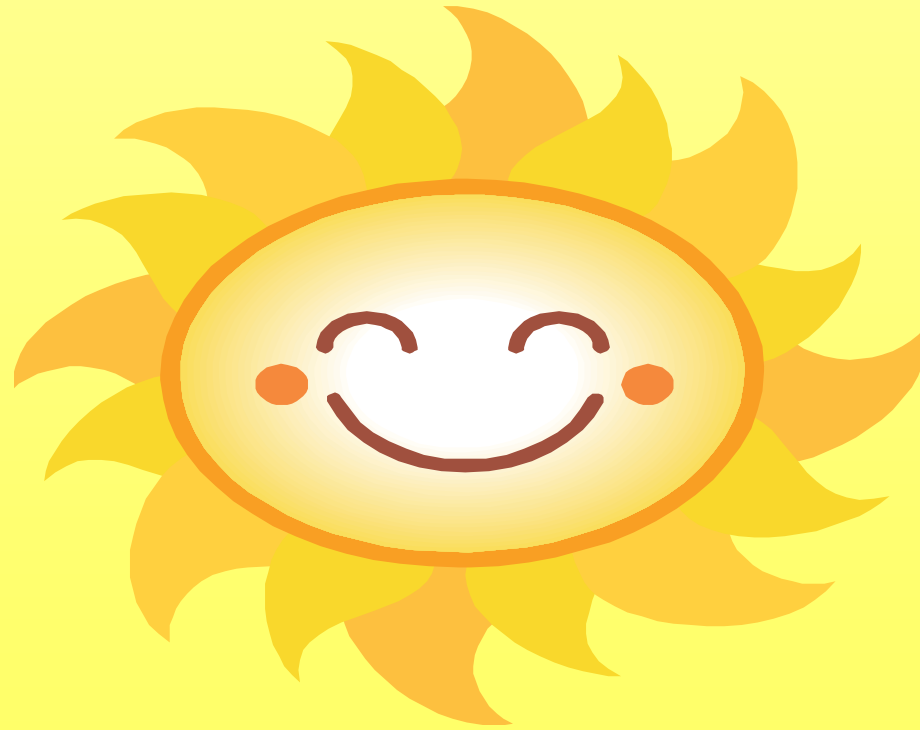


Tantasqua Regional Junior High School

Summer Reading



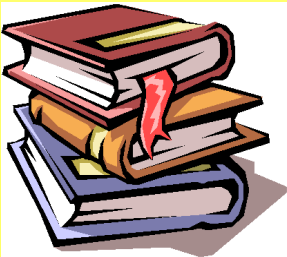
Tantasqua Regional Junior High School

Grade Seven and Eight Summer Reading Lists

Students are expected to read two books, the grade appropriate discussion title and one additional title from the appropriate list.

NEW - Students are required to fill out a Summer Reading Graphic Organizer for each of their two books and bring them when they return to school in the fall.

Assessments will take place after Labor Day in the form of class discussion groups and an objective test.



- SUMMER READING HINTS

- For your second title, select a book that you think you will enjoy reading.
- It is sometimes helpful to keep notes on the main characters and the highlights of events in the story to refer to before you take your test.



- To prepare yourself for your discussion group, you may want to keep notes on the parts of the story you liked or didn't like.



- It may also be helpful to note things about the character who interested you most, or events in the story that puzzled you.
- Consider what you might suggest if the author asked you what could be improved in the story.

- Have fun reading!



Other Things to Consider While You're Reading the Discussion Title:

- What are some of the main themes in the novel?
- What personal connections can you make to the themes in the novel?
- Remember that you will be completing a writing assignment on the book you discuss in class.
- Make sure that you read carefully and pay attention during the class discussion.



Summer Reading Graphic Organizer

Students are required to use one graphic organizer for each book read for the Summer Reading Requirement. This organizer is to be brought in for the book discussion and assessment upon return to school in the fall.

