of this grant has always been to scale out the great work and accomplishments of these three short years, and we hope that you will share your knowledge and successes so that others may learn from you and create that culture of literacy in their own communities and schools as well.

-Jenn and Erika

Our Readership Team



Readership Co-Lead, Jenean Bray

Co-leading this literacy grant with Tammy Milligan has not only deepened our understanding of the vital role of literacy in shaping empowered individuals and communities but also highlighted the importance of collaboration, innovation, and strategic thinking. I have drawn from my role as a TCOE ELA/ELD Curriculum Specialist and 19 years of teaching and experience serving on the CDE Literature List Committee, the Instructional Materials Adoption Committee, and as a San Joaquin Valley Writing Project Fellow. Each day of this grant has been fueled by a deep-seated commitment to quality education, inspired by passionate educators dedicated to rekindling a love of learning in every student. This

experience has been a transformative journey, allowing me to witness firsthand the tangible impact that targeted resources of culturally diverse books and thoughtful, inclusive reading strategies can have in dismantling barriers in the secondary world of adolescent literacy.

As we curated this Resource Guidebook, each page became a testament to the collective effort, dedication, and aspirations of those who strive to make literacy accessible, especially for English learners, foster youth, the homeless, and students of poverty. It stands as a symbol of our hope and a practical tool, aiming to inspire, engage, motivate, and guide future endeavors in the realm of literacy advancement.



Readership Co-Lead, Tammy Milligan

After serving in Tulare County as an elementary teacher for 10 years and as a school principal for 20 years, I was honored to be given the opportunity to work for Tulare County Office of Education and ultimately to work with Jenean Bray in writing and implementing the ideas that have become known as “Readership”. We sought to employ the research that said students could become more engaged and motivated to read if they had access to books that they could relate to

and teachers had strategies to bring them in.

In connection with this research and our plan to implement it in our schools, I set out to read as many young adolescent books as I could in a very short period of time. I fell in love! These books have become my motivation as I’ve worked to help teachers connect with their students’ identities and interests, thus increasing the volume of reading and, ultimately, increasing student achievement. We have seen our mantra of ***motivation leading to volume, which leads to achievement***, come to fruition as this year’s state test scores have dramatically increased in the schools that have dedicated themselves to these strategies. This Resource Guidebook is meant to help teachers today and in the future in their quest to motivate their own students to read and discuss books of choice. This work has been the most fulfilling of my career, and I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to learn and grow alongside Jenean and all of our dedicated teachers and coaches.



CalHOPE

Resources and PL Opportunities

<https://www.calhopeschools.org>

SEL Learning Hub

<https://www.calhopesel.org/learning>

SEL Wellness Summit

<https://www.calhopesel.org/sel-wellness-summit>

Greater Good in Education CA SEL Modules

Create a **FREE** account!

<https://ggie.berkeley.edu/ca-sel/>

California MTSS PL Institute

<https://ocde.us/MTSS/Pages/PLI.aspx>



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The screenshot shows the Follett Titlewave interface. At the top, it says 'titlewave.com library, classroom & digital solutions'. Below that is a search bar and navigation links like 'Your Account', 'Order History', and 'Saved Lists'. The main content area displays the book 'Fuzzy Mud' (ISBN 141747849) by Louis Sachar. It includes a book cover, a description, price (\$7.85), and various metadata fields like Dewey, AR, and ISBN. There are buttons for 'Add to List', 'Qty', 'In Choice', and 'Add to new saved list'.

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Readership Literacy Initiative: Empowering School PLCs to Foster a Culture of Reading

The Readership Literacy Initiative is dedicated to transforming classrooms into hubs of reading engagement and achievement. We understand the power of literacy as a cornerstone of academic success. Through three years of continuous improvement work, we have found ways to unlock the full potential of literacy in over 22 schools.

The Literacy Challenge

As we all are aware, many schools struggle to engage students in reading, leading to lower reading achievement scores. This not only affects immediate academic performance but also has long-term implications for student success.

Our Solution

Readership provides innovative strategies to:

- Create a vibrant culture of literacy in classrooms.
- Develop skills and strategies that motivate and engage students in reading.
- Significantly increase the volume of reading and reading achievement scores.

Alignment with PLC Models

Our approach aligns seamlessly with renowned PLC models, ensuring:

- A data-driven understanding of student needs and achievements.
- Action-oriented planning during PDSA cycles to improve literacy outcomes.
- Continuous learning and inquiry for educators.
- Empowerment of teachers to implement effective literacy strategies.

Benefits for Middle and High Schools

Enhanced student engagement in reading.

- Improved reading achievement scores on state tests.
- Stronger teacher collaboration focused on literacy goals.
- Empowered educators leading effective literacy practices.

Our Commitment

Readership believes in:

- Transforming literacy education through collaboration and innovation.
- Shifting educator mindsets to embrace new challenges in literacy teaching.
- Building a community where literacy is a priority in every aspect of school life.

The Readership Literacy Initiative is more than just a program; it's a movement towards a literate, empowered, and successful future for our students. It has been a pleasure seeing this vision become a reality.

Readership Alignment to the California ELA/ELD Framework

Readership is aligned with the California ELA/ELD Framework. The references and direct quotes below come from Chapter 2, pages 55-64 of the framework (as they reference areas where Readership has directly focused our work.)

Become Broadly Literate

The framework states that schools are responsible for ensuring that all students become broadly literate. It further clarifies that:

- Independent reading is essential.
- Students should engage in a variety of books across a wide range of genres.

Wide and Independent Reading

The Common Core Standards for ELA/Literacy highlight the need to increase independent reading, especially with complex texts. The College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading (CDE 2013, 10) describes the purpose of reading widely (qtd. in ELA/ELD Framework, Ch.2, p.55):

- When students read widely and deeply from among a broad range of high-quality texts, a foundation for college and career readiness can be established.
- Students gain literary and cultural knowledge through extensive reading of stories, dramas, poems, and myths from diverse cultures.
- Students gain literary and cultural knowledge.
- Students become familiar with various literary structures and elements
- Students acquire the habits of reading independently and closely.

Independent Reading

In order for students to become broadly literate, they need to read regularly and frequently during a time built into the instructional day. Abundant exposure to rich texts is a clear focus of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and is amplified by the CA ELD Standards. Students often need their imaginations and interests to be “stirred”, capturing their attention. Whether it is non-fiction, stories, poetry, or drama, it is critical that educators give students wide exposure to varied types of texts, enabling them to *choose* what is of interest to them.

Author Neil Gaiman (2013) writes that fiction is a gateway to reading and building empathy in students. “Empathy is a tool for building people into groups, for allowing us to function as more than self-obsessed individuals.”

Literary fiction, in fact, has been shown to have positive effects on the mind, specifically the ability to detect and understand others’ emotions and to infer and represent others’ beliefs and intentions (Kidd and Castano 2013). Regardless of the source—literary or informational text—the

love of reading should be instilled and nurtured from a child's first moments of preschool through his or her last days of high school.

Planning an Independent Reading Program

The Framework sets out to ensure that all students have the opportunity to read in various settings across a range of genres in daily teacher-developed classroom independent reading. Independent reading should be planned and structured while allowing students to choose their texts and read for uninterrupted periods of time. The framework's vision is that students actively engage in reading and are held accountable without a requirement of an assignment connected to the reading every time. Components that the framework lists for independent reading include the following (ELA/ELD Framework, Ch.2,p. 57):

- Strategies for students to select books and texts in terms of difficulty, content, and interest.
- Student choice.
- Daily scheduled time in class and outside of class.
- Clear expectations for in-class and outside-of-class reading.
- Classroom library that includes a rich collection of books and other texts drawing from lists of award-winning books and other sources.
- School library or large, shared, circulating collection of resources in a variety of formats and at various reading levels.
- System for recording books and texts read during the year and across years.
- Opportunities for social interaction—book talks and reviews, book sharing, partner reading, discussion circles, writing to the author, and more.
- Writing in response to books and texts read—planning for book talks and book reviews. Reactions to texts.
- One-on-one conferencing between teacher and student to discuss books, review progress, and set goals.
- One-on-one conferencing that uses probing questions, listening, and discussion to foster student exploration of their ideas about a book.
- Varied opportunities for the students to reflect on their readings and reading process after a semester or other time period.
- Teacher guidance and feedback regarding text selection and progress.
- Teacher modeling, including read-alouds and think-alouds, to illustrate ways to select and respond to books and texts.
- Teacher and teacher librarian recommendations of books and texts.
- Parent and family communication.
- Availability of books in students' primary languages.
- Availability of books that reflect students' cultural interests.
- Inviting classroom and library spaces to read.

Motivating and Engaging Students

The Introduction of the ELA/ELD Framework informs educators (page 10) regarding the importance of keeping motivation and engagement at the forefront of their work to assist students in achieving the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and CA ELD Standards. It is critical to incorporate motivational factors, such as interest, relevance, identity, and self-efficacy, into curriculum design and instructional practice to ensure that students achieve the levels envisioned by these standards.

A panel examining research on adolescent literacy beginning in grade four included motivation and engagement as one of five recommendations. The panel's report *Improving Adolescent Literacy: Effective Classroom and Intervention Practices* (https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/PracticeGuide/adlit_pg_082608.pdf) (Kamil, and others 2008, 28-30) suggests the following practices:

- Establish meaningful and engaging content learning goals around the essential ideas of a discipline as well as the specific learning processes students use to access those ideas.
- Provide a positive learning environment that promotes students' autonomy in learning.
- Make literacy experiences more relevant to students' interests, everyday life, or important current events.
- Build in certain instructional conditions, such as student goal setting, self-directed learning, and collaborative learning, to increase reading engagement and conceptual learning.

Factors shared by both sets of recommendations and identified in many studies of motivation and engagement (Guthrie, Wigfield, and Klauda 2012; Dweck 2006; Ryan and Deci 2000; Csikszentmihalyi 1990; and others) include the following:

- Interest (relevance)
- Choice (autonomy and self-determination)
- Success (self-efficacy or the belief that "I can do it")
- Collaboration and real-world interactions (social relatedness and active engagement)
- Dedication (identification with being a good student, persistence, and willingness to work hard to achieve goals)
- Goal setting, self-regulation, and guided self-assessment

Simply stated, motivation and engagement are both psychological and behavioral; students may be motivated (or interested) to read and write, but they also need to sustain their engagement with a task for sufficient time to achieve learning goals. Incorporating these elements in curriculum materials and instructional sequences requires systematic planning and professional collaboration. Embracing these elements also requires that educators view students as active agents in their own learning and create environments in which students have regular opportunities to experience and exercise their growing competence and independence.

Contributing to the motivation and engagement of diverse learners, including ELs, is the teachers' and the broader school community's open recognition that student's primary languages, dialects of English used in the home, and home cultures are valuable resources in their own right and also to draw on to build proficiency in English in all school learning (de Jong and Harper 2011; Lindholm-Leary and Genesee 2010). Teachers are encouraged to do the following:

- Create a welcoming classroom environment that exudes respect for cultural and linguistic diversity.
- Get to know students' cultural and linguistic background knowledge and experiences and how individual students interact with their home language and cultures.
- Use the primary language or home dialect of English, as appropriate, to acknowledge them as valuable assets and support all learners in fully developing academic English and engaging meaningfully with the core curriculum.
- Use texts that accurately reflect students' cultural, linguistic, and social backgrounds so that students see themselves in the curriculum.
- Continuously expand understanding of cultures and languages so as not to oversimplify approaches to culturally responsive pedagogy.

All students need to be supported to invest personally in literacy—to see the relevance of the content for their lives and to sustain the effort and interest needed to learn skills and gain competence. Students who are active participants in their learning and who come to exert greater control over their reading and writing processes grow in their perceptions of themselves as autonomous learners and thinkers (Katz, Graff, and Brynson 2013; Ryan and Deci 2000; Alexander and Fox 2011).

Readership Connections

Thus, the “Readership” literacy initiative is intricately aligned with numerous facets of the CA ELA/ELD Framework, making our strategies exceptionally meaningful and effective. This alignment is evident in how Readership promotes critical thinking and analytical skills, core principles of the framework. Readership emphasizes the development of a deep, nuanced understanding of texts, paralleling the framework's focus on text complexity and comprehension.

Additionally, Readership supports the diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds of students, mirroring the framework's commitment to equity and inclusivity in literacy education.

Embodying these key elements of the CA ELA/ELD Framework, the strategies presented in this Readership Resource Guide are not only relevant but also crucial for fostering a comprehensive and inclusive literacy environment.

Adolescent Literacy

The number of American adolescents who say they read on a daily basis has dropped from nearly a decade ago and are at the lowest levels since the mid-1980s. (NAEP)

Readership is focused on helping these adolescents who have the foundational skills to read, but have lost interest to continue reading. The gap is even wider for English Learners and marginalized populations of foster and homeless youth.



Motivation

Adolescent literacy is the ability to read, write, comprehend, and discuss ideas in text. It is a critical skill for success in school, college, and beyond. Motivation to read is a key factor in adolescent literacy. Students who are motivated to read will read a greater volume of books. Reading more improves reading achievement.



Volume of Reading

The more students read, with teacher input through conferring, the better their reading skills will become. Students who read a greater volume will improve reading achievement.



Readership

Improving lives through the power of books

Informational Videos

What is Readership?



bit.ly/TCOEReadership



SEL in Literacy



bit.ly/TCOESELLiteracy



Readership in Our Community



bit.ly/TCOEReadCommunity



Alternative Education



bit.ly/TCOEAltEd




Seal of Biliteracy




bit.ly/TCOESealofBiliteracy



Seal of Biliteracy for Families and Students



bit.ly/SealofBiliteracyFam




Readership Strategy Videos

Building a Culture of Literacy



bit.ly/CultureofLit

Book Stack Strategy




bit.ly/TCOEBookStacks

Book Tasting



bit.ly/TCOEBookTaste

Book Clubs



bit.ly/TCOEBookClubs

Conferring with Readers



bit.ly/TCOEConferring

Research consistently shows a strong correlation between time spent reading and reading achievement. This relationship is well-documented by scholars such as Allington (2014), Cunningham and Stanovich (1998), Krashen (2004, 2011) and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts (2007). Independent reading plays a pivotal role in fostering reading proficiency, increasing the volume of reading, enhancing vocabulary, improving fluency, sustaining comprehension of complex texts, and expanding knowledge. In *Readership*, we explore the importance of independent reading, its implications for equity in education, and the significant role of motivation and engagement in reading achievement, especially for English Learners.

The Role of Independent Reading

Independent reading, characterized by students choosing and reading texts of their interest for uninterrupted periods, has been shown to be essential for developing reading skills. The more students engage in independent reading, the more their reading abilities improve. This connection between independent reading and reading achievement has been confirmed in various studies, including Swan, Coddington, and Guthrie (2010), Hiebert and Reutzel (2010), and Cunningham and Stanovich (2003). As Miller and Moss (2013) assert, independent reading contributes to background knowledge, fluency, comprehension, motivation, increased reading achievement, and vocabulary expansion.

Motivation and Engagement in Reading Achievement

Motivation and engagement are integral factors influencing reading achievement. Research by Cartwright, Lee, et al. (2020) and Taboada Barber, Klauda, and Stapleton (2020) underscores their significance. Notably, motivation and engagement can predict reading ability beyond word recognition and language comprehension. While some argue that motivation operates through executive function (EF), studies show that motivation still predicts reading ability even when executive function is considered. Efforts to enhance reading motivation have yielded positive results, as demonstrated by Guthrie and Klauda (2014) through Concept-Oriented Reading Instruction. Moreover, a systematic review and meta-analysis by McBreen and Savage (2020) highlighted the impact of various approaches to enhance reading motivation, resulting in positive effects on word reading, reading fluency, and reading comprehension.

Implications for Equity

Equity in education is a crucial concern, particularly concerning independent reading. Inequity arises when some students have easy access to a wide range of books while others have none. The availability of books at home significantly influences students' access to independent reading. To address this, educators must ensure that all students have access to reading materials at school that are appealing, relevant to their interests, and representative of their diverse backgrounds. For this reason, *Readership* provided classroom libraries, school libraries, and books for communities and families with current, diverse selections.

Significance of Reading Motivation for English Learners

When considering the significance of reading motivation and the volume of reading for English Learners (ELs), it becomes even more pronounced as these students often face unique challenges in their language acquisition journey. For ELs, motivation can be a driving force that encourages them to engage with texts in their second language. A motivated EL student is more likely to overcome the initial difficulties associated with language barriers and persist in their reading endeavors with strategies such as the ones introduced in Readership. The volume of reading is particularly crucial for ELs as it provides them with exposure to varied vocabulary, sentence structures, and cultural nuances present in the English language. This exposure is essential for enhancing language proficiency, comprehension skills, and overall language development. Additionally, ELs benefit from reading materials that are culturally relevant and aligned with their interests; this not only boosts their motivation but also helps them connect more deeply with the content, leading to improved reading outcomes. Focusing on reading motivation and promoting a substantial volume of reading can play a transformative role in the language acquisition and literacy journey of English learners, fostering their success in both academic and everyday life contexts.

Sciences of Reading

Understanding the sciences of reading, with an emphasis on decoding, comprehension, and language skills, aligns seamlessly with the importance of motivation and the volume of reading. As research has shown, the development of reading proficiency is intricately linked to the quantity and quality of reading experiences. The science of reading principles, such as decoding skills and language comprehension, underscore the need for students, including English learners, to engage in independent reading to apply and reinforce these skills, especially during one-to-one reading conferences. The motivation to read, particularly for ELs, serves as a catalyst for overcoming linguistic barriers and cultivating a positive attitude towards reading in a second language. Therefore, when Readership combines the science of reading with strategies to enhance motivation and provide opportunities for independent reading, they create a comprehensive approach that promotes literacy, empowering students, including English Learners, to thrive academically and embrace the joys of lifelong learning. This holistic approach recognizes that the sciences of reading are enriched when embedded in a framework that values motivation and the volume of reading, making it an invaluable tool for educators seeking to support diverse learners on their literacy journey.

Conclusion

Research confirms the crucial role of independent reading and motivation in reading achievement, leading to diverse benefits. Motivation and engagement are key predictors of success, with instructional efforts showing positive impacts. Addressing disparities in access to reading materials is crucial for equitable access. Recognizing these connections offers valuable insights for improving literacy outcomes for all students.

Enhancing Adolescent Literacy through Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

The synergy between Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and literacy is profound. Reading serves as a dynamic tool for both students and adults to nurture and apply SEL competencies within the safety of fictional realms. This learning deepens when readers engage in discussions about their literary journeys.

Defining SEL and Its Significance

SEL forms a critical component of adolescent literacy. Partnering SEL with literacy aims to take reading beyond a narrow focus on purely academic achievement. Instead, it emphasizes the comprehensive development of all aspects of a student's well-being: cognitive development with other areas of growth, emphasizing critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. This approach addresses the comprehensive developmental needs of children, encompassing social, emotional, cognitive, academic, physical, and mental well-being. SEL stands as a vital element in creating multi-tiered support systems to cater to every child's needs.

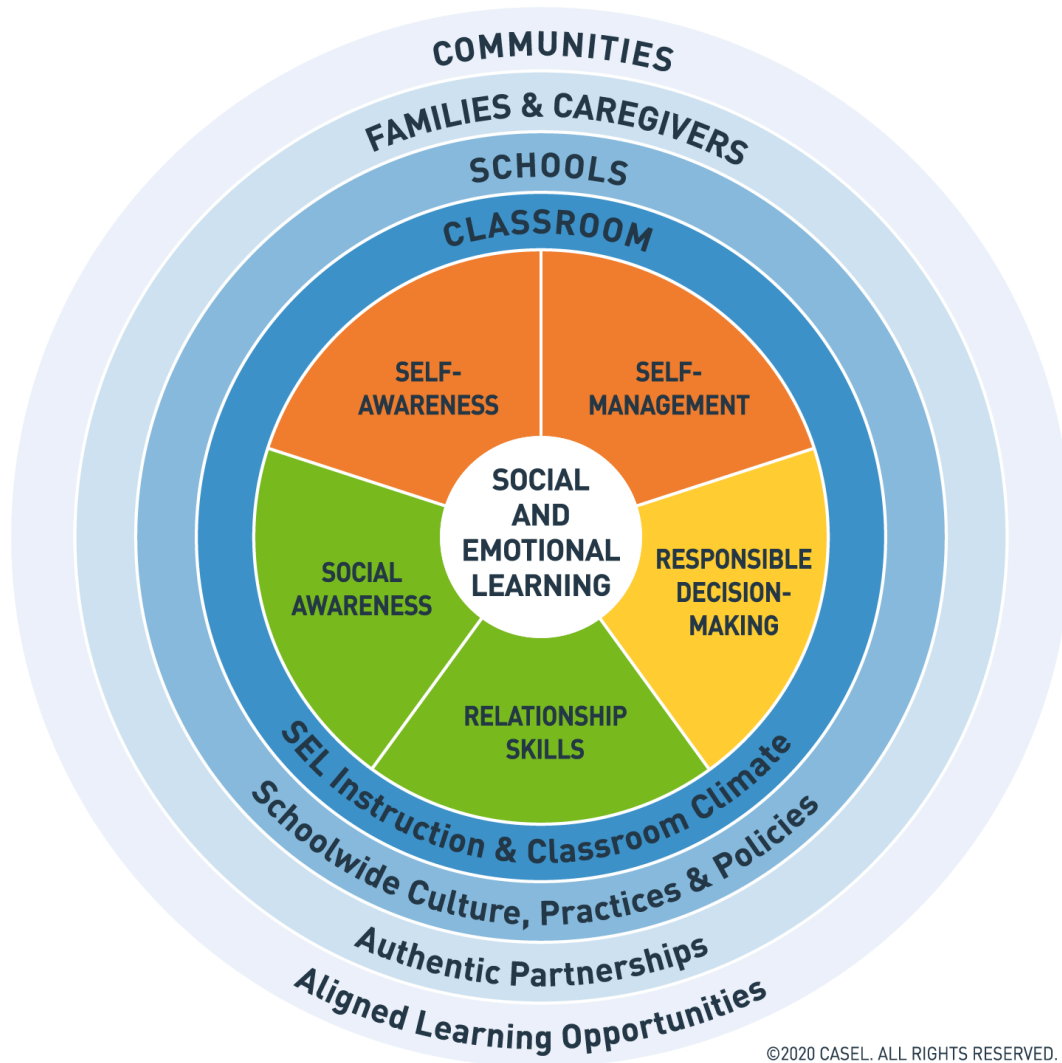
In every learning environment, SEL is indispensable for fostering a positive school climate, a key idea in developing a culture of literacy. It hones vital skills such as communication, goal-setting, empathy, and decision-making. These skills are crucial for building strong relationships, achieving success in school and work environments, and actively contributing to society.

The Impact of Literacy on SEL in Adolescents

Linking SEL with independent reading is particularly beneficial for adolescents. Choosing their own reading materials allows students to develop empathy by experiencing life through characters from diverse backgrounds. It aids in self-awareness and self-management by providing a reflective space for emotional regulation through diverse narratives. Moreover, reading broadens social awareness and enhances relationship skills by exposing readers to a range of social contexts and dilemmas. This exposure improves understanding of others. Additionally, reading presents complex situations that bolster critical thinking, aiding in the development of responsible decision-making skills.

The Role of CASEL and the Integration of Cognitive and Emotional Development

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), with California as an early adopter, has been instrumental in this field. The CASEL Framework illustrates how the five SEL competencies (knowledge, skills, and attitudes) are central, surrounded by methods to enhance these competencies, and contextualized within a broader educational framework.



Learning is not solely "academic" or "social and emotional." Rather, students develop increasingly complex skills through the integration of cognitive, social, and emotional growth. The brain's architecture, comprising trillions of connections, evolves through experiences that fortify and reorganize these connections, thereby enhancing efficiency and specialization. This development is not isolated; it's structurally and functionally integrated. For instance, the brain's processing of written words and its engagement in conversations about these words are interrelated functions.

Support for integrated learning extends beyond neuroscience. Numerous independent studies consistently demonstrate the benefits of social-emotional learning for students, reinforcing the importance of integrating SEL with academic pursuits like reading.

SEL Enhances Comprehension and Empathy

When teachers integrate Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) into literacy instruction for adolescents, it significantly enhances students' comprehension skills and empathy. Literature naturally provides a window into diverse perspectives and experiences, allowing students to empathize with characters from various backgrounds and situations. This experience is crucial during adolescence, a developmental stage where understanding and relating to others' emotions is key. By discussing characters' motivations, conflicts, and resolutions, students develop a deeper understanding of the text and a greater capacity for empathy. Such discussions also offer opportunities to apply SEL competencies like perspective-taking and emotional regulation, making literary experiences more meaningful and relevant to their personal development.

SEL Fosters a Culture of Literacy

Incorporating SEL into literacy for adolescents helps create a more positive and inclusive classroom environment. Adolescence is a time of significant social and emotional change, often accompanied by heightened sensitivity to peer opinions and a strong desire for social belonging. When SEL is embedded in literacy instruction, it nurtures a classroom culture where students feel safe to express their ideas, opinions, and emotions. This approach encourages respectful listening and sharing, critical for healthy classroom discussions. Moreover, it provides a structured way for students to practice SEL skills such as effective communication, conflict resolution, and collaborative problem-solving. Such a nurturing environment not only supports better academic outcomes but also promotes a sense of community and belonging, which is vital for adolescents' overall well-being and engagement in learning.

Navigating the Challenges of SEL Discussions in Literacy

When integrating Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) into literacy, educators may encounter the apprehension of facing uncomfortable or overwhelming student disclosures. It's crucial to have an empathetic response prepared for these moments, such as, "I appreciate your openness in sharing this with me. That sounds incredibly challenging." In such situations, it's vital to rely on your support network, including social workers, school counselors, and psychologists. These professionals are equipped to delve deeper into the issues students may reveal. A student's willingness to share significant personal experiences is a testament to the safe and trusting environment you've cultivated. It indicates a meaningful connection and a reliance on you as a source of support. While it's natural to feel momentarily uncomfortable in these situations, remember that this discomfort can be a catalyst for providing the essential assistance a student may need.

It has been an extraordinary journey to partner with CalHope and Readership as we jointly champion the enrichment of Social-Emotional Learning and Literacy, a partnership that has illuminated the path to literacy development and the all-round personal advancement of our students.



Readership Strategies



- 25 strategies or activities
- Formative assessments
- Written in the form of lesson plans with mini-lessons
- Include teaching points, examples, EL language prompts, and sentence frames.
- Standards-aligned
- SEL Connections
- Many of the plans also have links to video examples and teacher slide decks.

We hope these are helpful as you create a culture of literacy in your classroom!

Alphabox Template: <https://bit.ly/48MtM1X>

Title: Alphabox
Writers have a genuine love for language. Each word is like a tool with a specific job, and they collect them to use in future writings. Writers select their words carefully, with intentionality. One strategy to help students develop the habit of noticing words and collecting them for future use is the Alphabox.
Strategy Description
The Alphabox is a powerful way to mine words from fiction or informational texts. It uses the 26 letters of the alphabet and gives students one place to record intriguing vocabulary or concepts about a topic or theme. The Alphabox serves as a graphic organizer and a fun way to mine vocabulary words.
Standards
CA.ELD.P1.7-12.1 Exchanging ideas, group discussions, negotiating with others, listening.
Anchor Standard: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas: CACCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
CACCSS.ELA.L.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
CACCSS.ELA.L.6 Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension.
CASEL Domains
Self-awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helps build upon a student’s linguistic assets ● Links feelings and values to word choices ● Can develop an interest in the beauty of language and word choice

Interacting with other people is particularly beneficial for our cognitive performance. It forces us to compare our perspectives with those of other people and helps us see things from a different angle. Additionally, researchers found out that during Scrabble, visual word recognition makes use of a different area of the brain during lexical decisions. This strengthens cognitive performance.

Prompts

“Today, as you read, you will come across words the author strategically and intentionally chose to include in the text. Writers do not randomly plop down a word but ruminate over word choice. Words hold powerful meaning, connect to feelings, and can convey beautiful fluidity when read aloud. So, as you read, consider words the author seemed to select with purpose. In the 26 boxes of your Alphabox, collect these words by writing each word in the box with the corresponding first letter in the word. You will write several words in each box, and other boxes may end up staying empty. The patterns that emerge are an interesting notice all on their own.”

After you read, reflect upon the words you selected - what patterns emerged? What do you notice about the words you chose - are they verbs? Nouns? Adjectives? Which words do your friends also record in their Alphabox? How can you use these words in future conversations or writings?”

Language Talk Frames

“I selected the word ____.”

“The reason I thought the word ____ was interesting is because...”

“A word similar to (Name’s) is ____.

“A recent word I read was ____.”

“My list of words is comparable to (Name’s), but I also included the words ____.”

“I notice many of the words I selected are (nouns/proper nouns/adjectives/verbs).”

“The pattern in the words I see is...”

Strategy

During reading, students pause and record an interesting word in their Alphabox. For example, if the word “analytic” stands out to the reader as unique and intriguing, the student can choose to write this word in the “A” box on the Alphabox. Simply the word and nothing else is recorded. The word “resonate” would be recorded in the “R” box. Then, the student carries on with their reading. Afterward, students can reflect upon their words and share with peers, affirming and expanding their word list. These words can be used for vocabulary activities, defining, as a word bank for future writing, or to be embedded into academic conversations.

Examples

Alphabox

A acknowledge articulate	B bolstering	C	D doom	E eradicating	F
G	H hefty hopelessness	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R
S sustainability sprawl	T	U underpins	V	W wrestle	XYZ

Alphabox

The Text: The Midnight Library

A astonishment atypical asides apprehensive affirmation	B bookshelves breathlessly bespectacled	C catastrophic cheer coloration	D depression disappeared decisive
E envisions Elm	F fuzzy fusion flickered	G glaciology grandeur gasped	H hypochondriac
I invisible intricate idiot improviser incommunicado inundated irreversible	J jigsaw	K kaleidoscopic	L library lives
M Midnight meaningless momentary mediocre miraculously mused monologue	N Nora	O overthinking outstretched	P philosophy presumably parallel pagan permissive plateaus portals perpendicular
Q quantum quest quaint	R regret responded reluctant	S suicidal silhouettes schmoozing spiritual sentimentality	T Thoreau thinking
U universe	V Voltaire vlogger	W walrus	XYZ

Supports learning in other content areas

Figure 1 Alphaboxes in earth science

The Book: Earth Science

A ash atmosphere anthracite aa	B basalt beaches	C Crest cone compos. Hc clouds continental drift	D divergent boundary deposition decay dinosaurs diamonds
E Earth erupt earthquake erosion extinct	F fault fossil Fossil fuel	G geysers jems granite	H hot hardness Hawaii
I Igneous Ice	J Jagged Jetty Jewelry	K kinetic Kinetic energy	L limestone luster lava layers
M mantle magma minerals metamorphic	N nature new land	O Ozone	P Pangea Plants
Q quartz quakes	R rocks rock cycle	S shield streak sediment seismograph sedimentary	T tides tsunami tectonic plates tornadoes
U underground volcanoes volcanic	V volcanic volcanic volcanic	W weathering Waters	XYZ extreme extra zig zag Yellowstone

Extension

Students can get into small groups and compare their Alphaboxes. This can take place either at the end of the day, week, or unit. Students can create a Scrabble Board with their words, finding ways to display the greatest number of words possible. This helps readers focus on multisyllabic words, say new words repeatedly, and take in a new perspective.

Alphabox Template:



A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	XYZ

Handout Talk Frames: <https://bit.ly/48pbELL>

Title: Because- But- So (BBS)

This powerful sentence activity from *The Writing Revolution* is what has become known as *because-but-so*. It's a great illustration of how a simple exercise can require analytical thinking. The content of *because-but-so* will drive the rigor of the activity. When you adapt the activity to the content, make sure that your students have enough knowledge to complete the activity with depth. This activity will not only prompt students to think critically and deeply but also give them practice with new vocabulary words.

Strategy Description

Students take a short independent clause and expand upon it using each of the three conjunctions: "because", "but", and "so." Students will begin with a sentence stem (the beginning of a sentence) and turn it into three separate sentences using each conjunction in turn. One sentence including "because." Repeated with the conjunction, "but." Last, the sentence with the conjunction "so." This strategy requires students to engage in more specific and more focused thinking than simply responding to an open-ended question. Have students practice the activity orally before trying it in writing.

Standards

CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.1

Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

ELD.PII.6

Connecting ideas/clauses

CASEL Domains

Responsible decision-making

Prompts (example)

What emotions are conveyed in the poem?

How do these emotions align with the struggles the character faces?

Language Talk Frames (example)

The emotions conveyed in the poem align with the struggles faced by the character **because...**
 The emotions conveyed in the poem align with the struggles faced by the character **but...**
 The emotions conveyed in the poem align with the struggles faced by the character **so...**

Strategy

- Use material from the content you are reading (literature, non-fiction, poetry, etc.)
- Provide students with a Talk Frame and ask them to turn it into three separate sentences using each conjunction in turn.
- Have students orally share their three sentences with a partner.
- Have students write out their responses.

Examples

Because

“The poem reflects the experiences of the character because it delves into the theme of choices and their consequences as he stands at a fork in the road, metaphorically representing life’s choices.”

But

“The poem reflects the experiences of the character but also leaves room for ambiguity and multiple interpretations.”

So

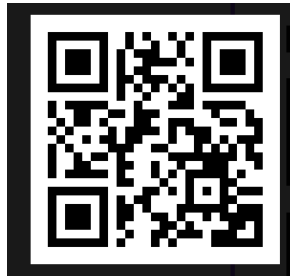
“The poem reflects the experiences of the character so as to evoke a sense of introspection in the reader, encouraging reflection on their own life decisions and roads taken or not taken, and the impact of these choices.”

Extension

You can modify this activity for different levels by giving the same talk frame but asking more advanced students to provide more depth in their responses.

Practice with subordinating conjunctions such as before, after, if, when, even though, although, since, while, unless, and whenever.

BBS Talk Frames Handout:



Writing and Discussion

BBS Strategy

Because But So

- The emotions conveyed in the poem align with the struggles faced by the character because...
- The emotions conveyed in the poem align with the struggles faced by the character but...
- The emotions conveyed in the poem align with the struggles faced by the character so...

- The author focuses on (the culture/social/historical element) in the poem because...
- The author focused on (the culture/social/historical element) in the poem but...
- The author focused on (the cultural/social/historical element) in the poem so...

- The poem reflects on the experiences of __ because...
- The poem reflects on the experiences of __ but...
- The poem reflects on the experiences of __ so...

- The words highlight (motif/identity marker) because...
- The words highlight (motif/identity marker) but...
- The words highlight (motif/identity marker) so...

- This poem sheds light on __ because...
- This poem sheds light on __ but...
- This poem sheds light on __ so...

Take a short independent clause and expand upon it using each of these three conjunctions: because, but, so.

Link to slides: <https://bit.ly/3uUnAXh>

Title: Blackout Poetry

Creative play with physical text is a century-old art in which artists and writers express thoughts through the interplay of words and images, known as collaging. This interplay ignited a love for language, encouraging writers to experiment with form and language simultaneously. Blackout poetry requires one to look at existing text in a new way, creating something entirely new from it. This process can be transformational and inspiring to readers.

Strategy Description

The nature of blackout poetry is to find and highlight unexpected or hidden messages within a pre-existing text. This can motivate readers to look for deeper meanings and insights. By blacking out most of the text, the remaining words stand out more. This simplicity makes the message more powerful and easier to grasp. Each reader can create and/or interpret a blackout poem differently, which can be empowering. It encourages readers to actively read and engage with the text and find their own meaning and motivation, producing an aesthetically pleasing kind of art.

Standards

CACCSS.ELA.W.6-12.10; CACCSS.ELA.L.6-12.6

CASEL Domains

Self-awareness, Social awareness.

Prompts

- “Today, we are going to explore a creative form of poetry called “blackout poetry”.
- “Each of you will work with one page of text, and your task is to create your own poem by blackout out words and phrases, leaving only a few words visible, which will form your poem.”
- “The challenge is to find new meanings and messages in the existing text.”
- “Remember, there’s no right or wrong way to do this; just create a poem from the text based on what you see in the words.”
- “Look for words and phrases that jump out at you or resonate with you.”
- “Let’s see what hidden messages and stories you can uncover on the page.”

Language Talk Frames

- “I noticed how you chose [specific words] in your poem. Can you tell me more about what these words mean to you or why you selected them?”
- “I really like the way you [mention a specific aspect, like the theme or emotions] in your poem. It made me feel/think about...”
- “I took a different approach with my poem by focusing on [specific theme/words]. How did you decide on the words you wanted to highlight? What was your process?”
- “What was the most challenging part of creating your blackout poem? I found it challenging [specific aspect of the process], and I’m curious about your experience?”
- “In my blackout poem, I chose the words [specific words chosen] because they show/mean ___ to me.”
- “In my poem, I used the words ___ to give a feeling of [state the feeling].”
- “Your poem makes me think about ___ because of the words you chose. It’s different than mine because I focused on ___. What do you think is the impact of our different choices on a reader’s understanding or feeling from reading our poems?”

Strategy

- Each student has a copy of one page of text - the text can come from the independent reading book, the whole class read, or a discarded book.
- Each student will create their own poem by blacking out words and phrases, leaving only a few words visible. These words will form a poem.
- With pencil in hand, skim the poem top to bottom, circling/underlining words that stand out or evoke a message or feeling, creating an idea.
- Read over the words to see if the idea is clear and makes sense, adjusting word choice so that the poem makes sense.
- Using a marker, black out the remaining words so that only the penciled words remain visible.
- Add a sketch or illustration in the borders for added impact.

Example

Clothes Like Spider-Man

I [redacted] want [redacted]
To look like [redacted]
just a kid, [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
I used to watch everyone else,
[redacted] their bodies
[redacted] unashamed.
I wanted to be [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
broad-shouldered
and muscle-armed.
[redacted] in perfect form,
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] all [redacted]
[redacted] on my own
[redacted]
[redacted] never [redacted]
[redacted] uncomfortable.
[redacted]
[redacted]



Extension

If pages are taken from a chapter in numerical order, you can have students perform their poetry in small groups. Ask students to stand in page number order and read the poems chronologically. Consider the message heard while listening to the unique poetry.

If students read the same poem and each created their own blackout poem to the page of text, ask students to stand and read their poems aloud. Consider the unique messages heard based on the words chosen by each student.

Students can discuss their poems using the language frames to grow a deeper understanding of the process and creative avenues each student took while designing their poems.

Blackout poetry can also be done digitally, where students blackout via the highlight color of choice to leave the remaining words of the blackout poem visible.

Whiteout poem - using white-out instead of black ink to cover up words - any color will produce cover-up poetry.

Cut out poetry - students cut out words/phrases and glue them on paper, forming a poem.

Map out poetry - students circle and draw a path from word to word, connecting ideas on the page. Number the order of steps. When complete, the path resembles a trail that someone might walk and forms a poem.

Blackout Poetry Slides:



This strategy was shared by Margaret DoCanto from Oak Valley School.

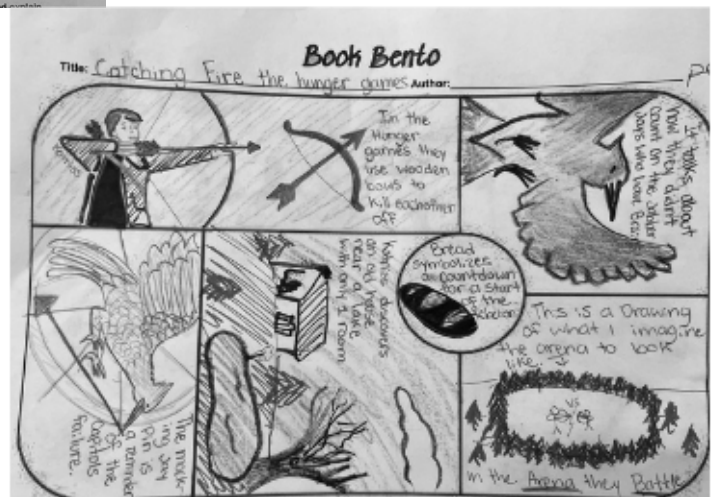
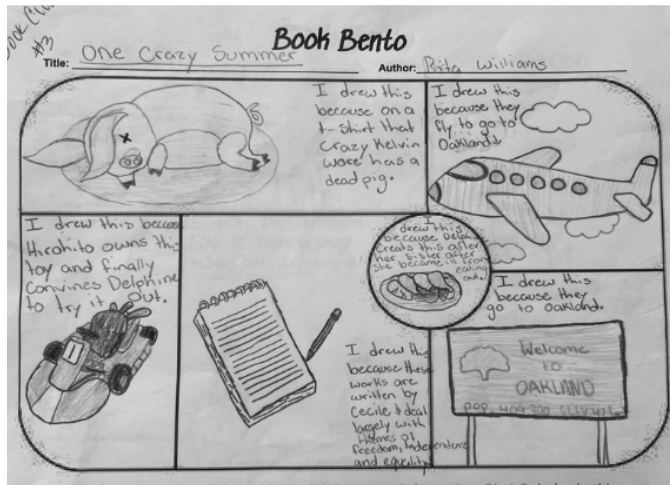
Title: Book Bento
<p>A Book Bento Box transforms the solitary journey of reading into a shared tapestry of imagination, where each object is a thread weaving deeper connections between text, reader, and the world beyond the page.</p> <p>To enhance the reading experience by combining visuals in a creative process, a Book Bento Box is a possibility. In this activity, students will select six objects that hold meaning and represent something in the book they are reading and display the items in the Bento.</p>
Strategy Description
<p>Students are asked to draw or glue on (from magazines or anywhere else) six objects that hold meaning or represent something in the book. The display of items should relate to the book's themes, characters, setting, or a significant event that happened in the story. Students then have to explain the object they choose and why it is meaningful to the story. They are asked to consider the background, spacing, placement of objects, and variety of objects as they create a neat and well-organized display.</p>
Standards
<p>CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.2 ELD.P1.1.ELD.P1.5</p>
CASEL Domains
<p>Social Awareness and Responsible Decision-Making</p>
Prompts
<p>Tell me about your Bento Box. What items did you include that connect to the characters? Why did you include the words and phrases you chose? What do the drawings represent in your Bento Box?</p>
Language Talk Frames
<p>My Bento Box has _____ I included _____ about the character</p>

Some words I thought were interesting are _____
 I chose to illustrate this section of my box with _____

Strategy

- Choose a text to read (an independent reading book or a class read)
- Start out with a template for the Bento Box
- Give students directions as to what you would like included on the Bento Box.
- Consider modeling how to fill in a template with the necessary elements as a practice lesson.
- Have students add descriptions to each section of the Bento Box.
- Tell a partner about your Bento Box and the choices you made.

Examples



Extensions

- Students can make a digital version- retrieve images online and use creative fonts.
- Students could use real objects and glue them onto the Bento.

Template 1 link: <https://bit.ly/3ROZh4J>

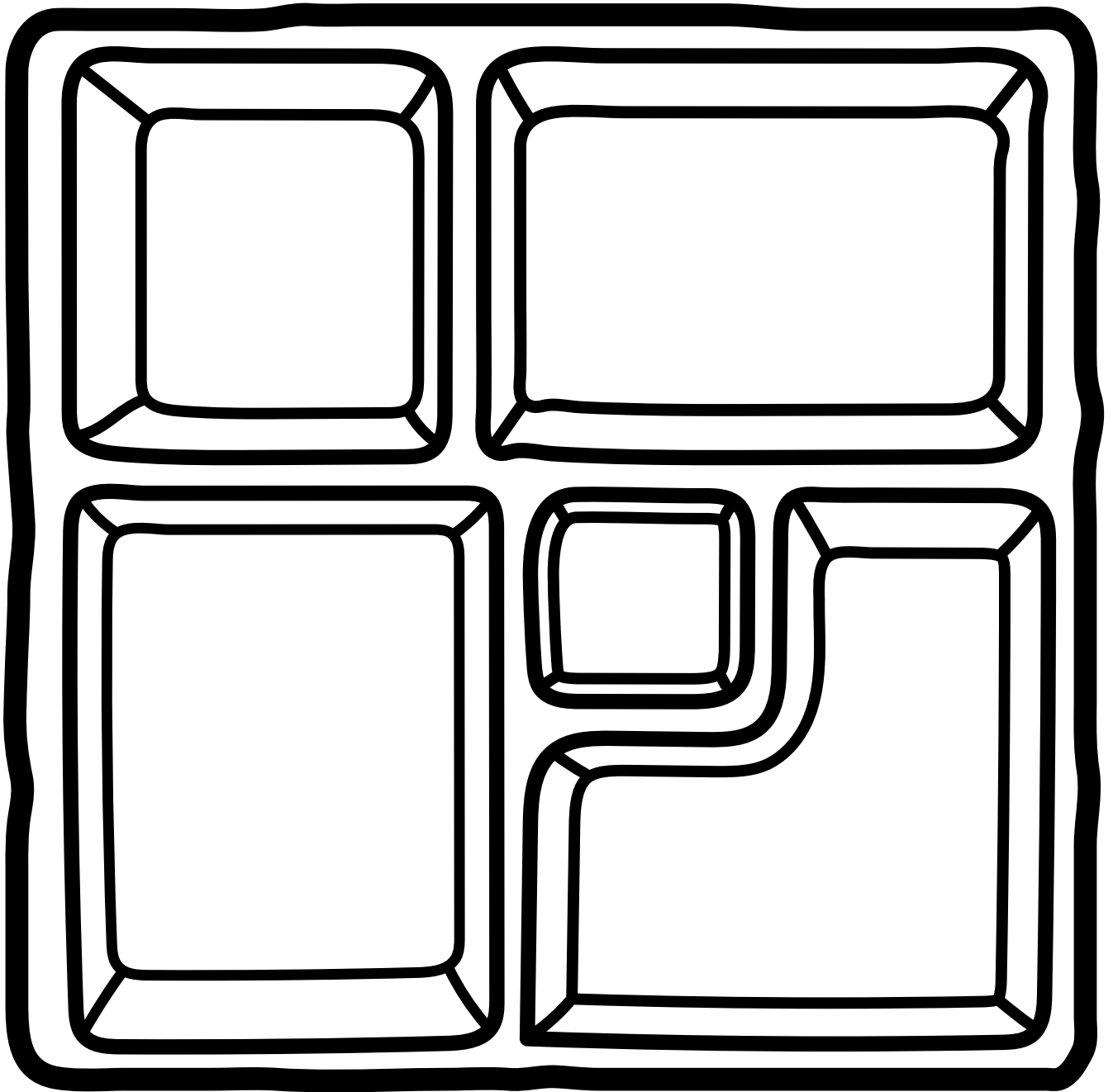


Template 2 link: <https://bit.ly/3tOFP04>



Book Bento

Book Title: _____ Author: _____



BOOK BENTO

Title:

Author:

The form is a large rounded rectangle with a thick black border. It is divided into several sections by internal lines. A vertical line runs down the right side, starting from the top edge and ending at the bottom edge. A horizontal line runs across the top, just below the top edge. A horizontal line runs across the middle, just above the central circle. A horizontal line runs across the bottom, just above the bottom edge. A central circle is positioned in the middle of the form, overlapping the middle horizontal line. The top-left and bottom-right corners of the rectangle are rounded.

Book Club Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6ZyEOMkzy4>

Title: Book Clubs
Book clubs offer a dynamic, student-driven approach to literacy and learning. Students collectively read the same book and take ownership of their reading experience by setting team reading page goals, team agreements, and team activities throughout the reading, thus fostering a sense of autonomy and engagement.
Strategy Description
The structure of book clubs emphasizes teamwork as students set team agreements and reading goals and check in once a week with team members. This approach not only enhances their reading skills but also nurtures essential social and communication skills. Furthermore, mini-lessons provided by the teacher ensure that students are not only enjoying their reading but also developing critical skills that meet educational standards, preparing them for academic success.
Standards
All CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12 standards can be touched upon during Book Clubs
CASEL Domains
Self-awareness, Self-management, Social awareness, Responsible decision-making, Relationship skills
Prompts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “While reading independently, identify a central theme in the book and be prepared to discuss with your team how the author develops this theme through the characters and events.” • “As you are reading, analyze a character from the book. Pay close attention to their motivations, strengths, and weaknesses, and track these elements in your reading notebook. Bring your notes to the team meeting so you can grow each other’s learning.” • “A talk point your team might want to explore is: How does the book reflect real-world issues or events? As a team, discuss any parallels you see between the book and real life, and share your thoughts on the author’s perspective on these issues.”

- “As you read independently, pay close attention to decisions the characters make while interacting with one another. Identify a controversial decision or event in the book. Jot this down in your notebook so that you can discuss it when your team meets.”
- “Jot down literary devices such as symbolism, metaphor/similes, alliteration, or foreshadowing the author includes.”

Language Talk Frames

“I think the central theme is ____, and the author develops this by...”

“This theme relates to my life because...”

“I chose to examine the actions of [character] because...”

“Their actions contribute to the story by..., and this shows...”

“This book reflects real-world issues like ____.”

“The author seems to be saying ____ about this issue.”

“I agree with the character's actions/decision because...”

“I noticed the author’s writing creates a mood/tone of...”

Strategy

Organizing the class to conduct successful book clubs involves careful planning.

- First, select the books you want to offer to the class. Consider genres and authors to cater to varied interests.
- Book talk each book option so that students hear what each book is about and can select their top picks.
- Students can complete a survey showing their book interest.
- Create book groups/teams as identified from the book interest, keeping each book club to around 4-6 students.
- Allow the students to meet in teams to get to know the members better and create a group “Book Club name.”
- Ask students to skim their book choice, identifying the number of chapters and pages.
 - Teams will then create a reading schedule identifying the number of pages to be read by each team check-in.
- The teacher will establish a regular meeting schedule (once per week), allowing students to share and grow their learning with their book club.
- The teacher can also set up a virtual book club check-in via Google Docs, Slides, or another avenue so that students can communicate outside of school huddles.
- During book club huddles, encourage open and respectful discussions where all members feel comfortable sharing their thoughts.

- Consider adding literacy activities (daily mini-lessons), such as emotion timeline or character compass, so that students can focus on standards-aligned skills while reading the books.
- During team huddles, offer book-related activities for each team to learn deeper, such as author videos, book trailers, and theme/issue-related informational texts (digital or in print). These additional reads should affirm or stretch the group’s learning in the book.
- Create an end-of-book culminating activity, such as having each book club create a trailer for the book. This trailer might be a digital format in which the images, music, voice-over, and information shared spark interest in reading the book without giving too much away. The teacher can set up a rubric so that each book club knows the parameters.
 - During the presentation of book club trailers, the listeners can evaluate the book trailer based on the rubric, offering compliments and suggestions.

Following these evidence-based examples can help create vibrant, engaging, and enjoyable book club experiences for readers of all levels.

Extension

- Write the author - Book Clubs can compose one letter to send to the author of the book - sharing what they liked about the book, questions that are resonating, and appreciation for the work.
- What’s My Line - Book Clubs can act in character (2-3 characters from the book and the author), sit in a panel discussion, and share the context of the book from their perspective.
- Themed Gatherings: Host meetings related to the book, dress in attire related to the character(s) in their books, or decorate a corner of the room thematically connected to the setting and theme of the book.
- Expressive Art - Encourage members to express their interpretations of the book through art, poetry writing, or other creative projects.
- Virtual Field-trips - Book clubs can create a virtual map of locations relevant to the book, such as a museum, historical site, or city/state local setting, and include digital realia as if taking a tour of the book.

- **Literary Debates:** Organize characters on themes, characters, or decisions within the book to encourage critical thinking and engagement. Members of the debate would respond to questions from the perspective of the character in the book.
- **Book Reviews:** Book clubs can write book reviews similar to ones shared on social media sites such as Good Reads to foster a culture of discussion and critique.
- **Social Media Engagement:** Create a Facebook/Instagram/Social Media page for the fictional character - book clubs can create a paper copy of what this social media site might look like, including friends (based on characters or other people who would connect with the character), social media posts based on happenings in the plot with comments on the posts, and images the character might share.

Book Clubs Video:



Title: Book Talks

If book access is not an issue but books are stagnating on your shelves, you should try Book Talks. A teacher-led Book Talk is the tool you need to motivate your students to pick up a new book! You are the best model for your students, and Book Talks that are done well can encourage students to try something new and venture into unknown genres.

Strategy Description

Book Talks involve the teacher researching a book and planning an engaging but short presentation of the book that includes just enough information about the book to hook students who might want to read it. This strategy can be woven into your schedule as a weekly or daily book invitation.

Standards

CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.10
ELD.P1.1.5

CASEL Domains

Self-awareness, Self-Management, Responsible Decision-Making

Prompts

Would you read this book?
Is this a book genre that you have tried?

Language Talk Frames

I would like to read this book because _____
I would not like to read this book because _____
I have tried this genre before, and I _____
I have not tried this genre before, and I _____

Strategy

Book Talk Essentials (modified from Book Love by Penny Kittle, page 60)

- **Hold the Book:** Introduce the book to the students by showing the cover, showing the number of pages, and telling them if it is written in prose, poetic verse, or a graphic novel.
- **Know the Book.** Tell them whether you have read it or not, and explain why you chose to introduce this book. Did someone recommend it to you? Did you watch a movie? Did the cover attract you? Give a quick summary of the book's theme, conflict, or details in a minute or so (tasting) without spoiling it for future readers. Suggest connections to other books/genres they might have read by making connections to genres and authors. For instance, "If you like books by this author..." or, "If you like adventure stories," or "If you like this genre..."
- **Read a Short Passage:** Select the passage ahead of time. "Hearing the voice of the text sells the book and sells kids on reading."
- Give students time to talk about the book and whether they are interested in reading it or not. Use prompts for those who need it.
- **Keep Records:** Add your book to a Book Talk document and take a quick tally of how many kids are interested in reading the book after hearing about it by a show of thumbs up or hands up. Note the number on the shared doc.
- **Accept Help:** Ask your librarian or colleagues for book talk information on books they have read. Look for good book talks or book trailers online that can help you to prepare. It is always more impactful if you have read the book and your passion shines through!
- Remember how important you are! Teachers' recommendations that come from genuine excitement about the books they are reading will ignite passion in your students.

Examples



<https://bit.ly/ColbySharpGZ> (YouTube-Colby Sharp Channel)

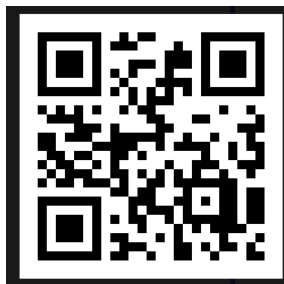
Extension

Invite guest readers to do a Book Talk to the class following the guidelines. (Preview the book title first!)

Have students plan a Book Talk and present it to a small group or the class after finishing a book. Students can also record the book talk on FlipGrid or another video platform.

Students can do quick Book Talks with partners to summarize their books up to their current place in the book. Some teachers give the students time to write a few notes or graphics before sharing and give them prompts to guide the discussion.

Make a Google Form
(Example: <https://bit.ly/3RReBhm>)



Book Talk Reflection Tool

Did this Book Talk spark your interest to read the book?

Please reflect on the impact of this book talk by answering the following questions.

1. Name:

2. Was this a book you have seen or read before the book talk?

- Seen, but not read
- Read before
- Neither seen nor read before
- Other:

3. How likely are you to read this book now that you have experienced this book talk?

- Interested
- Not interested

4. What sparked your interest the most? Check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- Hearing a portion of the book read aloud
- The topic of the book
- The characters in the story were relatable
- Read other books by this author or in this series
- It looks like a book that will challenge my reading and/or thinking
- It seems to be a book that is not too difficult for me to read.
- Other:

5. This book talk would have been better if...

Book Tasting Menu Examples: <https://bit.ly/3tNg0NP> and <https://bit.ly/48uXhWi>

Title: Book Tasting
<p>Book Tasting is a premium space to provide classroom time to self-select and be exposed broadly to a large number of varied books. Research shares that one major cause for the difference between fluent readers and struggling readers is the difference in the amount of time spent reading AND book access. Book Tasting is a fun way to encourage students to engage with new genres, authors, and styles they may never have chosen otherwise.</p>
Strategy Description
<p>Book tasting is a teaching strategy that is often used to introduce students to a variety of books and help them choose books that they will enjoy reading. Research shows that one major cause for the difference between fluent readers and struggling readers is the amount of time spent reading. Book tasting is similar to the concept of food tasting, where people try small samples of different dishes to decide which ones they like.</p>
Standards
<p>CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.10; CACCSS.ELA.RI.6-12.10 ELD.P1.1.5</p>
CASEL Domains
<p>Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Responsible Decision-Making</p>
Prompts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do you think you are interested in reading this book? ● Have you read other books by this author? ● What about this book is different from other books you have read? ● How is the book like other books you have read?
Language Talk Frames

- I think I would be interested in reading this book because...
- I have/have not read other books by this author.
- This book is different from books I usually read because...
- This book is similar to books I read because...

Strategy

To use the book-tasting strategy:

- The teacher prepares a selection of books that the students have not read before. These could be books from a particular genre, books on a certain topic, or books by a specific author.
- The teacher then sets up a "book tasting" space where students sample each book for a brief time and decide if that book is a good fit for them.
- During the book-tasting session, students try out different books, read the first few pages, and make notes about what they like or dislike about each book.
- They can also discuss the books with their classmates and share their thoughts and opinions.
- As an outcome of the book tasting, students can share books they'd like to continue reading or add to their next read list.

Examples

BOOK 1	BOOK 2	BOOK 3
Title _____ Author _____	Title _____ Author _____	Title _____ Author _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a quick preview, what is your interest level in reading this book?? (Low) 1 2 3 4 5 (High) • Have you read other books by this author? If so, what did you think? • Using the table of contents, dig into one part that seems interesting. Thoughts: • Does this book support your goals for your classroom this school year? Yes No • Do you have colleagues that have talked with you about this book? Yes No • After diving in, what is your interest level in reading this book?? (Low) 1 2 3 4 5 (High) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a quick preview, what is your interest level in reading this book?? (Low) 1 2 3 4 5 (High) • Have you read other books by this author? If so, what did you think? • Using the table of contents, dig into one part that seems interesting. Thoughts: • Does this book support your goals for your classroom this school year? Yes No • Do you have colleagues that have talked with you about this book? Yes No • After diving in, what is your interest level in reading this book?? (Low) 1 2 3 4 5 (High) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a quick preview, what is your interest level in reading this book?? (Low) 1 2 3 4 5 (High) • Have you read other books by this author? If so, what did you think? • Using the table of contents, dig into one part that seems interesting. Thoughts: • Does this book support your goals for your classroom this school year? Yes No • Do you have colleagues that have talked with you about this book? Yes No • After diving in, what is your interest level in reading this book?? (Low) 1 2 3 4 5 (High)

Book Tasting

Welcome to the literary café! As you explore the books laid out for you, please jot down a few notes on the books you like the best. You'll have a few minutes with each book. Look at the cover, read the short teaser on the back or inside cover, and scan the first page or two. Your goal is to discover at least three new books you'd like to read.

Book :

What I like about it:

Stars out of five:

Book :

What I like about it:

Stars out of five:

Book :

What I like about it:

Stars out of five:



Extension

Book “Speed Dating”. Start with a mixed selection of books on tables and have students rotate from table to table as follows:

- **First minute**—Choose a table. Start looking through the books in the stack.
- **Second minute**—The “first impression.” In the second minute, students should take time to really look through the books at their tables. No reading yet, though!
- **Minutes 3-5**—Start reading the book. If the book is short stories, poetry, or nonfiction, they can start reading at any point that interests them. If it is fiction or otherwise necessary, start with the first chapter. This should be completely silent. They have only three minutes to “get to know” this book and see if they want a second date.
- **Minute 5**—If the student likes a book speed date, they keep it with them. They will still explore the other books and can always “throw that fish back in” if a better book comes along. Or they could just check out both of them! It’s great if you can give your students a record sheet to write down their thoughts about their book date.
- **Switch tables!**—You can allow students to choose any table they want, but they should not stay at one table for more than two rotations.

- **Book Tasting Video:** <https://bit.ly/3RuYBSW>



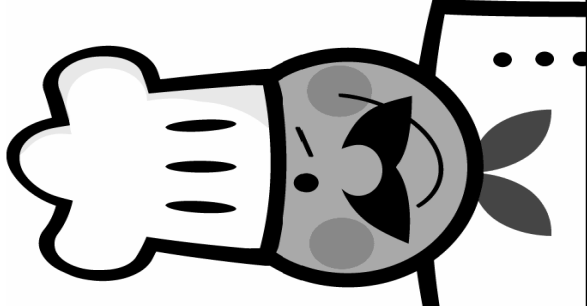
<i>Appetizer</i>	<i>Main Course</i>	<i>Dessert</i>
<p>_____</p> <p>Name of book</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Name of book</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Name of book</p>
<p>Is the cover interesting?</p> <p>😊 😞</p>	<p>Is the cover interesting?</p> <p>😊 😞</p>	<p>Is the cover interesting?</p> <p>😊 😞</p>
<p>Read 3 pages of the book.</p> <p>What is it about?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Read 3 pages of the book.</p> <p>What is it about?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Read 3 pages of the book.</p> <p>What is it about?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>What are some challenging words you found?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>What are some challenging words you found?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>What are some challenging words you found?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Would you check this book out? 😊 😞</p>	<p>Would you check this book out? 😊 😞</p>	<p>Would you check this book out? 😊 😞</p>
<p>Who would like this book?</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Who would like this book?</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Who would like this book?</p> <p>_____</p>

Directions:

1. Pick a book from the library that looks interesting to you
2. Fill out the first section of the menu about the book.
3. When time is up, select another book and fill out the next section. Repeat for the last section as well.
4. When your menu is filled in, please fill in a Featured Selection Card to tell others about your favorite book!

*Thank you for joining
our Book Tasting!*

*We look forward to
having to back again
soon!*



*Book Tasting
Menu*

*This Tasting Menu was
completed by:*

in _____ grade.

Featured Selection

Title

Author

My Rating:



My Favorite Part:

Three horizontal dashed lines for writing.

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for writing a review or notes.

Featured Selection

Title

Author

My Rating:



My Favorite Part:

Three horizontal dashed lines for writing.

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for writing a review or notes.

Book Tasting One

Title of book:

What do you think of the cover?

Read the book jacket (inside and back) and the first 3 pages of the book. What is the book about?

What type of reader would like this book?

Rate this book (it's okay to have two or 3 number ones!)

1 2 3

Book Tasting Two

Title of book:

What do you think of the cover?

Read the book jacket (inside and back) and the first 3 pages of the book. What is the book about?

What type of reader would like this book?

Rate this book (it's okay to have two or 3 number ones!)

1 2 3

Book Tasting Three

Title of book:

What do you think of the cover?

Read the book jacket (inside and back) and the first 3 pages of the book. What is the book about?

What type of reader would like this book?

Rate this book (it's okay to have two or 3 number ones!)

1 2 3

Title: Book Stacks
Book Stacks are a powerful way to help students discover new books as they develop a lifelong love of reading. Similar to book talks, it involves presenting a stack of books to students instead of just one. By presenting various titles at one time, teachers can share their enthusiasm for reading and introduce students to a wide range of books they may not have known about otherwise. Best of all, book stacks are an easy activity to do with just a few minutes of preparation.
Strategy Description
You can easily prepare for a book stack presentation by taking a few minutes to research each book, watch a quick trailer, read the cover, and thumb through the pages. Simply jot down some notes on Post-its and place these on the back of each book. Then, you'll be ready to share your book stack with students. This simple and efficient preparation process will ensure that your book stack presentation is engaging, informative, and inspiring for your students.
Standards
CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.10; CACCSS.ELA.RI.6-12.10 ELD.P1.1.5
CASEL Domains
Self-Awareness and Social Awareness
Prompts
Would you be interested in reading one of these books? Have you read any books from this genre before? Are you interested in trying a book from a new genre?
Language Talk Frames
I would be interested in reading _____ because _____. I would not be interested in reading _____ because _____. I have read books in the _____ genre, and I enjoyed them because _____. I have not read books in the _____ genre. I would like to/would not like to try reading a book in this genre because _____.

Strategy

- Choose 4-6 books that you want to introduce to your students. Try to vary your genres and incorporate titles that the students may not have seen before.
- Take a few minutes to thumb through each book. Read the back, the inner jacket, a quick review, and perhaps watch a trailer. Jot down a few main points that you would like to share on a sticky note for each book. Stick the note to the back of the book (tip: back of the book so that you can read the note while you hold up the cover of the book for all to view).
- Get your passion on! Become animated and enthusiastic as you share each book in a quick spurt. Prepare to smile and engage students as you present each book in a 30-60 second introduction.
- Have students discuss the books with partners after the book stack presentation to decide if they would like to give one a try.
- Motivating students is the key to promoting a culture of literacy for adolescents, and it's up to us as teachers to figure out how to entice them to try something new! The book stack strategy is a fun way to expose students to a diverse range of books and genres!

Examples


BOOK STACKS

- 1

Choose 4-6 books that you want to introduce to your students. Try to vary your genres and incorporate titles that the students may not have seen before.


- 2


Take a few minutes to thumb through each book. Read the back, the inner jacket, read a quick review, watch a trailer. Jot down a few main points that you would like to share on a sticky note for each book. Stick the note to the back of the book.


- 3

Get your passion on! You need to be animated and enthusiastic as you share each book in a quick manner. Prepare to smile and engage them as you present each book in a 30-60 second introduction.


- 4

Have students discuss the following questions:
 Would you be interested in reading one of these books? Have you read any books from this genre before? Would you be interested in trying a book from a new genre?



Keep track of the books you introduce. Note how many students are interested in reading the books after each book stack presentation on a chart or Google table. Display pictures of the covers and have sign-ups for interested readers.

Extensions

- Keep track of the books you introduce. Note how many students are interested in reading the books after each book stack presentation on a chart or Google table.
- Display pictures of the covers and have sign-ups for interested readers.
- Change up your book stacks based on the class interest in genres

Book Stack Video: <https://bit.ly/4a57c69>



Title: Character Archetypes

Character archetypes play a vital role in fostering a profound understanding of literature and enhancing the art of storytelling. They can be found across various forms of artistic expression, including literature, poetry, drama, and film.

Strategy Description

This strategy approach will involve students delving into the concept of character archetypes, exploring prevalent examples, and breaking down the process of character archetype analysis into manageable steps.

Standards

CACCSS.ELA.RL.11-12.3

CASEL Domains

Social Awareness

Prompts

- What statement(s) or action(s) lead to a shift or advancement in the events of the story?
- Analyze what is revealed about the character by the events or dialogue of the text.
- What decision is provoked by _____ incident?
- How does character motivation reveal the complexity of the character?
- What are the character's motivations? Are they conflicting with other characters? If so, how?
- How are the character's motivations developed over the course of the text?
- Which interactions between characters contribute to the development of the theme?

Language Talk Frames

Emerging:

- In the story [Title], I think [character] did [action], and that's when things started to change.
- From the story [Title], I see that [character] is [adjective] because [event or dialogue].
- In the story [Title], when [specific incident] happened, [character] decided to [action].

- I think [character]'s motivation in [Title] shows that they are [adjective] because [reason].
- In [Title], [character] wants [motivation A], but sometimes they also want [motivation B], which can make things complicated.
- As I read [Title], I can see that [character]'s reasons for doing things change because [reason].
- In [Title], when [character A] talks to [character B], it helps us understand the main idea that [theme].

Expanding:

- In [Title], the turning point occurs when [character] takes [action], which causes a significant change in the story's progress.
- Through the events and dialogue in [Title], we can see that [character] is [adjective] because [event or dialogue].
- In the story [Title], the [specific incident] prompts [character] to make a pivotal decision, influencing the story's direction by [action].
- [Character]'s motivations in [Title] reflect their complex nature, showing that they are driven by more than just surface desires. For example, when [character] [motivation example], it underscores...
- In [Title], [character] grapples with conflicting motivations. On one hand, they are driven by [motivation A], but on the other hand, they also have a strong desire for [motivation B], leading to...
- Throughout the text, we witness the evolution of [character]'s motivations. Initially, they are driven by [initial motivation], but as the story unfolds, they experience a shift towards [evolved motivation], demonstrating...
- The interactions between [character A] and [character B] significantly shape the theme of [Theme] in [Title]. For instance, when [describe interaction], it highlights the theme's development by...

Bridging:

- In [Title], a critical turning point occurs when [character] takes [action], which triggers a substantial transformation in the narrative's progression.
- By examining the events and dialogues in [Title], we can discern that [character] possesses a complex personality, as evidenced by [event or dialogue].
- In the narrative [Title], the occurrence of [specific incident] compels [character] to make a pivotal decision, which significantly impacts the story by [action].
- [Character]'s motivations in [Title] unveil the intricate nature of their character, demonstrating that their driving forces extend beyond surface desires. For example, when [character] [motivation example], it underscores...

- In [Title], [character] grapples with conflicting motivations. While they are propelled by [motivation A], they also harbor a strong inclination for [motivation B], resulting in...
- As we progress through the text, we observe the evolution of [character]'s motivations. Initially, they are motivated by [initial motivation], but as the story unfolds, they undergo a transition toward [evolved motivation], revealing...
- The interactions between [character A] and [character B] play a pivotal role in shaping the theme of [Theme] in [Title]. For example, when [describe interaction], it accentuates the theme's development by...

Strategy

Strategy Overview:

Explore different character archetypes in literature:

1. Read/View the text completely
2. Identify key character(s)
3. Determine the archetype of the character(s) by:
 - a. Examining their characteristics, character arc, role
 - b. Considering archetypes with similar traits

Strategy Step-by-Step:

Step One:

Teacher will introduce and review various character archetypes in literature. Hint: the more archetypes are presented, the easier it will be for students to recognize them in the text and analyze their similar traits.

Step Two:

Character arcs are developed throughout the text. Therefore it is important to read the text completely. Examining a portion or chapter provides only a glimpse of the character's personality at that specific moment, while the entire text presents a comprehensive portrayal of the character(s). It allows the reader to see the character(s) growth and development.

Step Three:

Identify the key character(s) in the text. The character(s) directly linked to the plot whose actions directly affect the plot. Consider villains, heroes, love interests, sidekicks, etc. Not secondary characters who linger in the background. Secondary characters (or tertiary characters) serve a function but do not directly impact the plot like key character(s).

Step Four:

Determine which archetype a character(s) is based upon. This is where students apply their knowledge of archetypes found in literature. It is important that students consider the following features of their character(s):

- Characteristics: These encompass elements of a character's identity, such as personality traits, values, morals, beliefs, backstory, context, and appearance.
- Character Arc: This pertains to the trajectory a character follows from the story's outset to its conclusion.
- Role: Consider how the character influences the narrative. It's useful to contemplate how the storyline would be affected if the character were absent, aiding in understanding their significance in the plot.

Once students have considered the features of their character, they will use the information to determine an appropriate archetype. Some character(s) will fit into the archetype easily and other character(s) may borrow some characteristics from different types.

Examples

Character	Characteristics	Character arc	Purpose
Maleficent	Black horns Black costume Big wings Scowl and menacing look Compassionate Protective	At first, appears to be evil, placing a curse on Aurora and the King's land. Her backstory shows she was betrayed by the King and was acting out of anger. At the end, she restores peace between forest and human kingdom.	Protagonist - Attempts to resolve the complication
Aurora	Innocent Naive Kind Loving Saved by Maleficent Strong and brave	Starts at the beginning appearing innocent and naive. In the end, she grows courageous and brave.	Aurora is a key element in the complication. She is cursed to fall asleep until her true love's kiss awakens her.

Extension

Determining the Significance -

The purpose is to dig deep into the meaning of archetypes and their significance.

Step One:

Consider ideas that are usually associated with the archetype identified for the character(s) and how they are similar/different from those portrayed by the character(s).

Step Two:

Create coherent and logical connection to the themes and messages conveyed in the text. For example, consider in what ways the struggle between good vs evil is conveyed best through the portrayal of the main character as a villain while also giving them heroic qualities.

Step Three:

Allow students to write a paragraph expressing their understanding of the main character(s) characteristics, archetypes, character arc, purpose, and connection to the theme.

Heart Template: <https://bit.ly/3Sd7mBu>

Title: Character Compass
Stories with strong dialogue and impactful events can reveal character traits and aspects, giving an opportunity to analyze how individuals and events develop and interact over the course of a text.
Strategy Description
Students will examine the text with strong events and dialogue to build opinions and inferences about characters as they identify the heart of a character and decide upon advice to give the character based on the text (and companion texts).
Standards
<p>CACSS.ELA.RL6-12.3, Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.</p> <p>Target 5. ANALYSIS WITHIN OR ACROSS TEXTS: Analyze interrelationships among literary elements (e.g., setting, order of actions, characters) within or across texts or analyze and distinguish points of view within or across texts.</p> <p>ELA/Literacy Claim # 1 Students can read closely and analytically to comprehend a range of increasingly complex literary and informational texts</p> <p>ELD P1.1,5,6: Interacting in Meaningful Ways</p>
CASEL Domains
Self-awareness, Social Skills, Decision-Making, Relationship Skills
Prompts
<p>What does the text uncover about the character?</p> <p>What are the character's desires at this moment?</p> <p>What feelings can you infer he is experiencing?</p> <p>How should the character respond to this event?</p> <p>What future decisions would you suggest for the character?</p>

Language Talk Frames

- “The text reveals _____ about the main character.”
- “The text leads me to infer _____ that the character...”
- “It is my opinion that the character should...”
- “The character seems to be feeling...”
- “Given the circumstances, I believe that the character should...”
- “The character should _____ in the future.”

Strategy

- Practice the strategy with a shared text with an expert read aloud by the lead expert (you!)
- Give students think time: “The text reveals _____ about the main character.”
- Students write their thoughts down (on a sticky note or in a notebook) using prompts.
- Students share their thoughts with partners, then add to a heart poster or slide in small groups
- Bring in a companion text to bring more depth to the process
- Have students repeat the heart activity with the new information
- Give students think time: “What advice would you give the protagonist?” (from the excerpt) and have them write their thoughts down (on a sticky note or in a notebook) using prompts. “Given the circumstances, I believe that the character should...”
- Students share their thoughts with partners and add to the T-chart in small groups
- Bring in a companion text to bring more depth to the process
- Repeat the advice process with the new information

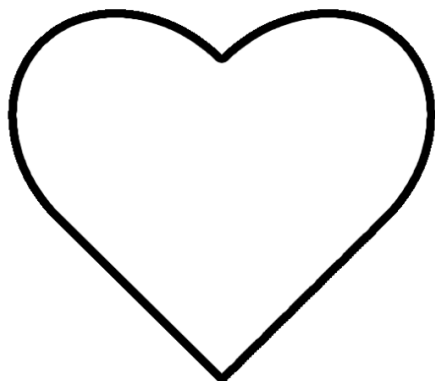
Next

- Repeat the process for the antagonist
- Present to the whole group or do a gallery walk
- Consider how the author develops the relationship between the characters for further discussion

Examples

Template: <https://bit.ly/3Sd7mBu>

Heart of the Character



Advice for the Protagonist	Advice for the Antagonist

Extension

- Encourage students to use this strategy during independent reading and book club groups when strong dialogue is present
- Students can make the T-chart in their reading notebooks as a tool anytime it fits
- Encourage students to seek out companion texts to deepen their understanding of the characters and situations in the books they are reading
- Write in your notebook about the character's heart and motivations

ELPAC Connection: Read a literary passage and create questions and answers related to the shared story from the mini-lesson.

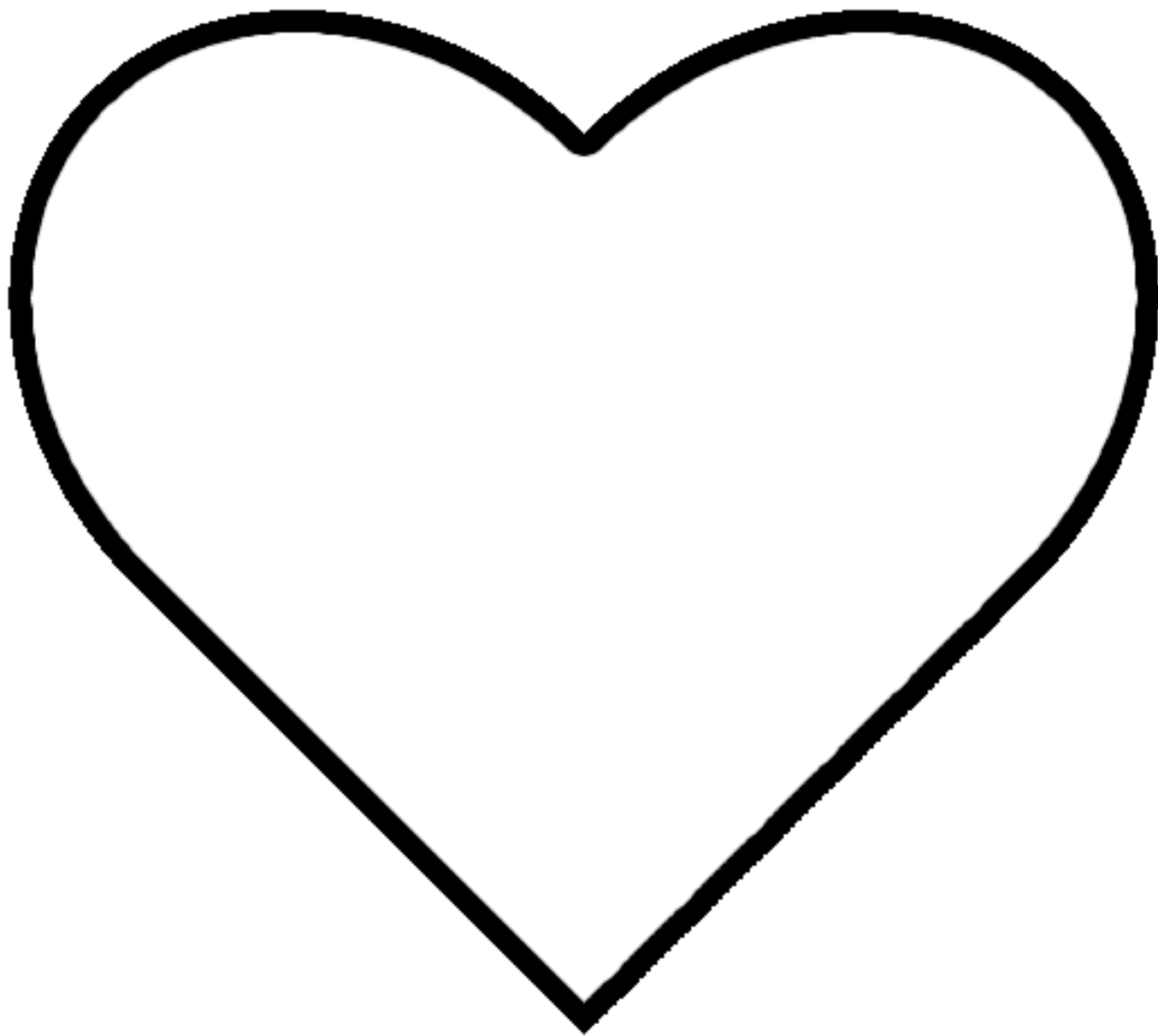
Talk Frames Bookmarks: <https://bit.ly/3Hb5mDI>



Slides: <https://bit.ly/4aOOxMm>



Heart of the Character



Advice for the Protagonist	Advice for the Antagonist

Character Compass

As you read, pause to make note of how strong dialogue and important events reveal character traits and important character interactions.

Questions to ask -- and possible language frames to use -- when we pause to think deeply about dialogue and events:

- What does the text uncover about the character?
 - "The dialogue here _____ makes me think the character..."
- What are the character's desires at this moment?
 - "The information here _____ helps me understand the character wants..."
- What feelings can you infer the character is feeling?
 - "I can infer from this part _____ that the character is _____ feeling..."



Character Compass

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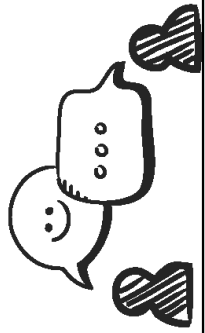


Advice for Character

Just as we paused to take note and identify character development through dialogue and important events, it is equally important to think about the advice the characters may need to get through the intense moments of the novel.

Questions to ask -- and possible language frames to use -- when we pause to think deeply about dialogue and events:

- How should the character respond to this event?
 - "I think the character should..."
- What future decisions would you suggest for the character?
 - "In the future, the character might..."

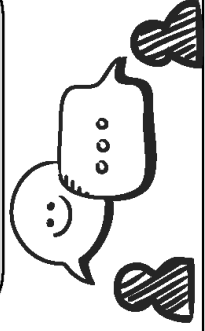


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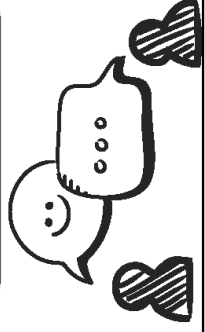


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 - "In the future, the character might..."



Character Template: <https://bit.ly/3TWK04p> Water Bottle Template: <https://bit.ly/3RSO03f>

Title: Dissecting a Character

Analyzing characters can be incredibly helpful for understanding your favorite story more deeply. By asking the right questions, analyzing characterization, and retaining curiosity throughout the reading, we better understand the qualities and traits of a main character. The purpose of a character analysis is to dissect the various intricacies of a character and their role within a story. This will help us comprehend their function in the story and how they change or do not change throughout the story. A character's function in a story is incredibly important to understand because it gives context as to why the writer made specific choices around the character, such as their goals, behavior, and even outward appearance.

Strategy Description

As you dissect a main character, be it protagonist, antagonist, foil, or mentor, as the teacher, you will set the stage:

- Create hype for this character analysis by making the project seem scientific and secretive. Perhaps greet your students at the door in your own science lab coat, protective eyewear, gloves, and mask. The only way that students are going to buy into this activity is because of you. Remember that you need to stay in character as a chief scientist. If you commit to your role, students will play along instead of just rolling their eyes.
- Keep the atmosphere serious and on topic. Have dramatic music or lab room sounds playing in the background, with a picture of a science lab displayed on your screen. As the head scientist, you will ask students to write the name of their character on their chart. Give each head surgeon a set of character autopsy prompts and have them distribute them to their staff.
- Students will conduct a thoughtful and poignant analysis of their character
- Allow the students to complete their character dissections by labeling each body part and adding textual evidence and analysis near that body part on the body outline.

Standards

CACCSS ELA/ELD RL 6-12.1; CACCSS.ELA/ELD RL.7-12.3; CACCSS.ELA/ELD.6-12.RI.1

CASEL Domains

Self-management, Responsible Decision Making, Relationship Skills, Social Awareness, Self-Awareness

Prompts

“You will complete a character dissection on one of the characters in the story you are reading. This is a thorough exploration of your character’s head, heart, mind, and all other facets of your character. You will place each quotation strategically on a sketched body outline. As you perform this lab, you will answer questions and find textual evidence (passages from the text) to explain your answer in the dissection of the body parts of the character.”

Language Talk Frames

“The character’s dreams/hopes/deeply felt thoughts are seen when he/she...”
 “It appears the character feels ___ because he/she wants to hide ___ from others.”
 “One of the character’s flaws is...”
 “One of the character’s strengths is...”
 “Movement impacted the character’s life because...”
 “In the future, I could see the character...”
 “It appears the character is burdened by...”
 “Others say the character is...”
 “___ is a song that connects to the character because...”
 “The song _____ represents the character’s life because...”
 “The character is impacted by the memorable sight of_____.”

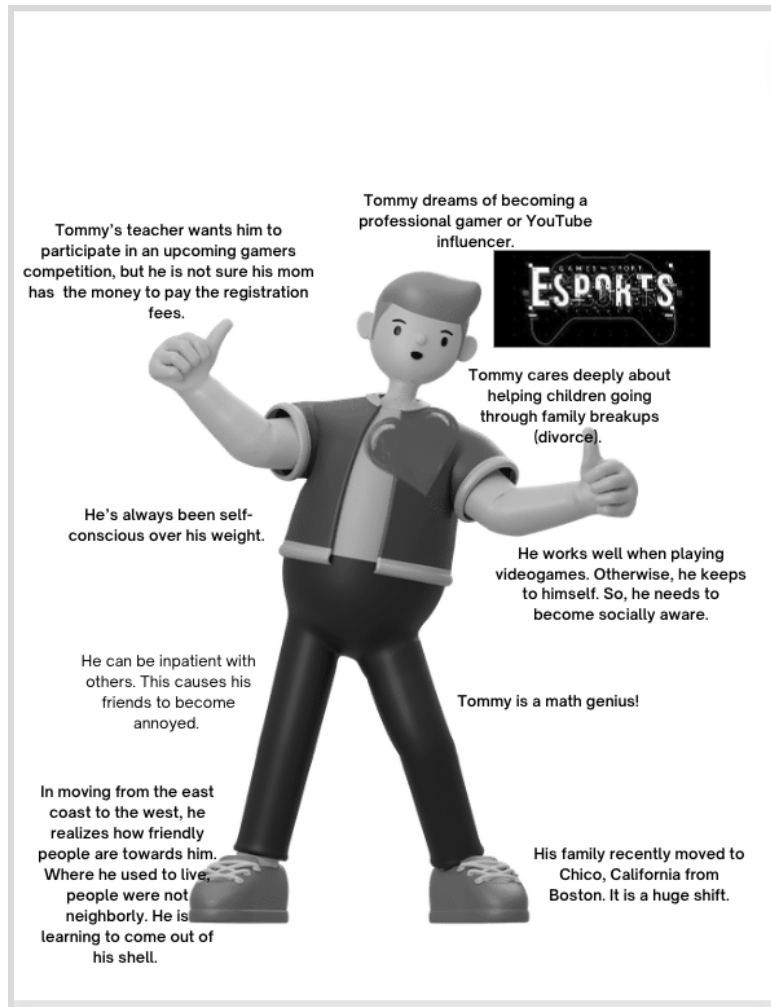
Strategy

Task (Teaching Prompt): “You will complete a character dissection on one of the characters in the story you are reading. This is a thorough exploration of your character’s head, heart, mind, and all other facets of your character. You will place each quotation strategically on a sketched body outline. As you perform this lab, you will answer questions and find textual evidence (passages from the text) to explain your answer in the dissection of the body parts of the character.”

- 1) Head - Intellectual side: What are the character’s dreams, hopes, or deep-felt thoughts?
- 2) Heart - Emotional side: What is your character’s motivation? (Love, Pride, Peace, Equity, Power, Personal Growth, Money, Humanitarianism, Justice, etc...) What fears affect him/her? What does he/she love? Whom? How?
- 3) Torso - Instinctive side: What doesn’t the character like about himself/herself? What does he/she want to hide from others? What brings him/her pain (emotional or physical)? What does he/she fear?
- 4) Legs -
 - a) Right Leg - Strengths: What is one of your character’s strengths?
 - b) Left Leg - Weakness: What is one of your character’s flaws?

- 5) Feet - Mobile side: Where has your character been (literally and figuratively)? How has movement impacted the character?
- 6) Surroundings - Future. Where is he/she going in the future?
- 7) Arms - Working side: How well does the character work with others in the story?
- 8) Hands - Practical side: What conflicts burden the character? How?
- 9) Ears - Hearing: What do others say about the character? How is he/she affected?
- 10) Mouth - Communication: What are his/her deeply held personal beliefs? What poem or song would symbolize his/her belief about life?
- 11) Eyes - Seeing: What memorable sights affect him/her? What memorable sights impact him/her?

Examples



[Link to example](#)



[Link to blank template](#)

Extension

Students could create a playlist of songs *the character* might enjoy listening to.

Students could create a playlist *for the reader* of the book - with music matching the chapter's sequence of events, setting, and plot.


Students could create a Character Water Bottle by creating three stickers and sketching them on the bottle, symbolizing the character's hopes, dreams, and burdens.

**CHARACTER
BOTTLE**

Name _____

Directions: Design 3 unique stickers to represent qualities of the character from your novel. Write 2-3 sentences explaining how the sticker represents your character's traits.

Sticker #1



Sticker #2

Sticker #3



Link to Slides: <https://bit.ly/3HfN1Fv>



Character Dissection

Tommy's teacher wants him to participate in an upcoming gamers competition, but he is not sure his mom has the money to pay the registration fees.

Tommy dreams of becoming a professional gamer or YouTube influencer.



Tommy cares deeply about helping kids going through family breakups (divorce).

He's always been self-conscious over his weight.

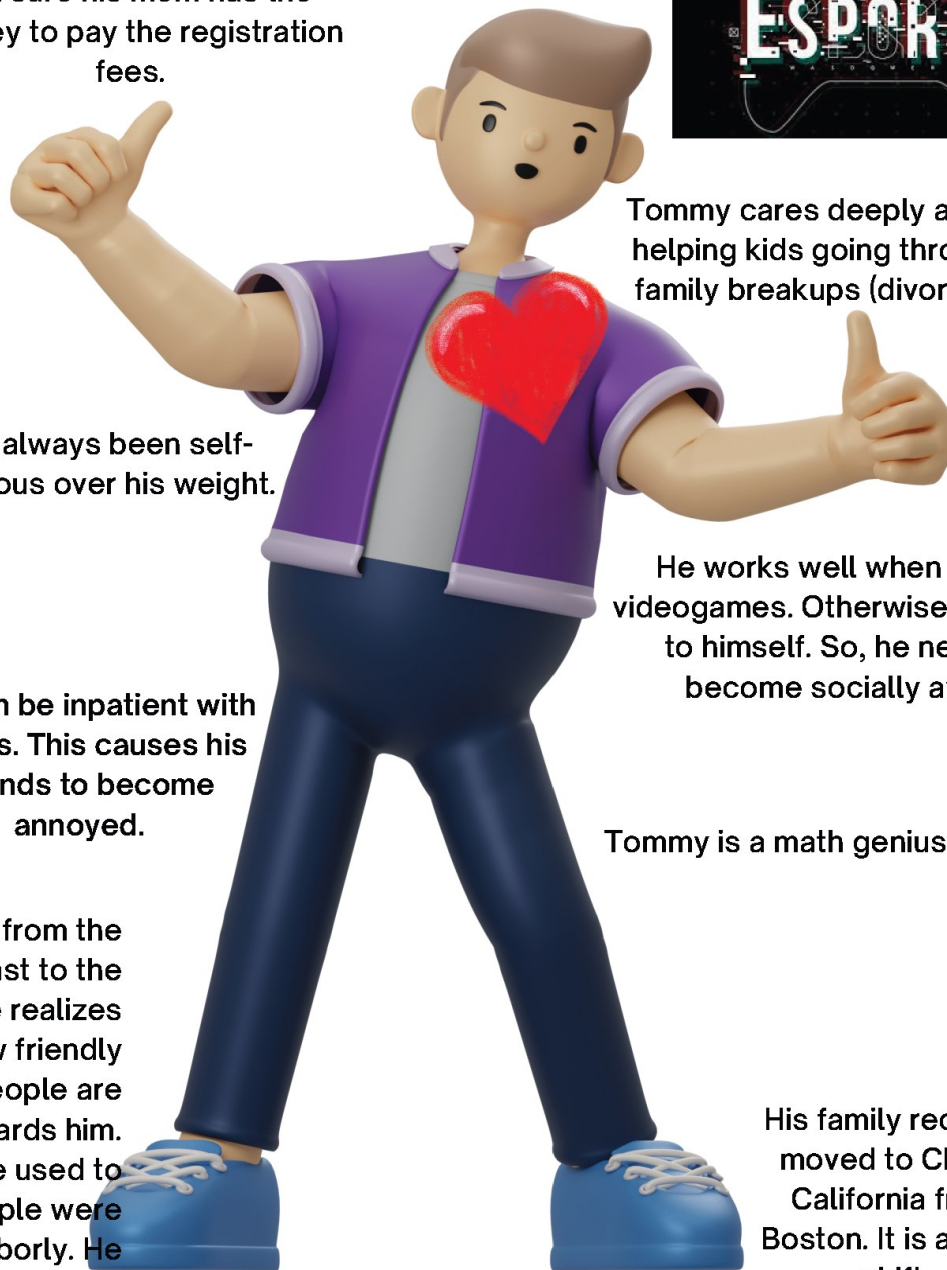
He works well when playing videogames. Otherwise, he keeps to himself. So, he needs to become socially aware.

He can be impatient with others. This causes his friends to become annoyed.

Tommy is a math genius!

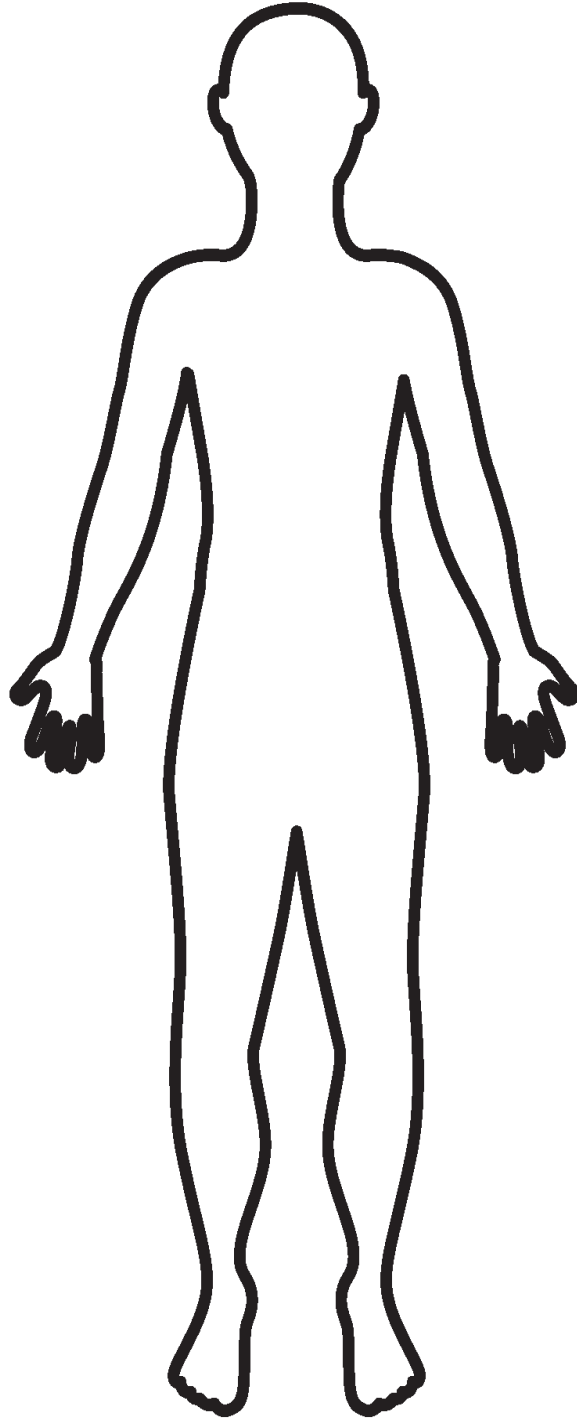
In moving from the east coast to the west, he realizes how friendly people are towards him. Where he used to live, people were not neighborly. He is learning to come out of his shell.

His family recently moved to Chico, California from Boston. It is a huge shift.



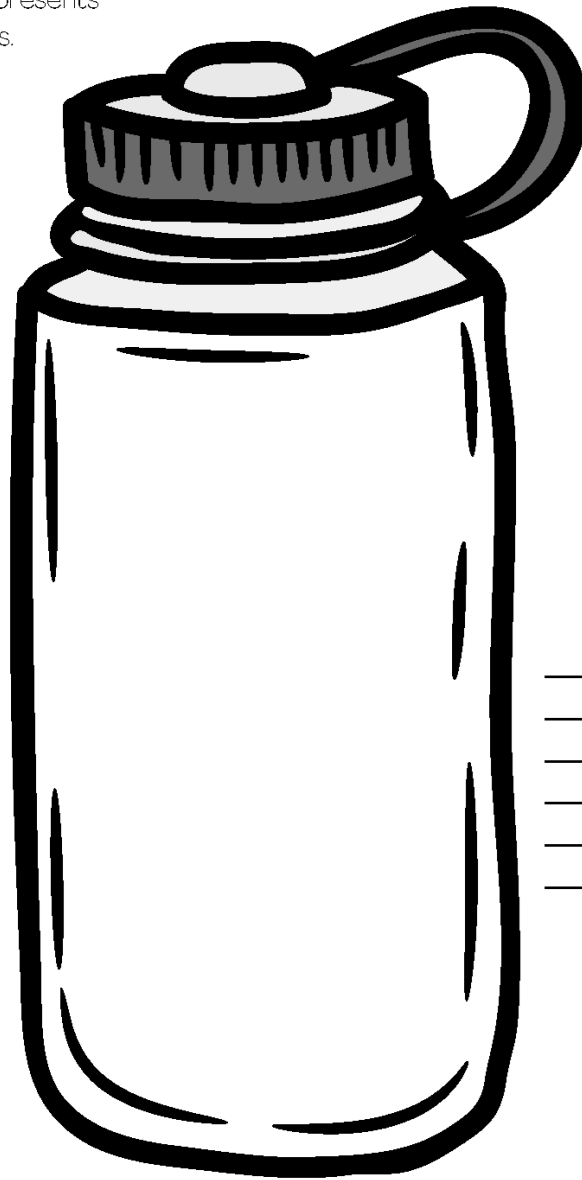
CHARACTER DISSECTION

Following the prompts given to you, write a statement by each body part to explain your character's motivations, strengths, weakness, etc. Add textual evidence and page number to support your thinking.



CHARACTER BOTTLE

Directions: Design 3 unique stickers to represent qualities of the character from your novel. Write 2-3 sentence explaining how the sticker represents your character's traits.



Sticker #1

Sticker #3

Sticker #2

Slides: <https://bit.ly/3RNmGVz>

Challenging Up the Progressions: <https://bit.ly/3vt2GOZ>

Empathy Interview <https://bit.ly/3SfqaAj>

Title: Conferring with Readers
<p>Conferring with readers serves as a crucial component in the realm of education and literacy development. It provides educators with the opportunity to engage in personalized discussions with students about their reading habits, comprehension, and interests. This one-on-one interaction allows teachers to understand each student's unique reading journey better, identify areas where they may need additional skill support, and tailor instruction to meet their individual needs. Additionally, these conferences motivate students by giving them a platform to express their thoughts and opinions on what they've read, fostering a deeper connection to the text and encouraging a lifelong love of reading.</p>
Strategy Description
<p>Conferring with readers is a way to individually advance a reader's skills.</p>
Standards
<p>CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.1; CACCSSELA.RI.6-12; CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.10; CACCSS.ELA.RI.6-12.10</p>
CASEL Domains
<p>Self-awareness, Responsible Decision Making</p>
Prompts
<p>Please see the slides for thorough examples and examples of prompts</p>
Language Talk Frames
<p>Please see the slides for thorough examples and examples of prompts</p>
Strategy

1. Prepare and Plan: Gather information about each student’s reading and peruse their reading notebook for successes and challenges.
2. Create a schedule to ensure regular and equitable conferring with each student (about three students in a ten-minute period, occurring daily).
3. Prepare a set of open-ended questions to get the student talking and prompts to guide the discussion.
4. While students are reading, go to each student, kneeling alongside (if possible) and pause their reading to begin a discussion in which you will ask an open-ended question about their reading, offer a compliment, and provide a teaching point-tip.
5. Listen actively - respond authentically to the student’s interests and barriers, offering positive thoughts about their reading and encouraging a next step.
6. Adjust goals and strategies based on student’s development.
7. Celebrate achievements and milestones.
8. Document and reflect - keep concise notes of each conference, including compliments given and tips suggested to students, as well as any goals set.

Examples

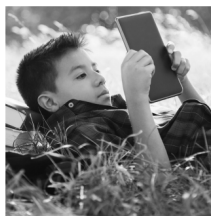
Grade 6 to 7

- Identify several pieces of textual evidence to support your analysis of what the text is saying.
- Analyze how the theme (or central idea) develops over the course of the text - by tracking it along the way.
- Can you stretch your thinking and determine two or more central ideas?
- Pay attention to how the setting shapes the characters. Does the character come from an unusual place - where some people would think him/her different?
- Are there particular events that might take place because of where the story takes place? Or, the time in which the story takes place?
- How does the weather impact the mood?
- How does the structure of the text contribute to its meaning?
- Think about how the characters have different points of view - how does the author develop this contrast?
- What do you notice about the interactions between characters?
- As you read from one event to the next, do you notice a pattern emerge?
- If student is reading a historical fiction) Do you notice how the author uses or alters history in the telling of the story?
- How do the words the author uses impact the tone - does the author feel positive/negative/neutral about the central idea? (informational texts)
- How does the way the author structured the text - sections/graphics/captions contribute to the development of ideas?



Grade 7 to 8

- From all the textual evidence you gathered, which is the piece of evidence that most strongly supports what the text is saying?
- Look at the relationship between the theme (or central idea) and the characters - how is the theme seen in the character's struggles?
- What do you see as the connection between the theme and the setting?
- Are there particular lines of dialogue that reveal an aspect of the character?
- Are their particular lines of dialogue that provoke the character to make a decision?
- Is there an incident in the story that reveals something new about the character?
- Is there an incident in the story that forces the character to make a decision?
- How does the author create suspense?
- Notice how the differences in characters' points-of-view create suspense/humor.
- If you've seen the film/movie version, did it stay faithful to the book version?
- Do you notice any traditional stories/myths/religious texts having a similar theme? Might the author draw from patterns of events or character types in these texts?



Grade 9/10 to 11/12

- Is textual evidence strong and thorough? Does the author write completely, covering every detail? What evidence feels incomplete?
- Notice how the central idea (or theme) of a text emerges. What made it apparent to you that this concept was the central idea/theme? At what point did you make your decision?
- Are there specific details that refine the theme?
- (Informational texts) Notice how the author examines the ideas and the order in which points are made.
- Notice how events are introduced and if there are connections to preceding events in the story.
- When thinking of tone, what would you say is the cumulative impact of the author's word choice?
- Were there foreseeable actions based on author's word choice?
- By what the author writes, how likely is it that a character (or person if informational text) could have anticipated the potential or actual results of their actions?
- Notice how an author's ideas or claims are developed by specific sentences you read.
- Notice how an author's ideas or claims are refined and precise because of specific paragraphs he has written.
- How does the author use rhetoric to advance the point-of-view?
- Can you identify specific rhetoric that speaks to logos, ethos, and/or pathos?



Ethos	Pathos	Logos
<i>Ethos'</i>	<i>Pathos'</i>	<i>Logos'</i>
Establishing personal credentials	Inspiring an emotional response	Argument based on reason and facts
Getting your audience to trust you	Getting your audience to feel	Getting your audience to think

Challenging Up the Progressions



Empathy Interviews



Slides

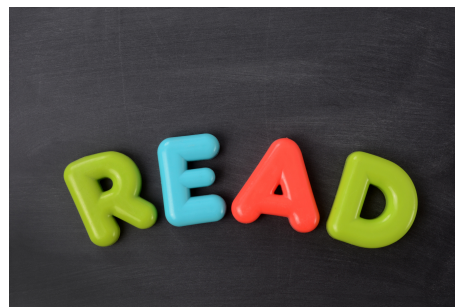


79 *Conferring* with Readers

Challenging Up the Learning Progressions

Grade 4 to 5

- As you refer to details and examples in the text, can you quote accurately from the text to explain what you are inferring?
- Can you identify two or more main ideas?
- What details do you think support the main idea(s)?
- How would you describe the relationships between two of the main characters?
- How would you explain the interactions between the characters?
- What is the connection between two ideas presented in the text?
- What specific information led you to understand the ideas in the text?
- Given two (or more) texts, what similarities/differences in the structure do you notice?
- Given two (or more) texts, what do you notice about the way the author structures the timing of events?
- Given two (or more) texts, what do you notice about the way the author structures key ideas?
- As you analyze multiple accounts of the same event (or topic), what important similarities in the point-of-view do you notice?
- As you analyze multiple accounts of the same event (or topic), what important differences in the point-of-view do you notice?
- What visual part of the text helps you understand the information more clearly?



Grade 5 to 6

- What do you think the text is about? What evidence in the text supports your thinking?
- Can you cite (or paraphrase in your own words) the textual evidence that supports what you think the text is about?
- Can you determine a central idea or theme of the text?
- How is the central idea conveyed through specific details?
- How would you summarize the information without inserting your own opinions?
- Can you explain how a key individual is introduced in the text?
- Tell me about the story line (plot)?
- Can you explain how an idea is illustrated in the text?
- Are there examples or anecdotes mentioned in the text that help someone understand the main idea?
- Have you discovered words or phrases that really stand out because they are beautiful/interesting and impact the tone/mood?
- What does the author do to help you understand and be able to analyze key events?
- Is there a particular chapter or scene that stands out as most important? How might this contribute to the theme?
- Did you notice any figurative language in the text? What do you think it means?
- Did you identify any technical words a reader will need to know the meaning of in order to understand the text?
- Identify a particular sentence that contributes to the development of the the ideas



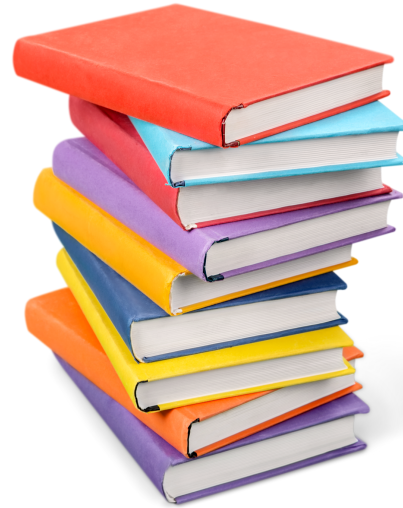
Grade 6 to 7

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- How do the words the author uses impact the tone - does the author feel positive/negative/neutral about the central idea? (Informational texts)
- How does the way the author structured the text - sections/graphics/captions contribute to the development of ideas?



Grade 7 to 8

- From all the textual evidence you gathered, which is the piece of evidence that most strongly supports what the text is saying?
- Look at the relationship between the theme (or central idea) and the characters - how is the theme seen in the character's struggles?
- What do you see as the connection between the theme and the setting?
- Are there particular lines of dialogue that reveal an aspect of the character?
- Are their particular lines of dialogue that provoke the character to make a decision?
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- If you've seen the film/movie version, did it stay faithful to the book version?
- Do you notice any traditional stories/myths/religious texts having a similar theme? Might the author draw from patterns of events or character types in these texts?



Grade 8 to 9/10

- Is textual evidence strong and thorough? Does the author write completely, covering every detail? What evidence feels incomplete?
- Notice how the central idea (or theme) of a text emerges. What made it apparent to you that this concept was the central idea/theme? At what point did you make your decision?
- Are there specific details that refine the theme?
- (Informational texts) Notice how the author examines the ideas and the order in which points are made.
- Notice how events are introduced and if there are connections to proceeding events in the story.
- When thinking of tone, what would you say is the cumulative impact of the author's word choice?
- Were there foreseeable actions based on author's word choice?
- By what the author writes, how likely is it that a character (or person if informational text) could have anticipated the potential or actual results of their actions?
- Notice how an author's ideas or claims are developed by specific sentences you read.
- Notice how an author's ideas or claims are refined and precise because of specific paragraphs he has written.
- How does the author use rhetoric to advance the point-of-view?
- Can you identify specific rhetoric that speaks to logos, ethos, and/or pathos?
- If reading a print version of a story that is also told in multimedia, try to notice which details are emphasized in print and which are emphasized in the different medium?
- When you think about specific claims/arguments in the text, identify false statements.
- When you think about specific claims/arguments in the text, identify fallacious reasoning - false/untrue/based on a flawed belief.



- Is textual evidence strong and thorough? Does the author write completely, covering every detail? What evidence feels incomplete?
- Notice how the central idea (or theme) of a text emerges. What made it apparent to you that this concept was the central idea/theme? At what point did you make your decision?
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Ethos	Pathos	Logos
<i>'Ethics'</i>	<i>'Pity'</i>	<i>'Logic'</i>
Establishing personal credentials	Inspiring an emotional response	Arguing based on reason and facts
Getting your audience to trust you	Getting your audience to feel	Getting your audience to think

Steps to Begin

- Seek specific past or present stories using the prompt: “Tell me about a time/moment when...”
- Follow up with “Why” or “Tell me more about...” (especially when interview expresses emotions)
- “What feelings did you experience in that moment?”

More...

- “Is there a time/moment when you did not experience that feeling while...(reading)?”
- Follow up with “Why is that?” or “Tell me more about...”
- Embrace silence. If you allow for silence, a person might reflect on what they’ve said and say something deeper

Extended Prompts

- Tell me a story about someone from your school or community who supported your reading life.
- Describe a proud moment of reading in a past school year. What happened?
- Tell me your three biggest reading strengths.
- Tell me about a time when you surprised your teacher with your reading accomplishments. How did that come about? What has happened since that time?
- Tell me about the last time you had to make a difficult decision with your reading. Why was it so difficult?
- Is there someone you admire as a reader? Why?
- What expectations does your school have for your reading?
- Who has been the most helpful to you when you have been reading? What did they do? How did that help you?

Slides: <https://bit.ly/48DJTiA>

Chart: <https://bit.ly/3HmAqjH>

Title: Defining Moments in Dialogue
<p>Defining moments in dialogue within a story is crucial to comprehension because they act as pivotal points that shape the narrative’s direction and character development. These moments reveal key character motivations, drive the plot forward, and encapsulate the themes and messages of the story. Understanding these critical exchanges helps readers grasp the underlying dynamics and the emotional depth of the story, enhancing their overall engagement and insight into the narrative.</p>
Strategy Description
<p>Students will read a text with the intention of isolating several “Defining Moments” in a novel or story in which dialogue or pivotal incidences are involved in propelling the action forward or revealing deeper characteristics of the main characters</p>
Standards
<p>CACCSS.ELA.6-12.RL1; CACCSS.ELA.6-12.RL3</p>
CASEL Domains
<p>Social Awareness, Relationship Skills</p>
Prompts
<p>Why is this scene/dialogue important?</p> <p>How does the dialogue propel the action forward or reveal deeper characteristics of the character?</p> <p>Collectively, how do these moments support (connect to) other story elements like the plot, conflicts, characters, setting, or themes? How do they affect the overall story?</p> <p>In what ways did the dialogue change the way you see the story or the characters?</p>
Language Talk Frames
<p>"This scene/dialogue is important because _____."</p>

"It propels the action forward by _____ and reveals deeper characteristics of the character, such as _____."

"These scenes collectively support other story elements like the plot, conflicts, characters, setting, or themes by _____. They affect the overall story by _____."

"It changed the way I see the story or the characters because _____."

Strategy

Directions:

- Students conduct a close read of the chapter or section of the text, annotating and highlighting scenes in which the dialogue is particularly rich or the incidents portrayed are symbolic or revealing.
- Students conduct an analysis of these key scenes and how they relate to other story elements (i.e. plot, conflict, character, setting, or theme)
- Students may note these interactions by writing, discussing, or creating a graphic organizer.
- Students will explain these connections and interactions in writing.
- Students may choose these “defining moments” and then creatively present their analyses to the class. Students may also use their work in this activity to prompt more formal paper topics.

Dialogue Analysis Chart

Setting/Scene	Key Dialogue	Importance	Character Insights/Action	Connection to Story Elements

Chart:



Examples

Dialogue Analysis Chart - The Giver by Lois Lowry

Setting/Scene	Key Dialogue	Importance	Character insight/action	Connection to story elements
Receives memory of pain for the first time	“It’s the choosing that’s important, isn’t it?”	Reveals the Giver’s motivation to impart wisdom of choice to Jonas.	Jonas must understand the responsibility and power in making choices as they truly define humanity.	Theme connection: Importance of choice and emotion in human life. Also, it is pivotal in Jonas’s character development, moving him toward the climax of the story.
Jonas asks his parents if they love him. His mother’s response is key.	“Jonas. You, of all people. Precision of language, please!”	This response reveals the community’s aversion to strong emotions. Her reaction underscores the systematic suppression of deep emotions and the importance of societal order through controlled language.	Highlights Jonas’s void and his growing awareness of what’s lacking in life and the lives of those around him. It propels his journey towards seeking deeper meaning and connection, questioning the values of his community.	Connects to the theme of suppression of individual emotions. Highlights theme of uniformity.

Extension

Writing to Comprehend

Students will choose several of their own “defining moments” and write about them *only* through the use of dialogue, conflict, or symbolic imagery, for example. This can be accompanied by a pre-teaching activity that highlights the difference between “showing vs. telling” in writing. When students practice the skill of writing without “telling,” they can bring a greater level of understanding and experience to their own close reading processes.

Slides:



Defining Moments in Dialogue

Setting/Scene	Key Dialogue	Importance	Character Insight/Action	Connection to Story Elements

Slides: <https://bit.ly/47ygk0A>

Title: Digital Scrapbook (Nonfiction or Fiction)

Reading and hearing about concepts is one thing, but having the opportunity to experience them firsthand is another entirely. Scrapbooks are a visual collection of experiences. They help solidify our understanding and provide a memento of real-world events to share with others. When students create a virtual scrapbook about their book (non-fiction or fiction), it reflects their understanding, reinforces concepts, and brings to light their understanding.

Strategy Description

A digital scrapbook is a strategy in which students identify and seek images of real-world examples via the internet to illustrate their book's concepts, key ideas, characters, and setting details. The creation of a virtual scrapbook results in a visual that demonstrates their comprehension of characters, relationships, settings, and events. Researching the places, events, and people adds to building student background knowledge. The images can be curated or created through an art medium to be embedded into a slide deck.

Standards

CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.1; CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.10; CACCSS.ELA.RI.6-12.1;
CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.10

CASEL Domains

Social Awareness

Prompts

- “Imagine you could photograph key places, events, or people from the book. Capture these images in your slide deck “scrapbook”.” (Use the internet to search for images)
- “How do your choices reflect your understanding of the book?”
- “How could these real-world experiences you captured and shared in the scrapbook reinforce someone’s understanding of the book?”
- “Are there cultural customs or traditions specific to the book that can be highlighted?”

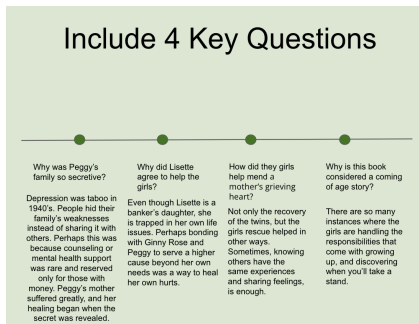
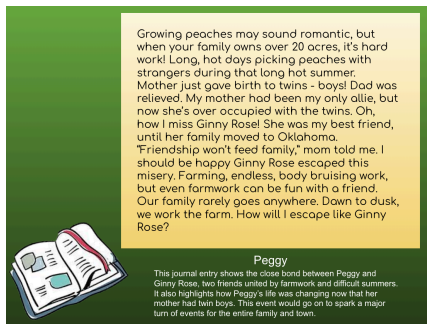
Language Talk Frames

- “This visual here ___ enhances my understanding of...”
- “This part ___ conveys the scene/time/experience when...”
- “To effectively communicate the character’s experience of ___, I chose ___ as a visual.”
- “This part ___ illustrates plot event ‘ ___ ’.
- “I included the detail/artifact/image of ___ to show...”
- The author’s description of ___ in this part “ ___ ” is the reason I included this part here...”

Strategy

- Read and make notices of key ideas and essential details by jotting notes.
 - While reading, students write down places described in the setting, such as the name of a city, a building, a historical marker, or a feature of the landscape's geographical details (i.e. mountainous, ocean, pond, desert). Students make a list of key ideas. They also identify important people (characters) and notice details and features that make these characters stand out.
- Students create a slide deck that illustrates important events, key ideas, concepts, and people in a “scrapbook”.
 - This slide deck will be a visual retelling through artifacts (images) and photographs of items important to understanding the plot events or the characters. Hyperlinks to real-world connections essential to the book (places, people, events) can also be included.
- Students research the places, events, and people to curate and create images. (See template)
- On one slide, they will create a sample of questions based on the book. Make sure the questions reflect important concepts or experiences in the book.
- On one slide, include a journal entry (be creative: letter to someone, newspaper article entry, diary entry to him/herself, ...)
 - Take the perspective of a main character or author and write a journal entry/news article that identifies internal and external conflicts identified in your reading.
- Hashtag trending concepts
 - Consider the timeline and key events. What elements might be trending?
 - Create three hashtags; each will highlight a key point in the text

Examples



Extension

- Gallery Walk of all scrapbook slide decks - Students will identify similarities and connections across books.
- Form small discussion groups to facilitate conversations about their findings within their scrapbooks.

Slides template:



Example:



Link to Slides: <https://bit.ly/3SegMgd>

Link to Example: <https://bit.ly/4aUpjMM>

Title: Character’s “Feelings” Timeline
Characters experience both positive and negative feelings just as we do, and these emotions and feelings often overlap or change quickly. Tracking and naming these feelings can help students identify changes in the character and predict actions, interactions, and behaviors.
Strategy Description
<p>Characters in our stories have feelings just like people in our lives have feelings. We can use specific words like worried, scared, angry, or disappointed to describe those feelings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will use this strategy to help us track positive and negative feelings that a character might experience throughout the story, • Name those feelings • Identify changes that are developing.
Standards
<p>Standards CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.3 Analyze how particular incidents in a story reveal aspects of a character or provoke a decision.</p> <p>ELA/Literacy Claim #1 Students can read closely and analytically to comprehend a range of increasingly complex literary and informational texts.</p> <p>Target 4 Reasoning & Evidence Make an inference or draw a conclusion about a text.</p> <p>ELD.P1.5</p>
CASEL Domains
Social Awareness, Self-Awareness, Responsible Decision Making, Relationship Skills
Prompts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the character’s feelings develop over the course of the text? • How does this event change the character’s actions/thoughts/behaviors? • How is the character different after expressing this feeling?

Language Talk Frames

- “This part ___ shows the character thinks...”
- “The part where the character feels ___ adds to the story because...”
- “This part ___ shows the character is feeling ___ and might change and become...”

Strategy

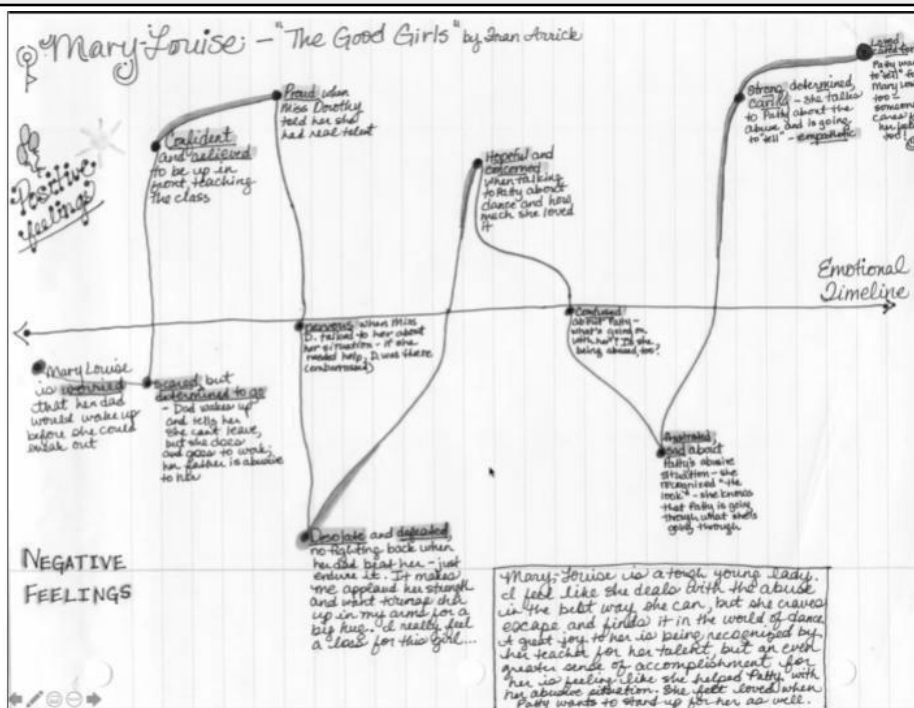
This is an appropriate strategy for independent reading partnerships and book clubs.

- As you are reading, pause when you read about a character’s feelings or experiences that cause you to react.
- Go to the “Feelings Timeline” and jot that feeling as either positive or negative
- Capture words and phrases from the text that show the feeling.
- At the end of your reading today, reread and reflect on the timeline jots
- State a word or phrase to describe the emotion the character might have been feeling at that point.

Using a Character’s “Feelings” Timeline

1.	READ	Read your text with an eye on how the character is feeling. As you read be on the look out for when your character has a feeling or experience that cause you to react.
2.	NOTICE	As you read, notice when your character seems to be experiencing strong emotions or are expressing a shift in how they are feeling about something that seems important.
3	PAUSE & JOT	When you begin to sense a change in the character’s emotions, positive or negative, pause in your reading. Jot a few sentences or a phrases from this place in your text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add these jots to your timeline. • Be sure to note chapter and page number
4.	RETURN & REFLECT	At the end of each days reading, return to the timeline “Jots” and “Reflect” on what the character was feeling at that moment. Select a word to describe the character’s feeling at that moment.
REPEAT Steps 1-4 Across the text adding to your timeline		

Examples

Example
Timeline of
character's
feelings

Extension

- Academic whole class conversations with students sharing the feelings that the characters in their books are experiencing to hear similar feelings associated with different events. Talking across books to analyze how two or more authors write about similar feelings in different ways.
- Write Found Poems using each line of feeling as a prompt to the line of poetry.

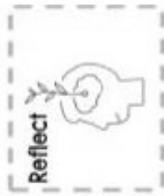
Slides:





Character "Feelings" Timeline

"Mia" from Front Desk by Kelly Yang



Resolute/confident

"It's going to be okay, I'll make friends, and if I don't, I'll borrow books from the library."