Student Name: _____

Summer Reading Title: _____

Author: _____

Main Characters	Provide a brief description of the main characters. Include traits and anything that may explain their development throughout the novel. Identify the protagonist(s) / antagonist(s)
Describe the Setting (time and place). Provide as much detail as possible.	
Explain the main conflict and how it was solved or resolved.	
Explain the theme or central message in the story:	

Sample Question Grade 7:

- What qualities do you possess that make **you** a good friend. Some examples of good qualities might be:
 - Dependable
 - Trustworthy
 - Honest
 - A good sense of humor
 - Compassionate
 - Generous
 - Cooperative
 - A good listener
- Choose the qualities that best represent you as a friend, and describe how you demonstrated these qualities in your own friendships. Use personal experiences or anecdotes to creatively bring these qualities to life in a well-developed, lively narrative.



Sample Student Response – Grade 7

Judging by how many friends I have, I would say that I'm a pretty good friend to have a friend you have to be a friend, and that means being nice to everyone no matter who they are. Just like the old saying, "You can't judge a book by its cover," you can't judge a person by how they dress or what they look like. It's hard sometimes at my age, but I try to keep a positive outlook on things, and that is how I've met some of my best friends.

I have a good sense of humor. Whenever I am with my friends we are always laughing. Whether I say something funny, or I'm just being silly or even a klutz. One time my friend and I were looking for something in the back of her car and I found it. So, she started to close the trunk and I realized I was missing something. I leaned over and reached to get it, and Wham! I was hit over the head by the door! We laughed and laughed about it. There was another time when I was at a friend's house, and we were playing around and I got my braces stuck to the carpet. It was pretty funny.

I think I am very dependable. My friends can always count on me to do anything for them. I am always giving out advice, although it doesn't always work. I am certainly honest with my friends, I just wouldn't lie to them. If they did ask me something I was uncomfortable telling them, I would just tell them I didn't want to answer their question. I know that I am also a very trustworthy friend because I don't go around telling their secrets. I keep them to myself.

Lastly, I think my most essential quality as a friend is that I am very compassionate. I always give 110% in all that I do and never give up. I support my friends in what they are passionate about as well, and they support me. For example, I go to their important events and they come to my soccer games.

I am really satisfied with all of these traits, and I am very happy to have so many friends. I am a lucky person and although I may not be the perfect friend, I think I've been doing a decent job so far.

Sample Question – Grade 8

- Miranda's family was isolated from the community during the winter. In what ways was this both good and bad? Explain your response using details from the book. What was the decision Miranda faced at the end of Life As We Knew It? Explain why this is important.

Sample Student Response –Grade 8

Miranda's family was isolated from everyone during the winter. In a way, that was both good and bad. The good part was that they didn't have to worry about neighbors stealing their supplies or having to share their food with others. They also were able to truly bond as a family. However, they often had nothing to do. They got bored with each other and started resenting the enforced contact. Another bad thing was that they had no one that they could rely if there was an emergency. They were also so isolated that they didn't know what was going on anywhere else. They had no idea what was happening elsewhere in the country or the world.

At the end of Life As We Knew It Miranda took a chance and went into town. She ended up at city hall, where they were allowed to have a bag of food per person each week. With their food supplies running low, this was very important. It saved them all from starvation and seemed to finally indicate a turn for the better. Although the family's situation was not especially improved, they had food and an indication that someone was trying to handle the situation and make provisions for those who survived. The novel ends with an indication that there is hope for the future.

Writing Rubric – Grades 7 & 8

Expert - Score 4

- The response successfully accomplishes the task. Ideas progress logically; a clear sense of purpose and focus is evident. The response is well-developed, including a topic sentence, with ideas explained and supported through specific ideas and examples, and a conclusion. Sentence structure is correct and varied. Word choice is clear and precise or vivid, and expressive.

Practitioner – Score 3

- The response is reasonably successful in accomplishing the task. Ideas progress logically but may lack focus; minor flaws in organization may appear. The response may not be fully developed or explained. Minor flaws may include a lack of a topic sentence, specific details and/or examples, and a conclusion. A few errors in sentence structure may appear; structures may show little variety. Word choice is appropriate but not vivid, precise, or expressive.

Apprentice – Score 2

- The response is limited in accomplishing the task. Ideas progress logically, but may lack focus; many flaws in organization may appear. The response may not be fully developed or explained. Several errors may include a lack of a topic sentence, specific details and/or examples, and a conclusion. Many errors in sentence structure may appear; structures may show little variety. Word choice is limited or repetitive.

Novice – Score 1

- The response does not successfully accomplish the prompt, or it addresses the task in a severely limited way. Ideas are unclear or confusing; no sense of direction is apparent in the writing. There is a lack of topic sentence, specific details and/or examples, and a conclusion. The response is minimally developed. Sentence structure is flawed and lacks variety. Word choice is limited or unsuitable.

Scoring Guide for Writing Assessment – Conventions

4 points

- Strong control of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics
- (length and complexity of essay provide opportunity for student to show control of standard English conventions)

3 points

- Errors do not interfere with communication and/or
- Few errors relative to length of essay or complexity of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics

2 points

- Errors interfere somewhat with communication and/or
- Too many errors relative to the length of the essay or complexity of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics

1 point

- Errors seriously interfere with communication AND
- Little control of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics

Grade 7 Discussion Title

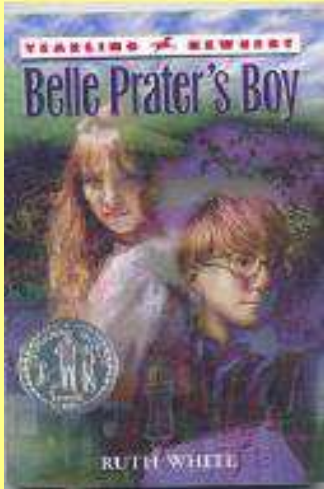


Becoming Naomi Leon – Pam Muñoz Ryan

Naomi Soledad Leon Outlaw has had a lot to contend with in her young life, her name for one. Then there are her clothes (sewn in polyester by Gram), her difficulty speaking up, and her status at school as "nobody special."

Discussion groups will take place during English class.

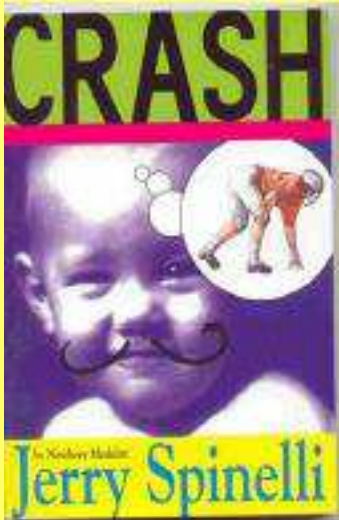
Grade Seven



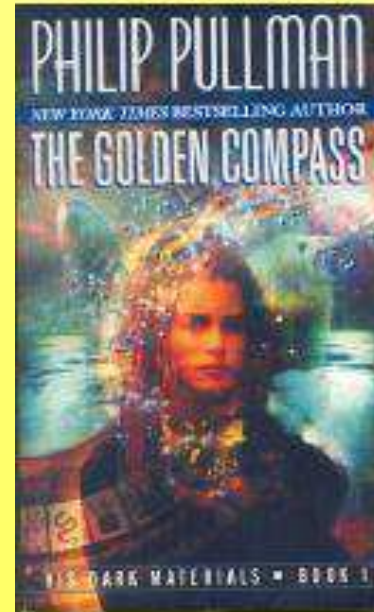
Belle Prater's Boy – Ruth White
When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents' home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives.



Farewell to Manzanar
–Jeanne W. Houston
The true story of one Japanese American family and their attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention during World War II.



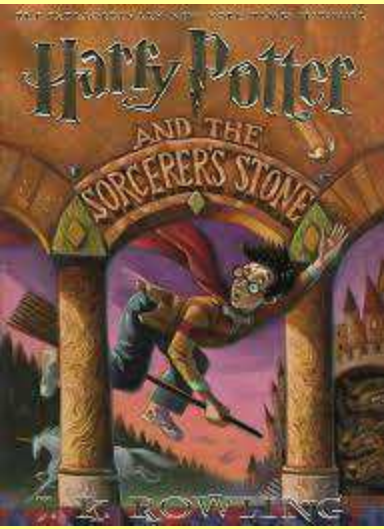
Crash – Jerry Spinelli
The story of a seventh grade football sensation in his humorous, and touching journey through seventh grade.