Chapter 8 page 38



Chapter 8
pg 38

Mia walked into classroom and noticed no one looked like her

Anxious
frightened

Chapter 9 Pg 44
Mia picks up the phone and hears Mr. Yoa yelling and calling her father an "idiot"

Defensive
Protective

Chapter 20
pg

Mr. Yoa yelled, "wait a minute, she's black. I thought I told you not to rent to bad people!"

enraged



Title: 14 Views Poem

Studies show that putting thoughts down on paper can help make sense of whatever text a person is reading. Writing poetry can also improve memory. Writing poetry can help us have greater emotional awareness as well. A **14 Views Poem** shares a window into the book.

This reading activity allows students to summarize key ideas from each chapter in poetic lines building into a 14-stanza poem (the number of stanzas can vary; the number 14 is only one example, and the teacher can set a minimum number and call it a 7 Views Poem if desired). The beauty of poetic verse is the freedom it provides and the easy on-ramp for students. Students can capture words, phrases, and impactful emotional words to share a summary narrative of what they believe to be the stronger moments of the book.

Strategy Description

During the reading of a book, students write a short stanza for each chapter. In the end, they will have created a summary in verse. When reading the completed poem, the reader should be able to gain a sense of what the book was about, a feeling for the character's experiences, and a sense of the setting.

Standards

CACCSS RL.6-12.2; CACCSS W.6-12.3d

CASEL Domains

Social Awareness

Prompts

“Capture the main idea of each chapter you read in a four-line stanza.”

“Determine the character's most impactful experience in each chapter and write a 4-5 line stanza sharing what happened using powerful vocabulary.”

“Consider the vocabulary the author uses as you write exact words of greatest impact.”

“Reflect on the feelings the character had and write 4-5 lines explaining these emotions and the cause of the feelings.”

“Provide a vivid description of the setting in the most powerful vocabulary.” (Hint: Instead of simply stating: “It was sunset,” what word would describe the mood of this sunset? Add it as an adjective, such as: “It was an ethereal sunset” or “It was a tranquil sunset”

Language Talk Frames

- “In my poem, I explore the theme of [theme], which is evident in stanzas [number of the stanza(s) that highlight the theme].”
- “I connected with the character’s experience because [reason], and this is reflected in my poem through [lines/stanzas that discuss the experience].”
- “I used [specific imagery or symbol] in my poem to represent [concept/theme] of the book.”
- “The book evoked a strong sense of [emotion], which I expressed in my poem through [specific words/lines].”
- “In writing from the perspective of [character or a specific viewpoint], my poem attempts to [purpose or goal of my writing].”
- “My poem addresses the [cultural/historical context] of the book, emphasizing [specific aspect/situation in life].”

Strategy

Each student will write a poem response to their independent reading book. This can be done by reading each chapter.

- Synthesize the big ideas and write a four or five lines stanza on each chapter
- Write one stanza for each chapter up to 14 stanzas (number is flexible to match the book)
- The lines and stanzas do not have to rhyme
- Each line is a phrase and can also be simply a word or two
- Consider poetic elements to evoke emotion and provide imagery
- As you reflect on the cultural or historical context of the book, what in the chapter stands out that can be highlighted in your poem?
- When the chapter evokes a strong sense of emotion, be it fear, joy, sadness, wonder, concern, hope, tranquility, anxiety, or humor (as examples), how can you express this in your poem?
- What topic/motif will you represent in your poem (homelessness, poverty, family, hope, confidence, fame, achievement, friendship, togetherness, love, (as examples)?

Example

Find Layla

I

First experiment:
Awful, ragged, chopped up curls
Help is not on the way
#FindLayla

II

My clothes smell
Caprifoliaceae flowers are sweet
I rub the sweet nectar on my clothes.
Fourteen is too old to be sticky!

III

My mom doesn't let people come over
Kristi doesn't understand
I've been to hers a thousand times
That's life.

IV

My brother, Andy and I walk home
The house key broke long ago
We climb through the window
Electricity shut off - lights don't work
No idea when mom will be home

V

We walk to the complex pool
The water is warm and cloudy
Pennies and broken glass rest at the bottom
Blood, bacteria, uncertainty.

VI

In my pocket, a no-name knockoff phone
That only works for pictures and to tell time
My shoes, taped together
My jeans unwashed for a month
Oh God, please stop looking at me!

VII

I'm cold and tired
No coat
No safe place to sleep
I'll run; I'll hide

VIII

I never get to say goodbye
Dad went in the Army
Mom stayed with us
Then left us home alone.

IX

My brother, Andy, is so small
CPS came to take him away
I'll never see him again
Will they come back for me?

X

My cardboard tunnel hides me
Silence
Peace
Alone in my biome.

XI

I capture it all on Instagram
I'm the subject of the video
With two thousand followers
Watching my horrific life

XII

Foster care
The nicest people I've ever met
Shower
Food

XIII

Everything feels like heaven
I am adapting
Videos of my past home resurface
All I wanted was to study science

IVX

I turned 15 the day I found out I'm an orphan
My mother overdosed
What does it cost
to lose something you never had?
That's my life.



Find Layla

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First experiment:
Awful, ragged, chopped up curls
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#FindLayla

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That's my life.



Slides for Game of Quotes: <https://bit.ly/3Tzhtlb>

Title: Game of Quotes

To encourage creativity and fun while developing a culture of literacy, playing Game of Quotes is an educational and entertaining activity for book clubs or teams.

Strategy Description

Prompts ask students to explore and skim their chosen books, searching for words or phrases to match the quote.

- This game requires that players must understand the context and meaning of quotes within their books. This deepens comprehension as they consider how different excerpts can be interpreted in various ways.
- Students must think critically and creatively to match the quotes with the prompts. This exercise helps develop their ability to make connections and see things from different perspectives.
- This activity enhances textual analysis skills. As students find quotes that suit different scenarios, it enhances their ability to dissect and understand various literary elements like tone and character development.
- Using their own reading text builds engagement with literature. Students are more deeply connected with their content, and this activity transforms reading from a solitary activity into a shared social experience.
- Searching for phrases to match quotes requires students to recall different parts of their book, aiding in memory retention and recall skills.
- Discussing their chosen quotes and why they fit the prompt helps students articulate their thoughts and improve their verbal communication skills.
- This game makes reading fun and interactive, which can foster a lifelong love for literature among students.
- Students get to hear different perspectives and interpretations from their peers, promoting an environment of respectful listening and learning. By sharing their ideas and seeing how their interpretations are valued in the game, students can gain confidence in their analytical and critical thinking abilities.

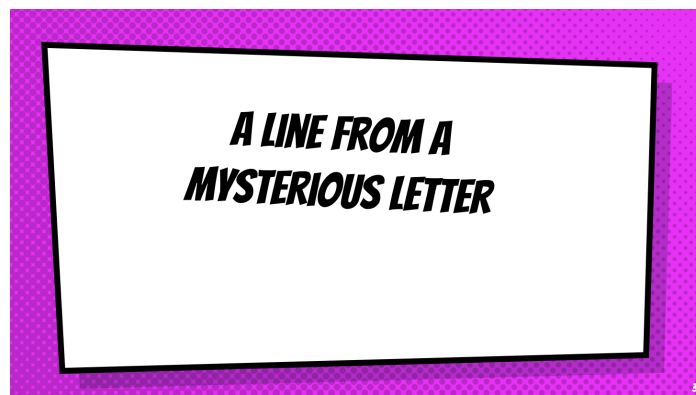
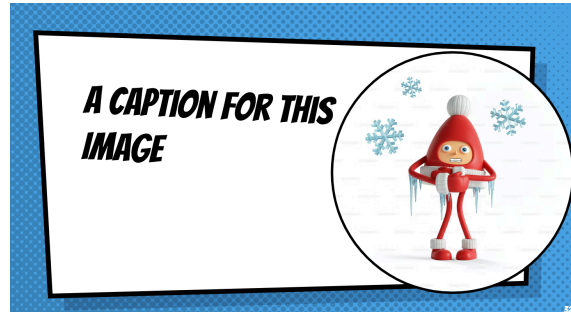
Standards

CACCSS.ELA.6-12.RL.4

CASEL Domains
Social Awareness, Relationship Skills
Prompts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Think of this as a treasure hunt within your own book!” • “Find quotes that match and might be humorous, unexpected, insightful.” • “The objective of this game is to use your creativity and knowledge of your book to find phrases or sentences that best fit the prompts I give.” • “As I read each prompt, skim through your book to find a quote that you think matches the prompt.” • “There is no right or wrong answer—it’s all about how you’d interpret your book in relation to the prompt.” • “Don’t worry about being perfect - it’s all about having fun with reading and seeing how different everyone’s interpretations can be!” • “While this game can be fun, it is important to building skills like comprehension, critical thinking, and textual analysis.”
Language Talk Frames
<p>“For the prompt [quote/prompt given by teacher], my response is ____.”</p> <p>“The question is [question], and my response is ____.”</p> <p>“You said [restate the prompt], and I like your response because...”</p> <p>“The prompt asks for [restate the prompt], and one example from my book is ____.”</p> <p>“The question is [restate the question/prompt], and my answer is ____.”</p> <p>“After hearing everyone’s responses, I think we should answer ____.”</p>
Strategy
<p>Objective: To find quotes from independent reading books that amusingly or insightfully match given prompts/questions.</p> <p>Materials needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student needs their own independent reading book. • A set of prepared prompts written on cards or displayed on a screen. <p>Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly explain the objective of the game.

- The class should be divided into book clubs or small groups, or they can play individually.
- Reveal the first prompt to the class. Ex: Something you wouldn't want to say to the principal.
- Quote hunting: Students have a set amount of time (2-3 minutes) to skim through their reading book and find a phrase or sentence that fits the quote/prompt and would make an amusing, unexpected, or insightful response.
- After a time, each member of the book club/team shares their response (using language frames as needed). Then, their book club/team decides upon the one response they will share with the class.
- Each book club/group shares the response. Based on laughter, applause, reactions, and connection, the "best" or "most original" response gets a point. An appointed "judge" or teacher as judge makes this decision.
- At the end of the game, have a short reflection on the session. Ask students about their experience - what they learned about their book, how their perspective on the book was affirmed or changed, and what they learned about the books of other students.

Examples



Extension

- Students can create their own prompts/questions.
- After the game, students could choose one of the quotes and responses and write a short poem, diary entry, or short story inspired by it.
- Students choose a character from their book, find various quotes/prompts from the slides that fit their character, and give multiple responses.

Slides:



List of Prompts:



Game of Quotes Prompts

1. An excuse for being late to school.
2. An excuse for being absent.
3. Your biggest mistake.
4. Something moms do or say when they get angry.
5. An excuse for why you avoid seeing your friends.
6. A reason you are falling asleep.
7. Something you always wanted to do.
8. Greeting a friend.
9. What did you do last night?
10. When you hear something at night outside.
11. A reason why you avoid talking to family members.
12. Something you wouldn't want to overhear in the restroom.
13. You find a person in your house, what do you say?
14. Explain why you left the kids home alone.
15. What would you yell when you're mad at your siblings?
16. Something you would say to a person stealing.
17. Your reaction to being told you are kicked off a team.
18. Something that relates to your current mood.
19. Something that would create a misunderstanding.
20. An excuse you would tell the librarian for not turning in your library book.
21. Something you'd say to someone sad about the loss of a pet.
22. An excuse for when you are running late or tardy.
23. Something you yell when you stub your toe.
24. The title of a new show on Netflix.

25. Something on the menu of a restaurant.
26. Something written on a tombstone.
27. A caption for this photo (show an image).
28. Something you hear in the cafeteria.
29. Something under your bed that could scare you.
30. Something (favorite person) would say.
31. What your dog/cat thinks of his food.
32. Something you'd never say to your grandmother.
33. Something written on a birthday card that shouldn't be.
34. A title for a new book.
35. Something you do in the gym/PE.
36. Something Batman would say.
37. A line from an action movie.
38. An excuse you tell your boss when you don't want to work.
39. What you don't want to hear in the morning.
40. What you do when you win a game.
41. What you say when you see someone crying.
42. A response to: "Knock, knock." "Who's there?"
43. What do you do when you come across a creature that doesn't exist?
44. Something you do when you are getting robbed.
45. What you do when you see a ghost in your room.
46. What you say when you see someone fall.
47. Name of a bad cartoon/show.
48. The first thing you do when you realize you're in an alternate universe.
49. Something a celebrity would say in their autobiography.
50. What would you whisper in a secret mission?

Slides: <https://bit.ly/49mQUEL>

Title: Mood Meter

In its simplest terms, mood is the emotional response the writer wishes to evoke in the reader through a story. Scientifically, we have Dr. Marc Brackett, who built a tool, the Mood Meter, to build greater emotional awareness. This tool was created based on decades of research on the circumplex model of emotion. When we overlay the Mood Meter while reading a book, it brings self-awareness of the reader's mood and emotions while reading to light.

On a deeper level, the reader can track the main character's emotions throughout the book to reveal elements of the plot, such as conflicts, climax, and resolution. Mood Meter is one way to annotate mood and emotions while reading for deeper analysis and discussion.

Thinking about the mood - and what the author did in the writing to create this feeling in the reader (textual evidence) is cognitive practice - the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses. Making these cognitive moves while reading helps readers read deeply in order to make inferences - it's good for the brain!

Strategy Description

Writers craft mood through a combination of various elements such as setting, language, and tone. The setting, which includes the time, place, and atmosphere, plays a pivotal role in establishing mood. Language is another crucial tool; the choice of words, sentence structure, and figurative language, like metaphors and similes, can convey emotions and create a visceral experience for the reader. By manipulating these elements, writers can guide readers' emotions, making the narrative a more immersive and emotionally impactful experience. Mood Meter helps the reader track the mood of a story to bring these elements to light, lay out where mood shifts, and keep a record of moods for analysis.

- While reading, the reader records either their own mood or the character's mood during that day's reading.
- These moods are identified using Brackett's Mood Meter and recorded on a calendar.
- Over the course of days and weeks, students will reveal their own emotional journey through the book or that of the character.
- Doing so reveals the emotional arc of the story.
- This mood meter tracking can lead to deeper analysis and discussion as to why the author created the moods at just the exact moment and how it impacted not only the story but the reader.

Standards
CACCSS ELA.RL.6-12.1 CACCSS ELA.RL.6-12.3 ELD.PII.6-12.3.Br
CASEL Domains
Self-awareness, Social awareness, Building relationships
Prompts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What is the mood the reader is feeling?” • “What is the mood the character is feeling?” • “What am I observing?” (Observation - Textual evidence that elicits responses from readers) • “What am I thinking about this evidence? (Cognition - the thinking: the relationship between evidence and reader’s mood) • “What inferences am I making?” (Interpretation - make sense of and reasoning from the evidence/observations) • “What textual evidence creates this mood?”
Language Talk Frames
<p>Emerging</p> <p>“The story feels ___”</p> <p>“I think the story is ___ because of the words like ___.”</p> <p>“This place here in the story [point out the place in the story] is ___.”</p> <p>Expanding</p> <p>“When I read [text], I felt ___ because the setting was...”</p> <p>“The mood of the story changes from ___ to ___ because...”</p> <p>“The author uses words like ___ and ___ to create a ___ mood.”</p> <p>Bridging</p> <p>“The mood in the beginning is ___ but shifts to ___ in the end, demonstrated by phrases such as...”</p> <p>“The author’s use of ___ (imagery, tone, setting) effectively creates a mood of ___ because...”</p> <p>“I interpret the mood as ___ due to the characters’ actions and the environment, particularly when...”</p>

Strategy:

The teacher shares an introduction to Mood (as defined in the description above).

Students receive a copy of a Mood Meter for reference while reading.

Students also receive a tracker, which can be a printed calendar for each day's reading.

While reading, students will identify their mood and track it on the corresponding date with a one-word emotion (they can add color for visual identification) and a brief excerpt/phrase and page number from the text spotlighting words that created that emotion for the reader.

Each day, the student will track their mood while reading.

At pause points identified by the teacher (daily, every couple of days, or weekly), students will share with their reading friends moods they experienced while reading, the text that sparked that feeling, and explain why.

Students will begin to see commonalities across texts. Students will also be able to discuss how different authors create similar moods.

At the end of the text, students can discuss how the plot/story arc is connected to Mood Tracking. What does this say about the author's intent while writing each segment of the text?

Mood Meter: <https://bit.ly/3Sofo9v>



Slides:



Examples




Extension

- Students can track either the main character's mood or their own mood.
- Students can identify and talk about advice they'd offer the character if he/she were a friend experiencing that mood.
- Students analyze **why** the author created that mood at that place in the story.
- Students could use the Mood Meter as a resource writing tool while writing their own argumentative essays or narratives to evoke emotional responses within the reader.


NOVEMBER 2022

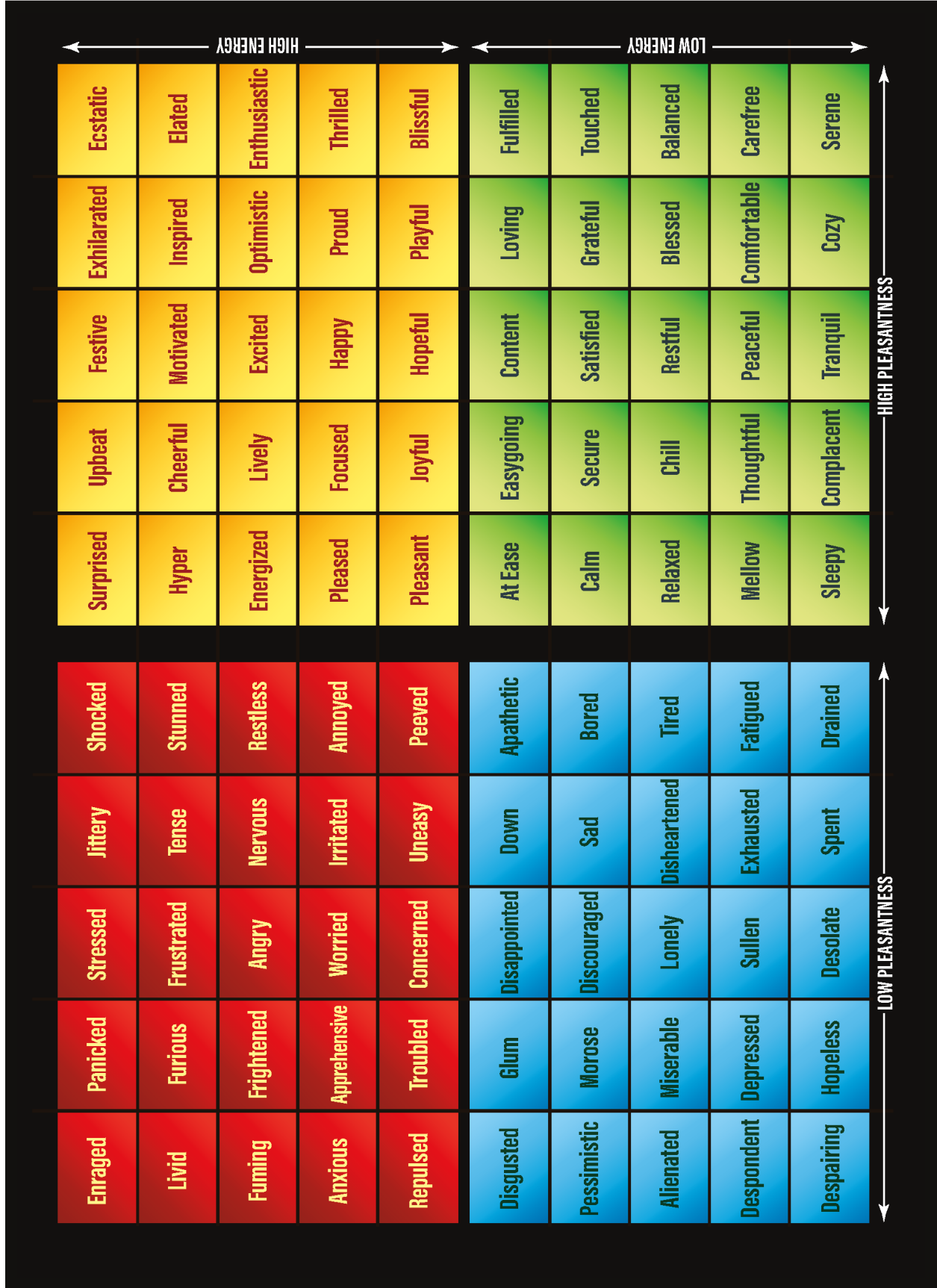
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Inward Silence in engulfed us	2 Confused Lack of to be	3 Calm	4 Inward
5 P.S.S un-dry	8	9	10	11
14	15 17	16 19	17 18	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		



November 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4
5 Give & work work hard put in				
12	13	14	15	16
23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30		



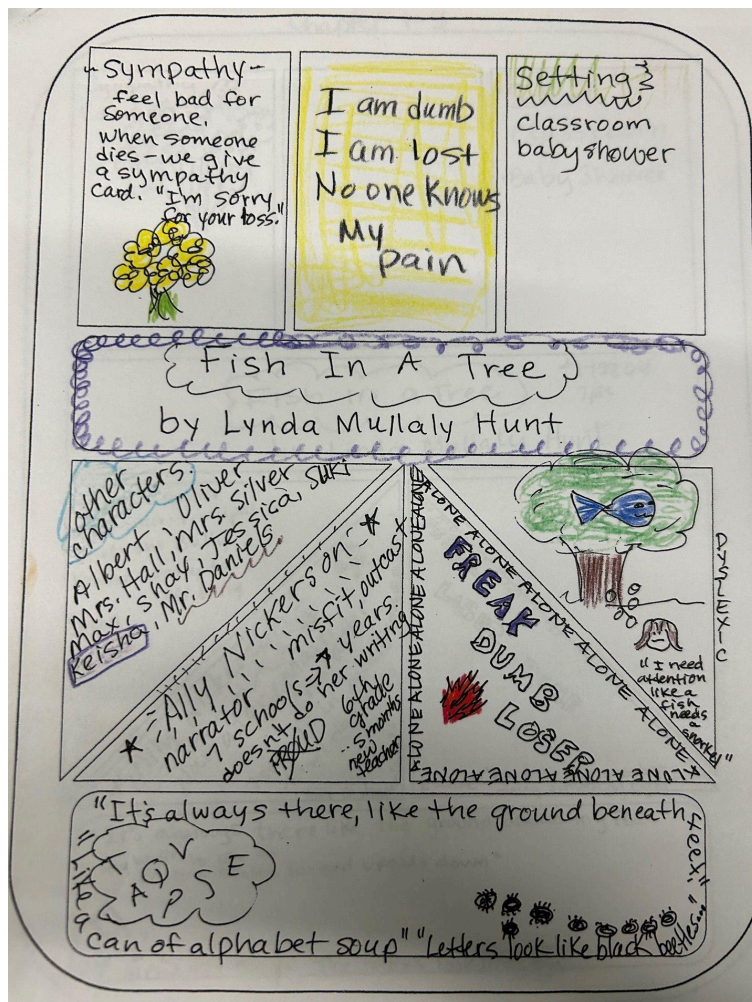


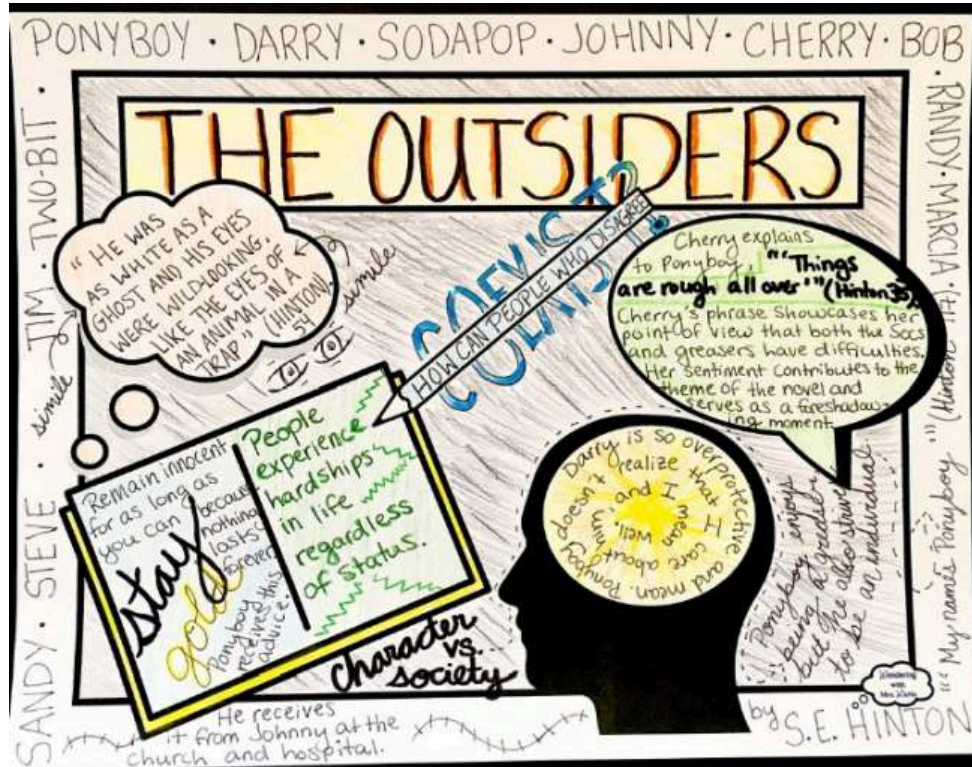
How to and Templates: <https://bit.ly/3tOGMVZ>

Title: One-Pagers
One-pagers are used to help students keep track of ideas when reading or listening to a book, poem, or article or as a summative activity. One-pagers invite students to think deeply about a text and produce a single page to represent its most important aspects. Rather than just jotting down words on a page, students use one-pagers to visually represent key points and takeaways. They're fun to create and have a real impact on memory and comprehension.
Strategy Description
Students use a template to fill in important information about a text in a visually stimulating way while following teacher guidelines about what to include. Students may be able to use a blank page rather than a template once they understand the requirements, allowing for a more creative activity. After creating a one-pager, students can work in partners to describe their choices and how they connect to the text.
Standards
CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.2; CACCSS.ELA.RI.6-12:2 ELD.P1.1, ELD.P1.5
CASEL Domains
Social Awareness and Responsible Decision-Making
Prompts
Tell me about your one-pager What did you include about the characters? What words and phrases did you include?
Language Talk Frames
My one-pager has _____ I included _____ about the character Some words I thought were interesting are _____ I chose to illustrate my one-pager by _____
Strategy

- Choose a text to read (an independent reading book or a class read)
- Start out with a template for the one-pager and move towards blank pages after the students understand important elements to include
- Give students directions as to what you would like included on the one-pager (see example)
- Allow students to take notes while listening to you read a text as a practice
- Consider modeling how to fill in a template with the necessary elements as a practice lesson
- Have students use their notes to fill in the one-pager using your guidelines, including illustrations and decorative word art.

Examples





Extensions

- Students can make a digital version- retrieve images online and use creative fonts.
- One-pagers could be done in partners or small groups

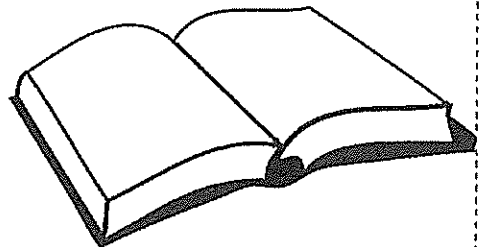
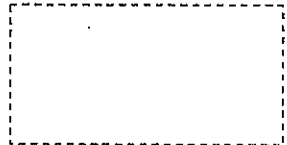
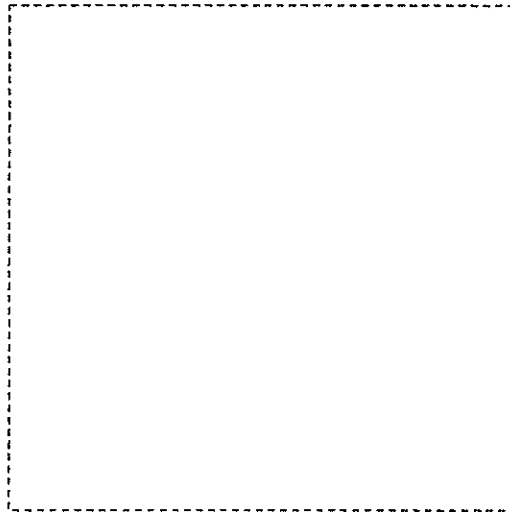
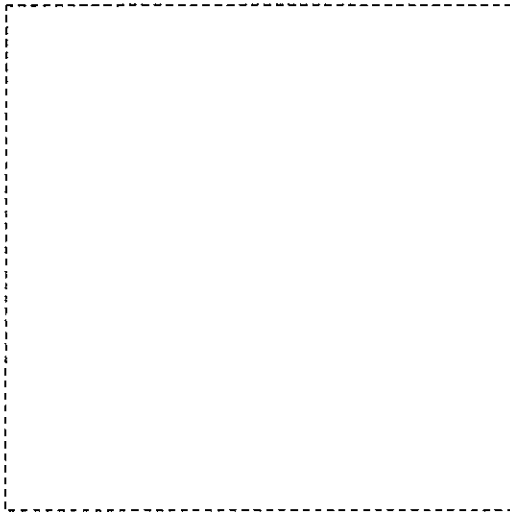
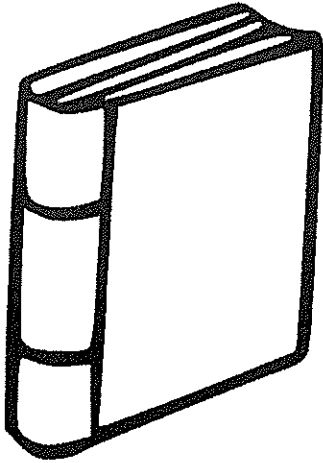
How to and Templates Handout:

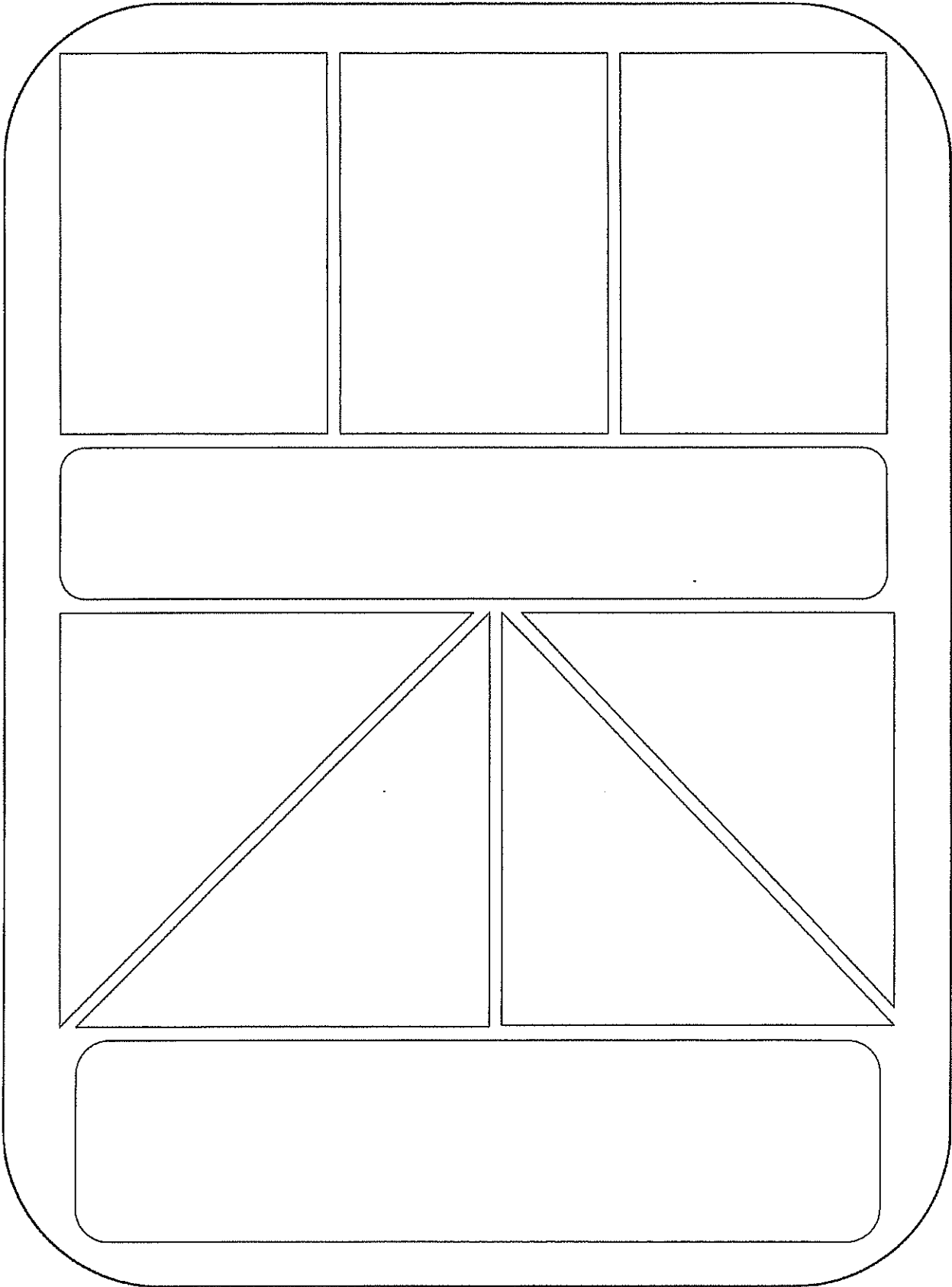


How To Create a One Pager

The purpose of a one-pager is to help you think about the ideas in the book/poem/article and relate them to your own life, as well as consider any issues the text sparks. You have freedom as to where things are placed on the page.

1. *Write the title of the text and author's full name.*
2. *Quote a phrase or line from the text and explain what you believe it means.*
3. *Draw at least 5 images inspired by the text and caption the imagery that inspired each image.*
4. *Create a border using a key word or phrase.*
5. *Select a main idea of the text and relate it to your own life. This can be done as a word cluster or an image cluster, if you wish.*
6. *Define 2 important words from the text. One definition must be in your own words.*
7. *Quote a phrase or line from the text and explain how you connect to it.*
8. *Describe the traits of the main character.*
9. *Explain why a friend or family member might want to read this text.*
10. *Optional: Write a short poem inspired by the text.*
11. *Use color to liven up the images*





Teacher Instructional Slides: <https://bit.ly/PowerfulQuotesSlides>

Title: Powerful Quotes
We often encounter texts with words or phrases that express powerful feelings. Authors include meaningful quotes, phrases, or dialogue to help readers feel or be compelled in some way. Using specific word choices shapes meaning and tone.
Strategy Description
<p>Readers will read being watchful for character or narrator quotes that express or evoke powerful feelings or words that grab their attention. They will especially be alert to quotes that use specific word choices that shape meaning or tone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After selecting a powerful quote from the text, students will add an image. • Then, they will choose one quote to write a paragraph explaining the meaning of it. • Finally, students will have an opportunity to share with others.
Standards
CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.4, CACCSS.ELA.W.6-12.2, CACCSS.ELA.W.6-12.4 ELD.P1.1.5.6
CASEL Domains
Self-Awareness and Social Awareness
Prompts
<p>What is the meaning of the [word/phrase] in this quote? What does this quote mean to me in my own life? (or the world at large) What does this quote tell you about the character or the plot of the story? What does the [word/phrase] most likely suggest _____ in the text?</p>
Language Talk Frames
<p>When I read this quote, it makes me think _____ I can apply this quote to my life (or the world) because _____ This part here ____ reveals _____ about the character. This image helps me to understand the quote because _____ This word _____ most likely suggests _____ about _____</p>

Strategy

- Begin with a shared text as students practice the strategy
- Students read independently and note words or phrases that evoke or exhibit powerful feelings in their notebook
- Quotes should include specific words that shape meaning or tone
- Give students time to share any positive quotes that have emerged during the week, either by a gallery walk or partner/group sharing using the language frames
- Students choose one quote (even another student's) to write a paragraph explaining their thoughts about the quote using one of the prompts as a starting point.
- The students search for (the Internet) or design images to complement and illustrate the quote's meaning or the feeling that is inferred by it
- The product can be a mash-up of message and media types, including hand-written/drawn and technology
- The final product may be done on Slides or Canva or on paper

Examples

“Maybe you haven’t developed a passion yet because you’ve spent your entire life doing what others wanted you to do.”

Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay



Paragraphs:

This quote suggests that a person may not have discovered their true interests or passions because they have been mostly focused on the expectations and desires of other people instead of following their own desires and interests. These people could be parents, friends, or teachers.

The quote makes me think that if you've been living your life by the wishes and expectations of parents, friends, or society rather than pursuing what genuinely excites and motivates you, then you may not have had the opportunity to explore your own passions and interests. It encourages me to reflect on the idea that finding my true passion may require looking away from the things in my life that influence me to seek out what I truly connect with as I learn more about my own desires and inner self.

Extension

Add an audio recording or music to the slides.
Make a meme to go with the quote.
Design an Instagram post with the quote and image.

Teacher Instructional Slides: <https://bit.ly/PowerfulQuotesSlides>



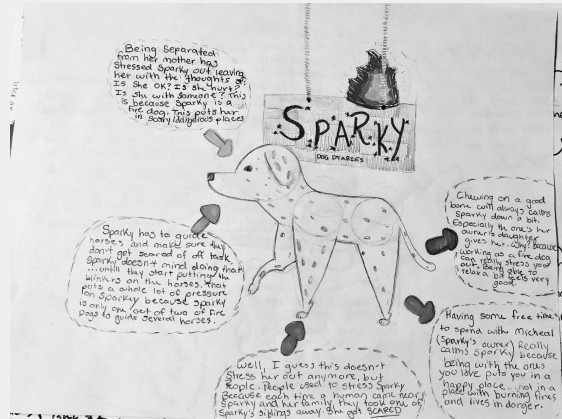
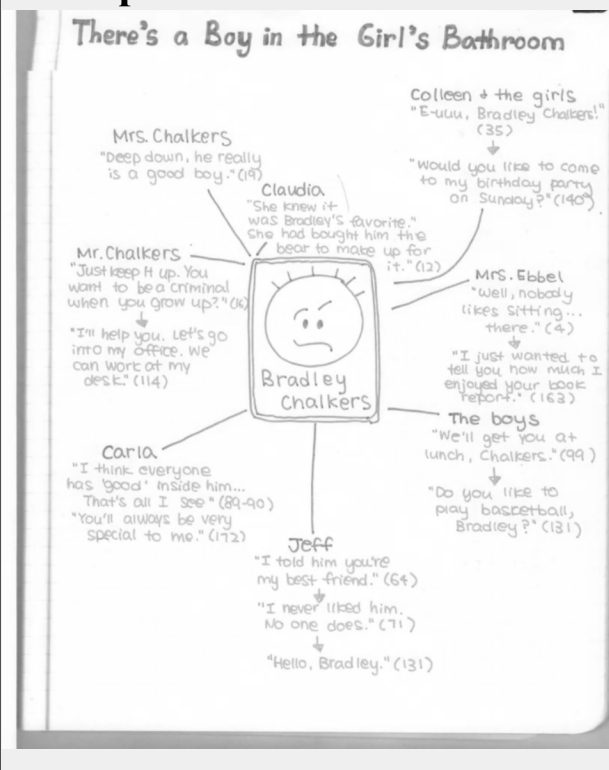
Slides: <https://bit.ly/4b6MjZ5>

Title: Pressure Map
Change is necessary for a successful character arc. Change is how our characters become stronger, more capable, and more confident. It's what sparks the ability to chase after goals, find happiness, and achieve satisfaction. It's how a character goes from being incomplete to whole.
Strategy Description
<p>A visual identifying of the pressures or stressors the character is feeling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a visual of how the main character experiences pressures or stressors while interacting with others, during events, or in the setting. • A pressure map leads to thinking about the decisions that motivate reactions and behaviors. <p>Some pressure points: Temptation, A challenge, Success, Failure, Poverty</p> <p>Some sources of pressure points: Friend(s); A mom, dad, sister, brother, relative; School person (teacher, rival, bully); Society - Norms, fitting in.</p>
Standards
CACCSS.ELA.RL6-12.1; CACCSS.ELA.RL6-12.3; ELD.P1.6
CASEL Domains
Self-awareness, Social Skills, Relationship Skills
Prompts
<p>“What pressures are pushing down on the character?”</p> <p>“What evidence from the text supports the fact that these are pressures?”</p> <p>“How does understanding this pressure/stressor support the key idea that...”</p>
Language Talk Frames
<p>“The author included this part __ because...”</p> <p>“An example of pressure was when the author wrote...”</p> <p>“__ contributes to understanding the character is feeling/experiencing...”</p> <p>“This part of the text seems to be a conflict that shapes the character by...”</p>

Strategy

- As you read, put your thinking into the head of the main character.
- Read deeply as you identify pressures and stressors weighing on the character.
- Make note of these pressures/stressors.
- Create a visual showing the character and these pressures/stressors impacting their actions and feelings.
- One way to do this sketch is to place your character in the center.
- Surround your character with those pressures/stressors as you sketch a pressure map.
- Include textual evidence as support.

Examples



Extension

The Pressure Map does not need to be explicitly drawn with the character in the middle surrounded by pressures/stressors.

- Students could have the pressures/stressors sitting on the shoulders of the character, weighing down the character.
- Students could sketch the character drowning with the pressures/stressors on as weights holding the character down.
- Students could draw a heavy backpack filled with the pressures/stressors that the character is attempting to hold/carry/drag.

Slides:

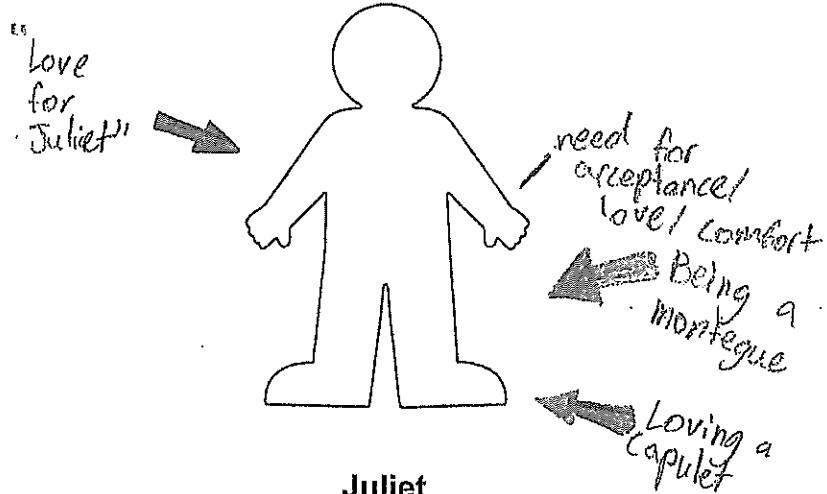


Student Exemplars:

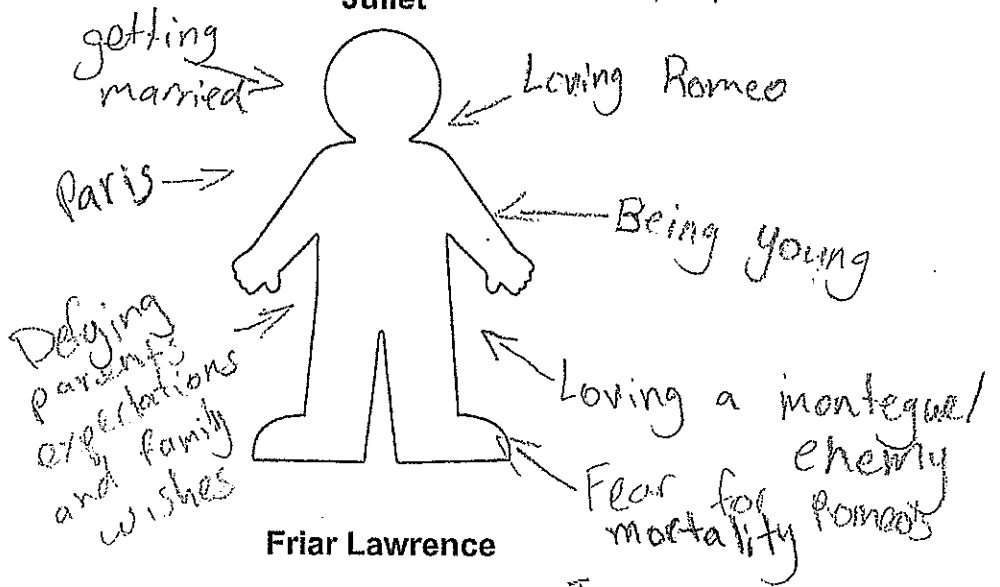


Pressure Maps

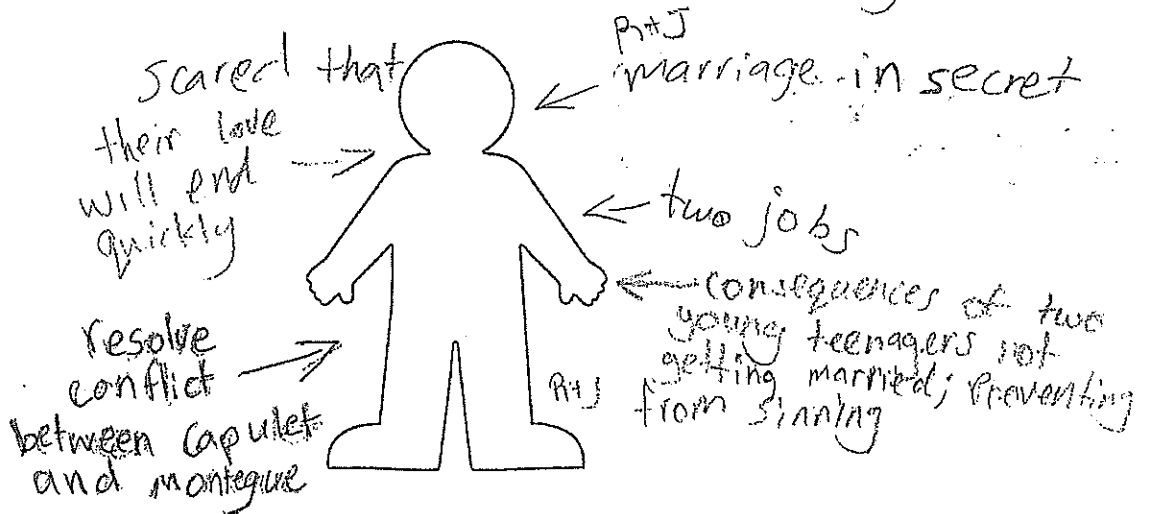
Romeo



Juliet



Friar Lawrence



Slides: <https://bit.ly/47DbVcT>

Template Example: <https://bit.ly/3OuD7UH>

Title: Read, Relate, Realize
<p>Read, Relate, Realize encapsulates the essence of connecting personally with the text (Relate), engaging with curiosity (Read), and discovering insights (Realize), all in a memorable and appealing way. This strategy is tailored around adolescent readers and takes into account their interests and cognitive abilities, all while having students focus on three areas: Connections & Reflections, Curiosities & Wonderings, and Clicks & Insights. Synthesizing their thinking, students can then predict and speculate on outcomes.</p>
Strategy Description
<p>Connections & Reflections: Encourage students to relate the text to their own lives, current events, or other media (like movies, music, or TV shows). This makes the reading more relevant and engaging for them.</p> <p>Curiosities & Wonderings: Instead of formal questions, prompt students to share what makes them curious or what they wonder about in the text. This can be more inviting and less intimidating, sparking natural inquiry.</p> <p>Clicks & Insights: These are similar to epiphanies but more accessible. Students share moments in the reading where something “clicked” for them or when they gained a new understanding or perspective.</p> <p>Finally, students will predict and speculate. Encourage students to make predictions about the plot or characters and speculate on different outcomes. This not only enhances engagement but also develops critical thinking skills.</p>
Standards
CACCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.1,3,4; CACCSS.ELA.RI.6-12.1,4
CASEL Domains
<p>Self-awareness Self-management Relationship Skills Responsible Decision-Making</p>

Prompts

Here are some prompts designed to foster a deeper engagement with the text and encourage students to think critically and creatively about their reading experience:

READ (Engaging with Curiosity)

- What part of the story/text made you most curious or puzzled you?
- If you could ask the author one question about this part of the text/chapter, what would it be?
- Is there a word, phrase, or sentence that caught your attention or seemed important?

RELATE (Connecting Personally)

- Can you relate any event or character in the story to your own life or someone you know?
- How does this part of the book remind you of something else you've seen, heard, or experienced?
- If you were in the story, what would you have done differently in this situation?
- Why did the author have the character live this experience?

REALIZE (Discovering Insights)

- Did you have any 'aha' moments while reading? What were they about?
- What new understanding did you gain about the characters or the plot after this section?
- How has your thinking about the story's theme or message changed after this reading?

Language Talk Frames

Emerging Level - offering basic language skills while making observations, connections, and realizations.

Read: I noticed ___ in the text.

Relate: This part is like ___ because ___.

Realize: I think ___ because ___.

Expanding Level - encouraging more detailed responses and reasoning, aiding in developing descriptive and explanatory language skills.

Read: A question I have about the text is ___ because ___

Relate: This reminds me of ____, and is similar/different because ___.

Realize: I realized ___ when I read ____, and it shows that ___.

Bridging Level - fostering more complex and abstract, promoting higher-order thinking and deeper analysis, suitable for students who are more proficient in English.

Read: An intriguing aspect of the text is ___ which leads me to question ___.

Relate: This section connects to my own experience of ___, illustrating ___.

Realize: My understanding of ___ deepened when ___ revealing ___.

Strategy

Steps:

Introduction to the Strategy

- Begin by explaining the purpose and components of Read, Relate, Realize.
- Emphasize how each part helps in understanding and enjoying the reading material.

Modeling

- Model the strategy with a familiar text.
- Demonstrate how to apply “Read, Relate, Realize” by thinking aloud as you go through a text.

Guided Practice

- Provide a new text and guide students through the strategy
- Ask guided questions and encourage students to answer using the language frames

Independent Practice

- Have students apply the strategy independently with a different text.
- Encourage them to jot down their thoughts, questions, and epiphanies as they read.

Group Discussion

- Organize students into small groups to share their findings.
- Facilitate discussions, ensuring each student contributes their “Read, Relate, Realize”

Reflection and Feedback

- Ask students to reflect on how the strategy helped their comprehension
- Provide feedback on their usage of the strategy, highlighting areas of strength and improvement.

Ongoing Application

- Encourage students to use this strategy in various reading texts.
- Regularly revisit and reinforce the strategy in different contexts and with different texts.

The key to scaffolding the process is gradually moving from teacher-led demonstrations to independent student applications. Regular practice and reinforcement are essential for students to effectively internalize and utilize the “Read, Relate, and Realize” strategy.

Examples



Read - Relate - Realize

Text Excerpt

Connections & Reflections


Speculations & Predictions

Curiosities & Wonderings

Clicks & Insights

Read - Relate - Realize

Text Excerpt



Connections & Reflections

Why won't Sani's dad talk to her? I've experienced a friend's parents not talking much when we hang out, but it seems rude and odd.

Speculations & Predictions

I speculate that one outcome might be Sani leaves Me (Moth) in order to save himself. The author's use of ominous words makes me wonder if she is hinting at the idea that Sani must let go of his friendship/interest in Me (Moth) in order to heal himself. Another possibility is that Me (Moth) is the one that must let go of Sani so that she can find peace. It seems something beyond their control is holding their relationship together.

Curiosities & Wonderings

I'm curious about the coyote. Did the author include it as a symbol? In Native American folklore, a coyote appears as a trickster. Who is being tricked here? Sani? Me (Moth)? or the reader?

Clicks & Insights

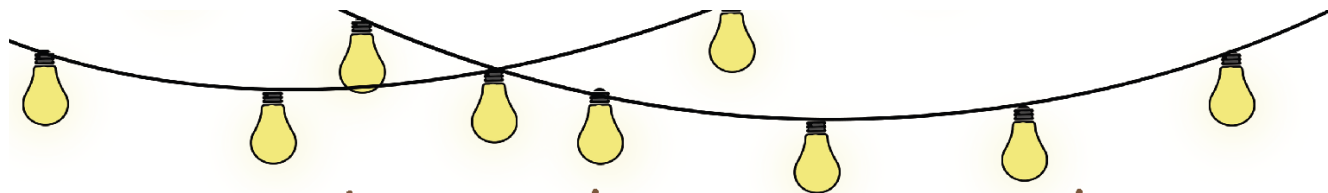
It hits me that Sani is holding on so tightly to Me (Moth). The author's use of words like: mischievous, steals, forces, evil is perhaps insightful - that Sani is facing something that could hurt him and steal something from his soul or mind.

Extension

Since many adolescents are visual learners, including an element where they can draw a scene, character, or concept from the reading helps with comprehension.

Slides:





Read - Relate - Realize

Text Excerpt

Connections & Reflections

Curiosities & Wonderings

Speculations & Predictions

Clicks & Insights

Slides: <https://bit.ly/3tZ3Y3T>

Title: Sketch Notes
<p>Sketch noting, or visual notetaking, is a creative way for students to capture their thoughts using drawings, symbols, and text. By combining pictures with words, they can visually express and remember information. This technique can be used in various situations, like classes, events, or meetings, making learning more engaging. Elements of sketch noting include using text, emphasizing key points, using simple shapes, and incorporating icons or sketches.</p>
Strategy Description
<p>This strategy can be used with a shared text or during independent reading (fiction or nonfiction). Students create their own visually rich notes using a combination of handwriting, drawings, shapes, and visual elements such as arrows, boxes, and lines. Drawing skills are not necessary, but active listening and the ability to visually synthesize and summarize ideas using both writing and drawing are essential.</p>
Standards
<p>CA CCSS.ELA.RL.6-12.2 ELD.P1.1</p>
CASEL Domains
<p>Self-Awareness</p>
Prompts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What ideas can you visualize after seeing the covers? ● What story events or concepts did you make visual in your sketch note? ● Which personal reactions, connections, or questions did you include? ● How did you show the setting, character development, and events in your sketch note? ● "What's important? What's interesting?" "What's missing?"
Language Talk Frames
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● After viewing the covers, I can visualize _____ ● I included _____ to represent my personal reactions to what I read. ● I included _____ because I connected with _____

- I showed the _____ (setting, character development, theme, event, etc.) in my sketch note by _____
- I included this quote because _____
- This is important because _____
- This is interesting because _____

Strategy

1. Begin by explaining the concept of sketch noting to students, emphasizing its purpose. Share that sketch noting is a way to combine words and pictures to enhance focus and remember key information.
2. Show the cover of the book to be read aloud. Engage students in a discussion about the title's potential meaning and their observations of the cover design. Emphasize the goal of making invisible thinking visible through sketch noting.
3. Generate a quick bank of ideas on a chart based on the front and back covers. Explain that these ideas are for sharing and can serve as a reference while sketch noting. Include images and keywords to support students.
4. Model creating simple sketches, frames, and arrows to show a sequence. Alternatively, introduce visual organization tools such as sketchmats or windowpane organizers to inspire ideas. Allow students to choose the method that best suits their sketch noting style, promoting individual creativity.
5. Provide guidance just before reading, highlighting that sketch noting can capture both story events or concepts and personal reactions, connections, or questions. Remind students to focus on setting, character development, and events and guiding questions: "What's important? What's interesting?"
6. Begin the read-aloud, incorporating pauses for students to sketch their thoughts. Encourage a decelerated pace to refresh understanding and create a relaxed atmosphere. Consider sharing your own sketch notes halfway through or thinking aloud as you sketch.
7. At the end of the read-aloud, invite students to share their sketch notes with the class. Emphasize the importance of viewing and reflecting on each other's thinking.
8. Conclude the activity by reflecting on the experience. Discuss the emergence of visible thinking on the page and how sketch noting differs from traditional reading models. Encourage students to use sketch notes during independent reading or class novels.

Examples

ROMEO and JULIET ACT 4

Quotes

"Romeo, Romeo, Romeo! Here's drink, I drink to thee."
(IV. III. 57) Juliet

"Ready to go, but never to return. O son! The night before thy wedding day. Hath death lain thy wife."
(IV. V. (34-36))

The Things You do for LOVE

Literary Terms

- "You'll be sick tomorrow for this night's watching"
- **Personification**
- "Ay, you have been a mouse-hunt in your time, but I will watch you from such watching now"
- **metaphor**

Important Ideas

- Frair convinces Juliet to drink the poison so she doesn't marry Paris
- Day of the marriage
- Everyone's upset because Juliet "DIED"

Important Characters

- Frair Lawrence
- Juliet

Important NOTICE

The drink that Frair made out of plants for Juliet

CHAPTER 5

THE MONSTER

- * Limbs in proportion
- * Features beautiful

WORKED 2 YEARS!

eye opens! (success!)

THE DREAM VANISHES!
breathless horror and disgust.

NEW DREAM!
ELIZABETH IS DEAD MOTHER

WRECH APPEARS IN WINDOW!

FINDS CLERVAL!
"You look thin and pale."
FARGES HIS HORROR AND MISFORTUNE

MONSTER HAS FLED (empty apartment)

NERVOUS (General FEVERISH MONTHS)

CLERVAL IS NURSE (good friend)

MONSTER good friend Clerval

- nurses him back to health
- doesn't expect anything in return
- spares family grief

WAAA

ALWAYS BEFORE HIS EYES!

Slides:



Slides: <https://bit.ly/3vutcl5>

Handout: <https://bit.ly/3TT97VG>

Title: Three Wishes

Readers often envision what is happening in the text based on their knowledge and experience of the situation at hand. Inferencing encourages readers to think ahead and ask questions. Making these connections with the text builds stronger comprehension because students are reading closely, paying attention to the nuances of the character's actions and interactions and how this new information fits into the theories being formed.

What if we provide students with an opportunity to pause while reading and consider three wishes we would make for the character? This strategy helps readers build empathy for others, strengthen the reader-text connection, and help students infer a theory about the character(s) or plot.

Strategy Description

Students bring knowledge and experiences to their reading. Then, while reading, students ask questions, look for evidence that could answer the questions, and make a conclusion based on evidence and reasoning. In this strategy, students will be asked to state inferences and think of ways to manipulate or refine specific details that could have changed the character(s) or plot by making three wishes.

Standards

CACCSS RL.6-12.1; CACCSS RL.6-12.3; CACCSS RL.6-12.5

CASEL Domains

Social-awareness; Responsible Decision Making; Relationship Skills

Prompts

“What part of the text causes you to want to make that wish for the character?”

“Based on the inferences you are making, what would you want to change for the character?”

“How would the text be different if the (scene/section/chapter/part) would be different?”

Language Talk Frames

“This part here ___ makes me infer the character...”
 “The author’s choice to ___ (situation/effect on character) is something I would wish to be different because...”
 “When this part here happened ___, it revealed ___ about the character. So, my wish would be ___ so that...”

Strategy

Imagine that a Genie lands in the story. This Genie can grant the main character three wishes. Based upon the inferences you are making, what do you wish for the character(s) and why? How might the wishes have changed the story?

- 1.) State your inference and why you made this inference.
- 2.) Use the language frames to provide explanations.
- 3.) Create three wishes that would have changed the character(s) or plot.
- 4.) Use the language frames to explain how the story would be different if these wishes were granted.

Examples

3 Wishes

"Beyond the bars, framed by the high, square window, slides a small patch of sky.

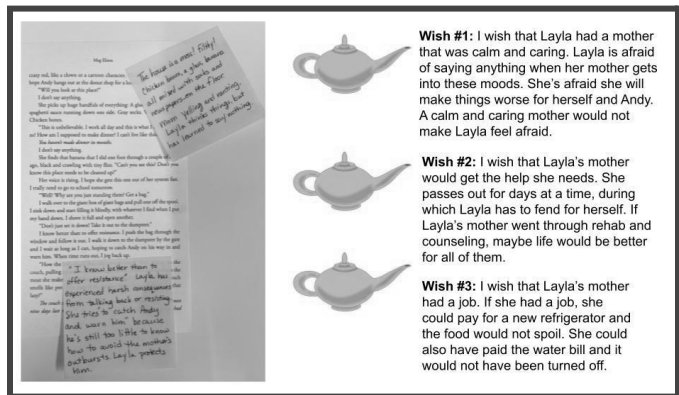
For months, it's been as gray as the faded paint flaking off the walls, but today it's blue and gold. Bright as a happy song.

My thoughts, always eager to escape, shoot out and try to picture the whole sky – even the whole huge world.

But my imagination has many missing pieces, like the jigsaw puzzle in the schoolroom. All I've learned here in nine years from my mother and my teachers is not enough to fill the gaps.

Still, it doesn't stop me from imagining we're free. Amma and me, together, exploring the wide-open world that lives beyond the bars."