The Golden Compass –
Phillip Pullman

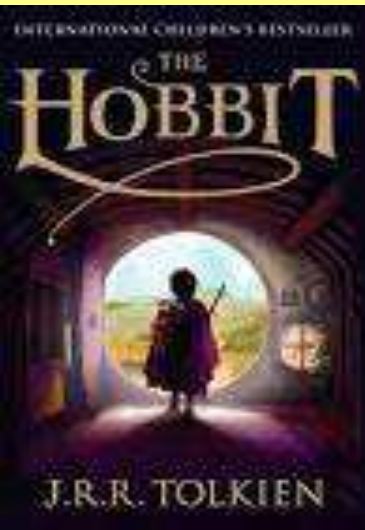
Lyra, age 11, must travel north to fulfill her destiny of saving her people. Fantasy with armored bears, and the value of friendship and love.

Grade Seven Continued...



Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone-
J. K. Rowling

Harry Potter has lived a dismal life with his aunt and uncle. Then on Harry's eleventh birthday, things change when a letter arrives, (by owl), inviting him to attend the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry



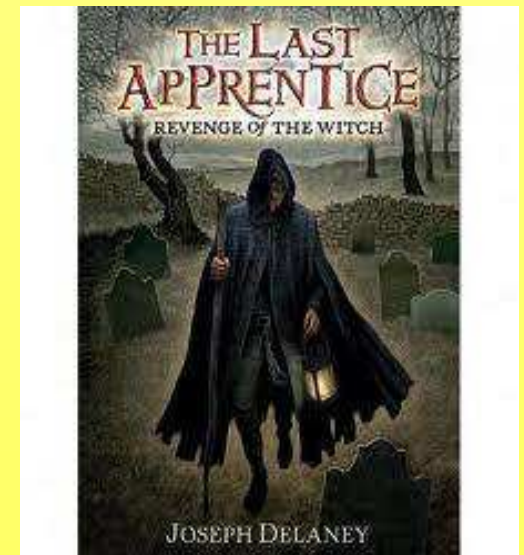
The Hobbit –J.R.R.Tolkien

The delightful fantasy set in Middle Earth peopled by charming dwarf-like creatures called hobbits.



The Island –
Gary Paulsen

Fifteen year old Wil discovers himself and the wonders of nature on an island in northern Wisconsin.

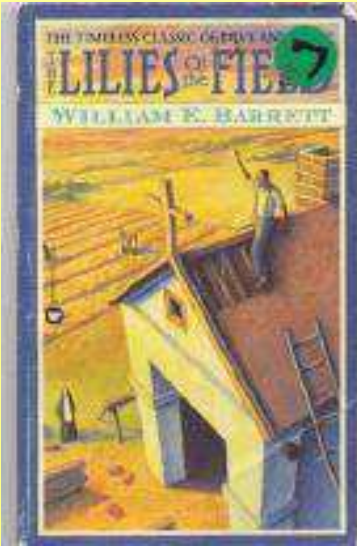


The Last Apprentice – Revenge of the Witch

Joseph Delaney

When 12-year-old Thomas, seventh son of a seventh son, is apprenticed to the local Spook, whose job is to fight evil spirits and witches; he expects a life of danger.

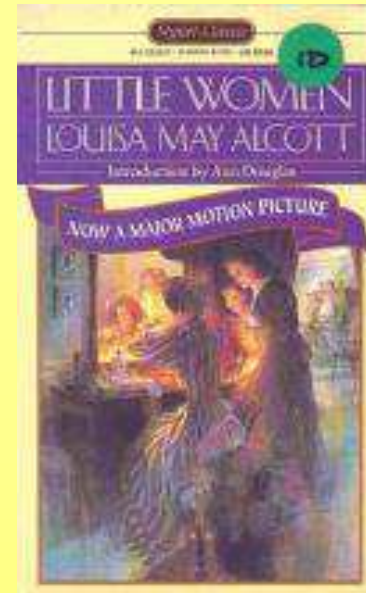
Grade Seven Continued...



Lilies of the Field

–William Barrett

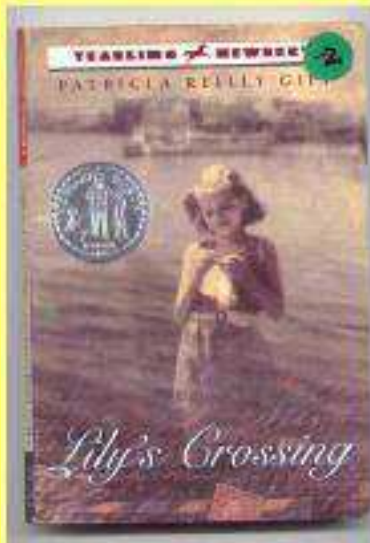
A group of nuns hold an impossible dream—Homer Smith, a black ex-GI, sets out to make the dream a reality.



Little Women

–Louisa May Alcott

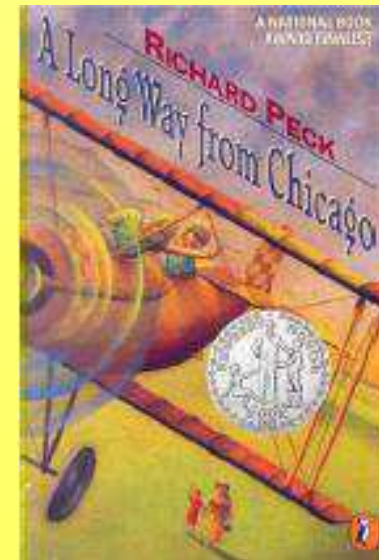
Beloved story of the four March girls, Jo, Beth, Amy, and Meg, as they grow up.



Lily's Crossing

–Patricia Giff

A young girl learns that World War II is bound to change everyone, even the Americans who never leave home.



A Long Way From Chicago

–Richard Peck

A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.

Grade Seven Continued...

Peak – Roland Smith

This is the emotional, tension-filled story of a fourteen-year-old boy's attempt to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

The Prince and the Pauper –

Mark Twain

An interesting story of two young boys who switched their identities and their lifestyles.

Racing in the Rain – My Life as a Dog

Garth Stein

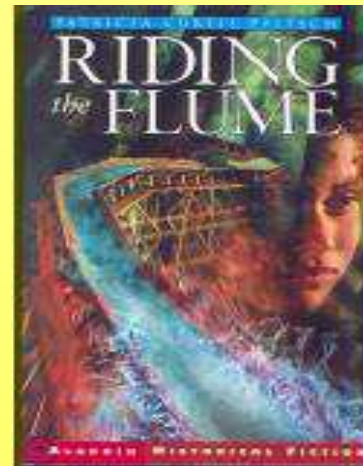
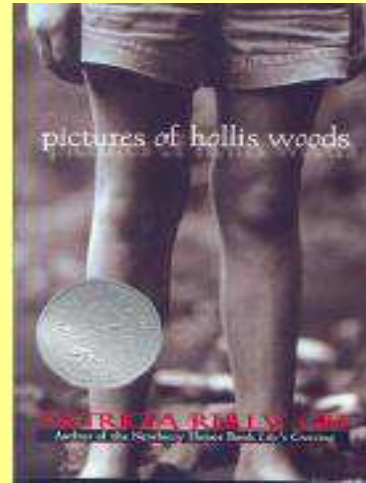
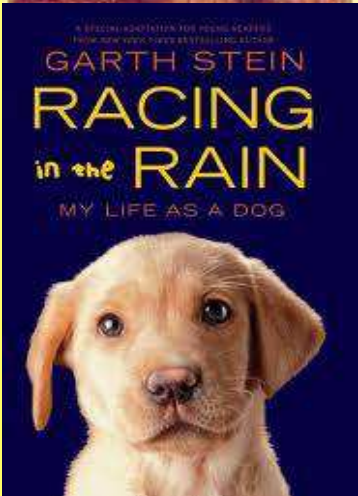
Told from the perspective of Enzo, the family dog, this is a moving story about love and loss, family, dreams, and the bond between a dog and its "people."