- ① Kabir is noticing a change in the color of the sky which he can see only from beyond the bars of his jail cell.
- ② I know when seasons change, the sky transforms from cloudy and gray to sunny and clear, blue skies. The author could be using this shift in seasons to help the reader infer a shift in life is approaching.
- ③ One wish I'd make is for Kabir to have a better education. This would help fill the gaps and develop a deeper understanding of the world.
- ④ A second wish would be for Kabir and Amma to be free. They have a strong bond and being set free to explore the world together would have a positive impact on their mental well-being.
- ⑤ A third wish would be access to a library or collection of books, even while in prison. This wish would have a profound effect on the character's life behind bars. It would expand his knowledge, provide intellectual growth, and a source of inspiration.



Wish #1: I wish that Layla had a mother that was calm and caring. Layla is afraid of saying anything when her mother gets into these moods. She's afraid she will make things worse for herself and Andy. A calm and caring mother would not make Layla feel afraid.

Wish #2: I wish that Layla's mother would get the help she needs. She passes out for days at a time, during which Layla has to fend for herself. If Layla's mother went through rehab and counseling, maybe life would be better for all of them.

Wish #3: I wish that Layla's mother had a job. If she had a job, she could pay for a new refrigerator and the food would not spoil. She could also have paid the water bill and it would not have been turned off.

Extension

Write an alternate ending with your wish in mind.

Slides:



Handout:



3 WISHES STRATEGY



- 1 What is happening?
Notice the details



- 2 Use personal knowledge to
make an inference



- 3 What is a wish that would
make a difference for the
character or situation?
WISH #1



- 4 What is a wish that would
make a difference for the
character or situation?
WISH #2



- 5 What is a wish that would
make a difference for the
character or situation?
WISH #3

Title: Word Splash

Dive into an innovative teaching approach where students become active participants in their learning journey. Before delving into a new text, spark curiosity and deepen understanding by focusing on key terms and concepts. Word Splash encourages students to brainstorm and create connections, formulating predictions about the upcoming text. As they read, students actively verify their hypotheses, refining their understanding through this interactive and thought-provoking process. This approach not only enhances reading comprehension but also fosters critical thinking skills, making learning a more dynamic and engaging experience.

Strategy Description

Prior to reading, the teacher identifies crucial terms or key concepts relevant to the theme or topic. These terms are then provided to students. Students engage in brainstorming, creating comprehensive statements that connect these words or phrases while predicting their relationship to the theme/topic. After formulating their predictions and statements, students proceed to read the provided text, verifying the accuracy of their predictions and making revisions if necessary.

Standards

CACCSS.ELA.6-12.RL.2; CACCSA.ELA.6-12.RL4; CACCSS.ELA.6-12.RI.2

CASEL Domains

Social Awareness

Prompts

- Choose two words from the Word Splash. Explain how these words are related and how they might be connected in the upcoming reading
- Arrange the words in the Word Splash in the order you think they might appear in the text. Justify your sequencing with predictions about the content.
- Based on the Word Splash, predict the main idea/topic/theme of the text. How do the listed words contribute to this?
- Select a word from the Word Splash and predict what effect it might have had on the main character or topic. Support your prediction with reasoning.
- Choose two terms from the Word Splash and compare how they might be similar or different in the text. Explain your reasoning.

- Consider each word's impact on the theme of [insert theme]. How do these terms collectively contribute to the broader concept of [insert theme] in the context of the text?

Language Talk Frames

Emerging:

- "I see a connection between _____ and _____. This makes me think that in the text about [main idea/topic/theme], _____."
- "In my sequence, I put _____ before _____. I think this order makes sense because in the text about [main idea/topic/theme], _____."
- "Looking at the Word Splash, I guess the main idea/topic/theme of the text is _____. The words _____ help with this idea by _____."
- "I believe the word _____ affected [character] by _____. This is because, in the text, it says that _____."
- "I picked _____ and _____. I see they are different/similar in the text because _____. This might affect the article by _____."
- "Thinking about the Word Splash, each word affects the [main idea/topic/theme] by _____. Together, these words help say that in the text about [main idea/topic/theme], _____."

Expanding:

- "I observe a connection between _____ and _____. This leads me to think that in the text about [main idea/topic/theme], _____."
- "In my sequence, I arranged _____ before _____. I believe this sequence makes sense because the text is about [main idea/topic/theme], _____."
- "Analyzing the Word Splash, I predict the main idea of the text about [main idea/topic/theme] is _____. The words _____ contribute to this idea by _____."
- "I think the word _____ influenced the [character] life by _____. This is because, in the text, it demonstrates that _____."
- "I opted to compare _____ and _____. I notice they are different/similar in the context of text because _____. This could impact the text by _____."
- "Considering the Word Splash, explain how each term impacts the main idea/topic/theme by _____."
- "Collectively, these words contribute to the idea that in the text about [main idea/topic/theme], _____."

Bridging:

- "I discern a connection between _____ and _____. This leads me to infer that in the text about [main idea/topic/theme], _____."
- "In my sequence, I positioned _____ before _____. I am confident this order makes sense because in the text about [main idea/topic/theme], _____."
- "Upon analyzing the Word Splash, I forecast the main idea of the text to be _____. The words _____ substantiate this idea by _____."
- "I contend that the word _____ had a profound effect on [character] by _____. This is because in the text, it might elucidate that _____."
- "I deliberately compared _____ and _____. I discern that they exhibit differences/similarities in the context of the text because _____. This nuanced observation could impact the article by _____."
- "Given the Word Splash, each term profoundly influences the theme by _____. In concert, these words significantly contribute to the notion that in the text about [main idea/topic/theme], _____."

Strategy**Directions:**

This strategy will support students in determining a central idea, theme, or topic of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details.

1. To implement Word Splash, identify a topic and key vocabulary words or essential concepts from the text. For example, for a biography about the life of Harriet Tubman, consider terms such as slavery, freedom, conductor, Underground Railroad, abolitionist, and Harriet Tubman.
2. Present the words on the front board, in a creative display, or handout of words to students. Explain the words that are connected to an upcoming text students will be reading. Encourage students to work in pairs to predict the theme or topic.
3. After students share their predictions, write the selected theme/topic, i.e., "Harriet Tubman," on the board. Next, students should establish connections between two or more words, explaining how they interrelate within the text. This process should be repeated for all the listed words.

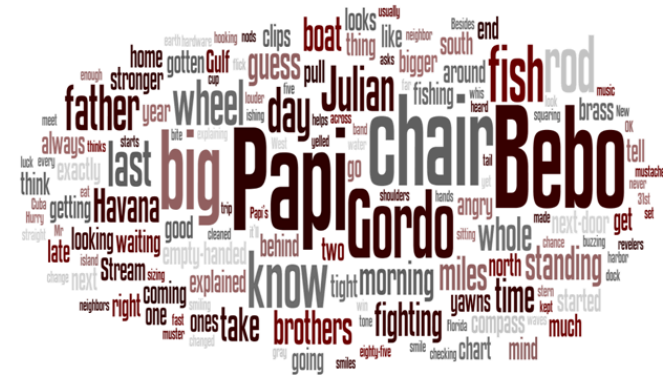
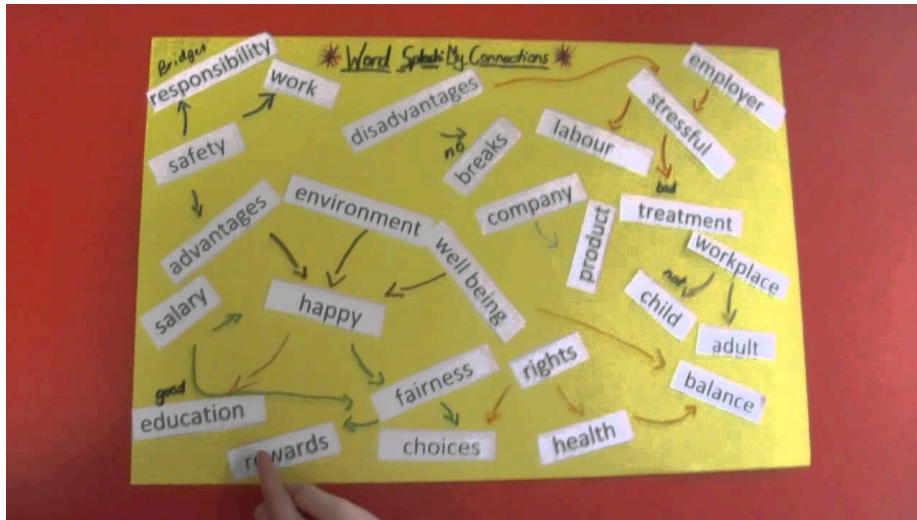
4. Subsequently, students read the text, discovering how the words are interconnected. Instruct students to compare their initial predictions with the actual connections and make revisions if necessary.
5. Finally, students can share their discoveries with another pair, fostering collaborative learning and discussion.

Examples



Extension

- Create a visual representation (drawing, diagram, or mind map) that showcases the relationships between the words in the Word Splash and the text.
- Choose a word that personally resonates with you or sparks your interest. Explain why this word stands out and how it was significant to the text.
- Have students use the words to write complete sentences about the topic or theme. For example, "Harriet Tubman was a conductor on the Underground Railroad. She was an Abolitionist who escaped slavery to help other African-American slaves escape to freedom."





WORD SPLASH

THE 57 BUS

**Injustice
Victim
Forgiveness
Identity
Bias
Empathy
Fire
Restorative**

Quick Checks - Formative Assessments

When teachers provide formative assessments that take minimal class time, it helps identify how a student's reading comprehension is progressing. A quick Check-for-Understanding is an effective way to help identify a student's current thinking about their reading. These examples were created as ways for teachers to check student understanding quickly. They are meant to be completed in a short period of time (5 minutes or less) at the end of a class period, similar to an Exit Ticket. Teachers may also choose to ask students to complete a quick check at the end of Independent Reading time. Some quick checks ask students to pair up and share a conversation about the books they are reading.

Hashtags - The Hashtag Paraphrasing strategy is a way for students to show their comprehension. It can be completed as a stand-alone day activity or at the end of a week's reading. As students read a portion of their book, they extract the main idea or an enlightening event and write a hashtag paraphrasing the section of what they read. This check-for-understanding is turned in before students leave class.

3-2-1 - Students identify three things they learned while reading that day, two things they are still curious about, and one thing they do not fully understand yet. This can be completed as an Exit Ticket and turned in before leaving class. Students can also pair up to share their 3-2-1 if time permits.

Texts - Students create a conversation in text messages highlighting dialog between characters. This conversation should reflect what was significant in the day's reading.

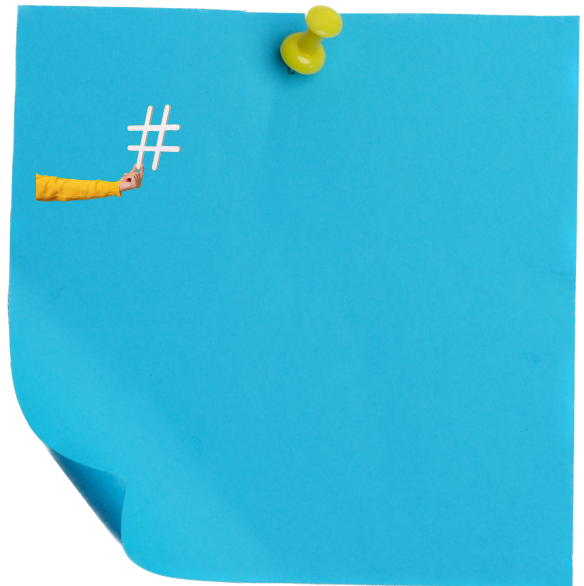
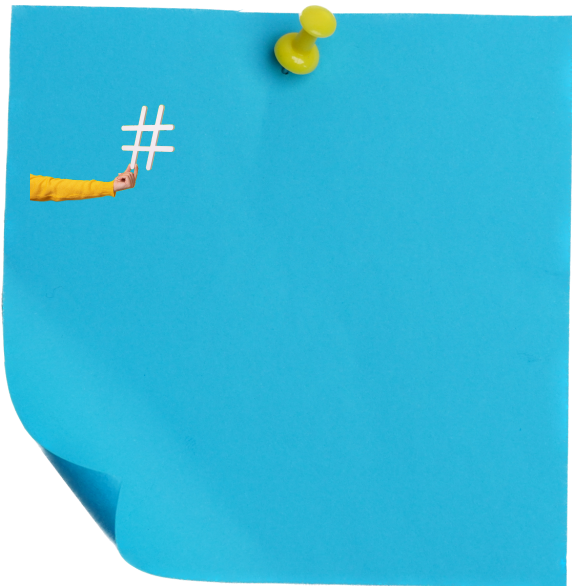
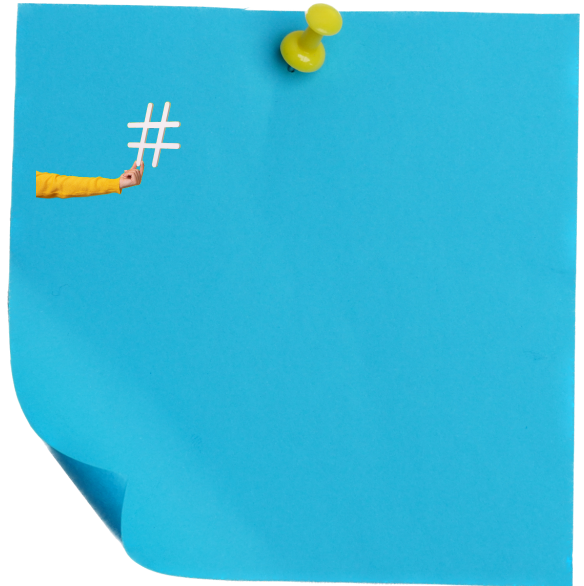
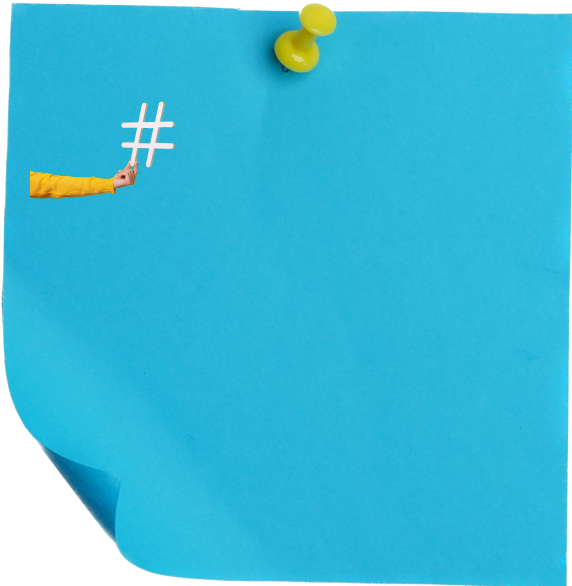
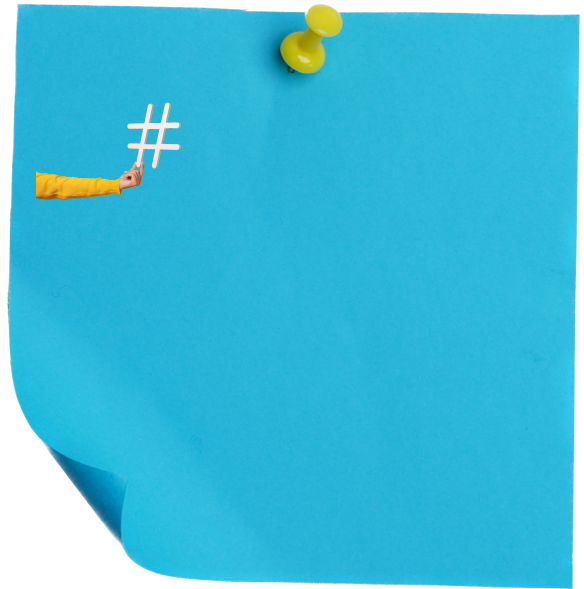
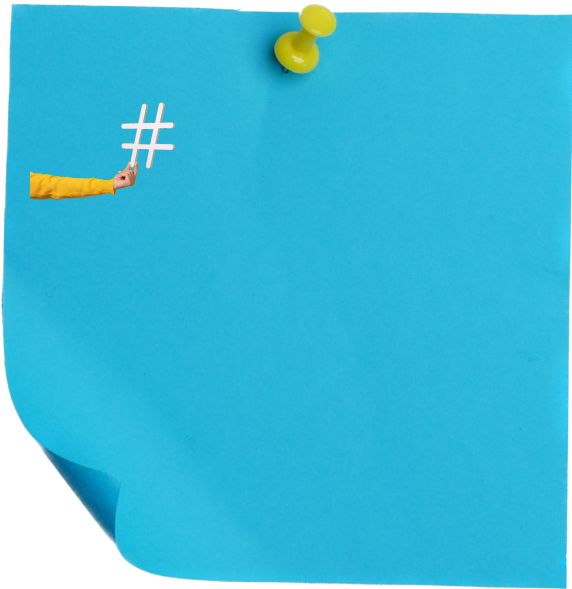
Venn-Diagram - Venn diagrams help to visually represent the similarities and differences between two books. Two students pair up, discuss their books, and complete a Venn diagram that lists ways their books are similar and different. Examples of similarities often include genre, themes, and age of characters.

Exit Ticket - Students choose one of the questions and complete their responses. It can be a one-and-done check, or it can be repeated. There are five questions, so it can be repeated daily until each question is answered.

One-Minute Share All - Students pair up. Each student has one minute to share everything they remember and can share aloud in one minute.

Postcard - Students complete a postcard from the character's point of view. They can be asked to include enough information to highlight details from the story, such as setting and events.

Rose & Thorn - Students highlight a rose and a thorn. A Rose is a success, a small win for a character, or something positive that happened. A Thorn is a challenge the character experiences.



3 - 2 - 1

- What are 3 things you learned in today's reading?
- What are 2 things you're still curious about?
- What is 1 thing you don't understand, yet?

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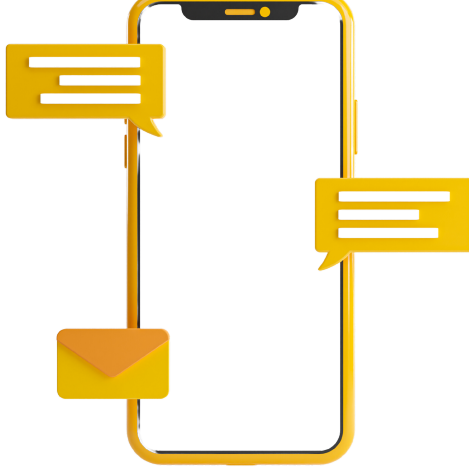
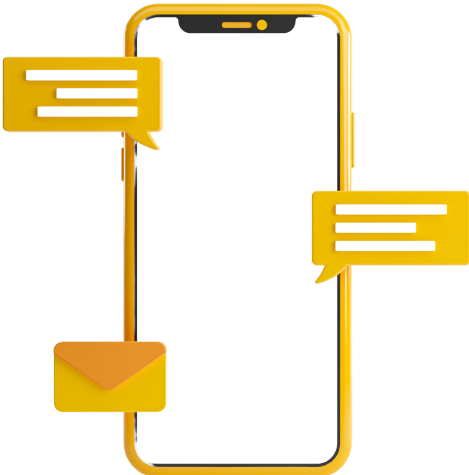
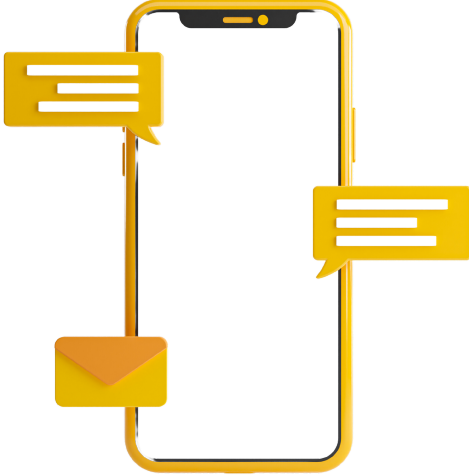
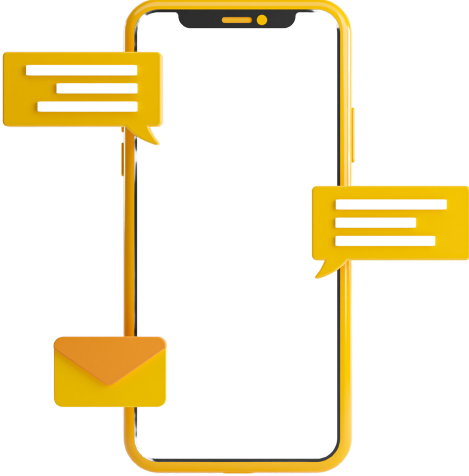
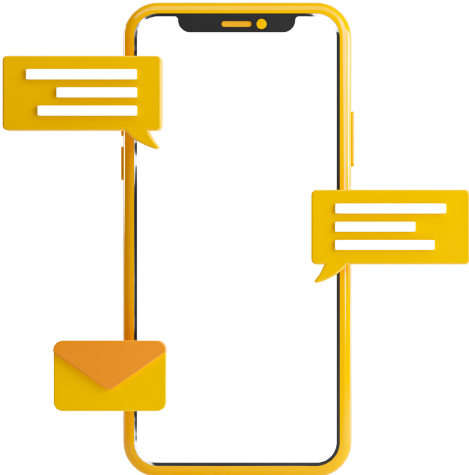
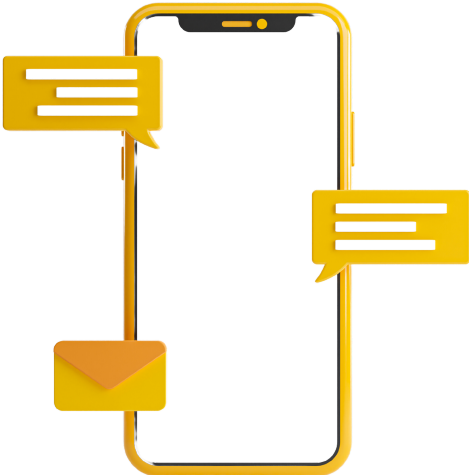
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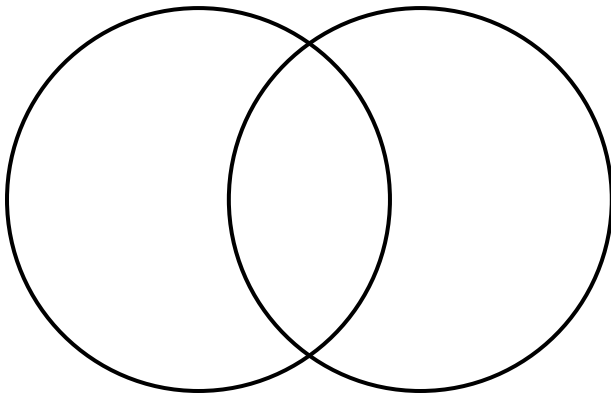
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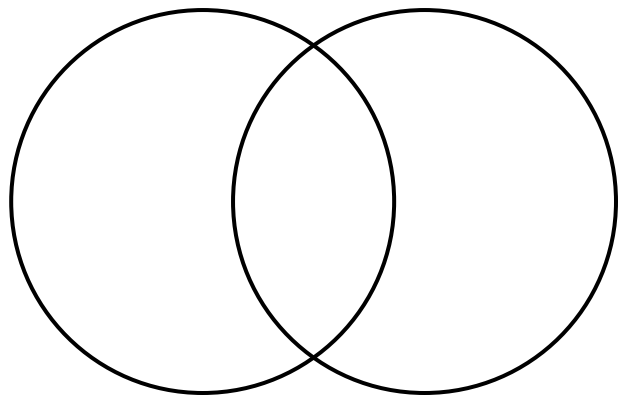




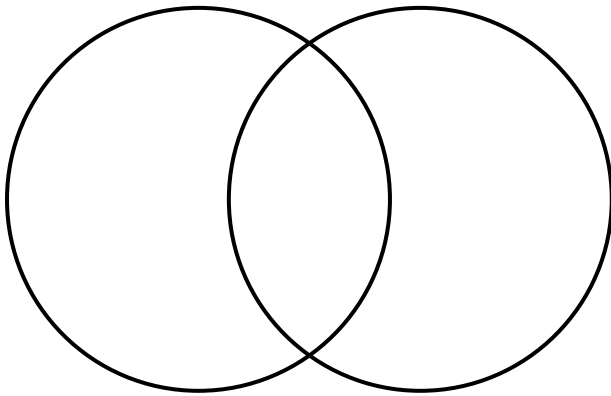
Compare your book to
your friend's book.



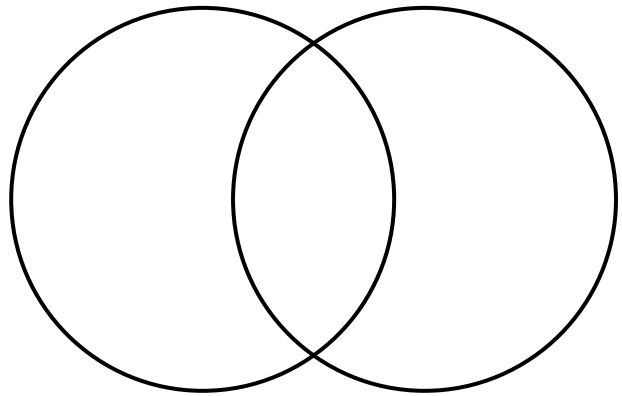
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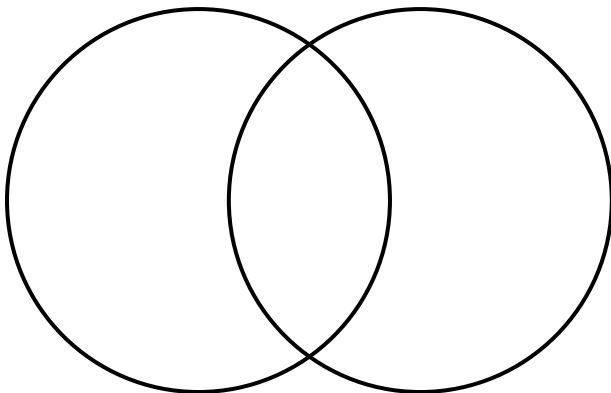
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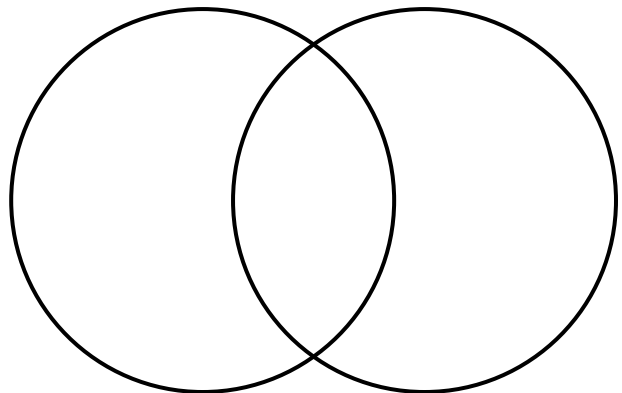
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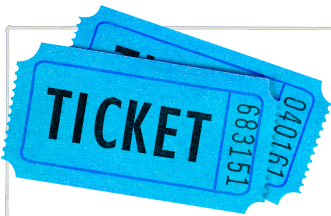
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- Which character do you identify with the most, and why?
- What would you ask the author of this book if they were in our classroom?
- What are 3 key points from your reading today?
- What part of today's reading do you think you could rewrite better? Why?



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One-Minute Share All (Share everything you remember in one minute)...

- Character's name and what they did in today's reading.
- Character's feelings about what was going on in today's reading.
- Character's interaction with another person - why? what happened?
- Where did the story take place in today's reading?
- Did anyone offer advice to the character(s) in today's reading?
- Did the character realize something?
- What do you predict will happen next?



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POSTCARD

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: _____


FROM: _____

POSTCARD


PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: _____


FROM: _____




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Thorn = A challenge the character experienced




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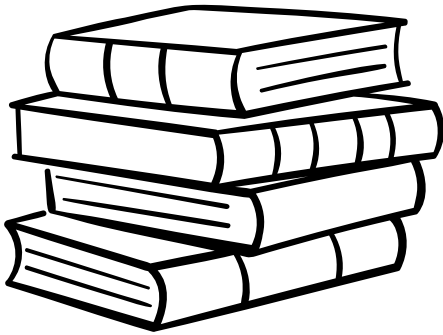
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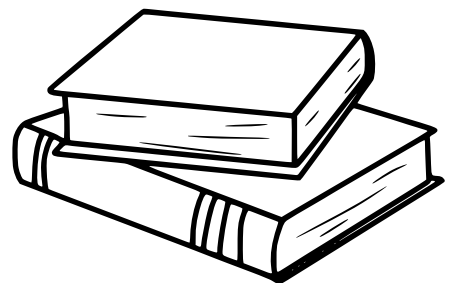


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MIDDLE SCHOOL

CLSD Classroom Collection Books by Author



Middle School CLSD Classroom Collection Books by Author

Abbott, Tony. *The Great Jeff*. 2020. 294 pgs. RL: 5.7, IL: 6-Up. Because of his mother's drinking, thirteen-year-old Jeff Hicks was forced to move from St. Catherine's, a private school he's attended for years, to a public middle school. One day, his mother comes home and announces she's lost her job, which jump-starts a series of events that leads to homelessness. While Jeff is desperate to keep his family's misfortune and his mother's alcoholism a secret, a girl at school begins to suspect. Help comes from an unlikely place, though, in the form of his former best friend, Tom, who was the recipient of Jeff's bullying in seventh grade. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills, Poverty/Homelessness, Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Ahn, Angela. *Peter Lee's Notes from The Field*. 2021. 305 pgs. RL: 6.1, IL: 4-6. Eleven-year-old Peter Lee's primary life goal is to become a paleontologist, followed by his close-second goal of getting L.B., his kid sister, to leave him alone--but when he develops asthma, it puts a halt on his summer dinosaur bone expedition. Things get even worse when Peter and L.B.'s grandma gets sick, and none of the adults want to talk to them about it. Peter, armed with his notebooks and scientific observational skills, plans to make things better. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Awareness.

Akim, Aliu. *Akim, Aliu: Dreamer*. 2023. 118 pgs. IL: 3-7. A graphic novel memoir of former professional hockey player and activist Akim Aliu, discussing growing up as a mixed-race child of Nigerian and Ukrainian Canadian immigrants, falling in love with the sport of hockey, and experiencing racism, hostility, and friendship during his rise to becoming a professional hockey player. Reveals the power structures in professional hockey that allowed discriminatory and racist coaches to control the system, in which some players were allowed to succeed while others, like Akim, were stifled at the height of their careers. Also discusses how Akim spoke out against the abuses he suffered and formed an organization to bring greater diversity to the sport of hockey. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Alexander, Kwame. *Booked: The Graphic Novel (Crossover: 2)*. 2022. 320 pgs. RL: 3.9, IL: 6-9. Twelve-year-old soccer player Nick loves the game but doesn't love what's going on at home. Trying to navigate his parents' divorce proves as difficult as avoiding the bully who tries to make him feel small. On top of that, Nick hates to read, even though his father makes him read the dictionary to expand his vocabulary, and The Mac, a rapping librarian, gives him books that make him think. Aided by his best friend Coby, Nick takes on these challenges the best way he knows how and hopes his efforts help him with his biggest challenge yet: impressing his dream girl. Genre: Realistic/Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Alexander, Kwame. *Crossover: The Graphic Novel (Crossover: 1)*. 2019. 218 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 6-9. A graphic novel adaptation of Kwame Alexander's novel of the same name. Josh Bell has a talent for composing raps, and he and his twin brother Jordan are kings of the basketball court. But when the twins' close relationship begins to unravel under the strain of changes in their lives, the brothers start to realize life isn't always about winning. Genre: Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Alexander, Kwame. *Rebound (Crossover: 0.5)*. 2018. 414 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 6-9. In the summer of 1988, twelve-year-old Chuck Bell is sent to stay with his grandparents, where he discovers jazz and basketball and learns more about his family's past. Genre: Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Alexander, Kwame. *The Door of No Return*. 2022. 418 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 5-8. Eleven-year-old Kofi Offin lives in the West African Asante Kingdom in 1860. Besides his family and friends, Kofi loves

swimming in the nearby river and endeavors to impress a local girl named Ama. When a local festival known as the Kings Festival takes place, young boys from the villages take part in wrestling contests. Kofi's older brother Kwasi is chosen to represent their village, but during the match, something goes terribly wrong. Soon Kofi finds his life drastically changed and his happy life a thing of the past. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Allen, Josh. *Only If You Dare: 13 Stories of Darkness and Doom.* 2021. 200 pgs. RL: 3.6, IL: 3-8. Future-predicting board games, unending bowls of oatmeal, and wet cement prove treacherous for the tween protagonists in the thirteen horror dramas in this short story collection. Genre: Horror/Scary,

Alston, B. B. *Amari and The Night Brothers (Supernatural Investigations: 1).* 2022. 420 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 3-7. Struggling with her brother Quinton's disappearance and bullying at school, thirteen-year-old Amari is at the end of her rope when she receives a mysterious container, purportedly from her brother. Inside she learns of a supernatural world and of an invitation to a training camp hosted by the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. She agrees to attend and learns that she is a magician whose powers are considered illegal. But Amari is determined to become a junior agent no matter the obstacles so that she can find her brother. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Own Voices, Poverty/Homelessness.

Applegate, Katherine. *Wishtree.* 2017. 215 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 4-8. An old red oak tree tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk. Genre: Fantasy.

Arango, Andrea Beatriz. *Iveliz Explains It All.* 2022. 268 pgs. RL: 6.8, IL: 6-10. Seventh grader Iveliz looks forward to the new school year with optimism, hoping it will be the opportunity she's been waiting for to turn things around in her life. She vows not to get in any more fights at school and she will try to be happier. After all, her grandmother from Puerto Rico has moved in with them, and that will help to fill the hole that her father left when he walked away. However, her temper rears its ugly head and Iveliz gets into trouble again. Coupled with her grandmother's Alzheimer's and her mother's denial that she needs her medication to feel happier, Iveliz worries she'll never be able to accomplish her goals, especially when she's having trouble understanding and expressing what she's feeling. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Arango, Andrea Beatriz. *Something Like Home.* 2023. 248 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 6-8. When her parents are sent to rehab, eleven-year-old Laura Rodríguez Colón is sent to live with her Titi Silvia, an aunt she's never met. Struggling to adjust to life without her parents, Laura finds a stray puppy she names Sparrow, and Silvia allows her to keep it. Laura learns she can't visit her parents while they are in rehab, but the center does allow therapy dogs inside, so she embarks on a plan to train Sparrow so that she'll be allowed inside. But when tragedy strikes and Laura learns she may have to stay with Silvia long-term, she comes to understand that what happened to them wasn't her fault and she can love her parents even though she can't be with them. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management.

Arnold, Elana K. *A Boy Called Bat (Bat: 1).* 2017. 198 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 2-5. Bixby Alexander Tam is a third-grade boy on the autism spectrum. Call him "B.A.T.," everyone else does! Bat's days are full of surprises. Some are good, some not so good. He needs a lot of structure throughout his day due to his autism, but he has learned that surprises can be fun. Today is a good surprise! His veterinarian mother brings home a kit, a baby skunk, she needs to care for before she can bring it to a wild-animal shelter. Bat and the kit become friends immediately, but how can he convince his mother that a baby skunk would be the perfect pet? Genre: Animals, Topics/CASEL Domain: Neurodiverse, People with Disabilities, Social Justice.

Arnold, Marie. *The Year I Flew Away.* 2021. 245 pgs. RL: 3.8, IL: 3-6. Forced to immigrate to Brooklyn without her Haitian parents, Gabrielle quickly learns that America isn't all it's cracked up to be. Soon, Gabrielle's only desire is to fit in, and a local witch named Lydia is eager to take advantage of it. Lydia offers Gabrielle the ability to assimilate, which she takes. But in doing so, Gabrielle learns that Lydia will have increasing control over Brooklyn, and worse, Gabrielle has lost the essence of who she is. Joining forces with a talking rat-rabbit creature, Gabrielle fights to reverse the curse and regain her true self. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

Atkins, Jeannine. *Grasping Mysteries: Girls Who Loved Math.* 2021. 305 pgs. RL: 6.2, IL: 4-6. Contains a collection of poems that illustrate the childhoods of seven women who changed history within the scientific and mathematical community and details the challenges they faced to achieve their goals. Includes black-and-white illustrations. Genre: Historical.

Baldwin, Cindy. *No Matter the Distance.* 2023. 351 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 3-7. Eleven-year-old Penny Rooney has lived with cystic fibrosis (CF) her whole life, but it's never held her back from doing what she wants. However, when a recent flare-up coincides with news that her best friend Cricket will be moving to Virginia, she worries about who she'll be without Cricket by her side. Unexpectedly, one day, she finds an injured dolphin, whom she names Rose, in the creek behind her North Carolina home. Penny forms an emotional connection with Rose but soon discovers that Rose has a lung infection and she'll need to return to her pod in order to get well. With two of her friends now leaving her and her CF only getting worse, Penny uses a poetry slam assignment to express her feelings about the uncharted territory in front of her and to discover who she is outside of her friends and her CF. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Chronic Illness, Own Voices, Relationship Skills, Self-Awareness, Self-Management.

Baron, Chris. *All Of Me.* 2020. 315 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 5-8. Thirteen-year-old Ari faces what it is to be a man while dealing with a cross-country move, his parents' separation, being bullied for his weight, and belatedly starting bar mitzvah preparations. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Self-Awareness, Social Awareness.

Baron, Chris. *The Magical Imperfect.* 2022. 323 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 3-7. It's 1989, and it seems the whole town of San Francisco is wrapped up in the baseball playoffs, hoping the Giants make it to the World Series. Twelve-year-old Etan has been uninterested in that and most other things since his mother left home. In fact, he's stopped speaking altogether, preferring to work for his jeweler grandfather in silence. After running an errand to a family on the edge of town, Etan meets Malia, who's referred to as "the Creature" by the kids at school because of the eczema that covers her body. The two outcasts quickly become friends, and Etan becomes determined to help Malia with relief from her eczema. An earthquake that hits the area throws a wrench in his plans, and he must learn to find his voice if he's to help those he cares about. Genre: Historical.

Beck, Miya T. *The Pearl Hunter.* 2023. 302 pgs. RL: 5.9, IL: 4-7. Twin sisters Kai and Kishi are born into a pearl diving family, and each is learning to excel at the skill. While they are each other's best friend, they sometimes clash due to Kishi's obedience and Kai's risk-taking. On a diving expedition one day, Kishi is swallowed by a skeletal ghost whale, and Kai risks her life trying to save her. Unsuccessful, Kai approaches the sea goddess Benzaiten and begs for her sister's life. Benzaiten agrees, but Kai must first bring her the pearl belonging to Dakini, the Fox Queen, a dangerous quest in which Kai discovers both friendship and untold challenges. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Billet, Julia. *Catherine's War (Graphic Novel).* 2020. 154 pgs. RL: 3.9, IL: 7+. Born Rachel Cohen and living in Sèvres Children's Home outside Paris prior to WWII, she is forced to change her name to

Catherine Colin as the Nazis close and flee her home. She takes along her most precious possession, a camera, with which she documents her own survival story of fleeing from persecution.

Binks, Danielle. *The Year the Maps Changed.* 2022. 351 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 4-6. In 1999 Australia, eleven-year-old Winifred "Fred" Owen-Ricci has been living with her stepfather Luca and her maternal grandfather Pop ever since her mother died several years ago. But now that Luca's girlfriend Anika and her ten-year-old son Sam are moving in, Fred is unsure of where she fits into the picture. Tensions rise in their town after it's chosen to host of a group of Albanian refugees fleeing the Kosovo War. When she befriends a group of refugees, it upends her understanding of community and belonging. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration.

Bird, James. *No Place Like Home.* 2023. 295 pgs. RL: 3.9, IL 6-8. Living out of a car with his mother and older brother Emjay, twelve-year-old Ojibwe Opín has learned how to survive the unpredictability of searching for a shelter each night and sneaking in showers wherever they can. En route to Los Angeles where they're hoping an uncle will take them in, Opín and his mother are continually hampered by Emjay's disappearances and reckless behavior. Opín experiences hope when he finds a stray dog, who becomes a much-needed friend and companion. But the stress his brother puts on the family and the fact that shelters won't allow his dog to stay, make Opín wonder if a home and happy ending are truly possible. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Poverty/Homelessness, Self-Management.

Bowen, Fred. *Hardcourt : Stories From 75 Years of The National Basketball Association.* 2022. 89 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 4-7. Provides a collection of illustrated stories about the National Basketball Association that describe pivotal moments in the league's history, including, how the league began, changes in scoring through the years, the acceptance of black players, famous rivalries, and the formation of the 1992 Dream Team. Genre: Sports.

Bowles, David. *They Call Her Fregona: A Border Kid's Poems.* 2022. 244 pgs. RL: 3.6, IL: 5-9. At the end of seventh grade, Guero has a new girlfriend named Joanna and is starting a band with Los Bobbys. His summer is filled with learning to be a good boyfriend and band practice, but once eighth grade starts, Joanna's world is thrown into chaos when her father is arrested by immigration officials. Guero wonders what to do for her and decides that turning to activism is the answer. However, his protests invite scrutiny and become a source of tension between Joanna and him. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Bowles, David. *They Call Me Guero: A Border Kid's Poems.* 2018. 111 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 6-8. Twelve-year-old Mexican American border kid, Güero, reflects on his heritage through poetry, thanks to the prompting of his seventh grade English teacher. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Bowling, Dusti. *Across the Desert.* 2023. 312 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 4-7. Travel enthusiast, twelve-year-old Jolene uses the library computers to watch the livestream adventures of another twelve-year-old, Addie Earhart who explores the Arizona deserts in an ultralight plane as "The Desert Aviator." Addie and Jolene have become friends through instant messaging, since Jolene is Addie's only fan. Addie is recovering from her father's death and Jolene uses the livestream to escape her troubled home, where her mother has become addicted to painkillers. While watching her livestream one day, Jolene sees Addie crash-land her plane and decides to use her knowledge of map making and desert topography to find her. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Poverty/Homelessness, Relationship Skills, Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Bowling, Dusti. *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus (Life of a Cactus: 1)*. 2017. 262 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 5-8. The one question Aven Green is sure to get from strangers is, “What happened to your arms?” Sometimes she tells people they got bitten off by an alligator, but the reality is she was born without her arms—a fact she has never let stop her from doing anything she sets her mind to. When her parents' new job running a Western theme park forces them to move to Arizona, Aven discovers adventure with Connor, a new classmate who has his own disability, when the two of them find a hidden room in Stagecoach Pass with a mystery inside. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, People with Disabilities, Social Justice.

Bowman, Akemi Dawn. *Where the Lost Ones Go*. 2022. 310 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 4-7. Twelve-year-old Eliot Katayama and her family move to Roseheart, Maine after the death of her beloved Babung. Eliot feels the loss personally and hopes to prove that ghosts are real so that she can talk to her grandmother one more time. To that end, she accepts a job at the supposedly haunted Honeyfield Hall and discovers a locked room leading to a place where ghosts in limbo are losing their memories. Along with a new friend, Hazel, she agrees to help them in the hopes of finding her grandmother, but a nefarious creature doesn't want them to succeed. Genre: Supernatural/Paranormal, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief, LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Braden, Ann. *The Benefits of Being an Octopus*. 2021. 254 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 5-8. Seventh-grader Zoey Albro cares for her three younger siblings after school as her mother works at a pizza parlor. Living on the fringes of society, Zoey's only friend is Fuchsia, who has her own issues, and the two do their best to avoid the wealthy kids in school. She has a fascination with octopuses and sees how helpful it would be to have eight arms to do all the things she needs to do and their ability to camouflage. One day, Zoey's teacher forces her to join the debate team, and though initially resistant, Zoey begins to see things in new ways. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Poverty/Homelessness, Social Justice.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubak. *Fighting Words*. 2021. 259 pgs. RL: 3.6, IL: 5-8. Sisters Della and Suki have always had each other--through their mother's incarceration for meth production and through five years of living with her predatory boyfriend. Now living in a foster home, the girls struggle with the aftermath of years of neglect and physical and sexual abuse, especially Suki, who, after being denied custody of Della when she turns eighteen, tries to take her own life. Their foster mother, Francine, works to be a stable force in their lives, fighting to get the girls the help they need. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Mental Health/Illness, Self-Management.

Bundy, Tamara. *Walking with Miss Millie*. 2018. 227 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 4-6. A young girl named Alice meets her elderly neighbor named Miss Millie, and every day, they walk Miss Millie's dog and learn about the town and Miss Millie's life. Genre: Historical.

Burgos, Hilda Eunice. *Ana Maria Reyes Does Not Live in a Castle*. 2018. 284 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 4-7. With her fourth sibling on the way, Dominican American Ana María Reyes feels a need to get out of her family's small Washington Heights apartment. She learns of an upcoming piano competition that offers a scholarship to a New York City private school. To win, she has to make it through her family hijinks and a family trip to the Dominican Republic. But with the advice of friends, she learns what really matters. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Burgos, Hilda Eunice. *Miosotis Flores Never Forgets*. 2021. 296 pgs. RL: 4.1, IL: 5-8. Sixth grader Miosotis Flores makes a deal with her father that she can get a dog if she improves her grades in two of her classes. As she delves into her homework and helps her neighbors foster rescue dogs, she begins noticing strange behavior in her sister Amarilis who's planning her wedding and, in a dog, named Freckles

that she's come to love. When she discovers what's going on with both Amarilis and Freckles, she learns she can reach out to friends for support. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Buyea, Rob. *Because of Mr. Terupt (Mr. Terupt: 1)*. 2010. 269 pgs. RL: 3.7, IL: 4-7. As the school year begins, seven fifth graders find themselves overcome by problems and internal conflicts that begin at school and lead all the way back to their home lives. Each chapter, narrated by a different student, guides readers through this turbulent year, eventually revealing the prank that resulted in tragedy and started all their problems. Through it all, Mr. Terupt, their teacher, is the one person who seems to truly understand them and accept them as they are. Though some try to shut him out, Mr. Terupt continues to offer his guidance and friendship, eventually teaching them all a valuable lesson that they will hold onto forever. Genre: Realistic.

Calejo, Ryan. *Charlie Hernandez & The Castle of Bones (Charlie Hernandez: 2)*. 2019. 591 pgs. RL: 5.8, IL: 5-8. When Queen Joanna, the leader of La Liga, is kidnapped, Charlie and Violet set out on a journey across South America to track down her captors. As Charlie and Violet find themselves being drawn deeper and deeper into the magical world, they hear rumors of the dead walking, and Charlie begins having visions of a necromancer who's been dead for more than five hundred years. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Calejo, Ryan. *Charlie Hernandez & The League of Shadows (Charlie Hernandez: 1)*. 2018. 330 pgs. RL: 5.4, IL: 5-8. Steeped in Hispanic folklore since childhood, middle schooler Charlie Hernandez learns the fables are true when, shortly after his parents disappear, his body begins to manifest into one of his favorite legends and he finds himself at the heart of a battle to save the world of the living. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Cartaya, Pablo. *Each Tiny Spark*. 2019. 315 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 5-8. Twelve-year-old Emilia Torres finds her life in upheaval when her father returns from deployment and his mother immediately leaves on a business trip. Her father begins to spend all his time in the garage working on an old car and Emilia, despite her Inattentive Type ADHD, becomes fascinated by his welding and her father, a shell of his former self, becomes more animated as he teaches her the craft. Meanwhile, a project at school brings new insight to her immigrant status and she is forced to confront a friend's bigotry. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Neurodiverse, Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Cervantes, J. C. *The Fire Keeper (Storm Runner Novel: 2)*. 2020. 416 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 4-8. Zane Obispo is currently on a deserted tropical island with his family and friends trying to control his new fire skills. When he tries to leave to rescue his father, the Maya god Hurakan, from prison, he discovers he is trapped on the island. Then he learns that he has accidentally put other godborns like himself at risk to be killed by the gods. In a race against time, Zane must escape from the island and find the godborns first. But now Zane faces an impossible choice: save the godborns or rescue his father. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, People with Disabilities.

Cervantes, J. C. *The Storm Runner (Storm Runner Novel: 1)*. 2019. 431 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 4-8. As the Mayan gods threaten a battle what will destroy the world, thirteen-year-old Zane must resolve an ancient prophecy and discover how his physical disability connects him to his ancestry. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, People with Disabilities.

Chanani, Nidhi. *Pashmina (Graphic Novel)*. 2017. 161 pgs. RL: 2.3, IL: 5-9. Priyanka Das, an Indian girl living in America, has always wondered why her mother abandoned her home in India years ago, taking Priyanka with her, and still refuses to tell Pri anything about India or her father. One day, Pri finds

one of her mother's pashminas in a forgotten suitcase, and, putting it on, finds herself transported to a place that very much resembles India--however, it may be another world altogether, and there is danger. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Awareness.

Chari, Sheela. *Karthik Delivers*. 2023. 272 pgs. RL: 3.9, IL: 6-8. The summer after the 2008 Financial Crisis, fourteen-year-old Karthik Raghavan is stuck making deliveries for his father's ailing Indian grocery, but he'd rather be a normal kid crushing on the girl he likes at the local ice cream parlor. His parents are uncertain about the future and want his focus to be on school and on getting a stable and secure job. When a grocery delivery leads to a secret casting in a play about the young Leonard Bernstein, Karthik's world opens up and he wonders if acting could be his passion and what that will mean to his parents and the future they dream for him. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Chari, Sheela. *The Unexplainable Disappearance of Mars Patel (Unexplainable Disappearance Of Mars Patel: 1)*. 2021. 282 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 3-7. Inexplicably, eleven-year-old Mars Patel's friend Aurora goes missing, and the only ones who seem overly concerned about it are Mars and his friends. Soon the group discovers other kids have gone missing around the world, and clues seem to point to eccentric tech billionaire, Oliver Pruitt, who also happens to be the founder of an exclusive prep school they are trying to enter. Mars and his friends Toothpick, JP, and Caddie set out on a quest to find their friend and understand the enigmatic Pruitt. Genre: Science Fiction, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Chmakova, Svetlana. *Awkward (Berrybrook Middle School: 1) (Graphic Novel)*. 2015. 210 pgs. RL: 2.8, IL: 5-8. Penelope "Peppi" Torres has two cardinal rules for surviving middle school--do not draw the attention of mean kids and seek out friends with similar interests. She breaks the first one when she trips into nerdy Jaime Thompson, and the mean kids see it. Recoiling, Peppi shoves Jaime away, but feels guilty about it later. Complicating things is the fact that Jaime is part of the science club, Peppi's art club's rival club in the school. Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying.

Chmakova, Svetlana. *Brave (Berrybrook Middle School: 2) (Graphic Novel)*. 2017. 238 pgs. RL: 3, IL: 5-8. Presents a Graphic Novel in which a young boy who daydreams of being a superhero must show real-world bravery after he is recruited to be part of the school newspaper and is suddenly drawn into middle school drama that he doesn't fully understand and isn't prepared to handle. Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying.

Chmakova, Svetlana. *Crush (Berrybrook Middle School: 3) (Graphic Novel)*. 2018. 234 pgs. RL: 2.9, IL: 5-8. Jorge Ruiz, who attends Berrybrook Middle School with his best friends Olivia and Garrett, struggles to cope with his first crush on Jazmine, friend issues, and daily drama. Then a scandal rocks the school and Jorge must decide where his loyalties lie.

Chmakova, Svetlana. *Enemies (Berrybrook Middle School: 4) (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 218 pgs. RL: 2.9, IL: 4-8. Felicity is an artist and a gamer with big dreams, but her sister Letty makes fun of her because she never finishes anything. Inspired by the TV show, "Piranha Pit," Felicity decides to join the Entrepreneur Club and compete in a contest to prove to Letty that she can finish something. In the club, she finds herself competing against Joseph, whom she used to be friends with in elementary school, until they drifted apart in middle school. She doesn't really understand why they stopped being friends, and soon, she starts to wonder if they are enemies. Things get even more complicated when tensions rise between Felicity and her friend Tess after they can't decide on an idea for their business proposal, and Felicity has to deal with a member of her Spanish group who won't do their share of the work. She must try to find a way to smooth things over with her various friend groups before she loses everything.

Chokshi, Roshani. *Spirit Glass*. 2023. 293 pgs. IL: 4-7. Like the other women in her family, almost twelve-year-old Corazon Lopez is a babaylan, a human who can commune with the spirits and guards the veil that separates the human and spirit realms. Raised and mentored by her aunt Tina, Corazon has not yet manifested her powers but is able to commune with the ghosts of her parents once a week, using a soul key. When a malevolent spirit steals her soul key and upsets the balance between the worlds, Corazon and her lizard animal companion, Saso, must travel to the spirit world and refashion a soul key to banish the spirit before even greater harm befalls them all. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Christmas, Johnnie. *Swim Team (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 245 pgs. RL: 3.7, IL: 3-6. Bree is looking forward to her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brigitha, home of the Mighty Manatees, but she's disappointed when the only elective that fits into her schedule is Swim 101. Swimming is one of her greatest fears, and she's less than enthusiastic about diving in, especially at a school that is deeply invested in its swim team. Luckily, Etta, an elderly neighbor in her apartment building and former swim team captain, is happy to help Bree, and she's surprised to suddenly find herself on the school's swim team thanks to her newfound water skills. As Bree makes friends on the team, she must deal with the town's expectations and help the Manatees beat their rival, the prestigious Holyoke Prep. Topics/CASEL Domain: Determination/Perseverance, Own Voices, Relationship Skills, Self-Management, Social Awareness.

Cisneros, Ernesto. *Efrén Divided*. 2020. 263 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 4-6. Seventh grader Efrén, whose parents are undocumented, returns from school to find his beloved mother, Amá, has been arrested by ICE and deported to Tijuana, Mexico. Efrén takes over the care of his five-year-old siblings, one of whom has a disability when his father takes extra work to pay for his wife's legal bills. The stress eventually catches up with him, drawing the attention of his teachers and prompting Efrén to make a choice about whom he can trust. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Cisneros, Ernesto. *Falling Short*. 2023. 304 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 4-7. Best friends and neighbors Isaac and Marco are opposite in looks--Isaac is tall, and Marco is short--and in abilities--Isaac excels at basketball, while Marco excels at schoolwork. However, that doesn't stop the sixth graders from having each other's back and helping each other get better. Isaac wants to finally take his schoolwork seriously, while Marco wants to make the basketball team to make his dad proud of him. As they each work through difficulties at home and at school, the pair learn important lessons about growing up. Genre: Realistic/Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Determination/Perseverance, Relationship Skills, Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Colfer, Eoin. *Global (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 144 pgs. IL: 3-8. Sami and his grandfather live in a village along the Indian Ocean, whereas Yuki lives in the far north of Canada, but both children feel the direct effects of climate change. Increasing temperatures mean rising sea levels that threaten Sami's home and melting Arctic ice forces polar bears into Yuki's hometown looking for food. Sami and Yuki are desperate to save their homes, and their fight for survival leads them both on a life-changing journey. Topics/CASEL Domain: Social Awareness.

Comrie, Courtne. *Rain Rising*. 2023. 327 pgs. IL: 4-8. Middle schooler Rain Washington suffers from depression and low self-esteem. Only occasional respites from her confident and talented brother Xander provide relief. However, when Xander is attacked by White fraternity members during a college visit, his happiness disappears and Rain spirals even further into despair. Thankfully, a beloved teacher notices something is wrong and invites her to an after-school circle group. There, Rain feels safe enough to share

her feelings and develops coping mechanisms that help her and her family forge a pathway to healing. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Conklin, Melanie. *A Perfect Mistake*. 2022. 265 pgs. RL: 3.8, IL: 3-7. After sneaking out with friends Will and Joey to see an old railway roundhouse deep in the woods, eleven-year-old sixth grader Max wakes the next day to learn that Will is in the hospital in a coma and he doesn't remember what happened. Joey won't talk to him, and feeling he's somehow responsible, Max enlists the help of aspiring journalist Sam to help him investigate what happened. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Self-Management.

Craft, Jerry. *Class Act (New Kid: 2) (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 249 pgs. RL: 2.8, IL: 4-7. Drew, who attends the prestigious Riverdale Academy Day school with his friends Liam and Jordan, tries to reckon with his status as one of the few kids of color in the school. While he knows he must work hard, he finds it difficult when he sees he isn't offered the same opportunities as other students. When his friendships begin to suffer under the pressure, Drew must find a way to bridge the gap and help his friends see him for who he really is. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Craft, Jerry. *New Kid (New Kid: 1) (Graphic Novel)*. 2019. 249 pgs. RL: 2.9, IL: 4-7. Seventh-grade African-American boy Jordan Banks dutifully travels from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale private Riverdale Academy Day School. As one of the few kids of color in his new school, Jordan feels out of place. He doesn't really fit in with his new classmates, and it begins to feel like his neighborhood friends live in a different world. Jordan finds comfort in his art as he tries to navigate both worlds. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Craft, Jerry. *School Trip (New Kid: 3) (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 247 pgs. RL: 2.8, RL: 4-7. Jordan, Drew, Liam, and their friends from Riverdale Academy Day School are going on a school trip to Paris, France, and Jordan can't wait to see all the famous artwork in the City of Lights. But when things don't go as planned and the faculty assignments get mixed up, the students find they'll be traveling with different teachers than expected and that the bully Andy will be joining them. In addition, Jordan is accepted into art school, forcing him to leave his friends behind and become the new kid once again. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Cuevas, Adrianna. *The Ghosts of Rancho Espanto*. 2023. 295 pgs. RL: 6.2, IL: 4-7. Rafa would rather live in the world of "The Forgotten Age," his favorite role-playing game, than the real world, but when he and his friends steal a slushie machine from their school, his strict father sends him to work on a ranch in New Mexico for a month. Fortunately, Rancho Espanto isn't as bad as Rafa was expecting thanks to a new friend named Jennie and Marcus, the veteran barn manager. But when strange things start happening, Rafa and Jennie work to uncover the truth and solve the mystery surrounding Rancho Espanto. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Awareness, Self-Management.

Cuevas, Adrianna. *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez*. 2021. 278 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 4-7. Nestor Lopez isn't your typical kid. He has a psychic ability to talk to animals. When Nestor and his mother move in with his grandmother, he's pulled into a mystery involving a shapeshifting witch whose power grows during a solar eclipse. With the next eclipse fast approaching, Nestor must hurry to save the new town he calls home. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Day, Christine. *The Sea in Winter*. 2021. 255 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 4-7. siblings and falls into a deep depression. But through an annual family trip to the Olympic Peninsula to learn about her Makah ancestors, Maisie learns she isn't the only one to suffer loss, and once she confides her feelings to her

mother, she learns strategies to help her rebound. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices, Self-Management.

Day, Christine. *We Still Belong*. 2023. 249 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 5-8. Wesley Wilder's hopeful plans for Indigenous Peoples' Day (and asking her crush, fellow gamer Ryan Thomas, to the dance) go all wrong until she finds herself surrounded by the love of her Indigenous family and community at the intertribal powwow. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Day, Nicholas. *The Mona Lisa Vanishes*. 2023. 276 pgs. IL: 4-8. When the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre on August 21, 1911, it was nowhere near as famous as it is today, but it was still a shocking event that set off a media circus with news traveling around the world. In this nonfiction account, the author delves into not only the details of the heist and the investigation but also the life of Leonardo da Vinci and how the Mona Lisa was created. Two years after the theft, the thief was caught, and the Mona Lisa returned, making it all the more famous worldwide. Topics/CASEL Domain: Narrative Nonfiction.

Dee, Barbara. *Violets Are Blue*. 2021. 286 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 5-7. Twelve-year-old Wren, who is learning special effects makeup, is thrilled to be a makeup artist for her new school's production of *Wicked*, but her parents' divorce is seriously affecting her mother. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Diaz, Alexandra. *Santiago's Road Home*. 2021. 325 pgs. RL: 6, IL: 5-7. A twelve-year-old named Santiago decides to accompany a young woman, Maria Dolores, and her daughter, Alegria, to the United States rather than return to his abusive grandmother. When they barely survive traveling across mountains and deserts, the group is arrested by U.S. Customs officials and separated in detention centers, where Santiago is once again alone and forced to survive more abuse. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Louisiana's Way Home (Three Rancheros: 2)*. 2020. 227 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 3-6. Twelve-year-old Louisiana Elefante recounts the day her Granny decided the mysterious "day of reckoning" had arrived, so she loaded Louisiana into the car in the middle of the night and drove off. The road trip came to a halt in Richford, Georgia, due to Granny's ailing teeth. Stuck in a motel, homesick Louisiana meets new friends and contemplates the curse on her family. Then, without warning, Granny abandons Louisiana, leaving behind a letter admitting that everything she told Louisiana about her past is a lie. Now Louisiana must find her own way back home. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Social Awareness.

Dinerstein, Eric. *What Elephants Know: A Novel*. 2017. 273 pgs. RL: 5.7, IL: 4-7. In the threatened jungle of the Borderlands between Nepal and India during the 1970s, an orphaned boy discovers his fate as a great elephant driver. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Self-Management.