Pictures of Hollis Woods – Patricia Reilly Giff

A troublesome 12-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

Riding the Flume – Patricia Pfitsch

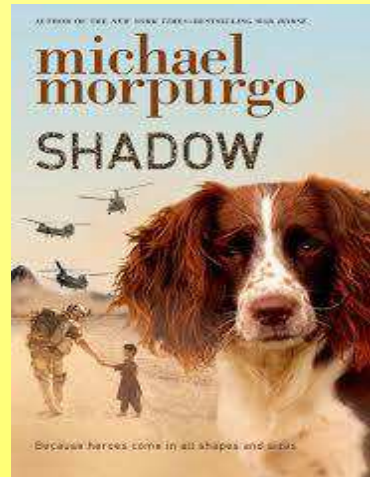
In 1894, 15-year-old Francie determines to fight the lumbermen and protect the largest sequoia tree ever seen, which had been given to her sister just before her death six years later.



Grade Seven Continued...

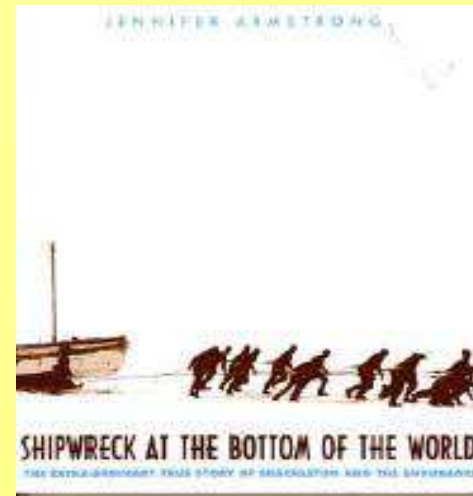
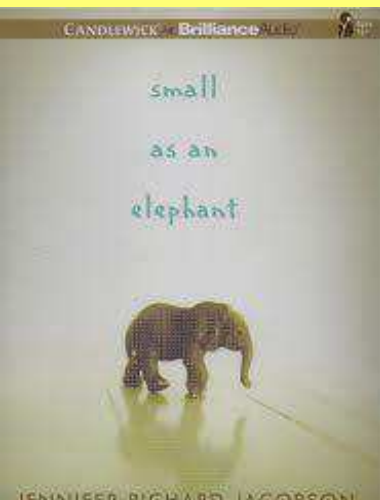
The Secret Garden Frances
H. Burnett

Mary befriends the invalid son of a manor and together they investigate the mysteries of the secret garden.



Small as an Elephant -
Jennifer Jacobson

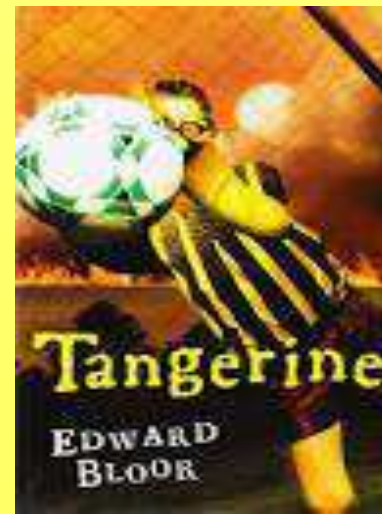
Jack's mom is gone, leaving him all alone on a campsite in Maine. Can he find his way back to Boston before the authorities realize what happened?



Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World –Jennifer
Armstrong
This is the extraordinary and harrowing true story of Shackleton and the crew of the Endurance. This is the story of their attempt to cross the frozen Antarctic continent from one side to the other and all the adventures they encountered.

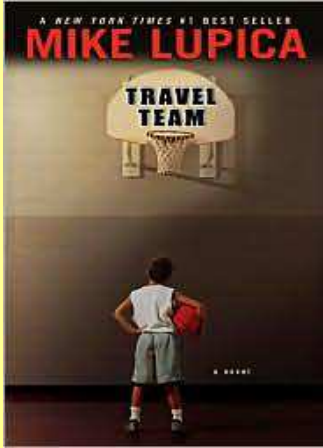
Shadow – Michael Morpurgo

This is a story about friendship that spans from England to Afghanistan. Aman and his mother have been living in England for six years when they are told they have not gained political asylum and must return to Afghanistan.



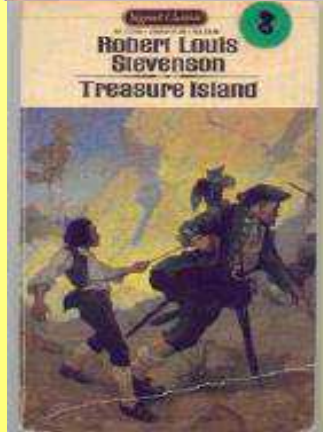
Tangerine–
Edward Bloor

Paul Fisher is an adolescent faced with challenges of adjusting to a new school, making new friends, and confronting the horrible truth about his family.



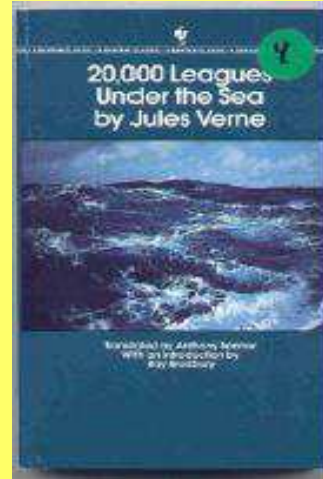
Travel Team –
Mike Lupica

After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.



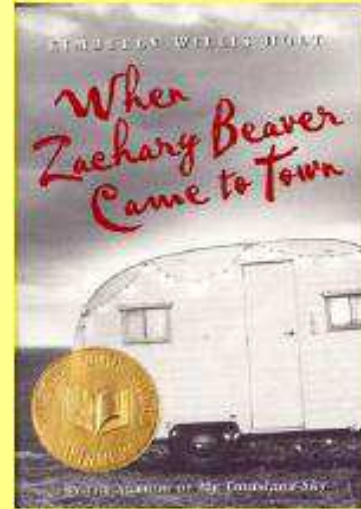
Treasure Island
–Robert Louis Stevenson

A thrilling story of buried treasure, piracy, and adventure in days past.



20,000 Leagues Under the Sea –Jules Verne

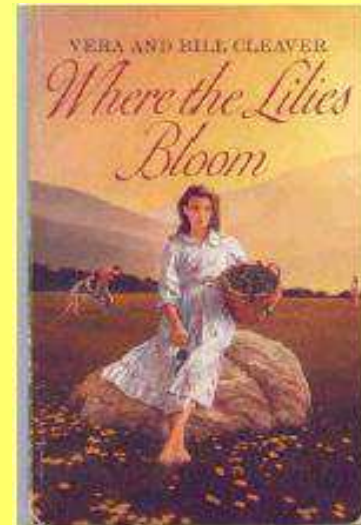
An embittered genius takes refuge from humanity aboard his fantastic submarine, the Nautilus.



When Zachary Beaver Came to Town

–Kimberly Willis Holt

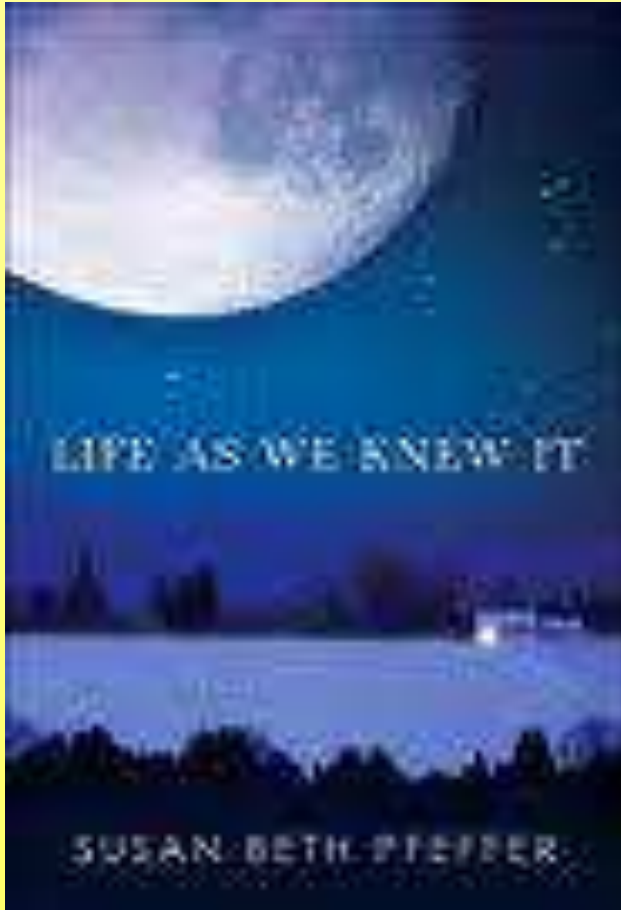
Set during the Vietnam War, Cal and Todd befriend Zachary, “the fattest kid in the world,” after he is abandoned in their small Texas town



Where the Lilies Bloom –
Vera and Bill Cleaver

A spunky fourteen year old girl holds her orphaned family together after the death of their father.