Dobbs, Alda P. *Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna (Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna: 1)*. 2022. 273 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 4-8. After her mother dies and her father is taken by soldiers during the Mexican Revolution, twelve-year-old Petra Luna vows that she will care for her grandmother, sister Amelia, and brother Luisito. As the group flees their burning village, they embark on a long walk across the desert to try to reach the United States where they hope for safety and a better life. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

Dobbs, Alda P. *The Other Side of The River (Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna: 2)*. 2021. 351 pgs. RL: 5.8, IL: 5-8. Twelve-year-old Petra Luna and her abuelita, sister, and baby brother escaped the horror of the Mexican Revolution and made it to America, but her hardships are not over. Racism and prejudice still

exist in her smallpox-ridden refugee camp on the Texas border. Petra decides she and her family must leave the camp to go to San Antonio, where she has the chance to learn to read and write and build a new life for them all. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

Donwerth-Chikamatsu, Ann. *Beyond Me*. 2021. 290 pgs. RL: 5.5, IL: 4-7. In this novel in verse, Maya struggles with overcoming her fears after a 2001 earthquake and tsunami devastate her home country of Japan. Fifth-grader Maya learns that before she can help others, she must look inside herself for the courage to face her anxiety. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Self-Management.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. *Hazard*. 2022. 146 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 5-8. Told in a series of reports to his therapist, Hazard is resentful about being forced into counseling after being suspended from his school football team for unsportsmanlike conduct, angry that his father has served four tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, angry that his father has lost a leg when an IED blew up--but as his therapy progresses he begins to process what has happened to him and his family, including his father's psychological trauma that has made him refuse to see his sons. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Self-Awareness, Self-Management.

Draper, Sharon M. *Blended*. 2020. 307 pgs. RL: 4, IL: 4-6. Isabella is only eleven, but she is already so used to hearing about how "exotic" and unusual she is due to her black father and white mother that she is sick of her biracial identity. Now that her parents are divorced and fighting over her worse than ever, Isabella needs a way to define her identity so she can feel not like two halves, but a whole. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Dumas, Firoozeh. *It Ain't So Awful, Falafel*. 2016. 378 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 4-7. In the late 1970s, Zomorod Yousefzadeh is the new kid in class at her middle school in Newport Beach, California. With the Iranian hostage crisis hot in the headlines, Zomorod, who decides to go by Cindy, finds herself struggling to fit in after facing racial hostility because of her Iranian heritage. With a humorous, authentic voice, author Dumas takes young readers on a journey of adaptation and personal acceptance as Cindy eventually finds friends and her own sense of identity. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Engle, Margarita. *Bravo!: Poems About Amazing Hispanics*. 2017. 46 pgs. RL: 6.3, IL: 4-7. In this collection of biographical poetry, author Engle's free-verse poems are paired with artwork by illustrator Rafael Lopez to celebrate the accomplishments of Latinos who have made significant contributions to American history through their work in such fields as the arts, sports, science, and civil rights. With brief biographical notes for each subject included, this work is a valuable exploration of Latinos who have made a lasting difference. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Engle, Margarita. *Singing With Elephants*. 2022. 217 pgs. RL: 5.7, IL: 3-7. After her grandmother's death, eleven-year-old Oriol struggles to process her grief and remains a loner at school, ostracized because of her differences. However, she takes solace in caring for the animals at her parents' veterinary clinic. When a famous author moves in next door to her, Oriol befriends her, and she encourages Oriol to express herself through writing. A crisis with a pair of elephants her parents come into contact with causes Oriol outrage and she's unsure of what to do about it, until she decides to use the voice honed in her writing to advocate for change. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Management.

Everett, Sarah. *The Probability of Everything*. 2023. 326 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 4-8. Eleven-year-old Nigerian American Kemi Carter uses her knowledge and love of probability and statistics to understand her existence, her wonderful relationship with her family, and the impending disaster about to befall Earth. In just four days, scientists believe asteroid Amplus-68 has an 84.7 percent chance of hitting and

destroying life on Earth. Though others around her go on living their normal lives, Kemi endeavors to create a time capsule that captures the unique personalities and loves of her family members in the hopes that their memories will live on after the event. Genre: Realistic,

Everman, Cookie Hiponia. *We Belong*. 2022. 201 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 4-8. Half-Filipino sisters Stella and Luna ask their immigrant mother to tell them a story about where she came from. Interweaving two stories--one real and one mythical--their mother Elsie first tells them the Tagalong myth of gods Apolaki, Tala, and Mayari, siblings who were raised on Earth until their mother dies. The trio learn they must leave Earth to live with their father, Bathala Maykapal, the Creator God in the sky and struggle with fitting in. Next, Elsie relays her own story, about living under Ferdinand Marco's brutal regime and her family fleeing, taking only what they could carry in one suitcase and struggling to make a home in a new land. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration.

Farid, Diana. *Wave*. 2022. 313 pgs. RL: 3.9, IL: 6-8. When Ava's best friend's cancer returns in the summer of 1987, none of her usual pursuits--surfing, singing, or reading poetry--can keep thirteen-year-old Ava afloat. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness.

Farr, Bridget. *Pavi Sharma's Guide to Going Home*. 2020. 265 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 4-6. Twelve-year-old Pavi Sharma is already an experienced foster kid and offers practical advice to the other fosters she comes in contact with. She meets five-year-old Meridee who is about to be placed in a home that Pavi once stayed at, and with very dangerous foster parents. Used to providing sleuthing services to help the other kids, Pavi begins gathering evidence to put the family in jail and save Meridee. But the elaborate plot disintegrates, and Pavi is forced to confront some painful truths. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care.

Faruqi, Reem. *Golden Girl*. 2022. 309 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 4-7. Seventh grader Aafiyah lives in Atlanta with her Pakistani American family, loves hanging out with her friend Zaina and reading National Geographic Weird But True books. Aafiyah also has a bad habit of taking and keeping things that don't belong to her--something she's trying to correct. Though her family has never had to worry about money, they fall on hard times when her grandfather falls ill and her father is accused of a crime. Aafiyah wants to help out and comes up with a plan, but it involves stealing an item that doesn't belong to her and she must decide if giving in to her bad habit will be worth it. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices, People with Disabilities, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management.

Faruqi, Reem. *Unsettled*. 2021. 322 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 4-6. Thirteen-year-old Pakistani immigrant Nurah and her family relocate to Georgia, where she struggles to fit in in a culture very different from that of her home country. Though Nurah finds a friend and solace in joining a local swim team, she struggles with bullying and feeling different from the kids around her. When her brother Owais wins a swim meet, Nurah becomes jealous and betrays him. The incident emotionally crushes her, and she learns that being who she is and standing up for herself and her family will bring her more peace than trying to conform. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices, Relationship Skills, Self-Management, Social Awareness.

Faruqi, Saadia. *A Place at the Table*. 2020. 325 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 5-7. Eleven-year-olds Elizabeth and Sara meet at a South Asian cooking class that Sara's mother is teaching. Elizabeth, who is white and Jewish, and Sara, who is Pakistani-American, both have different reasons for being there and don't have much in common, until they make plans to create a fusion dish to help them win a spot on a local food show. Despite their collaborations, cultural differences and family issues threaten their budding

friendship. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Faruqi, Saadia. *A Thousand Questions*. 2022. 325 pgs. RL: 6.1, IL: 4-7. Less than thrilled at having to spend her summer in Karachi, Pakistan, with grandparents she has never met, Mimi finds solace in her nice new journal and using its paper to write to her long-absent father. Sakina, a girl on the other side of town, needs her family to understand that she needs to improve her English test score to get into school. When the girls meet, it at first seems like they could never be friends, but when they get to know each other they both realize they can help one another get what they want the most. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Faruqi, Saadia. *Yusuf Azeem Is Not a Hero*. 2021. 357 pgs. RL: 6.2, IL: 4-6. Yusuf Azeem can't wait to join the middle school robotics club in his small town of Frey, Texas, and finally have the opportunity to compete in the regional robotics competition, but he soon discovers more than a few obstacles stand in his way. This year is the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and he realizes the feelings of Islamophobia and hatred in his town haven't gone away. When hatred towards Muslims escalates to threats on the mosque being built in town, Yusuf must find a way to stand up for his beliefs. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Fipps, Lisa. *Starfish*. 2021. 244 pgs. RL: 4.1, IL: 5-8. Ellie, a plus-size teenager has been bullied and fat-shamed for her weight since she was five years old. As a result, she's developed rules for public behavior to avoid embarrassment, such as, walking slowly to avoid jiggling and not eating in public. The one place Ellie truly feels at home is in her swimming pool where she feels weightless and can spread out as far as she wants. With the help of her supportive therapist and father, Ellie grows tired of feeling shame and endeavors to live unapologetically. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Relationship Skills, Self-Management.

Fung, Rosena. *Living with Viola (Graphic Novel)*. 2021. 267 pgs. RL: 2.7, IL: 4-8. As the daughter of Chinese immigrants who left Hong Kong for Canada, Olivia Tong faces high expectations to be the perfect daughter and excel in school. When her anxiety overtakes her, filling her with negative thoughts and images, it takes on a personality of its own that Olivia begins calling Viola. When she starts at a new school, Viola rears her ugly head, but in spite of that, Olivia makes friends and learns to enjoy school. It's not until family strife and school microaggressions amp up that Viola reappears, but this time, Olivia might be brave enough to ask for help. Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices.

Galligan, Gale. *Freestyle (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 240 pgs. RL: 2.6, IL: 4-8. Eighth grader Cory is part of the dance crew Eight Blitz, whose goal is to win the annual Bronx Kids Battle dance competition before they split up to attend different New York City high schools. But when their strict training regimen causes Cory's grades to slip, his parents hire tutor Sunna and require him to get his grades back up. Sunna is a yo-yo master and Cory is interested in learning tricks from her, which eats into his dance practice time, angering his crew. At first Cory tries to please everyone--his parents, his dance crew, and Sunna, but eventually Cory realizes he must make his own decisions and set his own priorities. Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills, Self-Awareness.

Gemeinhart, Dan. *Some Kind of Courage*. 2016. 234 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 5-8. decides to sell Sarah, Joseph's beloved Indian pony. Outraged, Joseph steals the money his guardian got for Sarah, takes his father's pistol, and sets out through the wilderness to recover her. Along the way he meets an abandoned Chinese boy, Ah-Kee, and feeds him out of compassion. Ah-Kee joins Joseph in his search, and the two become great friends and adventurers without ever speaking one another's language. Genre: Historical,

Gemeinhart, Dan. *The Midnight Children*. 2022. 342 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 4-8. Mysteriously awakened in the middle of the night, twelve-year-old Ravani Foster sees a truck drop off seven children at an abandoned home in his hometown of Slaughterville. Lonely Ravani is curious about the children and quickly meets and makes friends with energetic and warm Virginia. Ravani soon learns the children are a found family calling themselves the Ragabonds who are on the run from someone they call the Hunter. Ravani works to help the children keep their secret, but when his biggest bully finds out and threatens him with blackmail, Ravani must rally his courage to save his only friends. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care.

Gemeinhart, Dan. *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*. 2020. 343 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 4-6. Twelve-year-old Coyote and her father, Rodeo, live an itinerant life as they travel the U.S. in an old school bus. Along the way, she hears that the park near her old home in Washington State is getting demolished--the park where she and her now-deceased mother and sisters buried a memory box. Coyote must then trick her father to travel back to Washington from Florida, picking up eclectic travelers along the way. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief.

Glaser, Karina Yan. *A Duet for Home*. 2022. 358 pgs. RL: 5.5, IL: 4-7. Sixth grader June Yang and her Chinese American family move into a homeless shelter after her father's death. Resident Tyrell, who also is in sixth grade, offers to show June the ropes, since he's lived there for three years and thinks being there is much better than living alone with his unreliable mother. June is devastated to learn she isn't allowed to play her viola, the instrument her father purchased for her from his tip money but learns that Tyrell also has a love of classical music and together they listen to a mysterious neighbor practice their violin in the evenings. When the pair hear their families may be forced out of the shelter, they decide to take action to save their home. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Poverty/Homelessness, Relationship Skills, Social Awareness.

Gratz, Alan. *Captain America. The Ghost Army (Marvel: Captain America) (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 165 pgs. RL: 4, IL: 4-7. During World War II, Captain America and his sidekick, Bucky Barnes, find themselves going up against an unstoppable foe: a Ghost Army that's made up of the dead of this war and wars past. They soon realize their enemy is impossible to defeat because they can't die. Captain America and Bucky uncover the mastermind behind the ghosts, Baron Mordo, and they race to defeat him before he deploys his weapon on a larger scale.

Gratz, Alan. *Grenade*. 2018. 270 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 5-8. In 1945, a young American Marine named Ray fights his way across the island of Okinawa. On the same island, a young boy named Hideki has been taken from school, forced into the service of the Blood and Iron Student Corp, and given the instructions to go out and kill an American soldier. When the two come face to face, the choices they make will affect everything. Genre: Historical.

Gratz, Alan. *Ground Zero*. 2021. 304 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 4-7. On September 11, 2001, Brandon is visiting his dad at work in the World Trade Center when the first plane hits. He begins a harrowing journey to escape and survive. On September 11, 2019, Reshmina has grown up in Afghanistan surrounded by war, but she dreams of peace. When her village is attacked, she comes across a wounded American soldier named Taz, and she must make an impossible choice that could put her family in grave danger. Genre: Historical.

Gratz, Alan. *Heroes: A Novel of Pearl Harbor*. 2024 272 pgs. IL: 4-6. Frank and Stanley are touring a battleship when Japanese planes zoom overhead, dropping bomb after bomb. As explosions roar and sailors scream, Frank and Stanley realize the unthinkable is happening; Japan is attacking America! The war has come to them. Frantically, the boys struggle to find safety. Genre: Historical.

Gratz, Alan. *Refugee*. 2017. 338 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 5-8. Three children. Three different countries. Three harrowing stories of survival under the shadow of war. Josef's Jewish family flees Nazi Germany in 1938. Isabel's family braves the ocean in a homemade raft in 1994 in the hopes of a better life in America. And in 2015, Mahmoud's family hopes to find refuge from the war raging in Syria. Each protagonist navigates the uncertainty of leaving behind the only life they've ever known, revealing the fear and heartache associated with being a refugee. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Gratz, Alan. *The Brooklyn Nine : A Novel in Nine Innings*. 2010. 303 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 7-10. This novel captures nine generations of a German immigrant family living in Brooklyn united through time by their experiences with baseball. Beginning in 1845, 10-year-old Felix Schneider saves Alexander Cartwright – the man credited for the start of modern baseball -- from a fire in a factory where he is a runner. As the years pass, each generation of the Schneider/Snyder family becomes entwined with baseball in America, whether it is playing Little League or in the All-Girls American Baseball League during World War II. Genre: Historical/Sports.

Gratz, Alan. *Two Degrees*. 2022. 365 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 4-7. When three children endure separate climate change disasters--a wildfire in the California woods, a close encounter with a hungry polar bear in Canada, and a massive hurricane in Florida--they emerge from their experiences committed to changing the world. Genre: Action/Adventure.

Grimes, Nikki. *Garvey's Choice: The Graphic Novel*. 2023. 141 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 4-9. Provides a Graphic Novel adaptation of the novel-in-verse "Garvey's Choice," which follows a young boy named Garvey whose father wants him to be an athlete, but who prefers science fiction and books. To mask the pain he feels in disappointing his father, Garvey turns to food, which leads him to be overweight, teased, and lonely. Garvey finds an unlikely refuge in the school choir, where he excels and eventually finds a way to connect with his father. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Management, Social Awareness.

Hale, Shannon. *Best Friends (Real Friends: 2) (Graphic Novel)*. 2019. 239 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 4-7. Now in sixth grade, Shannon is in the popular, yet fairly mean, social group led by her best friend, Jen. But as she struggles to fit in, denying the things she really likes for the sake of social standing, Shannon grows frustrated at the constantly changing rules of being popular. All the while, she tries to navigate her own anxiety and obsessive-compulsive tendencies. Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Relationship Skills.

Hale, Shannon. *Friends Forever (Real Friends: 3) (Graphic Novel)*. 2021. 280 pgs. RL: 3.2, IL: 6-9. In the third book in this series, Shannon enters her eighth-grade year with anxiety about what she's supposed to be and how she's supposed to act around her friends. Everything seems to be changing, her emotions take over, and she just can't understand why she can't be happy. As she navigates relationships, family obligations, and the expectations of dating, she grows aware of her struggles with depression and learns how to take steps toward loving herself. Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness.

Hale, Shannon. *Real Friends (Real Friends: 1) (Graphic Novel)*. 2017. 207 pgs. RL: 2.6, IL: 3-6. Newbery Honor-winning author Hale teams up with bestselling illustrator LeUyen Pham to bring young readers a graphic memoir about Hale's struggle to find real friendship in elementary school while being true to herself. The book focuses on a time when Hale's best friend, Adrienne, joined a clique of girls with a penchant for bullying others.

Harrington, C. C. *Wildoak*. 2022. 324 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 4-8. Bullied for her stutter in a 1960s English school, eleven-year-old Maggie Stephens takes drastic action that gets her expelled. Maggie is then sent to live with her doctor grandfather in rural Cornwall in the hopes that he can help her. Maggie quickly bonds with her loving grandfather and finds solace in the nearby woods of Wildoak Forest. There, she makes an astonishing discovery: a baby snow leopard has been abandoned and its life is threatened. In alternating chapters, readers learn how the snow leopard came to live in the forest, and how Maggie overcomes her fear of public speaking to become the animal's advocate. Genre: Historical.

Hautman, Pete. *The Rat Queen*. 2022. 390 pgs. RL: 3.3, IL: 5-8. On Annie's tenth birthday, she inherits the Klimas family secret of the "nuodeema burna" or eater of sins. Whenever Annie does something wrong, she writes it down and sticks the paper in a hidden hole in the floor of their house. She soon starts to feel less guilty about the mean things she says and does, but then she stops growing taller and an infestation of rats consumes her town. When she travels to her family's home country of Lithuania, she uncovers the terrible truth behind her birthright. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making.

Heiligman, Deborah. *Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of the 'Children's Ship'*. 2023. 301 pgs. RL: 6, IL: 6-8. Recounts the attack on passenger ship SS "City of Benares" during WWII, which was carrying nearly 100 British children escaping from the German onslaught of England's major cities as part of the Children's Overseas Reception Board program. As their military escort departed on the way to Canadian ports, a German submarine torpedoed the ship, not knowing it was a civilian ship carrying children. The author draws on first-hand accounts of the tragedy, providing backstories of the children and chaperones while also documenting their experiences. Includes extensive backmatter including interviews.

Hernandez, Carlos Alberto. *Sal & Gabi Break The Universe (Sal & Gabi Novel: 1)*. 2020. 382 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 4-8. At the quirky Miami's Culeco Academy of the Arts, thirteen-year-old Sal Vidón has an inexplicable ability to reach through time and space to retrieve items, including his dead mother, from other dimensions. School reporter and student body president Gabi Real is on to him but isn't bothered by his unusual abilities. Until, that is, her baby brother gets very ill. She enlists Sal's help, but in order to save him, Gabi and Sal might just break the universe. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Hernandez, Carlos Alberto. *Sal & Gabi Fix The Universe (Sal & Gabi Novel: 2)*. 2021. 423 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 4-8. After altering the universe in order to help their families, best friends Sal and Gabi find themselves working together to fix the damage they have done. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Hiassen, Carl. *Wrecker*. 2023. 323 pgs. IL 6-9. During the COVID-19 pandemic, fifteen-year-old Valdez Jones VIII is thriving thanks to an online school that allows him time to fish off the Key West coast. Going by the name Wrecker, since his great-great-great-great-great-grandfather was a ship salvager, he one day sees a boat run aground on a sandbar and becomes suspicious when the men running the boat give him cash to pretend he never saw them. When he begins to see the men all around town and they hire him to be a lookout for them, he worries that he's in over his head and tries to find a way out of his precarious predicament. Genre: Mystery/Suspense.

Higuera, Donna Barba. *Lupe Wong Won't Dance*. 2020. 263 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 4-6. Baseball loving seventh grader Lupe Wong has a goal to get all A's this year, in exchange for a promise her uncle made to arrange a meet-up with Seattle Mariners pitcher Fu Li Hernandez, an Asian-Latino pitcher who shares Lupe's heritage. However, the last place she thought she'd be struggling would be gym class. When the

teacher introduces a unit on square dancing, Lupe is not having it and must figure out a way to use her negotiating skills to change the subject. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationship Skills.

Higuera, Donna Barba. *The Last Cuentista*. 2021. 320 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 5-8. As the daughter of prominent scientists, twelve-year-old Petra Peñs is among the select few boarding a spaceship to another planet before Earth is decimated by a comet. Petra doesn't take after her parents though; she wants to be a professional storyteller like her grandmother. When she wakes centuries later, she realizes that her family and other passengers have no recollections of Earth or what life was like there. After learning that a dangerous cult known as the Collective is responsible, Petra knows it's up to her to preserve the memories of the past. Genre: Science Fiction, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Hill, Amanda Rawson. *The Hope of Elephants*. 2022. 476 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 5-8. When Cass and her parents learn that her dad's cancer is back, and Cass has a fifty percent chance of inheriting her dad's genetic mutation, Li-Fraumeni syndrome, she grapples with the choice to take the genetic test to find out for sure. As her dad's condition worsens, Cass seeks a way to get her dad to another World Series, a family tradition, while trying to decide how much knowledge about the future she wants to have. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making.

Hiranandani, Veera. *How To Find What You're Not Looking For*. 2021. 380 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 4-7. Following the Supreme Court's 1967 decision allowing interracial marriage, eleven-year-old Ariel Goldberg's older sister Leah elopes with an Indian man named Raj, devastating her parents, and opening up Ariel's eyes to their racist beliefs and new pressures to toe the line. As the only Jewish girl in her class, Ariel faces antisemitism daily and sees the ways it affects her parents' struggling bakery. Hoping to reunite her family, Ariel sets out to find her sister and is forced to make decisions about her personal beliefs. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Neurodiverse, Social Awareness.

Hobson, Brandon. *The Storyteller*. 2023. 206 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 3-7. Ever since his mother disappeared from their Poisonberry, New Mexico home ten years ago, Cherokee sixth grader Ziggy Echota has been in therapy to help manage his anxiety. When he confides in new friend Alice, she tells him about the secret desert caves, where the Nunnehi, trickster spirits may help them find clues about his mother's disappearance. Meeting in the middle of the night, the pair--tracked by Ziggy's sister Moon--set off on a dreamlike quest where they meet storytelling humans and talking animals that may or may not give them the answers they seek. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices.

Holm, Jennifer L. *Turtle in Paradise: The Graphic Novel*. 2021. 246 pgs. RL: 2.7, IL: 4-6. The Great Depression could make anyone tough, and it has been especially tough on Turtle, who's single mother just landed a job as a housekeeper for a woman who doesn't want children around. That means Turtle will be sent to live with an aunt and cousins she doesn't know in Key West, Florida. Turtle doesn't think the strange place will ever feel like home and keeps her guard up. But the more time she spends with her cousins and the quirky locals, the more she opens up, letting in adventures involving her cousins' babysitting business, local scams, and a hidden pirate treasure.

Holt, K. A. *Knockout*. 2020. 358 pgs. RL: 3.7, IL: 5-8. Kareena Thakkar keeps quiet about practicing Muay Thai outside her immediate family because her conservative Indian community in Texas doesn't approve. Pressure mounts when Kareena's coach tells her she has what it takes to compete in a trial for the world championships. With her father ill and her mother struggling to pay the family's bills, Kareena takes a tutoring job and begins falling for Amit Patel, a poster-perfect Indian boy. Kareena knows the world championships could open up prize money for her family and help her fulfill a dream, but she

worries about being a disappointment, especially to Amit. Genre: Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Awareness, Self-Management.

Holt, Kimberly Wills. *Hurricane Girls*. 2023. 288 pgs. IL: 5-8. Seventh graders Greer, Joya Mia, and Kiki became fast friends after collaborating on a school project about Hurricane Katrina. Dubbing themselves the Hurricane Girls, the trio become inseparable until a tragedy with Greer's sister distances Greer, who blames herself for the accident. Hoping to bring the group back together, Joya Mia and Kiki come up with a plan for the trio to compete in a relay triathlon. But obstacles abound, including Greer not being interested in running since the accident, meaning the girls must rally if they are to repeat their teamwork success and reignite their friendship. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills.

Hopkins, Ellen. *What About Will*. 2021. 374 pgs. RL: 4, IL: 5-8. Twelve-year-old Trace Reynolds' life changed after his beloved, kind, and supportive older brother Will suffered a brain injury during a high school football game. One year later, after what he comes to think of as "the incident," Trace's parents have divorced and he barely recognizes his brother, who has become withdrawn and has resorted to stealing and abusing pain medication. Not wanting to fracture his family further, Trace covers for Will, only wanting to help--but soon he will realize that some things must not be kept secret. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making, Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Hopson, Rainey. *Eagle Drums*. 2023. 245 pgs. IL: 4-6. As winter approaches in his Inupiaq village, Pina must make the long journey up the mountain, where his older brothers disappeared, to collect obsidian. He assures his parents that he will return, but on the mountain, he meets an eagle god named Savik, who kidnaps him and teaches him skills and lessons he must pass onto his people, including the tenants of the Messenger Feast. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Hostetter, Joyce Moyer. *Equal (Bakers Mountain Stories)*. 2021. 336 pgs. RL: 3.2, IL: 6-8. On the banks of a western North Carolina River, Jackie Honeycutt meets Thomas Freeman, and the pair begin a friendship. But in 1959, it's tough for Jackie, who is white, to be friends with Thomas, who is black. Jackie faces bullying at school and pressure from his community to stop being Thomas' friend. Jackie knows what his conscience is telling him is right, but will he be brave enough to stand up for what he believes in? Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Relationship Skills.

Howell, Destiny. *High Score*. 2022. 297 pgs. RL: 6.7, IL: 4--7. After running afoul of school officials for a heist gone wrong, twelve-year-old DJ has moved to a new school, and retired from a life of running schemes and cons. However, when his former best friend Connor shows up at his school, Connor causes trouble with the school kingpin running an underground trade of Starcade tickets. Connor is threatened with being socially exiled if he doesn't come up with 100,000 Starcade tickets in a matter of weeks. In order to save his friend, DJ organizes an elaborate heist to lift tickets from a local Starcade, enlisting the help of new friends Audrey and Monty. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Hudson, Wade. *The Talk: Conversations About Race, Love & Truth*. 2021. 147 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 4-8. Highlights a collection of essays, poems, and comics that discuss diversity, racism, and equality that encourages readers to examine their perspectives and take action to promote equal justice for all. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. *Fish in a Tree*. 2015. 276 pgs. RL: 3.7, IL: 4-6. Sixth-grader Ally Nickerson has managed to keep her inability to read a secret from her teachers and classmates at seven different schools in seven years. But keeping her secret takes a big toll on Ally's reputation, requiring her to constantly create disruptions in the classroom to distract her teachers from her debilitating dyslexia. It is not until a

new teacher, Mr. Daniels, realizes that the bright but disruptive Ally is unable to read that Ally is offered a chance to finally realize her potential. Slowly, her confidence grows as she begins to learn to read with Mr. Daniel's help, and new possibilities open in her life. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Neurodiverse.

Hussain, Salma. *The Secret Diary of Mona Hasan.* 2022. 282 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 5-8. Eleven-year-old Mona Hasan lives in Dubai with her Pakistani family just as the Gulf War breaks out in 1991. While on the surface nothing much changes in her life, Mona learns that her parents are considering moving to Canada. When the move finally happens, Mona gets the adventure of a lifetime, finding her way in a whole new world. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

Jamieson, Victoria. *When Stars Are Scattered (Graphic Novel).* 2020. 256 pgs. RL: 3.7, IL: 4-8. Based on the experiences of a Somalian refugee, this full-color Graphic Novel depicts the experiences of one orphan's life, living in a camp and resettling in America. Omar and his brother Hassan have been living in a Kenyon refugee camp since they fled their village in Somalia, where their father was killed, and they were separated from their mother. Cared for by a widow who also lost her family, Omar describes the boredom of having nothing to do and the joys of caring for Hassan, who is nonverbal. Omar agrees to attend school, which may increase his chances of resettling to another country but worries over leaving his brother each day. When the pair finally arrive in America, Omar is eleven and must face another set of difficulties acclimating to a new culture. Includes an afterward explaining more details about Omar's life. Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Neurodiverse, Social Awareness.

Jensen, Cordelia. *Every Shiny Thing.* 2019. 369 pgs. RL: 5.4, IL: 5-9. Lauren's brother is sent to a boarding school for kids on the autism spectrum. After her mother is arrested, Sierra is placed with a foster family in Lauren's affluent neighborhood. Now fast friends, Lauren wants Sierra's help with a scheme to raise money for autistic children who can't afford services like her brother does. But when Sierra finds out that it involves theft, she realizes that she has a lot to lose if she helps Lauren. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care.

Jimenez, Karleen Pendlet. *The Street Belongs to Us.* 2021. 215 pgs. RL: 6.3, IL: 4-6. When a construction project tears up their Los Angeles neighborhood streets in the summer of 1984, tomboy Alex and her friend Wolf use the trenches to forge a battle against other neighborhood kids with mud and water bombs as ammunition. In the same trenches though, the pair find much more than hours of satisfying adventure. Wolf, who has been wearing a camouflage uniform since his mother died, finds a way to deal with pent up grief, and Alex discovers a long-buried document about a place called Aztlán, which leads to a tutorial from her grandmother about the history Mexican Americans in the United States. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Keller, Tae. *Jennifer Chan Is Not Alone.* 2022. 277 pgs. RL: 4.1, IL: 5-7. Seventh grader Mallory Moss knows the golden rule of middle school: do what you can to fit in. New girl Jennifer Chan, who just moved in across the street, doesn't seem to abide by this rule or any other unspoken rules, especially since she openly talks about believing in aliens. After they start the new year, Jennifer gets bullied by Mallory's friends and Mallory does nothing to stop it. Then Jennifer runs away, and Mallory embarks on a desperate search to find her, combing through Jennifer's journals for clues to her whereabouts and reckoning with her own past mistakes. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Own Voices, Relationship Skills.

Keller, Tae. *The Science of Breakable Things.* 2019. 298 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 4-6. Seventh-grader Natalie decides to win an egg drop competition with her best friend Twig and use the money to help her botanist mother who is suffering from depression. She wants to use the money to fly her mother to see the Cobalt

Blue Orchids--flowers that survive against impossible odds--so her mother will be inspired to begin living again. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices, Social Justice.

Keller, Tae. *When You Trap a Tiger*. 2020. 297 pgs. RL: 4.1, IL: 4-7. who tells her that long ago Halmoni stole something from the tigers and that they want it back—and in exchange, they will help heal Halmoni. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Hello Universe*. 2020. 345 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 3-7. One day, when a bully named Chet pulls a prank that goes wrong, 11-year-old Virgil Salinas—whose life at home is already not that great—and his beloved pet guinea pig, Gulliver, end up trapped in a well. When his friend Kaori Tanaka, a self-proclaimed psychic, realizes Virgil is missing, she enlists the help of Valencia Somerset, a deaf, smart, brave, and secretly lonely girl, to find and rescue Virgil. It ends up becoming an epic quest of smarts, bravery, and luck, with a little bit of help from the universe itself. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Own Voices, People with Disabilities.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *We Dream of Space*. 2022. 391 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 4-6. In 1986, Cash, Fitch, and Bird Thomas are in seventh grade. Cash loves basketball, but just broke his wrist and is in danger of failing seventh grade for the second time. Fitch spends every afternoon at the local arcade and deals with an explosive temper. His twin sister, Birdie, dreams of being NASA's first female shuttle commander, but feels like she's disappearing. They all exist in their own little orbits in their tense home, with little in common. But after the disastrous launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger, their lives change in unexpected ways. Genre: Historical.

Khan, Hena. *Amina's Song (Amina's Voice)*. 2022. 280 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 4-7. In this companion novel to "Amina's Voice," Amina, a Pakistani American Muslim, has fun on her summer vacation to Pakistan where she visits shops, spends time with her cousins, and enjoys the food. When she returns home and the school year starts again, she tries to share her experiences and the beauty of Pakistan with her friends, but they are not interested. Amina must figure out a way to connect the people and places she loves most. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Khan, Hena. *Amina's Voice (Amina's Voice)*. 2017. 197 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 4-7. Amina, a Pakistani American Muslim, has entered middle school. She is happy hanging with her friend, Soojin, a Korean American, but things have started changing, especially when Soojin starts hanging out with popular Emily. When Soojin says she might change her name to something more American, Amina starts to wonder if she will have to change to fit in, too. However, when her local mosque is vandalized, Amina realizes that it is better to be herself. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Kim, Jessica. *Stand Up, Yumi Chung!* 2021. 306 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 3-7. Eleven-year-old aspiring comedian Yumi Chung stumbles into a kids' comedy camp and is mistaken for another student. Knowing it's the chance of a lifetime, she decides to play the part and figure out the rest later. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

King, A. S. *Attack of the Black Rectangles*. 2022. 258 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 5-8. When sixth grader Mac Delaney discovers his copy of Janet Yolen's "The Devil's Arithmetic" has passages blacked out, he and his friends Marci and Denis are outraged. They decide to do something about it by first bringing it to the attention of their principal, who dismisses them. They don't give up however, and with the support of allies, they work to change the censorship. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Social Justice.

King, Thomas. *Borders (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 171 pgs. RL: 4.1, IL: 6-9. A boy and his mother leave their reservation in Canada to visit the boy's sister in Salt Lake City. But when his mother refuses to identify themselves as American or Canadian at the border, and instead claims their citizenship as Blackfoot, they become caught between the two borders. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Kirkwood, Kathlyn J. *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round: My Story of The Making of Martin Luther King Day*. 2022. 114 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 4-7. Kathlyn Kirkwood was only seventeen years old in 1968 when she began joining Civil Rights marches. This middle grade novel-in-verse provides her memoir of living through the Civil Rights era and discusses the author's personal experiences spending much of her adult life fighting to create a national holiday commemorating Martin Luther King Jr.'s life. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Own Voices.

Korman, Gordon. *Linked*. 2023. 246 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 4-8. When a swastika shows up at Chokecherry Middle School in Colorado, the students are shocked. The questions, who put it there? and why?, lead three students on a collective journey to find the answers amidst a storm of media attention and finger-pointing. Michael Amorosa, a Dominican American boy of color, found the graffiti and is an immediate suspect. The only Jewish girl, Dana Levinson, is prompted to dig into her family history and help another student who learns about his Jewish roots. Popular boy Link feels pressure from other students to look for a solution, and along with other students, helps with an art project to counter the graffiti. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Korman, Gordon. *The Superteacher Project*. 2023. 297 pgs. RL: 6.8, IL: 4-6. Brightling Middle School friends Oliver and Nathan know something is up with Mr. Aidact, their new homeroom teacher who has suddenly become the school's most popular teacher. Somehow, he catches Oliver before he can launch a spitball, he has an uncanny ability to recall random facts, and overnight he becomes a great field hockey coach. Determined to get to the bottom of Mr. Aidact's behavior, the pair make a startling discovery about him. Genre: Humor.

Kuyatt, Meg Eden. *Good Different*. 2023. 288 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL 5-8. Autistic twelve-year-old Selah Godfrey has just started seventh grade at a new private school, where she's learned the rules of being a "normal person." During the day, she holds in her feelings until they get to be too much and then she escapes to a bathroom stall to calm down. One day, when a girl begins braiding her hair without permission, Selah lashes out and gets in trouble at school. Taking advice from her grandfather, she begins to write about her thoughts and feelings in a notebook. Feeling empowered by her words, she begins using them to explain her differences to her teachers and peers, helping them to understand and celebrate who she is. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Awareness.

Lai, Thanhha. *Inside Out & Back Again*. 2011. 262 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 4-7. When her homeland, Saigon, falls during the Vietnam War, young Ha flees from the country with her mother and three older brothers. Through a series of free-verse poems, Ha chronicles her life-changing journey in 1975 from Guam to America, resettling in Alabama. Ha struggles to assimilate to American culture; the different food and language, the odd landscape, the mean kids, and she still misses her father, who's been missing in action for 9 years. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

Lamotte, Lily. *Measuring Up (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 205 pgs. RL: 3, IL: 3-6. Cici's life is turned upside down when she and her family move to America from Taiwan. All Cici wants is to celebrate her grandmother A-má's seventieth birthday with her, but since she can't go to her, she comes up with a plan to bring A-má to the United States. She enters a kids' cooking contest in order to pay for A-má's plane ticket, but she soon learns it may be harder than she thought since all she knows how to make is

Taiwanese dishes. Cici must put her judgments aside and come up with the perfect dish to win the contest. Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

Larocca, Rajani. *Red, White, and Whole*. 2021. 217 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 4-8. A first-generation Indian American, Reha views her school and home lives as vastly different worlds. At home she's required to follow a strict code of conduct and participate in her family's traditions and rituals. At school, her American friends relish 1980s pop culture and view her as a fish out of water. Reha is especially estranged from her mother who only seems to see her mistakes. Then, when Reha learns her mother has leukemia, she not only worries, but also believes she'll need to be the perfect daughter in order to save her. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Larocca, Rajani. *The Secret of the Dragon Gems*. 2023. 352 pgs. RL: 4.1, IL: 4-6. Eleven-year-olds Tripti Kapoor, a feisty "word nerd" from Massachusetts, and Sam Cohen, a shy, imaginative, budding geologist from California, are both miserable at Camp Dilloway, a summer camp in upstate New York. On the last night of camp, they follow a shooting star to a quiet creek. There they find two silvery rocks glowing in the night. They each take one home, and their long-distance friendship begins. It's soon clear that these are no ordinary rocks. They seem to move on their own, get strangely hot, and even take over Tripti and Sam's thoughts! Inspired by their mutual love of their favorite book series, *The Dragon Gems*, they dub the rocks Opal and Jasper, after the Dragon Gems in the books. But others are interested in the stones too--including the owner of Camp Dilloway, who hides a secret of his own. Tripti and Sam must crack the Dragon Gems' code and keep them out of Dilloway's clutches, all while navigating the rocky road of middle school friendships and learning to stand up for what is right. Genre: Science Fiction.

Larson, Kirby. *Code Word Courage (Dogs of World War II)*. 2019. 233 pgs. RL: 4.1, IL: 4-6. As World War II begins, eighteen-year-old Leo is going to ship out with the Marines, but not before traveling home to see his little sister, Billie, bringing with him a Navajo friend from basic training named Denny. Along the way home, Denny finds a wounded stray dog and brings him to Billie's house where he ends up staying. The dog, Bear, helps Billie through the loneliness as she corresponds with both Leo and Denny throughout the war. With the help of Bear, Billie learns what friendship really means, while Denny's life as a code talker becomes dangerous and thoughts of Bear keep him grounded. Genre: Historical,

Le, Minh. *Green Lantern: Legacy (Green Lantern) (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 143 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 4-6. Thirteen-year-old Tai Pham inherits a jade ring and finds that he's now a member of the Green Lanterns, who are tasked with policing the universe. He also soon learns that it takes more than a ring to become a hero. Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

Lerner, Jarrett. *A Work in Progress*. 2023. 361 pgs. RL: 4, IL: 4-7. After a bullying incident where Will was first called fat, he just wants to be invisible most days. That's why he hides behind baggy clothes and in the back of the classroom, but he really wishes one person would notice him: his crush, Jules. He knows he doesn't have a chance with Jules, so he decides to change his eating habits and exercise more in order to lose weight. When that doesn't seem to make a difference, he resorts to increasingly drastic measures to change his appearance. Then, Will meets skateboarder Markus, who helps him see himself in a whole new light. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Mental Health/Illness.

Li, Christina. *Ruby Lost and Found*. 2023. 288 pgs. RL: 4.1, IL: 4-7. In the wake of her grandfather's death, thirteen-year-old Ruby Chu feels abandoned by friends and family, and desperately misses Ye-Ye's scavenger hunts around San Francisco. Sent to spend her summer days with her grandmother to keep her out of trouble, Ruby meets a friend in Liam, a school peer, and together they retrace her grandfather's famous scavenger hunts and help save a Chinatown bakery from shuttering for good. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Awareness.

Libenson, Terri. *Surprisingly Sarah (Emmie & Friends)*. 2023. 341 pgs. RL: 3.6, IL: 4-7. Sarah and Leo have been best friends since they were little kids, but things get complicated when Sarah develops a crush on Leo's friend, Ben. Sarah gathers the confidence to ask Ben to the middle school dance, but things go awry, and she may lose both Ben and Leo. Genre: Realistic.

Lim, Rebecca. *Tiger Daughter*. 2023. 174 pgs. RL: 6, IL 6-9. In this award-winning, Own Voices novel, Chinese teen Wen Zhou comes to age in Australia where her immigrant parents settled. An only child, Wen feels pressure to be who her parents want her to be. She and her friend Henry Xiao dream of escaping and being free to live their own lives so they decide to take an entrance test for an elite high school far from home. But when tragedy strikes, Wen will have to draw on all her tiger strength to save herself and Henry from what follows. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Lloyd, Megan Wagner. *Allergic (Graphic Novel)*. 2021. 234 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 3-6. Ten-year-old Maggie is starting at a new school and feels lost in her bustling family. Hoping a dog will remedy the situation, her family takes a trip to the pet store on her birthday, only to discover that she's severely allergic to fur and feathers. She makes friends with new neighbor Claire, but as soon as their friendship begins to feel comfortable, Claire gets a dog, adding to Maggie's disappointment. Maggie is resilient, however, working through her hurt feelings by talking to Claire and discovering something she's passionate about.

Lloyd, Natalie. *Hummingbird*. 2022. 348 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 5-8. When twelve-year-old Olive, who suffers from brittle bone disease and has been homeschooled all her life, finally attends school in person she discovers fitting in is not that easy. Overhearing stories about a magic wish-granting hummingbird that supposedly lives nearby, Olive is determined to find it and make her wish come true. With a group of unlikely allies-turned-friends, Olive learns she isn't the only one who has deep desires and that her differences may be her biggest asset. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Chronic Illness, Own Voices, People with Disabilities, Self-Awareness.

Makechnie, Amy. *Ten Thousand Tries*. 2022. 375 pgs. RL: 3.9, IL: 4-8. Eighth grader Golden Maroni comes from a family of soccer enthusiasts. His mother and father are coaches, and his father is a former professional player. However, since his father was diagnosed with ALS, and one of his best friends, Lucy Littlehouse, told him she's moving away, Golden has felt as though the control he's had on his life is slipping. Thinking his father's illness is just another challenge to overcome, he vows to put in 10,000 hours of soccer practice to try to turn the tides of the changes going on in his life. But his grueling schedule takes a toll on himself and his friends, and as his father continues to get worse, he learns to process his fears and let go of trying to control the future. Genre: Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Self-Management.

Maldonado, Torrey. *What Lane?* 2021. 125 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 5-8. Biracial sixth-grader Stephen feels like he's living in two worlds, each with different rules. He's starting to notice that strangers treat him differently than his white friends and as he learns about the Black Lives Matter movement, he discovers how to navigate race and friendships. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Awareness, Social Justice.

Marks, Janae. *A Soft Place to Land*. 2021. 281 pgs. RL: 3.9, IL: 4-6. Twelve-year old Joy dreams of writing music for the movies, but that dream is on hold now that her father lost his job and their family had to move from their home to a tiny apartment. With her parents fighting all the time and trying to find a way to pay for her piano lessons, Joy welcomes finding out about the Hideout, a secret room in the apartment complex that the kids have made into a hangout spot. Joy begins corresponding with an anonymous kid who's scrawled notes in the Hideout and makes it her mission to figure out who the

person is, leading to a fateful day that changes everything with her new friends. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making.

Marks, Janae. *From the Desk of Zoe Washington (Zoe Washington: 1)*. 2020. 291 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 4-6. On her birthday, twelve-year-old aspiring baker Zoe Washington receives a letter from her biological father who is in prison for murder, and tells her that he is actually innocent. Determined to discover the truth, Zoe tries to navigate her investigation, learn about inequality in the justice system, perform well in her baking internship, and achieve her dream of auditioning for the Food Network's Kids Bake Challenge. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Marks, Janae. *On Air with Zoe Washington (Zoe Washington: 2)*. 2023. 293 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 4-6. Follows fourteen-year-old Zoe and her recently exonerated father as they build their new relationship and work to open a restaurant together. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Marsh, Katherine. *The Lost Years*. 2023. 354 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 6-8. The COVID-19 pandemic strands thirteen-year-old Matthew's journalist dad overseas indefinitely, making the boy miserable. Worse, his stress and isolation only grow when his mom moves his great-grandmother into their home to ride out the pandemic. Then, Matthew discovers an ancient photo in his great-grandmother's belongings--one that unearths a life-changing family secret from all the way back to Soviet Ukraine in the 1930s. Genre: Historical Topics/CASEL Domain: Social Awareness.

Martin, Pedro. *Mexikid (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 320 pgs. IL: 5-8. Pedro Martin embarks on a trip to Mexico with eleven of his family members in their Winnebago to help move their abuelito to the United States to live with them. However, their grandfather won't move until he finishes a quest that becomes a part of Pedro's unforgettable journey. Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills.

Mbalia, Kwame. *Black Boy Joy: 17 Stories Celebrating Black Boyhood*. 2021. 296 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 4-7. Presents a collection of seventeen uplifting stories, poems, and a comic about being a black boy and the joy that comes from celebrating superheroes, baking, skateboarding, and other endeavors. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Mbalia, Kwame. *Tristan Strong Destroys the World (Tristan Strong: 2)*. 2021. 390 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 4-8. Barely recovered from his last adventure in the land of Alke, Tristan Strong needs a break. Unfortunately, he doesn't get one. A vengeful creature of Alke abducts his grandmother and Tristan must head back to Alke, reunite with Gum Baby and other folk heroes, in order to save her. Luckily, the trickster god Anansi resides in his phone to offer advice. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Mbalia, Kwame. *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole In the Sky (Tristan Strong: 1)*. 2020. 482 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 4-8. Reading his dead best friend's journal allows seventh-grader Tristan Strong to see folk heroes John Henry and Brer Rabbit. Then, a character from the Anansi story steals the journal, and in his effort to retrieve it, Tristan accidentally rips open a chasm into Alke, where African American folk characters are gods. Tristan learns that the people of Alke are suffering partly due to Tristan's actions, and in order to get back home and save his friends, Tristan, John Henry, and Brer Rabbit must seek out the god Anansi the Weaver to fix the chasm. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Awareness, Social Justice.

McNicoll, Elle. *A Kind of Spark*. 2021. 179 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 5-8. Eleven-year-old autistic Addie is struggling with a new school year and a teacher who isn't sympathetic to her needs and often dismisses her. When she learns in school about witches persecuted in her Scottish village, Addie is sympathetic to

what happened to them, realizing they were probably as different as she is. Feeling compelled to create a memorial to honor those who were persecuted, Addie comes up with a plan, but struggles with finding a way to communicate it to those who don't consider her capable. Fortunately, Addie has the support of a new friend and a sister who give her the courage to persevere. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Neurodiverse, Own Voices.

Medina, Meg. *Merci Suarez Can't Dance (Merci Suarez: 2)*. 2021. 372 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 4-8. Merci Suarez is having a rough start to seventh grade with new teachers, new friends, and new feelings for boys like Wilson Bellevue, her co-manager at the school store. Then there is Merci's annoying classmate Edna Santos who takes charge of the annual Heart Ball. Merci knows for sure she won't be going to the ball because she can't dance. She wishes she could talk to her grandfather, Lolo, about her troubles at school but his Alzheimer's makes it difficult. Could Merci's Tía Inés, her dancing aunt, help her make sense of it all? Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Medina, Meg. *Merci Suarez Changes Gears (Merci Suarez: 1)*. 2018. 355 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 4-8. Eleven-year-old Merci Suarez is a scholarship student at a private school in Florida, and though poorer than her classmates, she thrives on her own self-confidence. But at home, life is stressful with an ailing grandfather and family obligations; and more, she is targeted by a mean girl, Edna, who is jealous of Merci's friendship with Edna's crush. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Medina, Meg. *Merci Suarez Plays It Cool (Merci Suarez: 3)*. 2022. 340 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 4-8. Sporting a new haircut, Merci Suárez is looking forward to the adventures of eighth grade, with its overnight field trip and nighttime football games. While she's expecting the increased responsibility she'll have to take on with Lolo's Alzheimer's getting worse, she's not prepared for new attention from popular soccer teammate Avery Sanders. As the year's events roll by, Merci learns important lessons in changing family and friend dynamics and must learn with whom to invest her time and energy. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationship Skills.

Mejia, Tehlor Kay. *Paola Santiago and the River of Tears (Paola Santiago: 1)*. 2021. 350 pgs. RL: 6.6, IL: 5-8. A young preteen girl named Emma goes missing after her friends Pao and Dante meet by the river Gila--a place they've been forbidden to go by the adults in their lives. Pao, a self-proclaimed scientist, didn't actually believe her mother's warnings about La Llorona, a ghost near the river, said to be looking for young people to drag into the waters. However, as Pao and Dante search for Emma, they discover La Llorona is only the beginning of a terrifying world of monsters, spirits, and otherworldly lands that defy everything Pao believed was true. Genre: Supernatural/Paranormal, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Mendez, Jasminne. *Aniana Del Mar Jumps In*. 2023. 374 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 5-8. Twelve-year-old Aniana del Mar loves her involvement in competitive swimming at her Galveston, Texas YMCA, but she and her father keep it a secret from her mother, who lost her brother in Hurricane Georges and because of that, fears water. Lately, however, Ani begins experiencing strange bodily aches and pains that feel different from normal sore muscles. When her condition can no longer be ignored, Ani and her father confess their ruse to her mother and learn from doctors that she has juvenile arthritis. Angry and hurt, Ani's mother forbids her to swim again, even though the doctors believe it would be a good addition to her treatment plan. As Ani struggles under the weight of her illness and her mother's overprotectiveness, she also gains the courage to speak up for what she wants. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management.

Mercado, Yehudi. *Chunky (Graphic Novel)*. 2021. 199 pgs. RL: 2.8, IL: 4-8. In this middle grade graphic memoir, Mexican Jewish author and illustrator Yehudi Mercado depicts his childhood struggle

with his weight, and his friendship with his imaginary mascot, Chunky. Hudi's parents worry about a serious medical issue Hudi had when he was young, so they push him to play sports to control his weight. Hudi decides to try baseball, and it doesn't go well. Although his parents push other sports, Chunky encourages Hudi to pursue his beloved comedy. The family's stress increases when Hudi's dad loses his job, and Hudi will have to decide if he will stay true to his passion. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Awareness.

Mercado, Yehudi. *Chunky Goes to Camp (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 188 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 4-8. After a series of incidents at school label Hudi as a troublemaker, his parents decide to send him to Camp Green, a Jewish camp in the Texas desert. He soon meets Pepe, another camper who is also Latinx, Jewish, and a comedian, but Hudi is shocked when Pepe says he can also see Chunky. The two become fast friends and enter into a prank war with the rich, snobby Joshes. But when the pranks take a turn, Hudi must decide how far is willing to go to be Pepe's friend. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Messner, Kate. *Christopher Columbus & the Taino People (History Smashers)*. 2023. 188 pgs. RL: 6.9, IL: 4-6. Provides a history of Christopher Columbus and the colonization of the Americas that debunks many of the myths about him. Discusses the islands and areas he explored, the settlements he created, how he treated the native peoples, his relationship to the King and Queen of Spain, his misguided beliefs about his explorations, and how his legacy and popularity both grew and fell out of favor. Includes a timeline and illustrations.

Messner, Kate. *Pearl Harbor (Ranger in Time: 12)*. 2020. 114 pgs. RL: 6.1, IL: 4-7. Ranger the golden retriever travels back in time to 1941 in Hawaii, where World War II is what everyone is talking about. Ben Hansen, a young sailor at Pearl Harbor naval base, and Japanese twins Paul and Grace Yamada meet Ranger, just in time for the Japanese bombs to fall on Pearl. The surprise attack gives Ranger a chance to put his search-and-rescue training into action. Genre: Action/Adventure.

Messner, Kate. *The Underground Railroad (History Smashers)*. 2022. 199 pgs. RL: 6.4, IL: 4-6. Provides a history of the Underground Railroad in the United States, focusing on debunking myths about the network and providing true stories of those who tried to escape slavery. Begins with a history of slave trade and how it came to America and goes on to explain the Abolitionist movement, the fight for freedom, and slavery's legacy. Topics/CASEL Domain: Narrative Nonfiction.

Messner, Kate. *Women's Right to Vote (History Smashers)*. 2020. 215 pgs. RL: 6.7, IL: 3-7. Dispels common myths and beliefs about women's suffrage using factual evidence, primary sources, and humor. Includes black-and-white illustrations, biographical profiles, a timeline, and an author's note with a list of sources for further information. Topics/CASEL Domain: Narrative Nonfiction.

Miller, Sharee. *Curlfriends: New in Town (Curlfriends: 1) (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 282 pgs. IL: 4-7. Twelve-year-old Charlie Harper is used to starting at new schools since her father is in the military, but this time, her family is settling down for good. Determined to make a good first impression at Hill Valley Middle School, Harper sheds her glasses for contacts, dons a new hairstyle and clothes, and tries to shed her shyness for confidence. Her first day, however, doesn't go as planned when she loses her contacts and gets doused in water. Nevertheless, her bathroom emergency allows her to meet another brown-skinned girl named Nola, who helps her recover and get to her first class. Though Charlie is soon welcomed into Nola's crew, who call themselves the "Curlfriends," she still feels pressure to be something she isn't, and when keeping up appearances becomes overwhelming, Charlie realizes the value in just being herself. Genre:

Mitchell, Jane. *Run for Your Life*. 2023. 251 pgs. IL: 6-8. Twelve-year-old Azari and her mother have fled their home country and are seeking asylum in Ireland. Having survived the trauma in her home country, where she was forced to give up both school and her passion, running, in order to work in a factory while she awaited an arranged marriage organized by her abusive father, Azari is thrust into a different kind of cultural suffering. She and her mother must share a room with a stranger, eat strange foods, and endure endless questions from immigration officials. Though she speaks a little English, she has trouble making friends at school and she experiences the hostility of locals who don't want them there. Yet, Azari has no choice but to move forward, and the fact that she can run again gives her an outlet to release everything she's feeling inside and understand that there is a future that awaits her, even if she can't yet imagine what it will look like. Genre: Realistic Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration.

Moore, David Barclay. *The Stars Beneath Our Feet*. 2019. 294 pgs. RL: 6.2, IL: 5-7. Lolly is having a terrible time--his brother Jermaine got in a fight and then got shot. He doesn't know how to go on, but using the two giant bags of LEGOs his mom's girlfriend gave him, Lolly finds himself caught up in making a gigantic city--so big it goes outside his apartment. Then, he and his friend Vega get jumped by a few older guys, and Lolly will have to decide either to join a "crew" and get revenge or find a different path. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief, LGBTQIA+, Social Awareness.

Moulton, Deke. *Don't Want to Be Your Monster*. 2023. 287 pgs. IL: 4-8. Ten-year-old adopted vampire, Adam, has been raised by his vampire mothers in Lacey, Washington since he was abandoned in a Jewish synagogue and bitten to save his life. Though Adam wants to aspire to being something more than a bloodsucker, his fourteen-year-old brother Victor wants to embrace being a vampire. When bodies begin showing up around town, Adam is compelled to find out what is going on and, in the process, meets human amateur sleuths Luis and Shoshana. Together they deduce that a vampire hunter is on the loose and Adam realizes he and his family are in danger. Genre: Supernatural/Paranormal.

Najem, Muhammad. *Muhammad Najem, War Reporter: How One Boy Put the Spotlight (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 314 pgs. IL: 6-8. Presents a graphic novel memoir about the life of Muhammad Najem who started reporting about the war in Syria on social media when he was only fifteen years old. By that time, Muhammad and his family had lost their father in a bombing and had been hiding and trying to avoid being conscripted into Assad's military for seven years. With the help of CNN reporter Neus, Muhammad's story reaches a global audience, and the world gets a picture of an ordinary Syrian family and their plight.

Nayeri, Daniel. *The Many Assassinations of Samir, the Seller of Dreams*. 2023. 213 pgs. RL: 5.4, IL: 4-8. Saved from a stoning by the monks he lives with, twelve-year-old Sogdian orphan Omar is sold to traveling tradesman Samir and becomes a part of his caravan along the Silk Road. Moving from place to place, Omar, who is now called Monkey, learns that Samir is a dishonest salesman who cons his customers. Though Monk doesn't approve of Samir's dealings, he participates out of a sense of duty. Soon though, he learns that Samir has angered one too many people and that assassins are after him. Monk hopes to secure his freedom from Samir's service by saving his life six times and hoping they both make it through the ordeal alive. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Own Voices.

O'Connor, Barbara. *Wish*. 2017. 227 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 4-6. Charlie feels lost after she's sent to live with family she hardly knows. But after she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart, and Howard, a neighbor boy who's not as bad as she expects, Charlie may have finally found a home for good. Genre: Realistic,

Ogle, Rex. *Four Eyes (Four Eyes: 1) (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 218 pgs. RL: 3.4, IL: 5-8. Sixth grade isn't going well for Rex. He's the only kid who hasn't gotten a growth spurt, his closest friend starts hanging out with the "cool kids," and he's become a prime target for bullies. Then, things go from bad to worse when he finds out he needs glasses, and his family can only afford the ugliest pair in the store. Rex is desperate to find a way to fit in when everything he does seems to make him stand out. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Own Voices, Poverty/Homelessness.

Ogle, Rex. *Free Lunch*. 2021. 206 pgs. RL: 3.7, IL: 6-8. The author reveals the humiliation that came with the daily outing of his family's hunger and poverty in sixth grade when he had to announce that he participated in his school's free lunch program. While constantly hungry, Ogle also recounts how much he craved the love of family in the face of his parents' abuse and brutality. Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Memoir/Autobiography, Narrative Nonfiction, Own Voices, Poverty/Homelessness, Social Justice.

Oh, Ellen. *Finding Junie Kim*. 2021. 359 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 5-8. Middle school student Junie Kim turns inward and becomes depressed after enduring the taunts of a school bus bully and a racist incident happens at school. While working on a school assignment to interview a family elder, Junie learns of her Korean grandparents' sufferings and courage during the Korean War and learns to unpack her own courage to face the racism surrounding her. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management, Social Awareness.

Ormsbee, Kathryn. *Growing Pangs*. 2022. 249 pgs. RL: 3.6, IL: 3-6. Katie and Kacey have been best friends since they met at their homeschool coop group. Now that summer has arrived, Katie and Kacey have decided to attend a sleepaway camp together. At camp, Kacey begins acting differently and Katie begins having worries that won't go away, including getting braces, starting sixth grade, and losing Kacey as her best friend. Her worries begin to manifest themselves as a buzzing noise around her head and seem to dissipate when she does repetitive behaviors such as tapping. Her anxiety builds as the changes in her life continue and Katie learns to confront both with the help of family and friends. Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices.

Ortega, Claribel A. *Frizzy (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 212 pgs. RL: 3, IL: 4-7. Dominican Marlene loves books, her best friend Camila, and her aunt Ruby. She does not love having to go to the salon every Sunday to have her curly hair straightened. But her mother tells her it's the only way to look presentable to others. When a bad blowout results in disparaging comments from family members at a party, Marlene embarks on a journey to do something different with her hair. A momentous visit with her aunt Ruby, who wears her hair naturally, helps Marlene embrace her natural curls and confront the toxic ideas about beauty that have been passed down to her. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Awareness.

Ottaviani, Jim. *Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 157 pgs. RL: 4.1, IL: 4-7. The U.S. may have put the first man on the moon, but it was the Soviet space program that made Valentina Tereshkova the first woman in space. It took years to catch up, but soon NASA's first female astronauts were racing past milestones of their own. The trailblazing women of Group 9, NASA's first mixed gender class, had the challenging task of convincing the powers that be that a woman's place is in space, but they discovered that NASA had plenty to learn about how to make space travel possible for everyone.

Page, Tyler. *Button Pusher (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 244 pgs. RL: 3.6, IL: 7-12. In this Graphic Novel memoir, author Tyler Page documents growing up with ADHD as a child of the 1980s and '90s, when the condition was poorly understood. He documents what it was like to have uncontrolled impulses, the difficulties ADHD caused in his relationships with his parents and peers, and the abuse he suffered because of his behavior. After going on medication, Tyler learns how the medicine helps him, but also

wonders if it's holding him back as he grows into adulthood. He makes a risky choice in high school to stop taking his medication without a doctor's approval, and though he's able to graduate high school, the condition continues to be a factor in his life. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Neurodiverse, Own Voices.

Park, Linda Sue. *Prairie Lotus*. 2022. 261 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 5-8. Fourteen-year-old Hanna, who is half-Chinese, settles with her father in the frontier town of LaForge, Dakota Territory, in 1880. She hopes she can attend school before becoming a dressmaker in her father's dry goods shop, but first, she must deal with racism from the local townspeople who are afraid to have their children attend class with her, as well as grief from the loss of her mother, as she and her father struggle to find a place where they will be accepted. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Overcoming Adversity, Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Park, Linda Sue. *The One Thing You'd Save*. 2021. 65 pgs. RL: 3.9, IL: 3-6. Middle school teacher Ms. Chang asks a diverse group of her students what one thing they would save (besides their family and pets) if their home was on fire. Author Linda Sue Park explores their answers through Korean sijo-style poems, which consist of three lines of verse with thirteen to seventeen syllables. The students' answers reveal clues about their personal lives, family loyalty and love, and their common sense. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness.

Parks, Amy Noelle. *Summer of Brave*. 2022. 232 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 5-8. This summer, Lilla Baxter-Willoughby, 12, and her friends Vivi and Knox make their usual summer wish. Only this year, Vivi's wish that they all be brave and tell the truth--even when others don't want to hear it--hits close to home for Lilla. For a while now, Lilla has been keeping things from her friends and from her parents. For instance, she absolutely hates traveling back and forth between their houses since the divorce, and she doesn't want to attend the elite high school they've been talking about. Also, she hasn't told Vivi that she got the junior camp counseling job Vivi wanted or that she has feelings for Knox. But if being brave means she can finally get what she truly wants, Lilla thinks maybe taking the risk is worth it. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Self-Management.

Patterson, James. *Ali Cross (Ali Cross: 1)*. 2020. 312 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 5+. When his best friend Abraham is reported missing, Ali Cross sets out to find him, but he soon learns that being a kid sleuth isn't easy and clues aren't always what they seem. Genre: Mystery/Suspense.

Patterson, James. *Like Father, Like Son (Ali Cross: 2)*. 2022. 294 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 5-8. Washington D.C. middle schooler Ali Cross is determined to find out who shot his crush Zoe Knight. When he and his friends begin investigating what happened, they learn about the effects of gun violence on the black community and get involved in working for change. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Social Justice.

Perez, Celia C. *Tumble*. 2023. 352 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 5-8. When her stepfather Alex proposes that he adopt her, twelve-year-old Addie is happy about the prospect but lingering unanswered questions about her biological father leave her feeling surprisingly unsure. Addie begins investigating an old photograph of her father she finds among her mother's things and discovers her father's identity as a famous luchador, Manny "The Mountain" Bravo. Addie gets permission to meet her biological father and his family, where she is welcomed by everyone except her distant father. As she learns from and makes connections with her new relatives, she comes to terms with what family is and what she wants it to mean in her life. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Self-Awareness.

Peters, Shawn. *The Unforgettable Logan Foster (Unforgettable Logan Foster: 1)*. 2022. 266 pgs. RL: 6.1, IL: 3-7. Twelve-year-old autistic Logan Foster isn't expecting great things when he's placed in his seventh foster home. He quickly learns he isn't the only odd fellow when their meet-and-greet is interrupted by an earthquake, and his foster parents survive. After moving in with them, things only get weirder: they're out at all hours, they don't appear to eat, and they have heavy security protections in their home. Later, Logan deduces his new foster parents are actually superheroes who are being attacked by an arch-villain and that it may be up to him to save them. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Neurodiverse.

Ponti, James. *City Spies (City Spies: 1)*. 2021. 378 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 4-8. After hacking into the foster care computer system to prove wrongdoing by her foster parents, Sara Martinez is offered a chance to join a group of MI6 spies. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Responsible Decision-Making.

Ponti, James. *Forbidden City (City Spies: 3)*. 2022. 431 pgs. RL: 5.7, IL: 4-7. The City Spies are poised for their next mission; first up, Paris, who's infiltrating a Moscow chess tournament to prevent a criminal organization from recruiting a player's parent, a North Korean nuclear physicist. Sydney's on assignment as a reporter covering members of a popular boy band to uncover a link between the billionaire promoting them and threats from an old Soviet missile base. With Brooklyn off at summer school, it's up to Kat and Rio to provide technical support to help the pair complete their missions. Genre: Mystery/Suspense.

Prager, Sarah. *Rainbow Revolutionaries: 50 LGBTQ+ People Who Made History*. 2020. 121 pgs. RL: 6.5, IL: 3-7. Presents brief biographies of LGBTQ+ individuals who contributed to society through activism, athletics, the arts, scientific careers, and leadership roles. Features a timeline, a glossary, and lists of identity symbols. Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+.

Randall, Julian. *Pilar Ramirez and the Escape from Zafa (Pilar Ramirez Duology: 1)*. 2023. 285 pgs. RL: 6.1, IL: 3-7. In this middle-grade fantasy duology, twelve-year-old Pilar Ramirez lives with her Mami and Abuela in Chicago. An aspiring documentary filmmaker, she decides to investigate the disappearance of a relative named Natasha, who vanished during the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic years ago. When Pilar hears that a professor at the university has been working on disappearances under Trujillo, Pilar arranges to meet him. However, when she arrives, the professor isn't in his office. Pilar snoops around his office and finds a folder with her cousin's name on it, and in it a single page that magically transports Pilar to the island of Zafa. Here she joins the fight against the Dominican mythological boogeyman, El Cuco, to uncover the truth about her cousin. The book features Spanish words and phrases sprinkled throughout the text. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Reynolds, Jason. *As Brave as You*. 2016. 410 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 5-8. When 11-year-old Genie and his older brother Ernie are sent away from their home in Brooklyn to spend a month with their estranged grandfather in rural Virginia, Genie finds himself facing the perplexity of what it means to become a man. Surprised by his grandfather's ability to function so well despite his blindness, Genie thinks his grandfather might be the bravest man he's ever met. But when he realizes his grandfather never leaves his home, he wonders what bravery truly is. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, People with Disabilities.

Reynolds, Jason. *Ghost (Track: 1)*. 2016. 181 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 4-8. If they can get their acts together, Ghost, Lu, Patina, and Sunny—four kids with widely different backgrounds and explosive personalities—could potentially become their middle school track team's elite squad, and maybe even qualify for the Junior Olympics. Ghost has outstanding natural talent, but no formal training, and his discipline is lacking ever since his father chased him and his mother out of the house. He will have to do everything he can to

stay on track, physically and figuratively, to be the best sprinter in the city. Genre: Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Reynolds, Jason. *Lu (Track: 4)*. 2019. 218 pgs. RL: 5.7, IL: 5-8. Lu, an albino track star, is confident he can lead Ghost, Patina, Sunny, and the team to victory at the track championships, but it might not be as easy as it seems. Lu suddenly has challenges to overcome and overcoming them means figuring out what winning the gold really means to him and to the team. Genre: Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Reynolds, Jason. *Patina (Track: 2)*. 2017. 233 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 4-8. Four kids are chosen for an elite middle school track team—Ghost, Lu, Patina, and Sunny—a team that might even make it to the Junior Olympics if they can learn to work together. But they come from very different backgrounds and have wildly different personalities that often clash. Patina runs to get away from her problems at home, but can she learn to control her anger enough to work as a team? Genre: Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Reynolds, Jason. *Sunny (Track: 3)*. 2019. 159 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 4-8. Sunny always has a goofy smile and is the happiest person on the Defenders team. But Sunny's mom died giving birth to him and it seems like his dad blames him since he ignores Sunny and makes him call him "Darryl" and never "Dad." The only thing Sunny can do right in his dad's eyes is to win first place ribbons in running the mile, just like his mother. Sunny hates running and loves to dance and when he discovers a track event that allows him to incorporate elements of dance that he loves, he learns to let go of everything that's eating him up inside. Genre: Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Awareness.

Reynolds, Jason. *Miles Morales: Suspended (Spider-Man Novel)*. 2023. 303 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 7-12. Miles Morales spent the entire day yesterday saving the world, but today in class he forgot to reign in his super-strength and accidentally broke his school desk. For that, he is given in-school suspension, which would have been okay, if not for the fact he has to sit there with his huge crush right behind him. To make matters worse, there is a buzzing coming from the wall making his Spidey-sense go haywire. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Reynolds, Justin A. *It's the End of the World and I'm In My Bathing Suit*. 2023. 297 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 4-7. Twelve-year-old Eddie Gordon Holloway is stuck at home doing chores and missing a beach bash when the power goes out. He pulls on his swimming suit and heads outside to see what's going on. The neighborhood is empty except for four other neighborhood kids: newcomer Xavier, Eddie's former friend Sonia, and siblings Trey and Sage. When night falls, the kids realize the truth—they are the only people left on Earth. Genre: Humor, Topics/CASEL Domain: Neurodiverse, Own Voices.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Ghost Boys*. 2019. 217 pgs. RL: 3, IL: 4-8. Seventh-grader Jerome is mistakenly shot by a white police officer, and as a ghost, observes the turmoil in his community as a result of his death. He then meets the ghost of Emmett Till who helps Jerome understand how systemic racism led to his death, but also understand how far the effects of his death really go by introducing him to the grieving daughter of the police officer who struggles with her father's actions. Genre: Supernatural/Paranormal, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Paradise on Fire*. 2023. 252 pgs. RL: 3.3, IL: 4-8. Addy's parents were killed in a tragic fire years ago, and she still carries the trauma of this loss with her wherever she goes. When her grandmother sends her to a summer wilderness program in California, Addy finds herself learning to live in the forest with five other Black city kids. But those survival skills are soon put to the test when a forest

fire erupts in the woods where they are camping. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Towers Falling*. 2016. 228 pgs. RL: 3.3, IL: 4-6. Fifth-grader Deja lives with her family in a shelter in New York City. When her teacher gives her class assignments related to the attacks on the Twin Towers, Deja wonders why she should care so much about something that happened before she was even born. But as she investigates 9/11, she learns things about her friends and her family she never imagined. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Social Justice.

Rissi, Anica Mrose. *Wishing Season*. 2023. 228 pgs. IL: 5-7. Eleven-year-old Lily has recently lost her twin, Anders, and nothing, not even wishes, can fix the terrible hurt in her soul. Yet, Lily also has a secret, and believes in the impossible because of it. She cannot tell anyone in her small Maine town that she can still see Anders in a secret place called the overlap where she goes to visit him each day. When Anders doesn't show up one day, Lily finds herself reaching out to others to keep from thinking about it and when the overlap begins to shrink, Lily becomes desperate to stay connected to Anders. Genre: Supernatural/Paranormal, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief.

Rivera, Kaela. *Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls (Cece Rios : 1)*. 2022. 352 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 4-8. Twelve-year-old Cece Rios lives with her family in the Mexican desert town of Tierra del Sol, where dangerous spirits known as criaturas haunt the surrounding landscape and are controlled by brujas from the local community. When her sister Juana is kidnapped by a criatura known as El Sombreron, Cece decides to enter a competition for brujas so she can enter Devil's Alley and retrieve her sister. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Awareness.

Robertson, David A. *Barren Grounds (Misewa Saga : 1)*. 2020. 247 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 4-7. Two First Nations children, Morgan and Eli, who've been uprooted from their native homes and placed with a white family, feel disconnected from their surroundings and the family they live with. In the attic of their home, the pair discover a portal to another world filled with animal beings struggling to find food in their frozen world. Morgan and Eli are welcomed there, and in turn, they find hope in helping their new friends survive. Genre: Fantasy.

Rodriguez, Stephanie. *Doodles from the Boogie Down (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 200 pgs. IL: 6-10. A semi-autobiographical novel following the young author, Steph, as she must apply to high schools in New York City. She would much rather be doodling, though, and when her teacher tells her of LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts, Steph feels called to it--too bad her mother would not approve. Steph schemes to lie to her mother and get into the high school of her choice, but first must learn a lesson about truth. Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills, Self-Management.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Echo*. 2015. 585 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 5-8. children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact and tied together by the music of the same harmonica. Genre: Historical.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Mananaland*. 2020. 247 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 4-7. After his father leaves on a trip to secure a new birth certificate for him, eleven-year-old Maximiliano Córdoba meets a refugee named Isadora from the war-torn country of Abismo and learns that the stories his grandfather has been telling him are true: his family is part of a secret society of guardians who lead refugees to safety through an abandoned stone tower named La Reina Gigante. Abandoning his dreams of becoming a soccer star, Maximiliano sets out on a journey to help Isadora reach safety and hopefully learn the truth behind the

disappearance of his mother. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices, Social Justice.

Saeed, Aisha. *Amal Unbound*. 2018. 226 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 5-8. In a Pakistani village, Amal works hard to become a teacher. But after an unfortunate encounter with the son of a corrupt landlord, Amal becomes an indentured servant to the Khan family to pay off her own family's debt. At the extravagant estate, she learns just how far the Khans go to protect their status and realizes that she must work with others to change the status quo. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Saeed, Aisha. *Omar Rising*. 2022. 216 pgs. RL: 3.8, IL: 5-8. Seventh-grader Omar is initially thrilled when he receives a scholarship to an elite boarding school in Pakistan, knowing it's his family's ticket out of poverty. When he arrives, however, he gets a rude awakening, learning that scholarship students are treated differently. He and others like him are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities, must do menial chores around the school, and must maintain impossibly high grades--none of which are requirements for students who pay tuition. Omar finds himself bonding with other scholarship students and overcoming his own preconceptions about others to do the impossible: not only succeed but also advocate for fairness and equality. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Management.

Salazar, Aida. *A Seed in the Sun*. 2022. 255 pgs. RL: 5.7, IL: 3-7. Lula, a farm-working girl with big dreams, meets Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong, and other labor rights activists and joins the 1965 protest for workers' rights. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Salazar, Aida. *Land of the Cranes*. 2022. 243 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 4-8. When Betita and her family flee to Los Angeles from Mexico City, Betita's father tells her they are cranes returning to their ancient homeland. Betita's father is soon arrested and deported, and later, Betita and her mother are sent to a deportation camp. Through their struggles, Betita turns to writing poems, taking solace in the words and the hope of freedom and family reunification. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices, Self-Management, Social Awareness.

Santat, Dan. *A First for Everything (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 320 pgs. RL: 2.6, IL: 6-8. Based on the author's personal experiences going abroad for the first time, this graphic novel takes place at the end of a boy named Dan's eighth-grade year. Middle school was tough, and he'd rather forget it and try to remain invisible. However, when his parents suggest he join a three-week study abroad trip to Europe, he cringes at the thought of traveling with a group of girls who bullied him in middle school. However, as the trip unfolds, Dan finds friends, has a variety of first-time experiences, including his first kiss, and grows up in ways he could not have foreseen. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Santat, Dan. *The Aquanaut (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 241 pgs. RL: 2.9, IL: 3-7. Five years after her father dies at sea, Sophia is living with her uncle Paul at the Aqualand marine theme park that Paul and her father created. When she encounters a robotic "aquanaut" breaking into the theme park lab, Sophia is understandably surprised to discover it's piloted by four plucky sea creatures who have important news to share with her. They've discovered some of her father's artifacts that went down with the ship, including his diary, which relays the details of a sinister plan for Aqualand--one that's a far cry from what he wanted. The sea creatures are there to rescue their ocean friends, and Sophia is determined to help them succeed. Genre:

Schmidt, Gary D. *Just Like That*. 2021. 387 pgs. RL: 5.9, IL: 6-8. Traumatized by the death of a close friend before the start of eighth grade, Meryl Lee's parents decide to send her to an elite Maine boarding

school. Meryl knows nothing of the strict social norms of the school and struggles with making friends and pleasing her teachers. She only knows it's 1968, and there's a lot going on in the country that she "should" be able to talk about at school, like the war in Vietnam, rather than being reprimanded. She finds an unlikely ally in headmistress Dr. MacKnockater and in a runaway boy named Matt that the headmistress is fostering. Matt has suffered much at the hands of abusers and will need Meryl and Dr. MacKnockater's help if he is to survive their relentless pursuit of him. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief, Self-Management.

Schmidt, Gary D. *The Labors of Hercules Beal*. 2023. 352 pgs. RL: 5.5, IL: 4-7. Each morning, twelve-year-old Hercules Beal relishes watching the sun rise over the ocean in his Truro, Massachusetts home. The ritual is one of his few happy moments since his parents died in a car accident. Under the care of his older brother Achilles, who left a promising career as a world-traveling journalist to run the family nursery, Hercules begins the sixth grade with a sense of angst. Then his homeroom teacher, the steely ex-Marine Daniel Hupfer, issues him a challenging project: to recreate the twelve labors of his namesake Hercules and share what he's learned. Believing he's no hero, Hercules is surprised when different events in his life seem to issue him challenges that mirror the mythical feats the other Hercules faced. Tackling each one with increasing intention, Hercules makes new friends, learns about himself, and discovers that, unlike the mythical hero, he doesn't have to face life's challenges on his own. Genre: Realistic.

Sekaran, Shanthi. *The Samosa Rebellion*. 2023. 341 pgs. RL: 3.7, IL: 4-7. Soon after the arrival of his grandmother from India, twelve-year-old Muki begins to notice a change on the island of Mariposa. The island's president begins labeling those who've lived on the island for three generations or more as "butterflies" and more recent immigrants as "moths." When his mother is taken away to an encampment for months, with the intent to deport her, Muki and his friends devise a plan to rescue her and resist the new government decrees. Genre: Dystopian, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Shang, Wendy Wan Long. *The Secret Battle of Evan Pao*. 2022. 259 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 4-6. Evan Pao and his family move to Haddington, Virginia, in hopes of putting his father's unsavory notoriety behind them, but a small southern town is not an easy place for a Chinese-American boy to fit in, especially when he's the only Asian American kid in his school. Evan faces particular challenges with his Civil War-loving teacher and one kid, Brady Griggs, who seems determined to make things difficult, forcing Evan to decide how he is going to respond. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Sheinkin, Steve. *Bomb (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 253 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 5-8. In this graphic novel adaptation of the novel, illustrator Nick Bertozzi brings to life Steve Sheinkin's story of the atom bomb. Examines the 1938 discovery by a German scientist that the uranium atom could be split through the race to develop, steal, and use the atomic bomb in World War II. Explores the quest for military dominance by scientists and spies in America, Britain, Russia, and Germany and how the bomb's development fueled the Cold War.

Shetterly, Margot Lee. *Hidden Figures: Young Readers' Edition*. 2016. 231 pgs. RL: 8.2, IL: 5-8. Explores the true story of four African American female mathematicians recruited by the U.S. government during World War II to work at the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory. Their job involved being "human computers," using pencils, slide rulers, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would allow rockets and astronauts to be launched out of the atmosphere. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Simon, Eddy. *Pele, the King of Soccer (Graphic Novel)*. 2017. 139 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 4-8. Presents a graphic novel biography of Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as the soccer superstar Pelé, from his birth in 1940 up through his first forays into professional soccer, and how he became a star.

Sindu, S.J. *Shakti (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 256 pgs. IL: 3-7. After settling in Amherst, Massachusetts, with her moms, twelve-year-old Shakti is excited to make friends after moving so often as a child. She quickly bonds with her new friend Xi, who's also new to the school, as well as makes enemies with a group of queen bees known as HEK. When Shakti learns the girls are witches who are casting dangerous spells in the forest, she worries about her unborn brother and decides to tap into her family's own magical traditions to stop them. However, her efforts go terribly wrong and cause even greater harm to the community. Shakti, Xi, and their friends must rally together to stop the destruction to their town and protect their families. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *To Night Owl from Dogfish*. 2020. 293 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 4-7. Unhappy about being sent to the same summer camp after their fathers start dating, Bett and Avery, eleven, eventually begin scheming to get the couple back together after a breakup. Told entirely through emails. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Social Justice.

Smith, Cynthia Leitich. *Sisters of the Neversea*. 2022. 307 pgs. RL: 5.8, IL: 4-7. A girl named Wendy and her half-brother Michael are coerced into following trickster Peter Pan to Neverland in this reimagined Peter Pan tale. Wendy and Michael's half-sister Lily, of Muscogee Creek descent, follows them, knowing that what Peter promises sounds sketchy. In Neverland, Wendy and Michael join another group of kidnapped kids who call themselves the Lost, while Lily meets up with a group of natives that Peter refers to as Injuns. Lily joins with the diverse group from different tribes to devise a rescue plan. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Soontornvat, Christina. *A Wish in the Dark*. 2021. 375 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 4-7. All the light in Chattana is made by one man, the Governor. The magical lights represent freedom for Pong, who was born in Namwon Prison and he dreams of walking among them. But when Pong escapes from Namwon, he discovers that the outside world is just as unfair as life in the prison. Nok, the prison warden's daughter, searches for Pong in order to restore her family's good name, but she uncovers secrets that make her question everything she's believed. When Nok and Pong find each other, they set out to make things right. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Soontornvat, Christina. *The Tryout (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 255 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 5-8. Half-Thai seventh-grader Christina and her best friend, Iranian American Megan, two kids of color in their mostly White school, practice for cheerleading tryouts as a way to fit in. However, dealing with the subtle racism around them and the pressure of competition puts a strain on their friendship and forces each girl to face their insecurities. Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

Stewart, Martin J. *The Wild Huntsboys*. 2021. 304 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 4-7. In a futuristic, alternate war-ravaged Great Britain, a boy named Luka breaks his promise to his sister Elena to feed the faeries when she's evacuated to safety. Realizing too late that the faeries are not only real but also vengeful, Luka bands with friends Max and Hazel and a rouge faerie to protect his home and keep Elena safe. Genre: Dystopian.

Stoddard, Lindsey. *Brave Like That*. 2021. 261 pgs. RL: 6.3, IL: 3-7. Cyrus Olson was adopted by his firefighter father when he was abandoned at a fire station, and his father, Brooks, was the only one who could soothe him. A local football hero, Brooks introduces him to the sport, but Cyrus doesn't have the heart to tell him he doesn't want to play anymore, nor does he tell him about his struggles to read. He

begins skipping practice to spend time at a local animal shelter to care for a dog named Parker, who was also abandoned at the station. Parker and Cyrus form a bond, and through it, Cyrus discovers the courage to tell his father the truth. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Bullying, Self-Awareness, Social Awareness.

Stone, Nic. *Clean Getaway*. 2020. 227 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 4-7. William Lamar, known as "Scoob," goes on a road trip through the South with his grandmother in her recreational vehicle, visiting some of the major sites in the Civil Rights movement and learning about how people like him have been treated. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Stone, Nic. *Shuri (Shuri: A Black Panther Novel: 1)*. 2021. 262 pgs. RL: 6.2, IL: 5-7. Shuri, a thirteen-year-old princess from Wakanda and sister to the Black Panther discovers that the heart-shaped herb, which gives the Black Panther his powers, is dying. While tribal leaders quarrel, Shuri sets out with guardian-in-training, K'Marah, to discover what is causing the plant to die and how to reverse the damage. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Stone, Nic. *The Vanished (Shuri: A Black Panther Novel: 2)*. 2021. 262 pgs. RL: 6, IL: 3-7. Princess Shuri, the genius sister of the Black Panther of Wakanda, finally has time to focus on her own superhero training--but before she can progress very far, a big problem arises: exceptionally talented girls around the world are going missing at an increasing rate until the mystery hits the princess at home in Wakanda. Shuri determines not to let these lost girls go forgotten. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Sumner, Jamie. *One Kid's Trash*. 2022. 225 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 4-7. Frequently picked on for his small stature, eleven-year-old Hugo O'Connell is decidedly worried about moving to a new home in Colorado and starting at a new school, where he imagines he'll have to go through the same painful process of making friends. But Hugo has learned to avoid bullies, and surprisingly, his knowledge of garbology--the study of people's trash--garners him friends and newfound popularity. While the attention helps distract him from increasing fights between his parents, he lets it get to his head and makes a few key mistakes that must be rectified. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Relationship Skills, Self-Awareness.

Sumner, Jamie. *Roll with It*. 2020. 250 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 5-7. Twelve-year-old Ellie Cowan's family moves to a trailer park in Eufaula, Oklahoma, to take care of her dementia-suffering grandfather. In a wheelchair due to cerebral palsy, Ellie is forced to start over at a new school that isn't very wheelchair friendly. Luckily, she meets some eccentric new friends who help her understand that Eufaula might be the perfect place for them all. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: People with Disabilities, Relationship Skills, Social Justice.

Swinarski, Claire. *What Happened to Rachel Riley?* 2023. 343 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 5-8. A new eighth grader at her Wisconsin middle school, Anna Hunt expects to be an outcast and notices right away that another girl, Rachel Riley, is ostracized. Anna, who wants to be an investigative journalist, is curious about Rachel and discovers that just last year, she was one of the most popular girls in the school. Naturally, she wonders, what happened? When she's assigned an un-essay project by a teacher, she decides to create a podcast in which she delves into the question of Rachel's banishment. What begins as a research project on bullying and its effects takes a darker turn when she discovers a secret competition among groups of boys at her school and a code of silence among her peers--both of which she must have the bravery to expose. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Tandon, Nancy. *The Way I Say It*. 2022. 232 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 3-7. Six-grader Rory has never been able to say his name because he can't say his "r's." He's always attended speech therapy at his elementary school, and he is continuing to do so in middle school. But middle school is hard, and his former best friend Brett ditches him to start hanging out with the wrestling team kids who make fun of Rory. Luckily, his new speech teacher also loves hard rock and the boxing legend Muhammad Ali, and he seems to have some useful techniques to help his speech. Everything changes when Brett is in a terrible accident and suffers a brain injury. Now, Brett is also attending speech therapy classes, but Rory struggles to stand up for Brett when he wouldn't do the same for him. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, People with Disabilities.

Tang, Betty C. *Parachute Kids (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 281 pgs. RL: 2.5, IL: 4-8. After their two-week family tour of Los Angeles, ten-year-old Feng Li Lin and her older brother and sister learn they will remain in California while their parents return to Taiwan, forcing them to navigate a new school, a new language, bullies, racism, and the pressures of running a household. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Management.

Telgemeier, Raina. *Drama (Graphic Novel)*. 2012. 233 pgs. RL: 2.3, IL: 6-8. Ever since she saw *Les Miserable* when she was little, Callie has loved theater. She wishes she had a better singing voice but contents herself with being the set designer for Eucalyptus Middle School. This year, she swears the set will be worthy of Broadway—except she is bad at carpentry, and no one seems to want to buy tickets. Added to all this is the drama both on and off the stage, with hurt feelings over casting decisions and hormone-infused relationship tension. Callie herself is among the latter group, having had her heart broken by eighth-grader Greg, but with two cute twin boys entering the theater world, Callie isn't sure she can juggle everything at once. Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Relationship Skills.

Thompson, Lisa. *The Goldfish Boy*. 2018. 313 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 4-6. Twelve-year-old Matthew Corbin has struggled with a severe obsessive-compulsive disorder since the death of his baby brother five years ago—a tragedy he blames on himself. In self-imposed isolation, Matthew stays in his bedroom all day long, watching the neighbors come and go and keeping notes about their daily routines. When a toddler goes missing next door, Matthew starts his own investigation with the help of his neighborhood friends. And in the process of uncovering the truth, Matthew just might be able to break free from his own demons. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness.

Thomson, Pari. *Greenwild: The World Behind the Door (Greenwild: 1)*. 2023. 364 pgs. IL: 4-6. When eleven-year-old Daisy Thistledown's reporter mother disappears on a trip to Peru, she follows her mother's warning to escape her boarding school and head to London's Kew Gardens. There, she discovers a hidden door that leads to Greenwild, a world full of magic and natural wonders. Daisy meets a group of Botanists with magical abilities and learns she's one of them. She also learns that her mother isn't the only Botanist to have recently disappeared. Soon, it's apparent that all of Greenwild is in danger, and only she has the power to save it. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Tooke, Hana. *The Unadoptables*. 2020. 375 pgs. RL: 5.4, IL: 4-7. Five orphans are left at the Little Tulip Orphanage in outrageous circumstances that break all the Rules for Baby Abandonment—one is left in a coal bucket, one a tin toolbox, and three others in a wheat sack, picnic hamper, and coffin-shaped basket. Those babies were named Lotta, Fenna, Milou, Egg, and Sem, and the cruel Elinora Gassbeek, matron of the Orphanage, thinks they are all "unadoptable." The five don't think so, however, and band together when a sinister man appears and threatens to split their group up. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care.

Torres, Jennifer. *Stef Soto, Taco Queen*. 2017. 166 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 3-6. Stef Soto just wants a normal life without her dad's taco truck getting in the way of everything. But when new city regulations threaten the family business, everyone will have to dig deep and discover what really matters. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationships Skills.

Tureaud, Maria. *The Last Hope in Hopetown*. 2022. 296 pgs. IL: 4-7. Twelve-year-old human Sophie Dawes lives with her adoptive vampire moms in Hopetown. Humans and vampires coexist peacefully even though the vampires must abide by many rules, including a nightly curfew and visits from Child Protective Services. But when vampires suddenly go rogue, including Sophie's sweet mother, Sophie and her 300-year-old best vampire friend Delphine decide to break into a secret government facility to find a cure for the illness threatening the vampires and Sophie's family. Genre: Supernatural/Paranormal, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Self-Awareness.

Ulmer, Mikaila. *Bee Fearless: Dream Like a Kid*. 2021. 219 pgs. RL: 7, IL: 4-8. Part memoir and part business guide, this book offers advice for young children looking to make an impact on their communities through the author's story of success. Mikaila Ulmer was twice stung by bees when she was four and developed an intense fear of the creatures. Her parents suggested she research the insects to combat her fear. When she did, she learned they were endangered and began a lemonade stand, in which she donated the proceeds to help bee preservation organizations. Today, her business is a multimillion-dollar organization. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness.

Valenti, Karla. *Loteria*. 2021. 310 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 4-6. In Oaxaca City, Mexico, ancient friends Life and Death discuss free will while engaged in a game of chance, with eleven-year-old Clara as the protagonist of their theories and a pawn in their game, moving inevitably towards her ultimate fate. Includes author's notes and reader's guide. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Van Heidrich, Katie. *The In-Between: A Memoir in Verse*. 2023. 295 pgs. RL: 6.4, IL: 5-8. Presents a memoir in verse that tells of the author's many moves, the most dramatic one being in middle school when she, her siblings, and their mother are evicted from their apartment and forced to move into a motel. She details her attempts to create friendships, develop her writing, and navigate family drama while hoping for a permanent home. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Own Voices, Poverty/Homelessness.

Venkatraman, Padma. *Born Behind Bars*. 2021. 265 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 5-8. Because his mother was in jail for a crime she never committed when he was born, Kabir has known no life outside of prison. His only freedom comes from the prison classroom, where he hears stories of the outside world--until he becomes too old to stay in the prison for free any longer. The new warden releases him into the streets of Chennai, where another street kid, Rani befriends him and helps him learn to live on the streets and survive as a low-caste kid in India. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Venkatraman, Padma. *Climbing the Stairs*. 2010. 254 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 7-12. Growing up in Bombay during World War II, 15-year-old Vidya's dreams for college are shattered when her father is severely beaten during a nonviolent protest against British rule. Unable to earn money, Vidya's family must move in with her more conservative relatives who feel women are only supposed to marry, bear children, and serve their husbands. Only after her chores are done can Vidya escape up the stairs to her grandfather's library. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Venkatraman, Padma. *The Bridge Home*. 2019. 194 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 4-7. Life is harsh in Chennai's teeming streets, 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. With two homeless boys, Muthi and Arul, the group forms a family of sorts. And while making a living scavenging the city's trash heaps in the pits, the kids find plenty to laugh about and 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. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Poverty/Homelessness, Social Justice.

Walters, Eric. *The King of Jam Sandwiches*. 2020. 312 pgs. RL: 4, IL: 5-8. Robert, thirteen, has learned to manage life with his erratic father, whose high and low mood swings and intermittent disappearances have taught him to care for himself; he even has a part-time job to support them. Robert keeps all this a secret for fear he'll be placed into foster care. However, when he meets a new student named Harmony, who has her own tough home life, he may have finally found someone he can confide in. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Mental Health/Illness, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness.

Warga, Jasmine. *A Rover's Story*. 2022. 294 pgs. RL: 6.1, IL: 3-5. Mars rover Resilience documents its journey to awareness as it's being built in a NASA lab by workers in hazmat suits and outside programmers. Res and the other machines question the usefulness of the emotions they observe in the humans around them, even as they unconsciously absorb their meaning and role. Among those humans is Sophie, whose mother is one of Res's creators. Sophie begins to write letters to Res, explaining her complicated relationship with her mother as a result of her mother's dedication to Res. When Res's mission to Mars is finally launched, Res is overcome with emotion as it leaves with a companion drone named Fly and a satellite named Guardian. After landing, Res is determined to fulfill its mission and live up to its name. But logic and programming are abandoned when Fly goes missing during a dust storm, and Res must make a daring rescue. Genre: Science Fiction,

Warga, Jasmine. *Other Words for Home*. 2021. 357 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 3-6. When violence erupts in her seaside home in Syria, young Jude and her mother flee and go to stay with family in America. Though she's seen American movies, Jude doesn't feel prepared for the loud, fast lifestyle that Americans lead, nor is she prepared for starting a new school with the label of Middle Easterner. But Jude soon meets new friends, enjoys her family, and just might try out for the school musical. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices, Social Justice.

Weeks, Sarah. *Save Me a Seat*. 2016. 216 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 3-6. Ravi's family has just moved to America from India, and he is trying to find his place at Albert Einstein Elementary. Joe has been a student there since he started grade school, but without his best friends who have moved away, he's feeling a little lost. When Dillon, the class bully, zeroes in on Ravi and Joe, the two decide to pair up and take back control of their lives together. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Neurodiverse, People with Disabilities, Social Justice.

Williams, Alicia. *Genesis Begins Again*. 2020. 364 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 5-8. Addict father has once again lost their rent money, so Genesis moves in with her grandmother, who claims that none of this would've happened if her mother had married a light-skinned man. At school, Genesis tries out for the talent show but is ashamed of her dark skin, so she tries a number of skin-lightening techniques to no avail. She is now faced with either getting that list to 100 and beyond or learning to love the skin she has. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Own Voices, Self-Awareness, Social Justice.

Wilson, Lakita. *Be Real, Macy Weaver*. 2022. 377 pgs. RL: 5.8, IL: 3-7. After her latest best friend breakup, eleven-year-old Macy Weaver jumps at the chance to start over at a new school when her mother goes back to college three states away. However, her new home makes her feel lonelier than ever. That is why she tells a lie when she meets Brynn, who seems to have her life all figured out, with her sights set on a future fashion career. Macy doesn't really like fashion, but she tells a lie, hoping to make Brynn her new best friend. The lies pile up, and in the end, Macy must learn to be her true self. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationship Skills.

Winston, Sherri. *The Braid Girls*. 2023. 263 pgs. IL: 4-8. Three girls--Maggie, Daija, and Callie--start a hair-braiding business at their summer camp to make money while competing against a rival business that threatens their plans. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationship Skills.

Wolf, Joan M. *Runs with Courage*. 2016. 216 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 4-6. In the Dakota Territory in 1880, Four Winds, a ten-year-old Lakota girl, is taken from her family to a boarding school, where she is taught English and expected to assimilate into white culture. Genre: Historical.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Before the Ever After*. 2020. 161 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 4-8. ZJ and his family have reached the pinnacle of success: his father is a beloved NFL football player and a hero to many, including ZJ, who loves spending time with him. ZJ's dad begins to suffer debilitating headaches, mood swings, and memory issues as a result of repeated concussions while playing. When his dad can't remember his name, ZJ feels that their happy life is behind them and wonders what kind of future is in store for them. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationships Skills.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Remember Us*. 2023. 178 pgs. IL: 5-8. Growing up in Brooklyn's Bushwick neighborhood, eleven-year-old Sage loves playing basketball and discussing the Knicks' latest game with her new friend Freddy. A series of arsons in their neighborhood have displaced a number of families in the community and are responsible for the death of her father, who was a firefighter. She's increasingly feeling alienated from the neighborhood group of girls she used to hang out with as they become more interested in makeup and their appearance, and when the boys she plays basketball with question her identity, she begins to feel she doesn't belong anywhere. The loss of a friend in a fire becomes a tipping point for Sage, who finds her memories painful to think about but necessary to process in order for her to move forward. Genre: Historical Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Wyman, Christina. *Jawbreaker*. 2023. 320 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 5-8. Twelve-year-old Max Plink has braces due to a severe overbite and learns she must also wear headgear to correct the problem. Severe bullying in school and from her sister frustrates her desire to be a journalist. When she learns a journalism competition requires a video component, however, she'll have to muster up the courage to stand up to those who want to sideline her because of the way she looks. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Self-Awareness.

Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk (Front Desk: 1)*. 2018. 286 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 4-7. Mia Tang and her immigrant parents are not exactly living the American dream since moving here from China--they live in the Calivista Motel, and Mia must tend to its guests. Her parents, meanwhile, have been hiding illegal immigrants in the motel's empty rooms, risking the wrath of the owner, Mr. Yao. On the personal life front, Mia wants to become a writer, but her mother is being very discouraging because she is better at math and English is not her first language. No matter what, Mia vows to follow her dreams. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

Yang, Kelly. *Key Player (Front Desk: 4)*. 2021. 274 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 4-7. With her spot at journalism camp in jeopardy because of a low grade in physical education class, Mia Tang decides she'll raise her

grade by writing a paper based on interviews with professional U.S. and Chinese soccer players competing in the World Cup finals being hosted in Pasadena. However, securing interviews with the players turns out to be harder than she thought. Fortunately, Mia doesn't easily give up. Genre: Historical.

Yang, Kelly. *New from Here*. 2022. 361 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 4-7. Eleven-year-old Knox Wei-Evans lives in Hong Kong with his parents, two siblings, and the family dog. When a strange virus shuts down the city of Wuhan, China, the family decides that Knox, his siblings, and his mother should move to California to escape the coming onslaught of restrictions while his father stays behind. He arrives thinking life will be better, but soon Knox faces racism at school, school shutdowns, and financial tension when his mother loses her job. The stress of being separated from his best friend--his father--begins to take its toll on the whole family and the children launch Operation Dad Come Over with various schemes to raise money for a plane ticket. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Neurodiverse, Own Voices.

Yang, Kelly. *Room to Dream (Front Desk: 3)*. 2021. 305 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 4-7. Mia Tang and her family are taking the trip of a lifetime to visit family in Beijing, but as happy as Mia is to be back with family, she notices that something is different, namely, that her years in America have changed her, and her Chinese relatives see it too. Mia also thinks about the other changes going on around her, including an incident with her friend Jason and the many small businesses in her community that are closing and being replaced by larger companies. When they return home from their trip, Mia will need to find her voice to express her convictions about the things she cares about--starting with advocating for small businesses like the Calivista Motel. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices, Relationship Skills.

Yang, Kelly. *Three Keys (Front Desk: 2)*. 2020. 271 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 4-7. Mia Tang and her family recently bought the Calivista Hotel and she's excited to be working at the front desk with her best friend Lupe. However, business is slow, and she worries about a new law being proposed in California--Prop 187--which would affect Lupe's family, who are undocumented immigrants. Mia musters her courage to face the difficulties ahead, using her writing prowess to voice her opinions in school and in the public sphere. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices, Social Justice.

Yee, Lisa. *Maizy Chen's Last Chance*. 2022. 276 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 5-8. After her grandfather falls ill, eleven-year-old Maizy Chen travels to her mom's hometown of Last Chance, Minnesota, to help her grandparents run the Golden Palace, the family's Chinese restaurant. She is tasked with keeping Opa company while he recovers, and she soon finds herself learning about Lucky Chen, her great-great-grandfather who moved to Last Chance and opened the Golden Palace. She is shocked when the restaurant is targeted by a racist attack as they are the only Asian-American family in town, and she struggles with homesickness and mean girls. Luckily, Maizy makes a new friend and connects with her family's roots while learning that it's what's on the inside that counts. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Yun, Erin. *Pippa Park Raises Her Game (Pippa Park Raises Her Game: 1)*. 2021. 262 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 5-7. After Korean-American teenager Pippa Park wins a basketball scholarship to a local private school, she hopes to reinvent herself with her wealthy new friends. But brushing off her old friends and telling a string of lies about her family catches up with her, as Pippa discovers the real reason she was recruited. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Zarr, Sara. *A Song Called Home*. 2022. 368 pgs. RL: 5.7, IL: 5-8. Lou Emerson, who is in the fifth grade, and her fifteen-year-old sister Casey live with their mom in a small San Francisco apartment. Though her life isn't perfect, it's predictable. Even if she doesn't always have the support of her alcoholic father, she has her best friend, Beth, and, sometimes, her sister, Casey. Things change when her mother

announces she's marrying her boyfriend, Steve, and they'll be moving in with him in his suburban home. Soon after, Lou finds a guitar outside their apartment door on her birthday, and she believes it's a gift from her father. Convinced that if she learns to play the guitar, things will get better with her father, she begins teaching herself to play it and later begins receiving lessons from Steve's neighbors down the street. However, the stress of moving and adjusting to the changes in her life causes Lou to begin stealing small items from others. As things deteriorate with her father, her stealing amps up until she's caught and must reconcile with both her feelings and her actions. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Self-Management, Substance Abuse/Addiction.

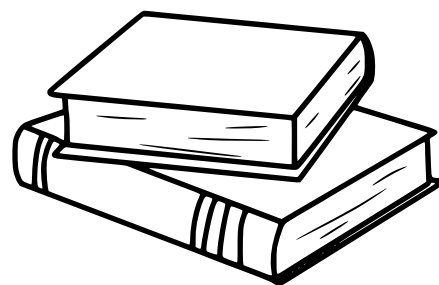
Ziegler, Jennifer. *Worser*. 2022. 246 pgs. RL: 6.1, IL: 5-8. William Wyatt Orser's life is turned upside down after his mother has a stroke, and his Aunt Iris moves in with her cats, loud music and bright colors to care for them. The socially awkward, word-loving twelve-year-old finds solace from the new disruption in a second-hand bookstore, where he reluctantly joins a literary club and discovers friends who share his love of wordplay and books. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Self-Management.



HIGH SCHOOL

**CLSD Classroom
Collection Books**

by Author



High School CLSD Classroom Collection Books by Author

Abike-Iyimide, Faridah. *Ace of Spades*. 2021. 422 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 9-12. Almost as soon as two black students, Devon Richards and Chiamaka Adebayo, are chosen to be senior class prefects at Niveus Private Academy, an anonymous bully named Aces begins revealing private information about them that both embarrasses them and threatens their futures at elite colleges. When the bullying turns serious, Devon and Chiamaka unite to find out who is behind the threats. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Own Voices.

Acevedo, Elizabeth. *The Poet X*. 2020. 374 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 8-12. In this coming-of-age novel-in-verse, fierce teen Xiomara Batista lives with her twin brother and conservative parents in a Harlem neighborhood. She pours all her emotions into poems that she writes down in a leather notebook, such as her feelings for a boy at school named Aman. When Xiomara is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she decides she must perform her poems but must also keep the secret from her family, who would not approve. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Acevedo, Elizabeth. *With the Fire on High*. 2019. 389 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 8-12. Bi-racial high school senior Emoni Santiago balances school with her job and raising her two-year-old daughter in Philadelphia. Her supportive abuela helps develop Emoni's love of cooking, but Emoni also knows that pursuing culinary school is impossible. But in the end, Emoni, despite the challenges, has no choice but to follow her passion. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Management.

Aguirre, Jorge. *Call Me Iggy (Graphic Novel)*. 2024. 256 pgs. IL: 9-12. Ignacio "Iggy" Garcia is an Ohio-born Colombian American teen living his best life. After bumping into Marisol (and her coffee) at school, Iggy's world is spun around. But Marisol has too much going on to be bothered with the likes of Iggy. She has school, work, family, and the uphill battle of getting her legal papers. As Iggy stresses over how to get Marisol to like him, his grandfather comes to the rescue. The thing is, not only is his abuelito dead, but he also gives terrible love advice...the worst. And so, with his ghost abuelito's meddling, Iggy's life begins to unravel as he sets off on a journey of self-discovery. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Ahmed, Samira. *Hollow Fires*. 2022. 406 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 9-12. After the shocking murder of local boy Jawad Ali, high school newspaper editor Safiya Mirza tries to untangle the truth behind competing narratives about Jawad, spurred on by communication with his ghost. One group of hyper-vigilant locals claims Jawad was a terrorist who brought a bomb to school in order to blow it up. What Safiya discovers when she digs into the story is that Jawad was an avid cosplayer who built a jetpack for an approved makerspace project that he was eager to show off to his friends on Halloween. School officials mistook it for a suicide bomber's vest, and he was arrested. Jawad later receives a series of threatening texts before being murdered and buried in a local park. Jawad's ghost leads Safiya to his body and to further clues that expose the dark underbelly of racism in her community. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Ahmed, Samira. *Internment*. 2019. 387 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 8-12. Set in the near-future United States, Muslim Americans are being taken to internment camps, which followed book burnings, curfews, and mandatory viewing of the new president's national security addresses. Seventeen-year-old Layla Amin watches with contempt at the complicity of the community and her own parents, who accept their current plight. She makes friends both within and outside the camp, intent on starting a revolution that will end

the violence and Islamophobia. Genre: Dystopian, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Albertalli, Becky and Saeed, Aisha. *Yes No Maybe So*. 2020. 448 pgs. RL: 4, IL: 8-12. Childhood friends Maya Rehman, a Pakistani American Muslim, and Jamie Goldberg, a white Jewish boy, both seventeen, are thrust together while canvassing door-to-door for a progressive Senate candidate. As the two realize they may have feelings for each other, they face not only challenges at home but also a political bill that calls for "a partial ban on head and facial coverings while participating in certain public activities." Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Albertalli, Becky. *Leah on the Offbeat (Simonverse: 2)*. 2019. 358 pgs. RL: 3.7, IL: 8-12. Closeted bisexual teen girl Leah Burke finds her life and her close-knit group of friends--which includes openly gay BFF Simon--fracturing as high school prom and graduation, and the looming aspect of college, draw near. Searching for a way to tell her friends about her identity, she finds herself falling for one of them more than she intended. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Body Positivity/Body Image, LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Aleman, Daniel. *Indivisible*. 2021. 392 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 9-12. Mexican American high school junior and aspiring actor Mateo Garcia's life is turned upside down when his undocumented parents are arrested by ICE. Feeling pressure to run his family's New York bodega and care for his younger sister, Mateo suddenly doesn't know where he fits in as an American, while the stress of surviving and worry threaten to overwhelm him. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management, Social Awareness.

Andreu, Maria E. *Love in English*. 2021. 328 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 9-12. Sixteen-year-old Ana, a recent immigrant from Argentina, is working hard to learn the English language after moving to New Jersey. When she meets a cute American boy named Harrison and a boy named Neo from Greece in her ESL class, she begins to have confusing feelings for both of them. As she begins to learn more about the English language, she also must sort through her feelings for each of them. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices. Self-Management, Social Awareness.

Arnold, Elana K. *The Blood Years*. 2023. 390 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 9-12. Ever since her unfaithful father left the family, thirteen-year-old Jewish Frederieke "Rieke" Teitler, her sister Astra, and their mother have been living with their grandfather Opa, a steadfast and kind jeweler. But as war breaks out across Europe, and life for Jewish citizens in Romania becomes more difficult, Rieke struggles to survive and hold on to hope. Genre: Historical.

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn. *The Final Gambit (Inheritance Games: 3)*. 2022. 374 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 7-12. Avery Kylie Grambs just has to survive a few more weeks living in Hawthorne House, and she'll inherit billions and become the richest teenager on the planet. But when a visitor arrives at the house, Avery knows there's still one more puzzle to solve. Avery and the Hawthorne brothers soon find themselves in a race against the clock to crack Tobias Hawthorne's final code, one that has potentially deadly consequences. Genre: Mystery/Suspense.

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn. *The Hawthorne Legacy (Inheritance Games: 2)*. 2021. 358 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 7-12. Rumors spread that Tobias Hawthorne's lost son may still be alive, casting doubt on seventeen-year-old Avery's inheritance and changing the rules of the game. Genre: Mystery/Suspense.

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn. *The Inheritance Games (Inheritance Games: 1)*. 2021. 374 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 7-12. Homeless teen Avery Grambs is summoned to the will reading of Tobias Hawthorne, a man she's

never heard of. Curious, she attends and learns she will inherit the bulk of the billionaire's estate, much to the chagrin of his daughters and grandsons. The only catch is that she will have to live in his mansion, alongside his family, for one year. Avery can handle the hostility of his family, who think she is either a con woman or a joke inflicted by their puzzle-loving grandfather, but she's not sure what to make of the secret passageways throughout the castle or the feeling that someone is out to kill her. Genre: Mystery/Suspense.

Barwin, Steven. *No Known Address*. 2021. 192 pgs. RL: 3.6, IL: 8-12. When Tyler's problems at home lead his abusive and alcoholic father to kick him out, Tyler is stuck couch-surfing at his friends' houses. But when Tyler is accused of providing prescription drugs at a party, life gets even worse. He must find a way to articulate the abuse he is facing. Otherwise, he will never find a safe place to call home. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Poverty/Homelessness.

Becker, Harmony. *Himawari House (Graphic Novel)*. 2021. 374 pgs. RL: 2.8, IL: 9-12. Japanese American teenager Nao arrives in Tokyo for a gap year, where she plans to learn about her heritage by attending an immersion school known as Himawari House. There, she bonds with roommates Tina, who is Chinese Singaporean, and Hyejung, who is Korean, and meets Japanese brothers Shinichi and Masaki. Together, the friends navigate the complexities of learning the culture and language and experience foibles while learning to communicate in a new way.

Benway, Robin. *A Year to the Day*. 2022. 335 pgs. IL: 8-12. One year ago, everything in Leo's life changed in an instant when her sister Nina was killed by a drunk driver. Leo remembers nothing about that night whereas East, Nina's boyfriend, remembers everything in vivid detail, but he won't tell her anything about it. Brought closer through their grief, East and Leo become friends in the months following Nina's death, but Leo soon becomes desperate to know the truth about what happened. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief, Relationship Skills.

Bermudez, Cyn. *The Dragons Club*. 2023. 192 pgs. IL: 9-12. Having missed one too many days at her arts high school for violin due to her older sister's drug addiction, Faith is given one last chance to keep her scholarship--she must enroll in the Dragons Club, a teen support group. At first, apprehensive about talking to her classmates about her sister's problem, Faith soon finds herself connecting with the group in ways she never expected. Then, her sister's addiction gets even worse, and Faith will have to choose between being there for her or pursuing the life of music she wants. Genre: Realistic/Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Bernardin, Marc. *Messenger: The Legend of Muhammad Ali (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 227 pgs. IL: 9-12. In this biography of professional boxer and activist Muhammad Ali, pivotal events shape his life, beginning in 1954 in Louisville, Kentucky, when his bike was stolen, and his anger led him to a local boxing gym and coach Joe Martin. Going by the name Cassius Clay, the young boy rises through the ranks of the boxing world and by the age of eighteen years old, wins six championships and a gold medal at the 1960 Olympic Games. A chance meeting with Malcolm X is another pivotal moment in his life and provides a way to address the White supremacy he experienced. Converting to Islam and changing his name to Muhammad Ali, he develops swagger and style and begins to speak out on issues of importance, such as the Vietnam War, and continues a boxing legacy that garners him the title "The Greatest."

Blum, Isaac. *The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen*. 2022. 218 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 9-12. Sixteen-year-old Hoodie Rosen has recently moved to Tregaron, New York, with his family and, well, his whole community of Orthodox Jews. The locals aren't too happy about it, but that's the least of Hoodie's concerns as he pursues basketball, schoolwork, and extracurriculars at his yeshiva school. His orthodox community discourages him from socializing with outsiders, but when he meets Anna-Marie Diaz-

O'Leary, the town mayor's daughter, his world turns upside down. Struggling to reconcile his faith's teachings with his feelings for Anna-Marie, Hoodie gets caught in the town's very real struggle with antisemitism that escalates into violence. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Bonde, Jessica Bab. *We'll Soon Be Home Again (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 93 pgs. IL: 9-12. Based on interviews with six Holocaust survivors, presents stories of living through the dehumanization and starvation of concentration camps and the devastating impact that the Holocaust had on Jewish families.

Boulley, Angeline. *Warrior Girl Unearthed*. 2023. 396 pgs. IL: 9-12. When Native teen Perry Firekeeper-Birch learns about the "Warrior Girl," an ancestor whose bones and knife are stored in the local university's archives, she, her twin sister, and her friends, nicknamed The Misfits, set out to return the ancestor to her tribe. Legal actions are not working, so the Misfits decide to steal the artifacts. Along the way, more secrets are revealed, and Perry and the Misfits find themselves embroiled in the disappearance of Native women from the community. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making.

Bowen, Fred. *Hardcourt: Stories from 75 Years of the National Basketball Association*. 2022. 89 pgs. RL: 6.3, IL: 4-7. Provides a collection of illustrated stories about the National Basketball Association that describe pivotal moments in the league's history, including how the league began, changes in scoring through the years, the acceptance of black players, famous rivalries, and the formation of the 1992 Dream Team. Genre: Sports.

Bowles, David. *Feathered Serpent, Dark Heart of Sky: Myths of Mexico*. 2018. 300 pgs. RL: 6.1, IL: 7-12. The stories in *Feathered Serpent, Dark Heart of Sky* trace the history of the world from its beginnings in the dreams of the dual god, Ometeotl, to the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in Mexico and the fall of the great city Tenochtitlan. In this book's beautiful language, we learn the history of the Creator Twins--Feathered Serpent and Dark Heart of Sky--and how they built the world on a leviathan's back; of the shape-shifting nahualli; and the aluxes, elfish beings known to help the occasional wanderer. And finally, we read Aztec tales about the arrival of the blonde strangers from across the sea, the strangers who seek to upend the rule of Moctezuma and destroy the very stories we are reading.

Brooks, Nick. *Promise Boys*. 2023. 294 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 9-12. Black friends J.B., Ramón, and Trey attend Washington D.C.'s Urban Promise Prep school, led by Principal Moore. The school follows his strict program of discipline, which he says will keep the boys out of trouble and college bound. During a mandatory detention, in which the boys are serving time for infractions, Principal Moore is murdered, and the three boys are primary suspects because they were in the building at the same time. In addition, incriminating evidence places them at the scene of the crime. The boys claim innocence, and band together to investigate the case and clear their names. Genre: Mystery/Suspense.

Brown, Don. *In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Seconds, Minutes, Hours, Days, Weeks, Months, and Years after the 9/11 Attacks (Graphic Novel)*. 2021. 121 pgs. RL: 5.8, IL: 7-12. This Graphic Novel recounts the events that followed the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, describing the personal stories of those who survived, were rescued, and died saving lives. Recounts the Herculean efforts of the clean-up crew, the resulting wars and capture of enemy combatants, and reverberating anti-Muslim sentiments in the United States.

Brown, Don. *The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees (Graphic Novel)*. 2018. 103 pgs. RL: 5.7, IL: 8-12. A full-color nonfiction Graphic Novel exploring the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis. Describes how refugees fled war-torn Syria in 2011, overwhelming neighboring countries and causing widespread chaos. As costs and resentment in countries grew, the refugees became unwanted. Presents the stories of

those who survived, and those who did not, as well as a call for help. Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Narrative Nonfiction.

Cadow, Kenneth M. *Gather*. 2023. 325 pgs. IL: 9-12. For some time, rural Vermont tenth-grader Ian Gray has been trying to hold onto his family's home while his mother recovers from an opioid addiction. He quit the basketball team, is earning money through odd jobs, and is working to repair their dilapidated vehicle. Fortunately, he's able to rely on a new friend from school and a stray dog named Gather for moral support. When his mother returns and gets a job, things take a turn for the better, until a threat to their home may be too much for Ian to fix on his own. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Diverse Family Structure, Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Caletti, Deb. *One Great Lie*. 2022. 375 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 9-12. When eighteen-year-old Charlotte wins a scholarship to a Venice writer's workshop run by one of her favorite authors, Luca Bruni, she thinks her dreams have come true. She plans to use the time to hone her skills and research a Venetian female poet who is a distant relative, and who may have written a very famous poem. When Luca's charming veneer wears off and he begins to exhibit predatory behavior, Charlotte, learns some hard truths about powerful men of the past and present. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills, Social Awareness.

Caletti, Deb. *The Epic Story of Every Living Thing*. 2022. 405 pgs. IL: 9-12. Social media-obsessed Harper Proulx, seventeen, is more comfortable crafting her online persona than dealing with her present life. Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, her anxiety has reached new heights and her mother's pressures on her academic career leave her feeling inadequate. When a chance encounter with an Instagram follower gives her a lead on her sperm-donor father, she sees it as an opportunity to both find him and find out more about herself. Further internet sleuthing leads to the discovery of half-siblings from the same biological father, and together, they embark on a trip to Hawaii to find him and learn more about how their biology has influenced who they are. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness.

Callender, Kacen. *Felix Ever After*. 2020. 354 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 9-12. Felix Love, a transgender seventeen-year-old, attempts to get revenge by catfishing his anonymous bully, but lands in a quasi-love triangle with his former enemy and his best friend. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Ceron, Ella. *Viva Lola Espinoza*. 2023. 392 pgs. IL: 9-12. Mexican American teen Lola Espinoza doesn't believe in magic until she goes to spend the summer with her grandmother in Mexico City. There she falls for the handsome Rio, but discovers that not only is magic real, but she is actually cursed in love. If Lola wants to be with Rio, she will have to break the curse. Her new friend Javi, a cute boy from her cousin's restaurant, offers to help Lola. While Lola tries to learn more about magic, she uncovers a secret that changes everything. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Cesare, Adam. *Clown in a Cornfield (Clown in a Cornfield: 1)*. 2021. 362 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 9-12. High school senior Quinn Maybrook and her father move to tiny Kettle Springs, Missouri after the death of Quinn's mother. Quinn's father takes over the family practice of a doctor who abruptly quits. The town has been economically struggling since its corn syrup factory closed, dividing the older generation who want to keep the town's economy and traditions alive with a younger set of snarky teenagers wishing to leave. After a Founder's Day parade featuring Frendo, the Clown, the old factory mascot, Quinn, and a group of other teens have a party in a local cornfield. The party turns deadly when a group dressed as Frendo clowns begins killing the teens, one by one. Genre: Horror/Scary,

Charles, Tami. *Muted*. 2022. 385 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 10-12. Three black seventeen-year-old friends Dali, Denver, and Shak have dreams of making it big in the music industry. When they catch the attention of prominent recording artist Sean Ellis, they quickly are drawn into his world. Willing to do anything to secure their careers, Dali and Denver move to Atlanta with Sean, in spite of Shak's warnings about him. Soon, the girls are drawn into a manipulative, abusive situation with a controlling man and must find the strength to find a way out. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Charleyboy, Lisa. *#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women*. 2017. 103 pgs. RL: 5.5, IL: 7-12. Contains a collection of nearly forty poems written by Native American women from tribes across the nation. Includes colorful artwork. Topics/CASEL Domain: Narrative Nonfiction, Own Voices.

Chee, Traci. *A Thousand Steps into Night*. 2022. 373 pgs. RL: 6.2, IL: 8-12. Miuko is an ordinary innkeeper's daughter in a world where gods, monsters, and humans exist side by side, but everything changes when she's cursed and transforms into a demon with a deadly touch. She embarks on a quest to reverse the curse with the help of a thieving magpie spirit named Geiki. But as Miuko experiences a freedom she's never known; she must decide whether she wants to return to her constricted life as an obedient woman. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Management.

Clark, Zion. *Work What You Got: A Memoir*. 2023. 232 pgs. RL: 6.8, IL: 9-12. Chronicles the life of wheelchair racer and wrestler Zion Clark, who was born without legs due to a rare condition called caudal regression syndrome, abandoned, and placed in a foster-care system ill-equipped to care for him. Explores how he found success in athletics and highlights his commitment to being a role model for kids. Includes black-and-white photographs. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management, Social Awareness.

Colbert, Brandy. *The Voting Booth*. 2021. 293 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 7-12. Passionate about politics, Marva Sheridan is excited to be able to vote for the first time. Her passion sours when she observes another teen, Duke Crenshaw, being denied the right to vote. Marva ends up spending the day with Duke, helping him fix his registration issues and he in turn helps her look for her missing cat. Even though their encounter was random, each ends the day thinking there might be more between them. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Determination/Perseverance, Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Cole, Olivia A. *The Truth About White Lies*. 2022. 375 pgs. IL: 9-12. After seventeen-year-old Shania moves to the town of Blue Rock following the death of her beloved grandmother, she must reckon with the town's dark history of racism and its effects on her peers who attend Bard, the city's wealthy private school. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Social Justice.

Colfer, Eoin. *Illegal (Graphic Novel)*. 2018. 122 pgs. RL: 2.5, IL: 7-12. When his brother Kwame disappears, Ebo leaves Ghana to find him, thinking Kwame might be headed towards Europe. The voyage is dangerous as he searches a Nigerian refugee camp and ends up on the ocean drifting without food or water. Chronicles the dual voyage of both Ebo and Kwame. Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Social Justice.

Courtney, Nadine Jolie. *All-American Muslim Girl*. 2021. 419 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 7-12. Sixteen-year-old Allie is a normal, all-American high school girl who is dating the sweet, popular Wells Henderson. She's also a non-practicing Muslim with Arabic heritage. Complicating things, her boyfriend's father is a conservative shock jock, but despite the Islamophobia that pervades her town, Allie decides to embrace her faith and culture, redefining what it means for her to be an American girl. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Culley, Betty. *The Name She Gave Me.* 2022. 400 pgs. RL: 5.0, IL: 9-12. Rynn is adopted and has always felt like something is missing in her life, so when her strained relationship with her adoptive mother reaches a breaking point, Rynn sees it as the opportunity to learn about her birth family. She's surprised to learn that her birth mother is dead, but she has a younger sister who is living in foster care in a nearby town. She desperately wants to meet her biological sister, but she knows if she does, it could tear her adoptive family apart. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Self-Awareness.

Culley, Betty. *Three Things I Know Are True.* 2021. 465 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 9-12. In a small Maine town, seventeen-year-old Jonah doesn't know his friend Clay's gun is loaded and he accidentally shoots himself. Now he's on life support in his family's living room. Liv, his fifteen-year-old sister, tries to adjust to her new life while she watches her world crumble around her. She sees her big brother somewhere in that broken body, but their mother seems more concerned with the machines than her son. Meanwhile, her mother is suing Clay's family, and the whole town is taking sides. Liv believes that Clay, with whom she is also friends, is broken up inside, and she wants to be a friend but is forbidden from seeing him. With the same steadfast love, she refuses to turn her back on either Jonah or Clay. Genre: Realistic.

Curato, Mike. *Flamer (Graphic Novel).* 2020. 366 pgs. RL: 3.2, IL: 10-12. Monochromatic Graphic Novel with red-hue highlights describes the personal journey of fourteen-year-old Aiden Navarro, who attends Boy Scout camp the summer before his freshman year of high school. Aiden is bullied for his weight and effeminate voice and struggles with understanding his same-sex infatuation with his tentmate. Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

De Leon, Jennifer. *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From.* 2020. 323 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 9-12. While dealing with racism at her new nearly all-white school, Liliana Cruz must also face a family secret after it is exposed and her family must find a way to come together in order to survive the aftermath. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

Dhillon, Navdeep Singh. *Sunny G's Series of Rash Decisions.* 2022. 300 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 9-12. As his brother's barsi nears, Sikh high school senior Sunny Gill decides it's time to live impulsively, by filling his brother's notebook with outlandish goals, beginning with shaving his beard, removing his turban, cutting his hair, and attending prom. His best friend Ngozi endeavors to save him from missing an annual cosplay event on the same night, by sending in their classmate Mindii Vang to get him to leave prom by stealing his notebook. The ensuing chase works, leaving Sunny and Mindii to add impulsive acts to his notebook in the hours before the event starts. As their antics ramp up, so do their feelings for each other, opening up space for Sunny to process his grief. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief, Own Voices, Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Dimaline, Cherie. *The Marrow Thieves (Marrow Thieves: 1).* 2017. 231 pgs. RL: 5.5, IL: 9-12. In a world where most people have lost the ability to dream, a fifteen-year-old Indigenous boy who is still able to dream struggles for survival against an army of "recruiters" who seek to steal his marrow and return dreams to the rest of the world. Genre: Dystopian, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Dimaline, Cherie. *Funeral Songs for Dying Girls.* 2023. 271 pgs. IL: 9-12. Sixteen-year-old Winifred Blight lives with her father above the crematorium of a Toronto cemetery where he works. Winifred's Métis mother is buried there, and she likes being close to her, though it does draw bullying comments from her peers at school. With few friends, Winifred frequently roams the graveyard and visits her mother while she processes the news that her father may be losing his job and the cemetery closing for good. Unexpectedly, a local ghost tour business contacts them to inquire about making a stop there, since there have been reports of ghost sightings among the tombs. Winifred realizes that the purported ghosts are her,

but goes along with the ruse because it means money to keep the crematorium running. When Winifred meets an actual ghost named Phil, a fifteen-year-old girl who died of a drug overdose in a nearby ravine, she discovers friendship, companionship, and love. Genre: Supernatural/Paranormal, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Doll, Jen. *Unclaimed Baggage*. 2022. 379 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 9-12. Told from three viewpoints, teens Doris, Nell, and Grant spend a summer working in Unclaimed Baggage--a store that catalogs and sells unclaimed airline luggage--and find an unlikely camaraderie. Doris is an outspoken liberal in a conservative small town; Nell had to leave a perfect life in Chicago to move to Alabama; and Grant was a popular high school athlete until his drinking cost him everything. As they go through other people's lost luggage and memories, they begin to shed some of the emotional baggage they carry with them. Genre: Realistic,

Elison, Meg. *Find Layla*. 2020. 179 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 7-12. Describes the coming of age of underprivileged fourteen-year-old Layla Bailey, an aspiring scientist who is bullied at school for her appearance, cares for her younger brother, and tries to stay clear of their unstable mother. When a school science project calls for a video submission of a biome, Layla chooses her own toxic home and bravely videotapes the indoor fungi, the black mold, and the organisms living in the broken fridge. However, when the video goes viral, Child Protective Services arrives, and Layla's life is upended. But Layla is determined to survive despite neglect, embarrassment, and humiliation. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Self-Management.

Elliott, David. *Bull*. 2019. 189 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 10-12. A modern twist on the Theseus and Minotaur myth, told in verse. Much like Lin-Manuel Miranda did in *Hamilton*, the New York Times best-selling author David Elliott turns a classic on its head in form and approach, updating the timeless story of Theseus and the Minotaur. A rough, rowdy, and darkly comedic young adult retelling in verse, which NPR called "beautifully clever," *Bull* will have readers reevaluating one of mythology's most infamous monsters. Genre: Fantasy.

Emmich, Val. *Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel*. 2022. 358 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 9-12. Evan goes from being a nobody to everyone's hero and a social media superstar after a chance encounter with Connor just before his suicide leads others to believe Evan was his only friend. Genre: Realistic,

Engle, Margarita. *Wings in the Wild*. 2023. 211 pgs. RL: 7.1, IL: 7-12. After her parents are arrested for creating illegal art, sixteen-year-old Soleida flees the island of Cuba for Central America and winds up in Costa Rica with other Cuban refugees. There she meets sixteen-year-old Cuban American Dariel, who is accompanying his grandmother who is writing a book about the refugee community there. The pair bond over their love of art and their passion to protect the environment, especially the fragile birds that populate the rainforest. And like the beautiful birds, their own relationship faces threats from the outside and they must fight to preserve it or lose it forever. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Fahmy, Huda. *Huda F Are You? (Graphic Novel)*. 2021. 184 pgs. RL: 3.7, IL: 9-12. When Huda and her family move to Dearborn, Michigan, a small town with a big Muslim population, everything she thought she knew about herself changes. Suddenly, she's not the only hijabi girl, she's one of many. Now, she's struggling to find her identity, and she's unsure of who she is or where she fits in. As she deals with Islamophobia, a crush on a non-Muslim boy, and navigating high school, Huda tries to carve out a place for herself. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Faizal, Hafsa. *We Hunt the Flame (Sands of Arawiya: 1)*. 2020. 472 pgs. RL: 5.5, IL: 9-12. The cursed forest of the Arz is engulfing the land in evil, and seventeen-year-old Zafira, known as the Hunter, must journey into the dark forest to retrieve an ancient artifact that could restore magic to her people and fend off the Arz. However, to legitimize her efforts, she is forced to disguise herself as a man. Meanwhile, Nasir, the Prince of Death under the autocratic rule of his father the sultan, is also tasked with finding the artifact and killing the Hunter, but the hidden compassion of the prince, if revealed, could bring the punishment of his powerful father. As Nasir and Zafira race to beat each other to the powerful object, they learn that the magic is far more powerful and deadly than they both realized, and that though they are both legends in their world, neither has any wish to be so, and only want to protect their people and true identity. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Falkoff, Michelle. *How to Pack for the End of the World*. 2022. 310 pgs. IL: 8-12. After her parents become increasingly worried about her intense obsession about the end of the world, they send Amina to Gardner Academy where she meets a group of students with similar fears. Together, they form the Eucalyptus Society where they test each other's survival skills. But soon the group is targeted by a mysterious stranger who is anonymously and publicly humiliating them. As secrets are revealed, Amina and her new friends begin to wonder if they can really trust each other. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management.

Farley, Grant. *Bones of a Saint*. 2022. 272 pgs. IL: 9-12. Stuck in a dead-end town run by a local gang, fifteen-year-old RJ Armante is trying to keep a low profile around them to protect his brother and single mother while wrestling with the loss of his father, a Vietnam War veteran. When the gang harasses him to steal from a town loner, RJ schemes to outsmart them and destroy their decades-long grip on the town. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills.

Fenton, Andre. *Worthy of Love*. 2018. 199 pgs. RL: 3.8, IL: 9-12. Sixteen-year-old Adrian Carter is tired of being bullied for his weight and resolves to lose pounds by any means necessary. He meets and falls for Mel Woods, a confident girl with a passion for health, who helps Adrian eat right and exercise. But when he doesn't lose weight fast enough, Adrian takes unhealthy measures, causing a rift with Mel. If he is to get his life and relationship back on track, Adrian must prove that he can actually love himself and that he's worthy of love. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices.

Finnegan, Marco. *Lizard in a Zoot Suit (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 144 pgs. RL: 3.3, IL: 7-12. In Southern California, during World War II, twin sisters Flaca and Cuata are harassed by soldiers stationed nearby, but a bigger problem arises when the lost member of an underground species, shaped like a five-foot-tall lizard, needs the sisters' help. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Fleming, Candace. *Murder Among Friends: How Leopold and Loeb Tried to Commit the Perfect Crime*. 2022. 355 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 8-12. This nonfiction narrative describes the horrific crime committed by eighteen-year-old college students Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb. Richard, who had a relationship with Nathan, was obsessed with being known as the perfect criminal and never getting caught while committing the perfect crime. Nathan, whose sole motivation was to keep Richard as his boyfriend, assisted him in murdering Richard's fourteen-year-old second cousin. The pair were quickly apprehended when Nathan's eyeglasses were found at the scene and they both confessed to the crime. Later, the criminals' families hired defense attorney Clarence Darrow, who took on the boys' cases and saved them from receiving the death penalty. Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Narrative Nonfiction, True Crime.

Foody, Amanda. *All of Us Villains (All of Us Villains: 1)*. 2021. 386 pgs. RL: 5.9, IL: 9-12. Every twenty years, a teenager from seven powerful families competes in a deathmatch tournament for control of Ilvernath's high magick, thanks to a curse placed on them during a fight centuries earlier. Until now, the tournament was held in secret, but a new tell-all book from an anonymous author has fueled media attention to the event and placed untold pressure on the participants. Most of the seven teens will do whatever they can to survive and win--even by brutal and nefarious means--but one, Briony Thorbun, is determined to find a way to break the curse and spare their lives. But her ideals will be challenged by her ruthless competitors and her instinct to survive each round of the tournament. Genre: Fantasy.

Forrest, Claire. *Where You See Yourself*. 2023. 306 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 9-12. Like most of her senior peers, Euphemia "Effie" Galanos is thinking about college applications, scholarships, and her future plans after high school. Unlike her peers, however, she must think about how she'll get around campus in a wheelchair. To that end, her mother has compiled a list of wheelchair-friendly colleges, but for Effie, none of them compared to the college of her dreams: Prospect University in New York City, which has a strong media and journalism program. It also doesn't hurt that her crush Wilder is applying there too. As the months pass by, Effie faces challenges, including learning that the Prospect campus will be difficult to navigate and how to express to Wilder how she really feels about him. Effie must decide which dreams are worth fighting for and how to be brave enough to advocate for them. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, People with Disabilities, Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness.

Fox, Ted. *Showtime at the Apollo: The Epic Tale of Harlem's Legendary Theater (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 224 pgs. IL: 9-12. Examines the history of the Apollo Theater through a Graphic Novel adaptation of the author's previous book "Showtime at The Apollo." Highlights the significant role the theater played in African American music and the musicians who performed there.

Foxfield, Kathryn. *Good Girls Die First*. 2021. 362 pgs. RL: 3.8, IL: 9-12. The threat of blackmail lures sixteen-year-old aspiring photographer Ava and nine other teens--all with secrets they intend to protect whatever the cost--to an abandoned amusement park on Portgrave Pier, and when bad weather and magic cut them off from the mainland, Ava and the others begin turning on each other, one by one. Genre: Horror/Scary, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Frick, Kit. *Very Bad People*. 2023. 403 pgs. IL: 9-12. Six years ago, Calliope Bolan's mom inexplicably drove their minivan into a lake with Calliope and her sisters inside. While Calliope and her sisters escaped, their mother drowned and the people in her small town have been fixated on the accident ever since. To escape the scrutiny and possibly learn more about her mother's motives, Calliope leaves to attend the same New York boarding school her mother attended: Tipton Academy. There she joins a secret society known as Haunt and Rail, dedicated to righting the wrongs of injustice at their school. When the group decides to take down a teacher they see as a sexual predator, their tactics turn sinister, and Calliope begins to notice connections between the group and what may have driven her mother to suicide. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief.

Gansworth, Eric. *Apple: Skin to the Core: A Memoir in Words and Pictures*. 2022. 339 pgs. RL: 7.6, IL: 10-12. Memoir by the author explores issues of Native American identity, using verse and other poetic forms and reclaiming the native slur "apple," in which one is accused of being red on the outside and white on the inside. Discusses the author's experiences growing up on the reservation, his struggles with understanding his mixed tribal heritage, and reconciling his own participation in the erasure of his culture. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Own Voices.

Garber, Romina. *Lobizona (Wolves of No World: 1)*. 2020. 391 pgs. RL: 5.9, IL: 8-12. An undocumented immigrant from Argentina, sixteen-year-old Manu spends her days in and around her tiny

apartment complex, fearing she and her mother may be deported, worried her father's criminal organization will find them, and covering up her star-shape eyes. ICE catches up with her mother and arrests her, leaving Manu to fend for herself. Researching a strange emblem from her family's past, Manu discovers she's part of a hidden world of witches and werewolves. Genre: Supernatural / Paranormal, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices, Self-Management, Social Awareness.

Gharib, Malaka. *I Was Their American Dream: A Graphic Memoir.* 2019. 160 pgs. RL: 3.6, IL: 10-Adult. Contains a graphic memoir of Malaka Gharib as she reflects on her family heritage as the child of Filipino and Egyptian immigrants, coming of age in America, adapting to white culture, and trying to hold on to her cultural values while trying to be an all-American kid. Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Memoir/Autobiography, Own Voices.

Gilbert, Kelly Loy. *Picture Us in the Light.* 2018. 353 pgs. RL: 5.8, IL: 9-12. At an exclusive Silicon Valley High School, Danny Cheng is an artistic scholarship kid, which makes him stand out from his classmates. After the death of a friend, Danny's life deteriorates even more when his father loses his job and the family is forced to move. One day Danny discovers a box in his father's closet that contains old letters and a file on one of the most powerful families in Silicon Valley. Danny is then forced to confront the secrets of his family history. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Giles, Lamar. *The Getaway.* 2022. 382 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 7-12. Jay discovers that the mountain resort where he lives and works with his friends and family is also a doomsday oasis for the rich and powerful who expect top-notch customer service even as the world outside the resort's walls disintegrates. Genre: Horror/Scary, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Glasgow, Kathleen. *You'd Be Home Now.* 2021. 387 pgs. RL: 4, IL: 9-12. Up until the accident, sixteen-year-old Emory Ward felt invisible, and that her life was defined by everyone around her: she was the rich great-great-granddaughter of Mill Town's founding business owners, she's the younger sister of beautiful Maddie Ward, and she's the good child, forced to look after her older, drug-addicted brother Joey. After the accident--one that involved Joey, Emory, and another student who died--she doesn't know who she is. Some close friends and acquaintances have abandoned her, her brother's stint in rehab has changed their relationship, and she still feels unseen. Though Emory knows she doesn't want to go back to the way things were before, she also knows she can't allow others to tell her who she is, what her relationships should look like, and what her future should be. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management, Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Grande, Reyna. *The Distance Between Us: Young Readers Edition.* 2016. 322 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 6-8. Forced to live with her stern grandmother while her parents trek across the dangerous and illegal Mexican border, young Reyna and her siblings can't wait for their parents to return and build a new life for them. Things don't go as planned, however. Now Reyna must go herself to "El Otro Lado" to live with her biological father, a man she never knew, who has haunted her imagination throughout her childhood. Living in the United States brings other challenges as well, such as figuring out her own identity and how she fits into this new world. Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Memoir/Autobiography, Own Voices.

Grann, David. *The Killers of the Flower Moon: Adapted for Young Readers.* 2022. 322 pgs. RL: 8.1, IL: 8-12. In 1920s Oklahoma, sixty murders of Osage Native Americans occurred over a period spanning thirteen years. It is believed that most of the murders occurred as the result of trying to secure the oil rights on land owned by Osage members. This nonfiction, young adult account chronicles why it took so long for officials to take notice and respond, how the Bureau of Investigation got involved, and the tangled web of greed and corruption that marred the case from the beginning. Though some individuals

were prosecuted, it's believed that many more were involved and were never brought to justice.
Topics/CASEL Domain: Narrative Nonfiction, True Crime.

Grass, Tom. *Twist*. 2021. 329 pgs. IL: 11-Adult. Homeless and broke eighteen-year-old Twist is reputedly the most daring street artist in London, his creations heightened by his talent as an urban climber. Things go from bad to worse when Twist finds the police on his trail, threatening the one thing he does have--his freedom. Twist then falls in with the mysterious Dodge, the con artist and "art collector" Cornelius Faginescu, and the alluring but dangerous "Red," and is given the chance to truly belong somewhere--if only he will put aside his scruples and become a thief. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: Poverty/Homelessness.

Gratz, Alan. *Allies*. 2019. 322 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 4-8. On June 6, 1944, six diverse characters prepare for the upcoming D-Day invasion. Each of these people struggles with the fear of war, the desire to save lives, and the understanding that nothing after that day will ever be the same. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making.

Gratz, Alan. *Grenade*. 2018. 270 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 5-8. In 1945, a young American Marine named Ray fights his way across the island of Okinawa. On the same island, a young boy named Hideki has been taken from school, forced into the service of the Blood and Iron Student Corp, and given the instructions to go out and kill an American soldier. When the two come face to face, the choices they make will affect everything. Genre: Historical.

Graves, Byron. *Rez Ball*. 2023. 357 pgs. IL: 9-12. Like his older brother Jaxon, Ojibwe sophomore Tre Brun is a talented basketball player. But since Jaxon's death in a car accident, Tre has had to manage his grief alongside the pressure to live up to his brother's legacy as a star player on the Red Lake Reservation high school team. Tre has dreams of making it to the NBA one day, and knows as long as he believes in himself, he can prove to his father and other doubters that he can succeed. But obstacles stand in his way, including his team's drinking habit, his desires to get the attention of new girl Khiana, and others' racism. To overcome them, Tre must find both courage and a deeper connection with his brother that allows him to realize his dreams. Genre: Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Grimes, Nikki. *Between the Lines*. 2019. 216 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 7-10. Told in their separate voices, sixteen-year-old Prince Oliver, who wants to break free of his fairy-tale existence, and fifteen-year-old Delilah, a loner obsessed with Prince Oliver and the book in which he exists, work together to seek his freedom. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Grimes, Nikki. *Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir*. 2019. 325 pgs. RL: 5.5, IL: 9-12. Told in verse, African American author and poet Nikki Grimes chronicles her childhood as the daughter of a schizophrenic mother and absent father, as well as the abuse she suffered at the hands of babysitters and foster families. She also discusses how magical and cathartic writing is in her life and how it got her through tough times throughout her young life. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Narrative Nonfiction, Own Voices.

Gulledge, Laura Lee. *The Dark Matter of Mona Starr (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 180 pgs. RL: 3.3, IL: 7-12. Mona Starr is sweet, geeky, and creative, but has a hard time making friends and connecting with people. When her best friend moves away, her struggle with depression becomes worse. But as Mona starts therapy, she learns to use art and writing as a way to express herself and with the help of a few persistent good friends, Mona begins to understand her depression and how she can turn her weaknesses into strengths. Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices, Self-Awareness, Self-Management.

Hamilton, Tim. *Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451: The Authorized Adaptation (Graphic Novel)*. 2009. 148 pgs. RL: 3.5, IL: 10-Adult. Presents a Graphic Novel adaptation of Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451," in which a book burner official in a future fascist state finds out books are a vital part of a culture he never knew. He clandestinely pursues reading, until he is betrayed. Includes an original forward by Ray Bradbury.

Haydu, Corey Ann. *Lawless Spaces*. 2023. 478 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 9-12. The older she's gotten, the more sixteen-year-old social media influencer Mimi Dovewick feels disconnected from her mother. She's left alone to navigate the online bullying and a new boyfriend. On her birthday, her mother unexpectedly gives her a notebook and tells her to begin journaling like the generations of women who've come before her. When she learns from news outlets that her mother has accused a prominent movie director of sexual assault, she delves into the journals of her female ancestors and learns their many similarities and the trauma they've faced at the hands of men because of the way they look. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills.

Henley, Ariel. *A Face for Picasso: Coming of Age with Crouzon Syndrome*. 2021. 378 pgs. RL: 6.3, IL: 9-12. In this emotional memoir, the author describes how she and her identical twin sister were born with Crouzon syndrome, a rare condition where the bones in the head fuse together prematurely and what it was like growing up with facial disfigurement. She details how she and her sister endured numerous surgeries in their youth, and their efforts to gain acceptance by conforming to society's beauty standards. The author reflects on how she learned to live with a facial disfigurement and what she discovered about beauty, sisterhood, and courage. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices, People with Disabilities.

Hibbert, Talia. *Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute*. 2023. 319 pgs. IL: 9-12. British high school student Celine Bangura is determined to win one of three scholarships being offered by her hero, human rights lawyer Katharine Breakspeare, through the Breakspeare Enrichment survival course program. She doesn't realize that her former best friend Bradly Graeme, now a popular soccer star at the school, has also applied and he'll be competing alongside her in the various mental and physical survival competitions. They soon realize that if either of them is to have a shot against the other ruthless competitors, they'll have to call a truce and team up. As the walls around their hearts begin to crumble, the pair reforge their friendship that blossoms into a romance and help each other deal with family and personal issues. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Awareness, Self-Management Skills.

Higgs-Coulthard, Katherine. *Junkyard Dogs*. 2023. 332 pgs. IL: 10-12. After their father goes missing, seventeen-year-old Josh Roberts just wants some stability and safety for his nine-year-old brother, Twig. He's forced to pay his grandmother to take Twig in while he searches for his dad on the streets, risking getting kicked out of school and off the basketball team. Josh's efforts to find his dad lead him to become involved in a dangerous criminal ring. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Diverse Family Structure, Poverty/Homelessness.

Howard, Max. *Surviving American History*. 2022. 193 pgs. RL: 3.1, IL: 9-12. Gabi's world is turned upside down when her parents get a divorce, and she must move away from her hometown. But on the day Gabi moves away, a shooter attacks her old school, killing her American history classmates. Now in addition to the challenges of moving, Gabi suffers from extreme survivor's guilt. When she meets troublemaker Lennon, she begins to participate in self-destructive behaviors that could lead her down a very dark path. Genre: Realistic.

Hudson, Wade. *The Talk: Conversations about Race, Love & Truth.* 2021. 147 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 4-8. Highlights a collection of essays, poems, and comics that discuss diversity, racism, and equality that encourages readers to examine their perspectives and take action to promote equal justice for all. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Hughes, Dean. *Displaced.* 2021. 246 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 7-12. Toma and Malek, two thirteen-year-old Syrian children living in Beirut, struggle to provide for their families in a country that can be hostile against refugees like them, but they maintain hope that there is a way out of their seemingly impossible situation. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness.

Hughes, Kiku. *Displacement (Graphic Novel).* 2020. 274 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 7-12. While on vacation in San Francisco, sixteen-year-old Kiku finds herself displaced to the Japanese-American internment camp that her late grandmother was forcibly relocated to during World War II. After finding herself "stuck" in the 1940s, Kiku adjusts to the harsh life of the camp and experiences how the internees managed to create a community and commit small acts of resistance in order to survive. When she eventually returns to her time, she realizes that the lessons she learned in camp about racism and civil liberties are still relevant. Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Iloh, Candice. *Break This House.* 2022. 205 pgs. RL: 5.7, IL: 9-12. After leaving Michigan to start a new life in Brooklyn with her father, sixteen-year-old Yaminah Okar has tried to put her past and her mother behind her. When she learns her mother has died of cancer, Yaminah's old life comes crashing in she's forced to reconcile with what happened. She returns to Obsidian, Michigan to face the pain behind her parents' divorce, learn what happened to her mother, and the effects of drug abuse. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices, Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Ireland, Justina. *Dread Nation (Dread Nation : 1).* 2019. 459 pgs. RL: 6, IL: 9-12. The dead begin to walk battlegrounds during the Civil War, changing the face of America forever. Now, certain children are enrolled in combat schools where they are taught to destroy the dead. In one such school, Jane, an African American girl, just wants to return to her home in Kentucky after she graduates. But when families in Baltimore County start going missing, Jane is caught up in a conspiracy that pits her against wealthy Eastern elites who want to return America to its pre-Civil War glory at any cost. Genre: Supernatural/Paranormal, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationship Skills.

Jackson, Holly. *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder (Good Girl's Guide to Murder: 1).* 2020. 390 pgs. RL: 5.4, IL: 9-12. As her senior capstone project, Pippa Fitz-Amobi is determined to find the real killer in a closed, local murder case, but not everyone wants her meddling in the past. Genre: Mystery/Suspense.

Jackson, Holly. *Five Survive.* 2023. 388 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 9 Up. Eighteen-year-old Red, her brother, and six friends take an old RV on a spring break trip from Philadelphia to the southern coast. On the way, their camper succumbs to a flat tire, and they realize that their tire was shot. Trapped in a remote location in South Carolina without cell service, the six young adults try to stay alive through the night, wondering who wants to kill them and why, and if someone in their group is hiding a secret. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief, Diverse Family Structure.

Jackson, Kosoko. *Survive the Dome.* 2023. 326 pgs. IL: 9 Up. A young journalist named Jamal Lawson heads to Baltimore to document a rally protesting police brutality after another Black man's death at the hands of police, but things take a turn when the city implements a new safety protocol: the Dome. The Dome turns Baltimore into a highly militarized zone under martial law where no one is allowed in or out. Jamal soon meets a hacker named Marco and Catherine, an AWOL basic training graduate whose parents

helped build the initial plans for the Dome, and the trio works together to challenge the chief of police and bring the Dome down. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Jackson, Tiffany D. *Allegedly*. 2018. 387 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 9-12. Mary Addison has spent the last six years of her life locked up in juvenile detention, convicted of killing a white baby who was left in the care of Mary's mother. Now 15, the African American teen finds herself pregnant and at risk of having her own child taken away. Desperate to keep her baby, Mary makes a startling confession—she did not kill the baby in her mother's care. But with a conviction hanging over her head, it might be hard to convince anyone she's telling the truth. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Own Voices, Social Justice.

Jackson, Tiffany D. *Monday's Not Coming*. 2018. 435 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 9-12. When Claudia comes back from summer vacation, her best friend Monday is gone. They've been friends since childhood, and now no one can tell her what happened. In fact, nobody even seems concerned about Monday's disappearance. Claudia is determined to find out where her friend is and what happened to her. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying.

Jackson, Tiffany D. *The Weight of Blood*. 2022. 406 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 9-12. In this reboot of Stephen King's novel "Carrie," biracial Madison Washington has been forced to present as white to those around her by her racist and uber-religious father, but it hasn't saved her from being the target of school bullies. When a rainstorm in gym class exposes her hair texture, the taunts and teasing turn to vicious bullying and a viral video that gives the school bad press. White class president Wendy decides to promote the school's first interracial prom and convinces her star quarterback Black boyfriend to ask Madison to the prom. But Madison is beginning to manifest unusual powers and her untapped rage reaches terrifying heights on prom night. Genre: Horror/Scary, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Own Voices.

Jackson, Tiffany D. *White Smoke*. 2022. 387 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 9-12. On the outside everything looks promising: former California teenager Marigold is clean for the first time in months, she's getting a fresh start with her new blended family in a Midwest Michigan community, and their rent-free home has been newly renovated. Dig beneath the surface, however, and all isn't so well: Marigold still thinks she needs marijuana to cope with her anxiety and a bedbug phobia, the new home they're living in appears haunted, and her annoying ten-year-old stepsister Piper has a new imaginary friend who wants Marigold gone from the home. Marigold soon learns of the home's sordid past, the decimation of the black neighborhood it's located in, and the true intentions of the horror housed in the home. Genre: Horror/Scary, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Jae-Jones, S. *Zhara (Guardians of Dawn:1)*. 2023. 404 pgs. IL: 9-12. Though her magic is a gift, Jin Zhara has always had to hide it from the world and those who would kill her to obtain it for themselves. However, when a plague starts turning magicians into monsters, Zhara has no choice but to join the Guardians of the Dawn, a secret magical liberation society, to try to find a cure. While getting to know the cute yet easily flustered Han, Zhara must find the Guardian of Fire, an elemental warrior, within herself to combat the demon responsible, who has awoken and threatens the Morning Realms. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Jenkins, Tommy. *Drawing the Vote: An Illustrated Guide to Voting in America (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 198 pgs. IL: 8-12. This illustrated Graphic Novel presents historical information about how United States citizens vote, including events that helped secure equal and fair voting rights, such as suffrage rights for African Americans and women, as well as, actions that restricted and manipulated those rights, including gerrymandering and voter intimidation.

Johnson, Kim. *Invisible Son*. 2023. 404 pgs. IL: 9-12. In February 2020, after spending two months in a Portland, Oregon juvenile detention center for a crime he did not commit, seventeen-year-old Andre Jackson returns home hoping to make a fresh start and find his best friend Eric Whitaker and confront him about why he allowed Andre to take the fall for a crime he committed. Unfortunately, Eric is missing and the only one who seems to care is Eric's biological sister Sierra. With the COVID-19 pandemic bearing down upon the world, Andre decides to investigate what happened to Eric on his own and learns that all is not well within the Whitaker's seemingly perfect adoptive, multiracial family. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making.

Joy, Amanda. *A River of Royal Blood (River of Royal Blood: 1)*. 2021. 363 pgs. RL: 5.7, IL: 9-12. In order to determine who will sit on the Ivory Throne and become queen of Myre, sisters Eva, aged seventeen, and Isadore must fight to the death. Eva is gifted with magick declared "marrow and blood," which was used the brutal reign of Queen Raina eight generations ago to massacre thousands, which in turn causes Eva to be the victim of fear and mistrust. When Eva is attacked by an assassin prior to the fight, she seeks out a fey who will help unlock the potential of her magick. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills.

Kara, Jessica. *Don't Ask If I'm Okay*. 2023. 331 pgs. IL: 9-12. A year ago, Gage survived a car accident that killed his cousin and best friend, Hunter. Lost in grief, he hides his pain, nightmares, and panic attacks from friends and family, and focuses on his job as a fry cook. When Gage learns of a dream job in one of his idol's restaurants, he pursues it to show everyone that he's okay. He goes even further and asks out a new girl, and hosts a memorial for Hunter. However, Gage is most definitely not okay, and when he can't bury his grief any longer, he loses his temper on those he loves. Now he must find the strength to ask for help. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief.

Katouh, Zoulfa. *As Long As the Lemon Trees Grow*. 2022. 417 pgs. IL: 9-12. When the Syrian War comes to her city of Homs in 2011, eighteen-year-old Salama's life is forever changed. She no longer can pursue her dreams of becoming a pharmacist, her brother and father are taken away during the protests, and her mother dies in a bombing. Left to care for her pregnant sister-in-law, Salama volunteers at a local makeshift hospital where she helps treat the wounded. There she meets nineteen-year-old Kenan who is also involved in the protests. She struggles with decisions about whether to stay or go and her fear manifests itself as a constant companion called Khawf. Khawf forces her to examine her circumstances and decide the price she is willing to pay for her freedom. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness.

Kaylor, Serena. *Long Story Short*. 2022. 325 pgs. IL: 9-12. Homeschooled math genius Beatrice Quinn has just been accepted into her dream school, Oxford University, at just sixteen years old. She's thrilled; her parents, on the other hand, are reasonably hesitant to send the extreme introvert overseas because they fear she's not socially mature enough to handle life on her own. To prove them wrong, she agrees to attend a four-week theater camp and complete a list of milestones they've compiled, such as participating in an outdoor activity and hugging another person. As expected, Beatrice has plenty of false starts and awkward moments--she even makes an enemy--but a welcoming group of friends helps her navigate enough group activities and put-yourself-out-there experiences that by the end she sees personal growth. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Relationship Skills.

Kemmerer, Brigid. *A Curse So Dark and Lonely (Curse So Dark and Lonely: 1)*. 2020. 484 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 9-12. In a retelling of "Beauty and the Beast," Harper, a high school senior with cerebral palsy, is abducted and wakes up in Ironrose Castle in Emberfall, a magical land, occupied by the ageless Prince Rhen, who has been cursed to relive his eighteenth year over and over again until he finds love. Every

autumn he becomes human, but after three months, becomes a murderous beast. She learns that every year, Rhen's guard, who was also cursed, abducts a girl in hopes Rhen will woo her and break the curse. With no intention of becoming a bride, Harper attempts to negotiate with the enchantress who cursed Rhen, but learns she plans to invade Emberfall, causing Harper to reconsider what's truly important. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: People with Disabilities, Social Justice.

Kemmerer, Brigid. *A Heart So Fierce and Broken (Curse So Dark and Lonely: 2)*. 2021. 450 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 9-12. Though the curse is broken, and he has Princess Harper by his side at last, Prince Rhen now faces ill rumors that he is not the legitimate heir and has unleashed forbidden magic on Emberfall. Then, his guardsman Grey goes missing, leaving Rhen with more questions. Meanwhile, Grey knows the heir's true identity, and when Karis Luran threatens Emberfall once more, Grey will have to choose between Rhen and Luran's daughter Lia Mara, who wants to side with Grey against her mother and Rhen both. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: People with Disabilities.

Khorram, Adib. *Darius the Great Deserves Better*. 2021. 354 pgs. RL: 3.9, IL: 8-12. Darius Kellnar is finally coming into his own: he has a wonderful boyfriend named Landon, he's starring on the high school varsity soccer team, and he has an internship at his favorite tea shop. Everything is great, that is, until it isn't. Suddenly, his best friend in Iran isn't answering his calls, he has confusing feelings for a teammate, his internship isn't what he expected, and Landon's pressures for greater intimacy make him pull away. Darius now has to decide whether being okay is enough, or if he's meant for something greater. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices.

Khorram, Adib. *Darius the Great is Not Okay*. 2018. 314 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 8-12. Presents a coming-of-age story following outcast Darius Kellner who suffers from clinical depression, a sense of social awkwardness, and a fractured Persian heritage. He travels to Iran with his family and is convinced he will not feel comfortable there any more than his own home. But then he meets his new neighbor, Sohrab; and through this charismatic boy, Darius learns it's OK to be himself. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices.

King, Thomas. *Borders (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 171 pgs. RL: 4.1, IL: 6-9. A boy and his mother leave their reservation in Canada to visit the boy's sister in Salt Lake City. But when his mother refuses to identify themselves as American or Canadian at the border, and instead claims their citizenship as Blackfoot, they become caught between the two borders. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Kraus, Daniel. *Bent Heavens*. 2021. 291 pgs. RL: 5.9, IL: 10-12. Fifteen-year-old Liv Fleming's father went missing shortly after he reports being abducted by aliens. For two years Liv and her long-time friend Doug set traps for the aliens until the now seventeen-year-old has had enough. On the day she goes out to destroy the traps she finds a creature that can only be an alien--which proves her father was telling the truth. She is then faced with a choice--turnover the alien to the government or use it to find her father. She and Doug then go to extremes to interrogate the alien, with Liv questing how far she's willing to let her humanity slip to get answers. Genre: Science Fiction, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills.

Krosoczka, Jarrett J. *Hey, Kiddo (Graphic Novel)*. 2018. 294 pgs. RL: 3.5, IL: 8-12. A Graphic Novel memoir by author and illustrator Jarrett Krosoczka who describes growing up with an addicted mother, a missing father, and two opinionated grandparents who raise him. Describes how Krosoczka relied on his art to express himself and to survive the ups and downs of life. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Narrative Nonfiction, Self-Management.

Krosoczka, Jarrett J. *Sunshine (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 226 pgs. RL: 3.4, IL: 8-12. In this graphic novel memoir, author Jarrett J. Krosoczka recounts his high school experience as a sixteen-year-old counselor at Camp Sunshine, a camp for seriously ill kids and their families. Initially, Jarrett thinks it might be a depressing experience for him, but instead, Jarrett learns from the kids how to make every moment count. As he helps the kids get the full camp experience with wilderness challenges, spooky campfire stories, and lake swimming, he gains an experience that changes his life forever. Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief.

La Sala, Ryan. *Reverie*. 2022. 397 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 8-12. Kane Montgomery is found half-dead in a river, with no memory of how he got there and why his life seems so incredibly different now. Reality itself seems different. Three strangers arrive to help Kane find out what is going on, claiming to be his friends from before. Worlds begin to materialize out of nowhere--the gym becomes a subterranean temple, a historic house becomes a Victorian mansion--and then a sinister evil arises, threatening to alter reality once again. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+.

Lacour, Nina. *Watch Over Me*. 2022. 275 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 9-12. After graduating from high school and the foster care system, Mila accepts a job on an isolated Northern California farm where she confronts not only her memories, but also the ones of her fellow residents. Genre: Supernatural/Paranormal, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care.

Leder, Meg. *Letting Go of Gravity*. 2019. 423 pgs. IL: 9-12. Parker made the decision to become a doctor when she was in fourth grade, when her twin Charlie was diagnosed with cancer. Now with Charlie in remission, Parker has been accepted to Harvard and has landed a summer internship at the hospital-but she is now uncertain about going into medicine. Then she reconnects with Finn, a childhood friend and artist, who opens her eyes to a new future. Genre: Realistic.

Lee, Deb JJ. *In Limbo (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 339 pgs. IL: 8 Up. A graphic novel-style memoir following the author through her troubled youth as a South Korean immigrant in the United States, where her imperfect English, her teachers unable to pronounce her Korean name, and her face and especially eyes, all made her feel just wrong. Her mental health spirals down to a suicide attempt, which she survives. After that, she learns the art of self-care and develops resilience, finding a deeper knowledge of her ancestry and of herself. Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices.

Lee, Harper and Fordham, Fred. *To Kill a Mockingbird (Graphic Novel)*. 2018. 272 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 9-Adult. A Graphic Novel adaptation of "To Kill a Mockingbird." A haunting portrait of race and class, innocence and injustice, hypocrisy and heroism, tradition and transformation in the Deep South of the 1930s, Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" remains as important today as it was upon its initial publication in 1960, during the turbulent years of the Civil Rights movement.

Lee, Lyla. *I'll Be the One*. 2022. 323 pgs. RL: 5.4, IL: 8-12. Skye Shin dreams of being a K-pop star and when a competition comes to Los Angeles, she isn't going to let others, who tell her she's fat, stop her. Skye nails her competition and joins the reality television program, sparking a host of criticisms, praise, and fat-shaming. Navigating a new relationship with a fellow competitor only adds to Skye's determination to be a star on her own terms. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices, Self-Awareness, Social Awareness.

Lee, Mackenzi. *The Winter Soldier: Cold Front (Marvel Rebels & Renegades)*. 2023. 410 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 7-12. In 1954 Soviet Union, the Winter Soldier, aka Agent Vronsky, is a weapon used for dangerous covert missions and protected by his handler, Rostova. However, he doesn't remember who he used to be

before this. Decades before, Bucky Barnes enrolls in the British Special Operations Executive during World War II and is forced to go on the run from an assassin with an English spy. Before long the lives of the two men come together across time and their encounter will change everything. Genre: Action/Adventure.

Len, Vanessa. *Only a Monster (Only a Monster: 1)*. 2023. 403 pgs. IL: 9-12. Sixteen-year-old Joan Chang-Hunt has been living in London with her grandmother since her mother's death. When a day passes and she doesn't remember what happened, she learns that her grandmother's jokes about her family being a bunch of monsters hiding in plain sight are true. Not only is she a monster, but she also has the ability to travel through time by stealing hours from human lives. When her family is attacked by other monsters, her co-worker Nick, the boy she's been crushing on, quickly defeats them, and she learns he's a legendary monster hunter. He saves her but warns her not to steal any more years from humans or he will kill her. In the aftermath, Joan searches for other surviving monsters, learning most have been killed save for seventeen-year-old Aaron Oliver of a rival monster family. Together, they plot to go back in time to save their families and uncover the secrets of who wants them dead, learning they aren't any safer there than they were in their own time. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Len, Vanessa. *Never a Hero (Only a Monster: 2)*. 2023. 510 pgs. IL: 9-12. Joan managed to reset the timeline and save her family, but it meant destroying the hero, Nick, the boy she loved, and she alone remembers that truth about what happened. Her friend Aaron is now an enemy, trying to kill her, and Nick is a stranger who doesn't even know her name. Soon, she and Nick must go on the run to escape Aaron, and Joan discovers that her erasure of the original Nick set off a chain of events that will lead to a catastrophic end to the timeline unless she can find a way to stop it. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Levithan, David. *Take Me with You When You Go*. 2021. 328 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 8-12. When eighteen-year-old Bea runs away from home with no explanation, her brother Ezra is shocked and hurt. He knows life with their neglectful mother and abusive stepfather isn't easy, but he hates being left behind. He finds an email address Bea leaves for him and the siblings begin communicating. Bea tells Ezra that she received a message that prompted her to finally leave her life behind. Meanwhile, things get much worse for Ezra and he flees to the home of his Black boyfriend. As Bea learns more about their family's past, the siblings help each other survive and find a way forward. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management.

Lin, Judy I. *A Magic Steeped in Poison (Book of Tea: 1)*. 2022. 364 pgs. RL: 6.4, IL: 9-12. Seventeen-year-old Zhang Ning is an apprentice in the art of magical tea-making, and she used to take great pride in her work. However, when she unknowingly brewed a poisonous tea that killed her mother and threatens the life of her sister, she now views herself with contempt. In order to save the life of her sister, Ning enters a cutthroat magical competition to find the kingdom's greatest master of the art of brewing tea, but political schemes and secrets make her goal of gaining access to royal physicians to cure her dying sister far more dangerous than she imagined. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Locke, Katherine. *The Girl with the Red Balloon (Balloonmakers : 1)*. 2017. 277 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 7-12. After Ellie Baum chases a red balloon while on a trip to the Berlin Wall Memorial, she is magically transported back to 1988, where she meets an underground guild who use balloons and magic to help people escape over the wall. She soon learns that dark forces are trying to manipulate magic to alter history, and Ellie and the guild must find a way to stop them even if it means losing her only way back to her own time. Genre: Fantasy.

Longo, Jennifer. *What I Carry*. 2021. 322 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 10-12. In her final year of foster care, seventeen-year-old Muir tries to survive her senior year before aging out of the system. As she becomes closer to her latest foster mother, meets a new friend, and even finds love, she worries that she's getting too involved and fights the urge to flee the closest thing she's ever had to a home. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care.

Longoria, Margarita. *Living Beyond Borders: Growing Up Mexican in America*. 2021. 210 pgs. RL: 5.5, IL: 8-12. Contains a collection of short stories from Mexican American authors that discuss their experiences emigrating to the United States, living among both cultures, dealing with racism, and creating an identity that honors both heritages. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Awareness, Social Awareness.

Lord, Emery. *All That's Left to Say*. 2023. 374 pgs. IL: 9-12. At the beginning of her junior year of high school, Hannah is blindsided when her best friend and cousin Sophie dies of an opioid overdose at a house party she was attending. Neither Hannah nor her family knew Sophie was using, prompting Hannah to channel her grief into figuring out who gave the pills to Sophie. With help from Sophie's friend Gabi, Hannah enrolls in the posh private school Sophie was attending and changes her identity to find the drug seller she's convinced attends the school. Initially, Hannah is scornful of her new peers, believing them to be merely a group of stuck up rich kids. However, she's surprised to find herself liking and subsequently hanging out with Christian Dailey, a former debate competitor. As Hannah pushes to find out what really happened with Sophie, her deep grief drives her to make questionable decisions and realize the easy answers she's looking for don't exist. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Grief and Death, Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Mafi, Tahereh. *A Very Large Expanse of Sea*. 2019. 331 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 9-12. In 2002, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl named Shirin starts over at yet another high school, having dealt with the prejudice and abuse that followed 9/11. She copes with the anti-Islamic animosity by turning to music and break-dancing. She meets Ocean James, who comes from a very different background, but really seems to want to get to know her. But she's had the walls up for so long, she doesn't know if she can really let him in. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Own Voices.

Mafi, Tahereh. *An Emotion of Great Delight*. 2022. 257 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 9-12. In 2003, Muslim American teen Shadi is crumbling from sadness and stress, very little of which is related to the hatred she's feeling from peers at school due to the recent 9/11 attacks. Shadi's brother was killed in a car accident and the resulting stress on her family likely led to her father's heart attack and her mother's deep depression. Feeling alone and floundering, Shadi's only lifeline is her former friend's brother Ali, who becomes a source of support--and maybe something more--during this time of family and political turmoil. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationship Skills, Self-Awareness, Self-Management.

Maldonado, Crystal. *Fat Chance, Charlie Vega*. 2022. 343 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 9-12. Charlie Vega wants to be a strong and confident fat brown girl, but it's hard when her mother is constantly comparing her to her perfect best friend, Amelia, who is slim, popular, and athletic. When she starts dating Brian, Charlie thinks she has finally found her confidence. But everything comes crashing down when she finds out that Brian asked out Amelia before he asked out Charlie, and she must reevaluate everything she believes about her relationship with Brian. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Awareness, Self-Management.

Maraniss, Andrew. *Inaugural Ballers: The True Story of the First US Women's Olympic Basketball*. 2022. 344 pgs. RL: 7.2, IL: 9-12. Offers a historical account of the first U.S. Women's Olympic basketball

team. Provides historical context for the event, including the 1972 passage of Title IX, which opened opportunities in sports for women living in the United States. Discusses the recruitment of team members, where they came from, and the background of the coaching staff. Also lends historical context for the misogyny, sexism, and racism that players had to endure, how male colleagues underestimated them, and how they overcame it all to become silver medalists. Genre: Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Narrative Nonfiction.

Marquis, Krystal. *The Davenports (Davenports: 1)*. 2023. 379 pgs. IL: 8-12. In 1910 Chicago, the Davenport family is among the few wealthy Blacks in the city, their fortunes built by former slave William Davenport, who started a carriage company. William's three children, Olivia, Helen, and John are expected to keep up appearances and marry well. The oldest daughter, Olivia, seems to have found the perfect suitor in Black Englishman Jacob Lawrence; however, when she meets a local Civil Rights leader, she can't deny her attraction to him. Helen could care less about high society, preferring to work with John on fixing cars, but she earns respect from Jacob, who admires her tenacity. Olivia's childhood friend Ruby has her sights set on John, especially since she knows a union will help her family, but she can't seem to keep his interest. Maid Amy-Rose dreams of owning her own hair salon and of a relationship with John but realizes he may be a distraction towards reaching her goals. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Martin, Erica. *And We Rise: The Civil Rights Movement in Poems*. 2022. 153 pgs. IL: 7-12. Contains a collection of poetry by Erica Martin about both well-documented and lesser-known people and events of the Civil Rights Movement. Poems discuss the beginning of segregation, the laws defending it, and various events that happened on specific dates in history. Includes black-and-white photographs, a timeline, and additional resources. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Mazey, Eddings. *Tilly in Technicolor*. 2023 309 pgs. IL: 9-12. ADHD-stricken Tilly Twomley has successfully suffered through high school burn out to be given the opportunity of a summer internship with her sister Mona's environmentally friendly nail polish start-up touring Europe. Oliver Clark's autism has made it tough for him to make close friends, but with his love for color theory and design, the promise of placing in a prestigious design program next fall, and a summer résumé-building internship with Mona's company, his future looks bright. Tilly's ADHD and Oliver's autism clash in the worst way on the plane trip over, but as their summer internships go on, Oliver begins to feel things for Tilly he never expected. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills, Self-Awareness.

McBride, Amber. *Me (Moth)*. 2021. 248 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 9-12. Two years after the death of her family in a car accident, sole survivor Moth still feels adrift and lost, even though she's mostly comfortably cared for by her aunt. When she meets junior classmate Sani, whose ancestors are Navajo, she finds a kindred spirit who understands what it feels like to be disconnected from family. Abused by his stepfather, Sani decides to leave home and search for his biological father on the Navajo Nation in the western United States. Moth tags along, also hoping to find freedom from her negative thoughts and unhappy life. As the pair visit landmarks and national parks, they find love and a trustworthy companion with which to share their pain and joy. Genre: Realistic.

McCall, Guadalupe Garcia. *All the Stars Denied*. 2018. 322 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 7-10. When resentment surges during the Great Depression in a Texas border town, fifteen-year-old Estrella organizes a protest against the treatment of tejanos and is soon sent with her mother and baby brother to Mexico. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

McDowell, Kara. *This Might Get Awkward*. 2022. 319 pgs. IL: 7-12. Socially awkward Gemma accidentally finds herself in the middle of a high school party where she sees popular Beau Booker, her

crush, fall off a boat and hit his head. She rescues Beau and does CPR but he's in a coma. To her horror, everyone including Beau's family mistakes her for Beau's girlfriend. She wants to correct them, but her social anxiety paralyzes her. Then Beau's brother Griff begins spending time with Gemma and she suddenly has the friends and family she's always wanted--except that it's built on a lie and Beau is waking up. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness.

McGinnis, Mindy. *The Initial Insult (Initial Insult : 1)*. 2021. 369 pgs. RL: 5.5, IL: 10-12. Tress Montor not only lost her parents the night they disappeared, she also lost her reputation and her friends. Now living with her alcoholic grandfather on an animal reserve, she's become the butt of teenage jokes and shunned by the town. The last one to see her parents alive, however, was her former best friend and popularity queen Felicity Turnado, who claims she doesn't remember what happened that night. Tress thinks she's lying and sets up an elaborate scheme at a Halloween party to force Felicity to tell the truth of what happened to her parents. Genre: Mystery/Suspense.

McManus, Karen M. *One of Us Is Lying (Bayview High: 1)*. 2019. 362 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 9-12. Five students are sent to after-school detention at Bayview High: Bronwyn, the brain; Addy, the beauty; Nate, the criminal; Cooper, the athlete; and Simon, the outcast. You might think this sounds like a familiar '80s movie about a club and breakfast—but in this case, Simon doesn't make it out alive. Simon, the creator of Bayview High's infamous gossip app, had promised to release juicy details about all four of his popular co-detention attendees the next day, which means all four are suspects in his murder—unless, of course, a sixth figure is using them as patsies. Genre: Mystery/Suspense.

McManus, Karen M. *One of Us is Next (Bayview High: 2)*. 2020. 375 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 9-12. The Bayview Four were cleared of responsibility for Simon's death, but the void left from Simon's gossip app has spawned copycats. It's then that a truth or dare game emerges with real-life consequences. But someone is pulling the strings, the dares grow deadly, and the attacks are strangely personal, as though that person is out for revenge. Genre: Mystery/Suspense.

McManus, Karen M. *You'll Be the Death of Me*. 2021. 326 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 9-12. Former close middle school friends Ivy, Mateo, and Cal now run in different high school circles, but on one particularly bad day, the trio meet up in the parking lot before school and decide to recreate the Best Day Ever--the day the three skipped a field trip and played hooky on the streets of Boston. Overachiever Ivy has just lost the student council election to class clown Boney Mahoney and can't face the humiliation of her peers. Mateo is stressed out from his family's money problems, and Cal is suffering from loneliness. When the three spot Boney walking into a warehouse, they decide to follow him, and discover his dead body. Ivy, a prime suspect, enlists the boys' help in finding out what happened, which uncovers secrets about Boney that they've all been keeping from each other. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills.

McWilliams, Kelly. *Mirror Girls*. 2022. 308 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 9-12. In 1953, Harlem civil rights activist Charlie Yates takes her dying grandmother to Eureka, Georgia to fulfill her request to see her hometown one last time. Unbeknownst to Charlie, her grandmother has another reason to visit; she wants to see her granddaughter Magnolia Heathwood--Charlie's secret twin sister--before she dies. Biracial twins Magnolia and Charlie were split at birth after their interracial parents were murdered in a lynching. Magnolia, who was raised white, has no knowledge of her background, until her reflection disappears from the mirrors in her home. Charlie too, sees visions in the mirrors around her. When the twins find each other, they follow the guidance of spirits to defy the segregationist threats around them, recover their identities, and repair the damage to their lives. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Medema, Dante. *The Truth Project*. 2022. 400 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 8-12. Cordelia Koenig, seventeen and heading into her final high school year, has her stress-inducing senior project all planned: she will do a find-your-roots genealogy test and write about her results, just like her sister, and at the same time maybe reconnect with her former best friend and longtime crush Kodiak Jones, who happens to be her project partner. Of course, her DNA test comes back with shocking results: her "father" she has grown up with is not really her biological father. Now, unsure of everything in her life, Cordelia sets out to find out where she really came from. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Responsible Decision-Making.

Mehrotra, Rati. *Flower and Thorn*. 2023. 338 pgs. IL: 9-12. Ever since her mother disappeared in the Rann salt flats, Irinya has wanted to be a flower hunter. Now seventeen, Irinya is astonished when her handsome flower hunting partner, and childhood best friend Fardan, finds the rare silver spider lily, rumored to be able to defeat armies and demolish kingdoms. Its value could be their clan's chance to pay off their debts. Then, a handsome imposter tricks Irinya into giving up the silver spider lily, forcing her to undertake a journey to the capital of Ahmedabad to get the flower back and make right what she has done. Genre: Fantasy,

Mejia, Tehlor Kay. *We Set the Dark on Fire (We Set the Dark on Fire: 1)*. 2020. 378 pgs. RL: 6.1, IL: 9-12. In a dystopic society on an island split by a wall, the nation is divided between the upper- and lower-classes. At the Medico School for Girls, the young ladies are groomed to be one of two wives for prominent men. Depending on their specialization, women will either run the household or bear children. Seventeen-year-old Daniela "Dani" Vargas is at the top of her class and slated to be married--along with her friend-turned-enemy Carmen Santos--to the domineering scion of a political family. Then, a revolutionary force learns Dani is a fraud, and that she was born low-class from the other side of the wall. They blackmail her into spying on her new family, and as conspiracies mount, Dani develops an unlikely bond with Carmen. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Mejia, Tehlor Kay. *We Unleash the Merciless Storm (We Set the Dark on Fire: 2)*. 2021. 388 pgs. RL: 6, IL: 9-12. After her identity as Segunda to Mateo Garcia is compromised, Carmen Santos is on the run to La Voz's headquarters looking for shelter with the rebel groups she's devoted everything to. What she finds, however, is their beloved leader whose mission has been compromised by an aggressive recruit. She must prove her loyalty, but when she finds out that the love of her life, Dani, is the target of an assassination plot, she is forced to choose between love and duty. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Mendez, Matt. *Barely Missing Everything*. 2020. 306 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 10-12. In El Paso, Fabi, her son Juan, and his best friend JD each have their own struggles as they deal with the injustices of being brown and poor in Texas. After a mistake at a party in a wealthy neighborhood, Juan and JD find themselves on the run, and decide to search out answers on who Juan's father really is. Fabi wants to stop them, but she is also struggling with the secrets of her own family. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Mendez, Yamile Saied. *Furia*. 2022. 357 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 10-12. Camila Hassan is a talented seventeen-year-old Argentinian soccer player who dreams of playing in North America. It's a dream she must keep secret from her strict mother and abusive father, who would never approve of a girl playing sports. When her team wins the local cup and she has the opportunity to play in the South American tournament, Camila is thrilled but worried, because she'll need her parent's permission to go. Complicating matters, Camila's former boyfriend, who left to play football on a team in Italy, is back in town, hoping to get back

together. Camila must summon the courage to follow her heart, wherever it leads. Genre: Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Mendez, Yamile Saied. *Our Shadows Have Claws: 15 Latin American Monster Stories.* 2022. 352 pgs. IL: 10-12. In this anthology of fifteen horror stories set in Latin American countries, monsters manifest themselves in a variety of ways and protagonists continually must face their fears in order to confront them, including when a queer girl's boyfriend turns violent, a monster roams the streets of Brazil devouring the homeless, and vampires are hunted down by a slayer who stays one step ahead of them. Genre: Horror/Scary, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Mendoza, Paola. *Sanctuary.* 2021. 304 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 9-12. In the year 2035, Vali, her mother, and her brother are living a peaceful life as undocumented immigrants in Vermont with fake ID chips implanted in their wrists. When a raid happens at her mother's workplace, the family decides to flee to California, a sanctuary state for undocumented immigrants. Vali's mother, however, is detained along the way, and Vali and her brother must continue the journey alone. Genre: Dystopian, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices. Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness.

Menon, Sandhya. *When Dimple Met Rishi (Dimple and Rishi: 1).* 2021. 380 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 7-12. When Dimple Shah and Rishi Patel meet at a Stanford University summer program, Dimple is avoiding her parents' obsession with "marriage prospects" but Rishi hopes to woo her into accepting arranged marriage with him. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Mickelson, Marcia Argueta. *Where I Belong.* 2021. 258 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 7-12. Corpus Christi, Texas teenager Millie Vargas finds herself and her family in the middle of an immigration debate when she's called out as a "deserving" immigrant by a politician amidst an increasingly heated debate over asylum-seekers entering the United States. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Midori, Wataru. *Run on Your New Legs: Vol. 1 (Graphic Novel).* 2022. 153 pgs. IL: 8-12. Shouta Kikuzato thinks his high school athletic dreams are derailed when an accident costs him his leg. But after prosthetist Chidori sees him running through a train station, he catches up to him and asks for a partnership: he'll build him a leg if he'll agree to run track and test it out. Kikuzato agrees, sending them both on a journey of self-discovery and personal achievement. Topics/CASEL Domain: People with Disabilities.

Midori, Wataru. *Run on Your New Legs: Vol. 2 (Graphic Novel).* 2022. 157 pgs. IL: 8-12. After competing in his first race on a blade, Kikuzato is hooked, but he needs more training if he wants to be a contender. Usami is happy to help him out, and he goes to watch the track and field team practice where he meets Sakashita. Kikuzato's mother finds out about his racing leg and goes to confront Chidori, but she agrees to let him make another leg for Kikuzato. Then, Chidori takes him to a running club that's all children, and Kikuzato meets Susumu Doujima, Japan's runner for the men's 100M at the Tokyo Paralympics. Topics/CASEL Domain: People with Disabilities.

Moldavsky, Goldy. *The Mary Shelley Club.* 2022. 468 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 9-12. Brooklyn teen Rachel Chavez joins the mysterious Mary Shelley Club at her new upscale prep school as a way to make friends and indulge in her fascination with horror movies. The club's elaborate pranks to scare their peers at first seem harmless and thrilling, but Rachel soon learns they have a dark side. Genre: Horror/Scary,

Montoya, Angela. *Sinner's Isle.* 2023. 370 pgs. IL: 9-12. Since she was seven years old, Rosalina has been confined to Sinner's Isle with other Majestics, witches who possess the magical powers bestowed on

them by the goddess Xiomara. Now nearly eighteen, Rosalina is scheduled to be sold in the annual Offering, where she'll likely be given to King Sebastián, and forced to use her ability to control terrifying phantoms for his bidding. Desperate to escape her circumstances, she blackmails the notorious Prince of Pirates, Mariano for help. His ship was attacked by the king, and he washed ashore on Sinner's Isle. While sparks fly between them, the untrusting pair work together to escape the island and free Rosalina from her fate. Genre: Fantasy.

Moore, Bryce. *The Perfect Place to Die.* 2021. 304 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 9-12. Seventeen-year-old Zuretta leaves her quiet life in Utah to go searching for her sister Ruby, who's gone missing in Chicago, during the World's Fair in 1893. Overwhelmed by the chaos in the city, she gets a stroke of luck by learning her sister was employed at a hotel called The Castle. Hoping to find clues, she gains employment there and quickly learns something sinister lurks in the walls and the kind owner hides a dark secret. Genre: Horror/Scary.

Morris, Brittney. *Slay.* 2019. 321 pgs. RL: 6, IL: 7-12. Seventeen-year-old Keira Johnson creates a virtual RPG called SLAY, which celebrates black culture and provides a safe place for black gamers across the world. But when a troll infiltrates the game and accuses SLAY of racism, Kiera is thrust into the mainstream spotlight despite doing everything to make sure that never happens. Genre: Science Fiction, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Morris, Brittney. *The Jump.* 2023. 248 pgs. IL: 9-12. The stress of an oil refinery being built in their backyard, threatening their families' livelihood, prompts four working-class teens to join a dangerous scavenger hunt in which the reward of power could change their families' fates and save the city they love so much. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, People with Disabilities.

Moskowitz, Circe. *All These Sunken Souls: A Black Horror Anthology.* 2023. 259 pgs. IL: 7-12. Contains a collection of ten short horror stories by Black authors that explore themes of desperation, such as in a young nanny selling her charges' baby teeth to pay for college, violence, as in a nonbinary protagonist seeking revenge against an abuser, and control, such as in a grandfather who wields authority over his family using hoodoo dolls, with horrifying results. Genre: Horror/Scary, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Muhammad, Ibtihaj. *Proud: Living My American Dream: Young Readers Edition.* 2018. 289 pgs. RL: 6.7, IL: 7-12. Presents the story of Ibtihaj Muhammad, the first Muslim-American woman to medal in Olympic fencing. She was also the first American to compete wearing a hijab, which many in her sport considered a profound barrier to success. Nevertheless, through faith and determination, she became an outsider who lived out the American dream of achieving success through her own dedication and hard work. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Own Voices, Social Justice.

Myer, Sarah. *Monstrous: A Transracial Adoption Story (Graphic Novel).* 2023. 260 pgs. IL: 9-12. Born in South Korea and adopted as a baby by a white couple, Sarah has never known anything about her birth family, and she has always felt out of place. She constantly feels like an outsider in the small rural farming community where she lives with her parents and sister, and she faces extreme bullying from her classmates at school. Sarah finds an escape through art and becomes obsessed with anime and cosplay, but her vivid imagination has a downside, as she begins expressing her emotions in a disruptive, often violent way. As she grows older and the bullying gets worse, Sarah must find a way to come to terms with her identity and accept herself for who she is. Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Own Voices.

Nedd, Alexis. *Don't Hate the Player*. 2021. 378 pgs. IL: 9-12. As far as her parents and friends at school know, Emilia Romero is a junior, a field hockey star, and a straight A student only. She keeps that life completely separate from her life as an eSports gamer who excels at Guardians League Online with her team. Having been bullied in the past for being a girl, Emilia takes her anonymity seriously. But when an eSports tournament is held in a local arena, she can't help but participate with her team. Though a former childhood friend named Jake notices her, he promises to help keep her secret. As the tournament progresses, she appreciates Jake's friendship and begins to see him in a new light. Her prowess during the tournament though, ignites the passions of rival players who begin doxxing her, threatening her personal life and safety. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Own Voices.

Ng, Celeste. *Everything I Never Told You*. 2015. 306 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 11-Adult. In 1970s small-town Ohio, Lydia is her parents' favorite, and the one they hope will fulfill all their dreams. However, when Lydia is found drowned in a nearby lake, the family falls apart as her parents and siblings each respond to the tragedy in different ways. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief.

Nguyen, Trung Le. *The Magic Fish (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 229 pgs. RL: 3, IL: 8-12. Tien, a first-generation Vietnamese immigrant, helps his parents practice their English by reading aloud fairy tales he checks out from the public library. While Tien's mother worries about family she left behind in Vietnam, Tien has his own personal concerns that he's struggling to share with his parents: namely, that he's gay. The fairy tales, which are imbedded into Tien's own story, help him find the means for sharing the truth. Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Noah, Trevor. *It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*. 2020. 294 pgs. RL: 5.6, IL: 7-12. Adapted for young readers, the author, comedian Trevor Noah, shares his personal journey from his birth in South Africa to his job behind a desk at "The Daily Show." Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Narrative Nonfiction, Own Voices.

Nunn, Malla. *When the Ground is Hard*. 2021. 275 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 8-12. At Swaziland's Keziah Christian Academy during the British Protectorate, race and socioeconomic status dictate a student's popularity. Adele Joubert returns as a junior, excited to room with Delia, one of the most popular girls at school--but she finds herself instead paired with the poor, rough-around-the-edges Lottie, and Adele fears her social standing will be dragged down. As the year goes on, however, the two girls bond over their love of the novel "Jane Eyre," and a friendship emerges. Then, as a series of tragedies strike, Adele and Lottie take risks for one another as they learn hard truths, reconnect with their heritage, and discover a new strength of character. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Justice.

Ogle, Rex. *Abuela, Don't Forget Me*. 2022. 198 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 9-12. A collection of poems celebrating and remembering the author's beloved abuela, grandmother, who, while he was growing up, was the only source of happiness and comfort in his life of poverty and domestic abuse. When his grandma began to become forgetful, even forgetting him in the middle of their conversations sometimes, the author began writing his sorrow and memories in little snippets, then in the poems that became this book. Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Memoir/Autobiography, Own Voices, Relationship Skills, Self-Awareness.

Ogle, Rex. *Punching Bag*. 2023. 217 pgs. RL: 3.5, IL: 8-12. Growing up in the 1990s, young Rex Ogle lived with the trauma, dread, and heartache of an abusive stepfather and a violent mother with a mental illness. In this heartbreaking-turned-hopeful memoir, Rex describes the extent of the abuse he suffered, how his mother blamed him for the death of his stillborn sister, and how the spirit of his sister Marisa followed him throughout his life, imparting an unseen presence that helped him turn away from darkness

and towards survival. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Own Voices, Self-Management, Social Awareness.

Oima, Yoshitoki. *A Silent Voice: Vol. 1 (Graphic Novel)*. 2015. 186 pgs. IL: 8-12. When Shoko, a deaf girl, arrives at his school, Shoya and his bully friends target her relentlessly. It gets so bad that Shoko leaves the school. Now, six years later, Shoya is shocked when Shoko comes back. They are both teens, and Shoya can't help but notice how pretty Shoko has become--but the damage he did in the past may never be undone. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, People with Disabilities.

Oima, Yoshitoki. *A Silent Voice: Vol. 2 (Graphic Novel)*. 2015. 187 pgs. IL: 8-12. Five years ago, in sixth grade, Shoya Ishida bullied Shoko Nishimiya, a deaf girl, so badly that she left their elementary school. Now Shoko is back, and Shoya has become the guy in their class that is shunned. Hoping to make up for his horrible behavior, Shoya learns sign language, trying to make amends to Shoko, and maybe even become her friend. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, People with Disabilities.

Orwell, George and Odyr. *Animal Farm: The Graphic Novel*. 2020. 175 pgs. IL: 8-Adult. Presents the classic satirical fable by George Orwell in Graphic Novel format. Describes how animals on a farm revolt against their human masters and create a utopian community, Animal Farm. However, a pig named Napoleon becomes corrupted by power and eventually takes control and establishes a dictatorship.

Oshiro, Mark. *Anger Is a Gift*. 2019. 463 pgs. RL: 5, IL: 8-12. Sixteen-year-old gay African-American student Moss Jeffries feels stuck in his run-down West Oakland High School. Still mourning the death of his father, shot by police years earlier, a violent incident at his school prompts Moss to channel his simmering anger into community activism against a corrupt authority system. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices, Social Justice.

Padian, Maria. *How to Build a Heart*. 2021. 343 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 9-12. Sixteen-year-old Isabella "Izzy" Crawford is a trailer-park scholarship kid at a wealthy Catholic school in Virginia and is desperate to keep her status a secret from everyone. She sings in an a cappella group where she helps a new student, Aubrey Shackleton--the sister of Hot Sam, who Izzy and her best friend Roz secretly stalk--with a cyberbullying situation and helps Aubrey get her confidence back. Then Izzy's family is selected to receive a new house from Habitat for Humanity, right in the neighborhood where the Shackletons live, which threatens all the secrets she's so carefully kept. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Padilla, Francesca. *What's Coming to Me*. 2023. 336 pgs. IL: 9-12. Seventeen-year-old Minerva Gutierrez is trying to survive her dead-end job at an ice cream shop with a sexist boss, her mother's hospitalization from a terminal illness, and being on suspension from school due to a fight. When the ice cream shop is robbed, old rumors resurface that a treasure is hidden on the property. Minerva and a group of friends create a plan to find it in order to exact revenge on their boss and turn their personal circumstances around. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Chronic Illness, Death, and Grief.

Page, Tyler. *Button Pusher (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 244 pgs. RL: 3.6, IL: 7-12. In this Graphic Novel memoir, author Tyler Page documents growing up with ADHD as a child of the 1980s and '90s, when the condition was poorly understood. He documents what it was like to have uncontrolled impulses, the difficulties ADHD caused in his relationships with his parents and peers, and the abuse he suffered because of his behavior. After going on medication, Tyler learns how the medicine helps him, but also wonders if it's holding him back as he grows into adulthood. He makes a risky choice in high school to stop taking his medication without a doctor's approval and though he's able to graduate high school, the

condition continues to be a factor in his life. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Neurodiverse, Own Voices.

Pan, Emily X. R. *An Arrow to the Moon*. 2022. 391 pgs. RL: 5.4, IL: 9-12. Seventeen-year-olds Hunter Yee and Luna Chang meet when Hunter transfers to Luna's high school. Instantly, they're drawn to each other and learn they were born on the same day. The more time they spend together, the more they are aware of strange occurrences happening around them. When they learn their families have been in a generations-long feud with each other, they embark on a quest to uncover the truth about their families and the magic that's causing a widening crack in their town when they are together. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Pan, Emily X. R. *The Astonishing Color of After*. 2019. 470 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 9-12. After her mother's suicide, fifteen-year-old Leigh travels to Taiwan where she will finally meet the grandparents she never knew and come to terms with her mother's death. As she immerses herself the culture, she finds signs and meanings all around her, and begins to believe that her mother has been reincarnated as a giant red bird. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices.

Parker, Morgan. *Who Put This Song On?* 2021. 325 pgs. RL: 5.4, IL: 9-12. Seventeen-year-old Morgan lives in a mostly white, conservative suburb and suffers from the isolation that brings as a person of color. But in a town where depression is a lack of faith and her blackness something to ignore or minimize, Morgan is desperate to find her own identity. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices.

Patel, Sonia. *Bloody Seoul*. 2019. 276 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 9-12. Sixteen-year-old Rocky lives in Seoul and expects to take over his father's violent gang, Three Star Pa, one day. In the meantime, he runs a high school gang and cruelly bullies other students there. But after catching his father in a lie, he starts digging for the truth about his mother, who disappeared years ago, and uncovers information about his father that makes him reconsider his life. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Social Awareness.

Perkins, Mitali. *You Bring the Distant Near*. 2019. 303 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 9-12. From 1965 through the present, an Indian American family adjusts to life in New York City, alternately fending off and welcoming challenges to their own traditions. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Pham, Thien. *Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam (Graphic Novel)*. 2023. 234 pgs. RL: 2.8, IL: 9-12. In this graphic novel memoir, Vietnamese American Thien Pham uses different types of food to signify and explore his experiences as a refugee who fled Vietnam with his family, spent time in Thailand in a refugee camp, and resettled in California. As Thien recounts his efforts to recover from his trauma, find happiness, and live out the American Dream, different foods came to signify his struggles and triumphs and became an important source of self-discovery, healing, and hope. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Philippe, Ben. *Charming as a Verb*. 2022. 327 pgs. RL: 5.8, IL: 9-12. Henri "Halti" Haltiwanger can charm just about anyone, which comes in handy as a scholarship student at the prestigious FATE academy and as a trusted dog walker. There's only one person who seems immune to Henri's charms: his neighbor and classmate Corinne Troy. After she uncovers the truth behind Henri's dog walking job, she blackmails him into helping her change her image at school. Henri agrees and what started out as a mutual hustle quickly turns into something that surprises both. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making.

Philippe, Ben. *The Field Guide to the North American Teenager*. 2019. 372 pgs. RL: 5.9, IL: 8-12. When Norris, a Black French Canadian, starts his junior year at an Austin, Texas, high school, he views his fellow students as clichés from "a bad 90s teen movie." Genre: Humor, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Pimienta, Jose. *Suncatcher (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 206 pgs. RL: 2.8, IL: 9-12. Beatriz must play a perfect song--her grandfather's perfect song that he never wrote down--to release his soul from his guitar after he passes away. Beatriz becomes obsessed with perfecting her music, even if it means sacrificing her friends, her band, and her health. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Raman, Akshaya. *The Ivory Key (Ivory Key Duology: 1)*. 2023. 372 pgs. IL: 7-12. The land of Ashoka fuels its economy with magic, a physical resource mined from quarries. After the murder of Lord Harish, eighteen-year-old Vira has been crowned maharani and is desperate to keep the secret of the dwindling magic supply under wraps, lest a war break out with a neighbor eager for a takeover. Vira formulates a plan to unlock a new source of magic by finding the Ivory Key, a legendary mechanism said to unlock the kingdom's original quarries, long hidden from them. The only problem is, she'll need the skills of her three siblings, with whom she's barely speaking, to find it. Ronak, her twin brother, agrees, if only to find a way out of his current troubles. Her half-brother Kaleb is currently in prison accused of murdering Lord Harish and wants to clear his name, and their sister Riya, seventeen, has fallen in with a group of rebels in the city and is desperate to prove herself to them. Together the siblings set out to fulfill their own agendas, while keeping a close eye on each other to watch for betrayal. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Ramos, James. *The Wrong Kind of Weird*. 2023. 315 pgs. IL: 9-12. Proud high school nerd Cameron Carson has been secretly hooking up with popular queen bee Karla Ortega, a relationship that began over the summer when they both worked at a coffee shop. Now that school has started, each wants to keep their relationship a secret from their friend groups, but when Cameron begins connecting with Mackenzie Briggs, a new member of the Geeks and Nerds United club, he begins to question his relationship with Karla and what he wants for his future. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Awareness, Social Awareness.

Ramos, Nonieqa. *The Disturbed Girl's Dictionary*. 2019. 338 pgs. RL: 3.6, IL: 9-12. Fifteen-year-old Macy, officially labeled "disturbed" by her school, records her impressions of her rough neighborhood and home life as she tries to rescue her brother from Child Protective Services, win back her overachieving best friend after a fight, and figure out whether to tell her incarcerated father about her mother's cheating. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices.

Ramos, Nonieqa. *The Truth Is*. 2021. 266 pgs. RL: 3.8, IL: 9-12. Closed off and grieving her best friend, fifteen-year-old overachiever Verdad faces prejudices at school and from her traditional mother, her father's distance since his remarriage, and her attraction to a transgender classmate. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices, Relationship Skills.

Reedy, Trent. *Enduring Freedom*. 2021. 361 pgs. RL: 5.4, IL: 7-12. When war transforms life in Afghanistan, an Afghan teen named Baheer's world is changed forever. After 9/11, a young army private and aspiring journalist named Joe is deployed to Afghanistan, and his unit is sent to Baheer's town. Baheer uses the little English he knows to help his family by providing services to the Americans and while Joe doesn't trust any of the locals at first, the two slowly form a tentative friendship and realize they have more in common than they ever could have imagined. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationship Skills, Social Awareness.

Reilly, K J. *Four For the Road*. 2022. 272 pgs. IL: 9-12. After seventeen-year-old Asher's mother is killed by a drunk driver, all he can think about is getting revenge on the driver, who didn't go to jail because of a technicality. He attends several bereavement groups in his New Jersey hometown to help him process his anger, but nothing seems to help. So, he plots a secret trip to Memphis to confront the killer, asking fellow griever Sloane, who lost her dad to cancer, Will, who lost his brother to cancer, and eighty-year-old Henry, who lost his ailing wife to assisted suicide, to accompany him. Each has their own reasons for going, and as they make numerous stops to fulfill their wishes, their experiences drive them towards forgiveness and healing. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief, Self-Management.

Reynolds, Jason. *All American Boys*. 2017. 316 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 9-12. When 16-year-old Rashad Butler, an African-American student at the local high school, is beaten by a white police officer at the local corner store, his classmate Quinn Collins witnesses the event. Quinn, a member of the varsity basketball team who has been raised by the officer since his own father died in Afghanistan, will be forced to face the mounting racial tension among his teammates, many who are Rashad's friends, his classmates, and the entire community. Told in the alternating voices of Rashad and Quinn, this story portrays the truth that racism in American is sadly still alive. It will take the bravery of both boys to step forward and speak against injustice. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down (Graphic Novel)*. 2022. 208 pgs. RL: 3.3, IL: 8-12. As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down*. 2017. 306 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 8-12. As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Reynolds, Jason. *Miles Morales: Spider-Man (Spider-Man Novel)*. 2018. 261 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 7-12. Teen Miles Morales, the current Spider-Man, worries that his spidey-sense is broken. A misunderstanding gets him suspended from school and makes him doubt himself and his abilities. After all, his father and uncle were once criminals. He begins having nightmares and his spidey-sense continues to buzz in history class where he listens to his teacher talk about the benefits of slavery. Then his scholarship at his private school is threatened, and Miles's investigations uncover a plot that puts all he loves at risk. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Reynolds, Jason. *My Name Is Jason. Mine Too. : Our Story, Our Way*. 2022. 96 pgs. IL: 9-12. This book will inspire, motivate, and help readers remember the importance of following one's dreams. Two former college roommates, just regular guys with the same name, set out to follow their dreams and relate their experiences in this compilation of one Jason's poetry and the other Jason's art. Struggling through existence on cereal and coffee, it takes them both time to realize that if they really want to achieve their dreams, they have to be willing to take risks. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Ribay, Randy. *Patron Saints of Nothing*. 2019. 323 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 9-12. Seventeen-year-old Filipino-American Jay Reguero travels to the Philippines to investigate the death of his cousin who was murdered as a result of President Duterte's controversial war on drugs. Forced to confront who his cousin really was, Jay reflects on their once-frequent correspondence and his own part in his cousin's death. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Richards, Alex. *When We Were Strangers.* 2021. 359 pgs. IL: 9-12. After her father suffers a sudden heart attack and dies, seventeen-year-old Evie Parker returns home from the hospital to discover that her father was planning to leave her and her mother. Not wanting to further devastate her mother, Evie opts to keep her father's plans a secret by unpacking his suitcases and putting everything back where it was. However, she soon learns that her father was having an affair with his young receptionist, Bree, and she is now six months pregnant with his child. To distract herself from the stress and anger she feels, Evie signs up for a summer photography class and befriends a quirky group of artists, including cute Declan with whom she begins a romance. But thoughts about Bree continue to plague her, and she begins stalking Bree and photographing her, which leads to an encounter. Evie soon learns more about Bree's situation and wrestles with her feelings about her half sibling, her mother, and what she wants for her future. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management.

Rivera, Lilliam. *Dealing in Dreams.* 2020. 325 pgs. RL: 4, IL: 9-12. Nalah leads an all-girl gang in Mega City, a position which gives her access to hot bodega clubs but also frequently sends her into violent show downs, making Nalah weary of life. She dreams of making a home in the Mega Towers, but to make it there, Nalah will have to prove her loyalty to the city's founder by crossing the border and finding the Ashé Ryders, a mysterious rival gang. Genre: Dystopian, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Rogers, Andrea L. *Man Made Monsters.* 2022. 315 pgs. RL: 5.4, IL: 10-12. This short story collection by the author follows generations of one Cherokee family over the course of two hundred years as they face confrontations with vampires, zombies, werewolves, sea creatures, and the Deer Woman alongside relocation, world wars, and future environmental devastation. Genre: Horror/Scary, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Rogers, Shannon C. F. *I'd Rather Burn Than Bloom.* 2023 312 pgs. IL: 10-12. New Mexico teen Marisol Martin almost constantly butts heads with her Filipina mother and their fights often end in screaming matches. Such is the case when shortly thereafter, Marisol's mother dies in a car accident, leaving Marisol with guilt and regret over her last words to her mother. With no help from her grieving father and silent younger brother, Marisol begins pushing her friends away and acting out by drinking, sleeping with her best friend's boyfriend, and assaulting her best friend. A juvenile detention sentence places her with Mexican American Elizabeth, who gives Marisol the space and support she needs to understand her feelings and begin to forgive herself. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making.

Romero, R M. *The Ghosts of Rose Hill.* 2022. 378 pgs. IL: 7-12. Sixteen-year-old American Ilana Lopez is sent to live with her artist aunt in Prague for the summer--a sabbatical which her parents hope will cure her desires to play the violin professionally; they want her to pursue a more stable career. There, she discovers a cemetery in the back of her aunt's house and begins lovingly restoring the grave of a boy named Benjamin. When she begins seeing Benjamin's ghost, he becomes her friend and companion as she explores the city. She also meets a strange man named Rudolph Wassermann who is overly enthralled with her violin playing and who offers to share a magical spell that will unite her with Benjamin forever and allow her to pursue playing the violin. But Ilana doesn't trust Rudolph and discovers that his magic has bound Benjamin to the city, with no hope of resting in peace. Though she doesn't want to lose him, she sets out to free Benjamin and stop Rudolph from enslaving others with his magic. Genre: Supernatural/Paranormal.

Rowell, Rainbow. *The Manga (Fangirl: 1) (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 208 pgs. IL: 10-Adult. Cath is a super fan of the book series Simon Snow with her twin sister, Wren, and writes fanfiction. However, now that the two girls are at college, Wren drifts away from Cath to meet people and have the full college experience. Cath feels lost, and is forced to find her own way, deal with boys and possible boyfriends, and balance her imaginary life in Simon Snow with a real life of her own.

Ryan, Tom. *I Hope You're Listening*. 2021. 359 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 8-12. When she was seven, Delia "Dee" Skinner witnessed the abduction of her best friend, Sibby. Even though Dee told the police everything she knew, Sibby was never found. Ten years later, Dee is the Seeker, the anonymous host of a popular true crime podcast that tries to solve missing persons cases. When another little girl in her town goes missing and the case is linked to Sibby's disappearance, Dee has a chance to find the answers to both the new case and Sibby's abduction with the help of her podcast's fans and the intriguing new girl. But to do that, Dee might have to reveal the Seeker's identity and confront her feelings about what happened all those years ago. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices, Relationship Skills.

Ryan, Tom. *Keep This to Yourself*. 2020. 309 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 9-12. Eighteen-year-old Mac struggles to move on after a serial killer, dubbed the Catalog Killer, terrorized his oceanside town of Camera Cove. The last victim was Connor, Mac's best friend, for whom Mac carried unspoken feelings. When Mac discovers a cryptic note left by Connor, he knows he cannot find closure until he finds the person responsible. He begins investigating, soon joined by the cousin of another victim, and what he finds isn't the drifting killer the police assumed the man to be, but someone much closer than anyone could've imagined. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+.

Saeed, Aisha. *Written in the Stars*. 2016. 293 pgs. RL: 4.1, IL: 9-12. Growing up in Florida, Naila has always known her Pakistani parents would arrange her marriage, but then she falls in love with Saif. Her angry parents take her back to Pakistan to visit relatives and explore her roots. While there, Naila's parents find her a husband and make arrangements for her to marry him. Everything Naila has is taken away from her and she finds herself trapped in a foreign country against her will. Naila can only hope Saif will find her before it's too late. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Sakuraba, Kazuki. *A Small Charred Face*. 2017. 239 pgs. IL: 9-12. When a boy named Kyo is about to die, he is saved by a Bamboo--a vampire-like creature born from the tall grasses of China. But for a Bamboo, talking to human beings is a great sin, and their enjoyable friendship is constantly threatened. Genre: Horror/Scary.

Sanchez, Erika L. *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*. 2017. 344 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 10-12. Julia refuses to conform to her Mexican family's expectations of her, wanting to become a writer instead of following her older sister Olga on the path of community college, part-time job, and taking care of their parents. Then, Olga dies mysteriously, and her best friend Angie hints to Julia that there may have been more to Olga than everyone thought. Julia and her best friend, Lorena, investigate, and in the meantime, Julia has to figure out how to fall in love with Connor, a white boy whom she is sure could never understand her family. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Sanchez, Jenny Torres. *We Are Not From Here*. 2021. 346 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 9-12. Three Guatemalan teens, Pequena, Pulga, and Chico are caught in the web of a local gang and are desperate to seek a way out. Pulga and Chico have witnessed a murder and must join the gang or die. Pequena, has suffered abuse at the hands of the gang's leader Rey and born his child. The three close friends flee for the United States, desperate to seek sanctuary, and face a perilous journey across Mexico. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL

Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Sanders, Rob. *Blood Brothers*. 2023. 476 pgs. RL: 2.7, IL: 5-9. In 1987 Ashland, Florida, three brothers who have hemophilia contract HIV from tainted blood and are ostracized from their community. Retreating to a new town near the beach and forced to homeschool, the boys try to hide their secret from a new friend. But word travels fast and a court order sends them back to Ashland, where they become the center of a fight in the community and the boys realize that they aren't the only ones who are outcasts. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Social Awareness.

Sandler, Martin W. *Picturing a Nation: The Great Depression's Finest Photographers Introduce America to Itself*. 2021. 165 pgs. RL: 8.2, IL: 7-12. Recounts the history of the Farm Security Administration's photography project to document the effects of the Great Depression in the United States and presents a collection of 140 images captured during the undertaking. Ten hired photographers documented life in designated regional areas of the country--the Midwest, the South, the West, and the Northeast--and offered poignant representations of the nation's suffering families. Photographs are accompanied by historical commentary that recall the difficult circumstances of daily life for many. Topics/CASEL Domain: Poverty/Homelessness.

Sandor, Steven. *Spin Out*. 2021. 192 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 8-12. After his father leaves the family, Ben's life spins out of control when he retreats into a world of online gaming and compulsive gambling. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying.

Schwab, Victoria. *Gallant*. 2023. 339 pgs. RL: 5.8, IL: 7-12. Even though she's lived there her whole life, the Merilance School for Independent Girls has never felt like home to fourteen-year-old Olivia. The other girls ridicule her because she speaks with sign language, and the teachers treat her as though she's stupid, just because she's mute. And for just as long, she's been seeing the ghouls prowling the school. The only tie she has to her family is a diary kept by her mother that documents her descent into madness after the death of her father. When a letter arrives from her uncle Arthur Prior, inviting her to live with him at his manor Gallant, Olivia is thrilled and imagines her life will only get better. When she arrives, however, she learns Arthur is dead, her prickly cousin Matthew wants her to leave, and the ghouls won't let her be. But Olivia refuses to give in, feeling for the first time that she's home. When an old, abandoned garden calls to her, she enters and finds a shadow world mirroring the real one, leading her to discoveries about Gallant, her parents, and her destiny. Genre: Supernatural/Paranormal, Topics/CASEL Domain: Diverse Family Structure, People with Disabilities.

Segal, Gilly. *I'm Not Dying with You Tonight*. 2019. 247 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 9-12. Lena and Campbell, two high school girls with different styles and social circles are thrown together when a massive fight at a football game leads to a riot as racial tensions heat up. The two form an unlikely friendship and both learn about different points of view from living in different parts of the same city. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making, Social Justice.

Sepeyts, Ruta and Donkin, Andrew. *Between Shades of Gray (Graphic Novel)*. 2021. 160 pgs. RL: 3.6, IL: 7-12. In this Graphic Novel retelling of the novel, Soviet officers arrest fifteen-year-old gifted artist Lina and her family in 1941. While her father faces the death camp, Lina, her mother and younger brother get shoved onto a crowded, dirty boxcar and are deported to a Siberian work camp. Lina and her fellow prisoners must endure many difficulties--the harsh climate, unsanitary conditions, disease, and hunger. At great risk, Lina documents her experiences through her meticulous drawings and passes them along to other deportees, hoping they'll reach her father in his Soviet prison. Through flashbacks of Lina's former, happy life in Lithuania, readers gain an understanding of the political events.

Sepetys, Ruta. *I Must Betray You*. 2022. 319 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 9-12. In 1989, Romanian teenager Cristian Florescu dreams of being a writer but lives within the confines of a tightly controlled communist regime. When he's blackmailed by security forces to become an informant spying on his mother's client, an American diplomat, and their family, he wagers how to use his newfound position against those in authority and joins the ranks of political dissenters within the country to an uncertain future. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making.

Sheinkin, Steve. *Impossible Escape: A True Story of Survival and Heroism in Nazi Germany*. 2023. 243 pgs. IL: 8-12. Childhood friends, Rudolf Vrba and Gerta Sidonová were just teenagers growing up in Slovakia when Adolf Hitler and the German Nazis began invading countries across Europe. While nineteen-year-old Rudi was captured and sent to Auschwitz, Gerta and her family escaped to Hungary where they changed their names and posed as Catholics. With determination and cunning, Rudi managed to stay alive for two years and he and fellow prisoner, twenty-four-year-old Alfred Wexler, plotted their escape. Though they knew it was highly dangerous, the pair risked their lives to tell the world what was going on at Auschwitz by escaping the camp and walking to Slovakia. Meanwhile, Nazis closed in on Gerta and her family, and they are eventually arrested and sent to a detention camp. Rudi and Alfred's report, known as the Vrba-Wetzler report, was responsible for saving the lives of over 100,000 Jews and helping to expose the Nazi's atrocities to the world.

Shim, Grace K. *The Noh Family*. 2022. 378 pgs. RL: 4.3, IL: 9-12. encouragement from her friends, Chloe takes a 23andMe DNA test and learns she has relatives in Korea--really rich, powerful relatives in Korea on her deceased father's side of the family. To her mother's reservation, Chloe is soon invited on a trip to meet them and becomes overwhelmed in a luxurious world where anything she wants is at her beck and call. However, she soon learns the reasons for her new family's interest in her and her mother's departure. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Shusterman, Neal. *Dry*. 2018. 390 pgs. RL: 5.5, IL: 9-12. Southern California's water supply runs out, and in their desperation, the area becomes a war zone as friends and neighbors turn on each other. The parents of sixteen-year-old Alyssa and ten-year-old Garrett go missing while searching for water, and the two siblings must fend for themselves as they leave to search for their parents--finding unusual allies along the way. Genre: Dystopian, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making.

Shusterman, Neal. *Roxy*. 2021. 377 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 10-12. The drug gods Roxy (OxyContin) and Addi (Adderall) make a bet to see which of the Ramey siblings they can get to overdose on their powerful medicine. Siblings Isaac and Ivy Ramey are normal teenagers until Isaac is prescribed "Roxy" following a soccer injury and Ivy is given "Addi" for her ADHD. The siblings soon find themselves getting addicted to the drugs in order to function, and their lives begin to spiral out of control. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Substance Abuse/Addiction.

Silvera, Adam. *Infinity Reaper (Infinity Cycle: 2)*. 2021. 573 pgs. RL: 6.3, IL: 8-12. After Emil and Brighton Rey defeated the Blood Casters and Brighton drank the Reaper's Blood, he believed it would make him invincible, but instead the potion is killing him. Emil sets out on a dangerous quest to find the antidote that will save his brother and rid him of his own unwanted phoenix powers. In addition, Emil is forced to stay away from Ness in order to keep him safe, but soon Emil realizes that they may have been fighting the wrong enemy this whole time. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+.

Silvera, Adam. *Infinity Son (Infinity Cycle: 1)*. 2020. 355 pgs. RL: 6, IL: 8-12. Brothers Emil and Brighton idolize the Spell Walkers, a vigilante group sworn to rid the world of specters, who steal the powers and essences of endangered magical creatures. Brighton wishes he had a power so that he could join the fight, while Emil just wants the fighting to stop since it's difficult for anyone with a power to live

peacefully and openly. During a fight after a protest, Emil manifests a power of his own that puts him right in the heart of the conflict. Emil's new power tests the bonds of brotherhood, love, and loyalty. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Relationship Skills.

Silvera, Adam. *They Both Die at the End.* 2017. 373 pgs. RL: 5.5, IL: 9-12. In a near-future New York City where a service alerts people on the day they will die, teenagers Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio meet using the Last Friend app and are faced with the challenge of living a lifetime on their End Day. Genre: Science Fiction, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, LGBTQIA+.

Slater, Dashka. *The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives.* 2017. 305 pgs. RL: 6.5, IL: 7-12. Explores the fateful 2013 interaction between Sasha and Richard, two teens from Oakland, California, who never would have met if not for the 57 bus which they both were taking home from school one day. Richard, an African American boy, had a lighter; Sasha, a white agender teen, wore a skirt. A dare to use the lighter changed the teens' lives forever. Topics/CASEL Domain: Narrative Nonfiction, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Slater, Dashka. *Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account.* 2023. 480 pgs. IL: 9-12. Examines the investigation into a private Instagram account that used racist and sexist memes and was created by a high school student attending Albany High School in Albany, California, and discusses the question of accountability and complicity for online speech that harms. Explores the accusations, protests, threats, firings, lawsuits, and the aftermath of the case and its effects on the town. Topics/CASEL Domain: Narrative Nonfiction, Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Smith, Eric. *Don't Read the Comments.* 2021. 346 pgs. RL: 5.4, IL: 9-12. Live streamer Divya Sharma is a rising star among gamers who play "Reclaim the Sun" and her recent sponsorships are helping her single mother pay rent. She meets another budding video game developer named Aaron and the two develop an online friendship. When a group of trolls begin to harass Divya with a doxxing campaign, Aaron and Divya band together to protect themselves and their families. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Bullying, Responsible Decision-Making.

Sook, Kim Hyun. *Banned Book Club (Graphic Novel).* 2020. 198 pgs. RL: 3.5, IL: 9-12. During South Korea's Fifth Republic from 1981 to 1987, Kim Hyun Sook convinces her traditional mother that women should go to college. In 1983, Sook looks forward to immersing herself in Western literature, but she finds out that reading can be a life-or-death activity under a totalitarian regime. A young man invites Sook to a reading group, which she learns is actually a secretive group reading banned books in a basement. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography.

Sortino, Anna. *Give Me a Sign.* 2023. 320 pgs. IL: 7-12. Seventeen-year-old Lilah, who wears hearing aids but struggles to communicate in the hearing world, decides to take a job as a counselor at a summer camp for the Deaf and Blind she once attended, in order to improve her ASL and reacquaint herself with the deaf community. While she might have expected to be overwhelmed at being in charge of a rowdy group of campers, she didn't expect her ASL tutor to be handsome, eighteen-year-old Isaac, whose manner puts her at ease and makes her heart soar. Lilah wanted change in her life, and now she just needs to be brave enough to embrace it. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Spillet, Tasha. *From the Roots Up (Surviving the City: 2)(Graphic Novel).* 2020. 64 pgs. RL: 3.1, IL: 7-12. After her grandmother passes away Dez has nowhere to go but a group home, which has made navigating her new relationship and her belief that she is somehow a "Two-Spirit person" difficult. Miikwan tries to understand her friend's problems, but doesn't know how, and she also has a new crush on

Riel to distract her. The Elder Geraldine tries to support the two teens, but she does not understand their new ideas about sex and gender. Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Staebler, Christian. *Redbone: The True Story of an American Indian Rock Band (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 159 pgs. IL: 7-12. This nonfiction Graphic Novel-style biography offers an account of the 1960s rock band, Redbone, made up of Native Americans. Chronicles the band's formation, early gigs, rise to fame, and political activism.

Stamper, Vesper. *Berliners*. 2022. 431 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 10-12. At the end of World War II, fifteen-year-old twins Rudi and Peter Möser-Fleischmann live in Berlin, Germany with their parents. Quiet Rudi believes in the promises of communism and dreams of pursuing a career as a professional photographer. Rudi lives in the shadow of his brother Peter, a handsome actor, who, though the leader of their youth communist group, quietly questions their ideology. With their parents' marriage crumbling, the boys compete for affections and praise while trying to navigate their dreams amidst the country's politics. When their parents suddenly divorce and the Berlin wall is erected overnight, the boys find themselves on opposite sides of the wall and with ideological differences that may separate them for good. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills.

Stewart, Erin. *The Words We Keep*. 2022. 387 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 9-12. High school teenager Lily has been trying to hold things together since she found her sister Alice on the bathroom floor--bleeding from cutting herself--and her family sent Alice to a treatment center. Lily's unprocessed feelings about what happened come to a head when she finds out Alice is coming home. At school she meets new kid Micah who knows Alice because he was in treatment with her. He tries to get Lily to process her feelings about what happened through an art project they're paired together on that uses poetry to express their truths. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness.

Stoeve, Ray. *Between Perfect and Real*. 2022. 300 pgs. RL: 6.4, IL: 9-12. Dean Foster is a trans guy, but his whole high school, including his girlfriend Zoe, thinks he's a lesbian. He wonders if it's worth it to correct them or just wait until college to come out. But when he's cast as a nontraditional Romeo in the high school play, and plays the character every day in rehearsals, Dean realizes his need to show his true self. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Stone, Nic. *Dear Justyce (Dear Martin: 2)*. 2020. 266 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 9-12. Incarcerated teen Quan Banks writes letters to Justyce McCallister, with whom he bonded years before over family issues, about his experiences in the American juvenile justice system. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Stone, Nic. *Dear Martin (Dear Martin: 1)*. 2017. 210 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 9-12. African American teen Justyce McAllister is bound for the Ivy League; top of his class, set for the future. None of that matters to his private school classmates who think he has been given unfair advantages just because he is black. Conversely, none of it matters to his former friends with whom he grew up in his rough neighborhood, who think he has assimilated to "white culture," especially since he is dating a biracial girl and also feels attracted to his white debate partner. Everything comes to a head when Justyce and his friend Manny are cruising together with their music too loud, and they draw the fury of an off-duty white cop. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Stone, Nic. *Odd One Out*. 2019. 309 pgs. RL: 5.1, IL: 9-12. High school junior Courtney is secretly in love with his lesbian best friend, Jupiter. When they meet new sophomore Rae, the three explore their feelings for one another in a complex love triangle where all the players are confused about who they

want and the labels they put on themselves. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Stork, Francisco X. *Disappeared (Disappeared: 1)*. 2017. 326 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 7-12. Four months ago, Sara Zapata's best friend was kidnapped by a web of criminals terrorizing her city of Juarez. Four weeks ago, her brother Emiliano fell head in love with Perla Rubi, a girl who refuses him so long as he is poor. Four hours ago, Sara received a death threat, but along with it came a clue to the place her friend is locked away. And four minutes ago, Emiliano was offered the chance to make more money than he ever dreamed was possible just by joining the criminals. Over the next four days, Sara and Emiliano face impossible choices, and they decide their only chance at safety is across the desert in the United States. Genre: Action/Adventure, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

Stork, Francisco X. *I Am Not Alone*. 2023. 306 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 9-12. Eighteen-year-old Alberto works hard to help send money back to family in Mexico, support his sister and her baby, and study for the high school equivalency tests. High school senior Grace is set to be valedictorian and is on her way to attending the college of her dreams, but she has been questioning everything since her parents' divorce. When Alberto and Grace meet, they feel an immediate connection, but then Alberto becomes a suspect in a terrible crime. With Alberto suffering from intrusive and increasingly violent thoughts, he starts to question what really happened, and the two set out to uncover the truth and prove Alberto's innocence. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Mental Health/Illness, Own Voices, Self-Management.

Stork, Francisco X. *On the Hook*. 2021. 289 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 9-12. Hector lives a steady life in El Paso, Texas, as a high school chess champion and adoring older brother to his sister. When Joey, the brother of a local gang leader, singles him out as a target for violence, he tries to stay out of the fray until a confrontation between the gang leader and his brother leads to his brother's death. Hector then takes a stand, which lands him in reformatory school alongside Joey. Hector wrestles with his anger and his desire for revenge against Joey and other members of the gang and ultimately must choose what he wants his future to look like. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness.

Suk, Sarah. *The Space Between Here & Now*. 2023. 310 pgs. IL: 9-12. Ever since seventeen-year-old Aimee Roh's mother left her and her father for Korea when she was a child, Aimee has suffered from Sensory Time Warp Syndrome (STWS), in which certain smells from her past trigger her to time travel to the place where the memory occurred. Lately, her episodes have become more frequent and are lasting longer, but her father refuses to get her the help she desperately seeks. When a latest time travel involving her mother disputes the story her father told her about why she left, she decides to travel to Korea to track down her mother and try to gain insight into what she's experiencing. Reconnecting with an old friend, she meets others with STWS and learns she must reconcile with the past in order to find peace in her future. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Sylvester, Natalia. *Breathe and Count Back from Ten*. 2022. 346 pgs. RL: 5.3, IL: 9-12. Peruvian American Veronica Rentería has been living with hip dysplasia for all her seventeen years, having endured multiple surgeries. Because she spends a lot of time in swimming pools for rehabilitation, she's become an excellent swimmer and relishes her time in the water where she also can escape her controlling parents. Veronica dreams of having a boyfriend and of auditioning to be a mermaid for a local theme park--two dreams her parents forbid. When Veronica tires of the pressures placed upon her by her parents, she decides to exercise some autonomy and learns secrets her parents have been keeping from her. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making.

Tahir, Sabaa. *All My Rage*. 2023. 374 pgs. RL: 4.2, IL: 10-12. Pakistani American teen Salahudin is struggling to keep his parents' small California desert town hotel afloat. His mother, Misbah, is suffering from kidney disease and is unable to work, while his father drowns himself in alcohol to cope. If that wasn't enough, he and his family are seen as outsiders in their small town, and his best (and only) friend Noor isn't speaking to him. Noor, the orphaned Pakistani daughter of a family friend, lives with her abusive uncle, helping him run a local liquor store. Noor is doing everything she can to escape her hometown by going to college and keeping her plans a secret from everyone. When Salahudin makes a series of questionable decisions to keep the hotel afloat, Noor gets drawn into the fallout, and each must make tough decisions that take into account the difficulties of their present lives and their futures. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making.

Takei, George. *They Called Us Enemy (Graphic Novel)*. 2020. 204 pgs. RL: 4.6, IL: 9-12. Japanese American actor and gay activist George Takei offers a graphic memoir describing his years as a child in Japanese internment camps during World War II and how they impacted him, his parents, and the country. Topics/CASEL Domain: Memoir/Autobiography, Narrative Nonfiction.

Taylor, Wanda. *No One's Baby*. 2021. 191 pgs. RL: 3, IL: 8-12. Adopted by a white family when she was a baby, Lizzie sets out to find her birth mother after discovering she's pregnant, opening herself up to the harsh world of the inner city and causing her to question her motives. Genre: Realistic.

Thomas, Aiden. *Cemetery Boys*. 2020. 344 pgs. RL: 5.2, IL: 8-12. In Yadriel's Latinx family, female witches heal the living, and male sorcerers release the spirits of the dead. Transgender Yadriel is forbidden by his family from completing the ritual to be a brujo, so he enlists the help of his best friend Maritza to help him. Hoping to help the spirit of his murdered cousin Miguel, Yadriel accidentally releases the spirit of a murdered schoolmate, Julian, who insists he find out who killed him. Yadriel agrees to help him and unexpectedly begins to draw closer to Julian, dreading the time when he has to go. Genre: Fantasy, Topics/CASEL Domain: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices.

Thomas, Angie. *Concrete Rose*. 2021. 360 pgs. RL: 3.4, IL: 9-12. Seventeen-year-old Maverick "Mav" Carter begins dealing drugs for the King Lords as a way to help support his family while his father is in jail. When he learns that his girlfriend is pregnant, his focus shifts, and he tries to make a clean break from drug dealing. However, a loved one's murder makes it difficult to forget his old ties, and he must figure out for himself the meaning of loyalty, manhood, and responsibility. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness.

Thomas, Angie. *On the Come Up*. 2020. 458 pgs. RL: 3.8, IL: 9-12. Sixteen-year-old aspiring rapper Bri, the daughter of an underground hip hop legend, feels she has a lot to prove. Based on her family's poverty, hunger, and a label as a hoodlum at school, Bri writes her first song expressing her anger and frustration, which immediately goes viral and earns her scorn and controversy. But when faced with eviction, Bri knows she must make it big, even if it means becoming the very thing that's given her notoriety. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Poverty/Homelessness, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Thomas, Angie. *The Hate U Give*. 2018. 473 pgs. RL: 3.9, IL: 9-12. Starr Carter, a 16-year-old black girl, may live in a neighborhood infested with gang violence, but she goes to school at Williamson Prep, a private school miles away. She has a white boyfriend there, and though there is a handful of black students at the school, she still cannot feel like herself in either place. One day she gets a ride home from Khalil, a childhood friend. They are pulled over by a white cop and Khalil, unarmed, is shot and killed. Only Starr knows what really happened in that confrontation, but what she says, or refuses to say, could

pend her community, and even endanger her family and herself. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management, Social Awareness.

Tian, Xixi. *This Place Is Still Beautiful*. 2022. 360 pgs. IL: 9-12. Raised by their Chinese immigrant mother, sisters Margaret, who is nineteen, and Annalie, who is seventeen, are different in both personality and looks. Margaret is stern and serious and resembles her mother, while Annalie passes for white and is bubbly and sweet. When their home is vandalized with a racial slur over the summer, Margaret leaves an internship to be there to support her family. She is outraged to learn their mother wants the incident to just blow over and that her sister agrees. Margaret begins her own investigations, which cause tension in the mostly white town, and unveils a shocking secret. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Tison, Ari. *Saints of the Household*. 2023. 312 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 9-12. Bribe American brothers Jay and Max brutally beat Luca, a popular soccer player from school, in the Minnesota woods when they think he is harassing their cousin, Nicole. The brothers are ordered into counseling, where they are forced to come to terms with their father's alcoholism and abuse. A rift develops between the brothers as they separately try to start over and deal with their father's legacy. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *The Peach Rebellion*. 2023. 416 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 8-12. Ginny Rose and Peggy became best friends when Ginny Rose's family came to work as pickers on Peggy's family's peach farm. Ten years later, Ginny Rose's family returns to town, and the two reconnect despite their class differences. Peggy's wealthy best friend, Lisette, threatens to get in the way of their friendship, but an unexpected adventure brings the girls together. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Relationship Skills.

Van, Sandi. *Caught in the Haze*. 2022. 187 pgs. IL: 9-12. Even though Tae was adopted from South Korea when he was a baby, he's never really felt all that different from other kids his age. But when he has to move to a new town right before he starts high school, Tae finds he's one of the youngest players and the only person of color trying out for the varsity soccer team. The team is notorious for its violent hazing practices, and Tae is desperate to fit in. But everything changes when he comes face-to-face with Luke, the team's star player who is on his way to landing team captain and a full ride to college because Tae knows Luke. The two met years ago in an adoption group, but no one else knows Luke is adopted. Luke wants to help Tae, but if he doesn't participate in the hazing, he could risk his reputation. Genre: Sports, Topics/CASEL Domain: Adoption/Foster Care, Bullying.

Venkatraman, Padma. *Climbing the Stairs*. 2010. 254 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 7-12. Growing up in Bombay during World War II, 15-year-old Vidya's dreams for college are shattered when her father is severely beaten during a nonviolent protest against British rule. Unable to earn money, Vidya's family must move in with her more conservative relatives who feel women are only supposed to marry, bear children, and serve their husbands. Only after her chores are done can Vidya escape up the stairs to her grandfather's library. Genre: Historical, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Venkatraman, Padma. *The Grief Keeper*. 2019. 310 pgs. RL: 4, IL: 8-12. After escaping a detention center at the U.S. border, seventeen-year-old Marisol agrees to participate in a medical experiment, hoping to keep her and her younger sister, Gabi, from being deported to El Salvador. Genre: Science Fiction, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, LGBTQIA+, Social Awareness.

Warga, Jasmine. *Here We Are Now*. 2017. 292 pgs. IL: 9-12. While her mother is out of town, sixteen-year-old Taliah accompanies her estranged father--a famous rock star who one day appears on her doorstep--to Oak Falls, Indiana, to meet his dying father and the rest of his family, and on the way, Taliah learns about how her parents met and separated, her mother's experience as a Jordanian immigrant, and

her own ability to accept change and open up to others. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Death and Grief.

Warga, Jasmine. *My Heart and Other Black Holes*. 2016. 302 pgs. RL: 4.8, IL: 9-12. After her father is incarcerated for a terrible crime in their hometown, 16-year-old Aysel, a physics nerd, can only think about her potential energy for happiness. She decides there is no way to convert that energy into actual happiness, so she might as well reduce her energy to zero—suicide. Unable to summon the courage herself, she discovers a website that offers Suicide Partners and is paired with Roman, a boy haunted by a family tragedy. However, as their suicide pact becomes more concrete, Aysel begins to wonder if she and Roman might have potential energy with each other. She must choose between dying or convincing Roman to live—and maybe love. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Mental Health/Illness.

Waters, Charles. *African Town*. 2023. 438 pgs. IL: 9-12. In 1860, long after the United States outlawed the importation of enslaved laborers, 110 men, women, and children from Benin and Nigeria were captured and brought to Mobile, Alabama, aboard a ship called Clotilda. Their journey includes the savage Middle Passage and being hidden in the swamplands along the Alabama River before being secretly parceled out to various plantations, where they made desperate attempts to maintain both their culture and also fit into the place of captivity to which they'd been delivered. At the end of the Civil War, the survivors created a community for themselves they called African Town, which still exists to this day. Told in 14 distinct voices, including that of the ship that brought them to the American shores and the founder of African Town, this powerfully affecting historical novel-in-verse recreates a pivotal moment in US and world history, the impacts of which we still feel today. Topics/CASEL Domain: Social Awareness.

Weatherspoon, Rebekah. *Her Good Side*. 2023. 296 pgs. IL: 9-12. Sixteen-year-old basketball star Bethany Greene feels defeated after being turned down by her crush for the homecoming dance. While she and her best friend's ex-boyfriend Jacob Yeun share their relationship woes with each other, they cautiously decide to attend the homecoming dance together and fake date so that they can gain experience that will help them in their real relationships later on. But soon, both Bethany and Jacob realize they have feelings for one another that are too real to ignore and that their first chance at love may be right in front of them. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationship Skills, Self-Management.

Wellington, Joelle. *Their Vicious Games*. 2023. 416 pgs. IL: 9-12. A Black teen desperate to regain her Ivy League acceptance enters an elite competition only to discover the stakes aren't just high, they're deadly, in this searing thriller that's Ace of Spades meets Squid Game with a sprinkling of The Bachelor. Genre: Mystery/Suspense, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Wells, Dan. *Bluescreen (Mirador : 1)*. 2017. 335 pgs. RL: 5.8, IL: 8-12. A group of high school students grow in understanding of each other's challenges and forge unexpected connections as they prepare for a boys vs. girls poetry slam. Includes author's note about foster home care. Genre: Science Fiction.

Wells, Dan. *Ones and Zeroes (Mirador : 2)*. 2018. 417 pgs. RL: 5.9, IL: 8-12. Marisa Carnesecca is hunting a mysterious hacker named Grendel when she learns that her team has been invited to an exclusive tournament for the wildly popular VR game Overworld. But Marisa soon realizes that the competition is rife with corruption, and the stakes are life or death. Genre: Science Fiction.

Wilkerson, Isabel. *Caste (Adapted for Young Adults): The Origins of Our Discontents*. 2022. 338 pgs. RL: 7.5, IL: 9-12. Provides a young reader's adaptation of Isabel Wilkerson's book of the same name that explores the origins, development, workings, and influence of America's hidden caste system. Examines three parallel systems: slavery in the American South, Nazi Germany, and the caste system in India, and offers examples of how the caste system has affected people's lives, including its effects on health,

politics, and culture. Offers suggestions for creating a more just and equal society. Topics/CASEL Domain: Social Awareness.

Wolf, Allan. *The Snow Fell Three Graves Deep: Voices from the Donner Party.* 2022. 401 pgs. RL: 4.9, IL: 8-12. As the Donner party makes its way across the Sierra Nevada during the winter of 1846-1847, the people are stalked by Hunger, who narrates their journey, along with other members of the party who offer their unique perspectives. Includes a map, a timeline, biographical profiles, and further resources. Genre: Historical.

Woodman-Maynard, K. *The Great Gatsby: A Graphic Novel Adaptation.* 2021. 223 pgs. RL: 3.7, IL: 9-Adult. The graphic novel adaptation of "The Great Gatsby," which follows the adventures of millionaire Jay Gatsby as he tries to reunite with his ex-lover, the beautiful former debutante Daisy Buchanan, and Nick Carraway, Daisy's cousin who gets caught up in the middle of the unfolding tragic events.

Xu, Wendy. *The Infinite Particle (Graphic Novel).* 2023. 266 pgs. IL: 9-12. After building an Artificial Intelligence robot named SENA, teenage Clementine Chang wins the opportunity to leave Earth for Mars to work under her idol, Dr. Marcella Lin, a famed AI pioneer. Wowed by Dr. Lin's lab and her AI research assistant, Kye, a male-human-presenting robot, Clementine begins collaborating with Kye on various research that begins to have strange effects on Kye, namely a growing independence. Dr. Lin, who seeks to control Kye's abilities, becomes increasingly frustrated with the development and lashes out at Kye. These episodes trigger PTSD in Clementine, who suffered from an abusive past relationship and who has grown to love Kye. As a result, she is determined to help Kye break free from Dr. Lin, even if it means jeopardizing everything she has worked for. Genre: Science Fiction, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices.

Yang, Gene Luen. *Dragon Hoops (Graphic Novel).* 2020. 445 pgs. RL: 3.9, IL: 9-12. Gene Luen Yang, a Graphic Novelist and math teacher in Oakland, California, follows his Catholic high school's men's varsity basketball team, the Dragons, over the course of one season. Interviews Coach Lou and his players on their lives, the team's mysterious past, and its quest for the state championship.

Yang, Gene Luen. *Superman Smashes the Klan (Graphic Novel).* 2020. 239 pgs. RL: 3.1, IL: 7-12. When a Chinese-American family moves to the suburbs of Metropolis, children Roberta and Tommy Lee struggle to fit in among their white neighbors. Tension escalates from racial slurs to a wooden cross set afire in their front yard by the Klan of the Fiery Kross. Superman steps in to put a stop to the crime and teaches Roberta and Tommy to be proud of their heritage. Topics/CASEL Domain: Social Justice.

Yang, Kelly. *Parachutes.* 2021. 476 pgs. RL: 4.4, IL: 10-12. Claire Wang, a wealthy teenager from Shanghai, is sent to the United States to live with a host family and attend a prestigious high school. Dani De La Cruz attends the same high school on scholarship and now has to share her home with Claire. Dani resents the privilege of students like Claire while she cleans houses part-time and works for every success she attains. Both girls merely tolerate each other until a series of traumatic events from their male counterparts bring them together. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice.

Yoo, Paula. *From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial That Galvanized the Asian American Movement.* 2021. 374 pgs. RL: 8, IL: 9-12. Chronicles the events leading up to and following the murder of Chinese American Vincent Chin in 1982 which sparked the Asian American movement and led to the United States' first federal civil rights trial in connection with an Asian American citizen. Examines the cultural context of the event, the act itself, the trials, and its legacy, and discusses how xenophobia and anti-Asian discrimination and violence have affected the lives

of Asian Americans throughout history. Includes black-and-white photographs and a timeline. Topics/CASEL Domain: Narrative Nonfiction, Own Voices, Social Justice.

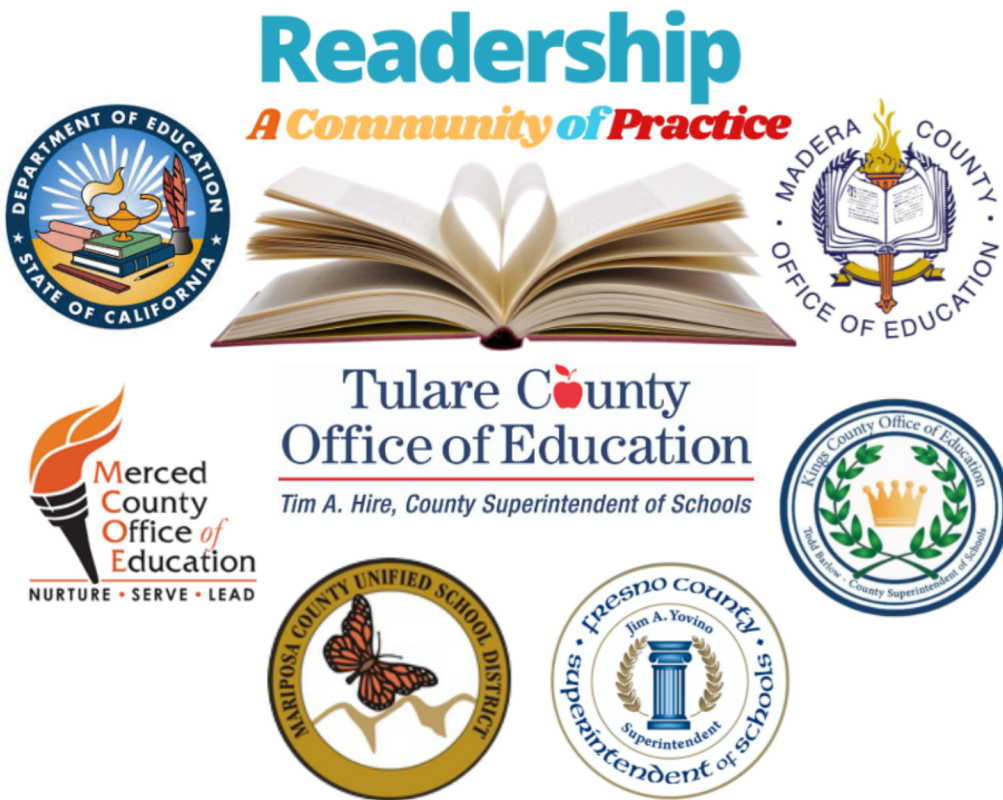
Yoon, David. *Frankly in Love*. 2020. 425 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 9-12. As the son of Korean immigrants in Southern California, Frank Li is expected to relish in the American dream but also find a nice Korean girl to marry. But instead, Frank falls for a white classmate who his parents will never approve of. He meets another Korean American, Joy Song, who is in a similar situation. They agree to be a couple in front of the parents in order for Frank and Joy to be with who they really want, but as their fake relationship takes a turn into the serious, they both must adjust to what their knowledge of love really is. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Social Awareness.

Yoon, Nicola. *Instructions for Dancing*. 2022. 285 pgs. RL: 4.5, IL: 9-12. Swearing off love after her father's affair, high school senior Evie Thomas begins having visions of happy couples' breakups after seeing them together. Having given up her romance novels, she reads "Instructions for Dancing" and signs up for dance classes at a local studio. There, she meets X, who becomes her dance partner, teaching her to forgive and open up her heart again. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Relationship Skills.

Yoon, Nicola. *The Sun is Also a Star*. 2019. 346 pgs. RL: 4.7, IL: 8-12. Natasha wakes up with one goal—to prevent the deportation of her family back to Jamaica. And she only has 12 hours to do it. Daniel is a poet, torn between the life he wants and the life his Korean family expects of him as he makes his way toward an interview that will secure his place in an Ivy League medical program. When the two meet on the busy streets of NYC, they are both surprised to fall quickly and deeply in love as fate seems to unexpectedly intertwine their lives. Genre: Romance, Topics/CASEL Domain: Immigration/Emigration, Own Voices.

Zoboi, Ibi. *Nigeria Jones*. 2023. 369 pgs. IL: 9-12. Sixteen-year-old Nigeria Jones has grown up with her family as part of a Black separatist movement led by her father, Kofi Sankofa. When her mother abruptly leaves, Nigeria believes it's only temporary, and she steps in to fill her mother's role, caring for her younger brother and filling in for the movement where necessary. But as she realizes her mother wanted her to attend a nearby Quaker school that her father disapproved of and sees misogynistic motivations within the movement, she takes bold steps towards a future of her own choosing. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Awareness.

Zoboi, Ibi. *Punching the Air*. 2021. 386 pgs. RL: 5.7, IL: 8-12. Even though Amal Shahid is an artist and poet, he's still viewed as disruptive and unmotivated at his diverse art school. One fateful night at a local park, a fight breaks out between Amal and his friends and a group of white boys from a nearby gentrified neighborhood, leaving one of the white boys in a coma. Amal is convicted of the attack and sent to prison, even though he's not the one who put the boy in a coma. His despair and rage at having his bright future destroyed threaten to overcome him until he discovers the refuge and hope that his words and art give him. Genre: Realistic, Topics/CASEL Domain: Own Voices, Self-Management, Social Awareness.



It definitely takes a team to implement Readership in Tulare County and in the partnering counties of education. We are so appreciative of the support of our TCOE team and of the partnerships that have been fostered as we learned together.

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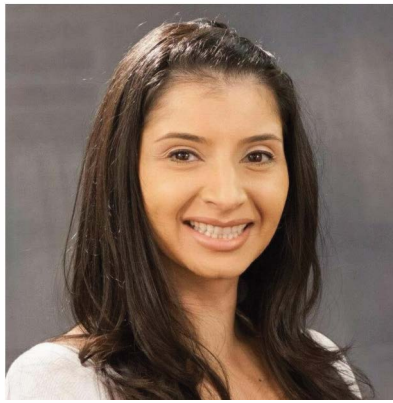
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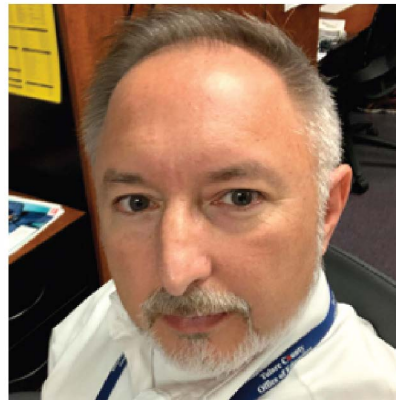
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