Grade 8 Discussion Title



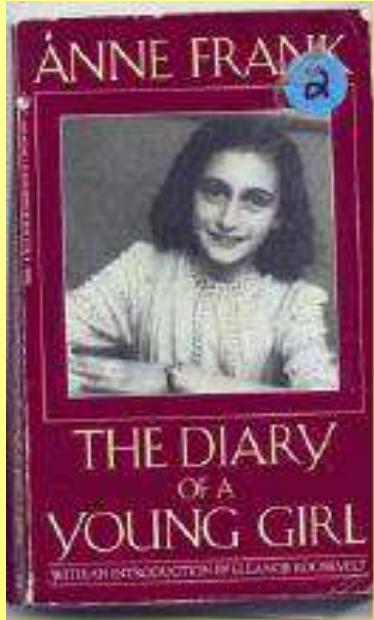
Life As We Knew It

Susan Beth Pfeffer

When an asteroid hits the moon, Miranda must learn to survive the unimaginable.

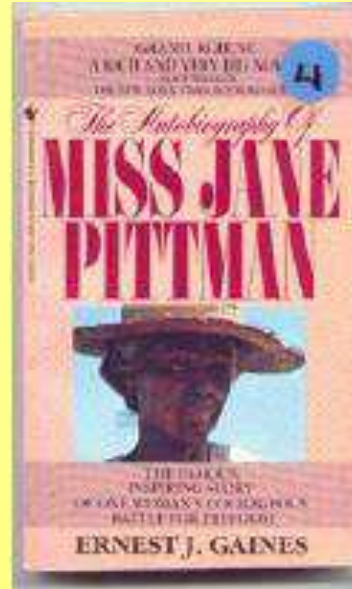
Discussion groups will take place during English class.

Grade Eight List



Anne Frank: the Diary of a Young Girl –Anne Frank

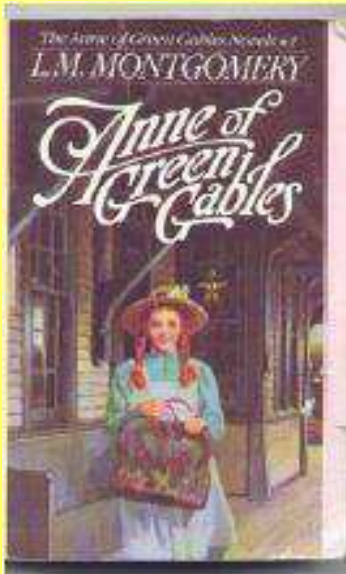
Famous diary of a young Jewish girl hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II.



The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman

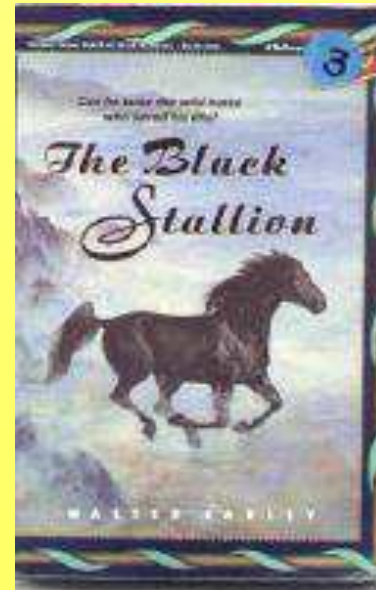
–Ernest Gaines

The story of a remarkable black woman's struggle against prejudice from the Civil War through the 1960s.



Anne of Green Gables – L.M. Montgomery

Eleven year old Anne Shirley wins the heart of her foster mother in this first novel of the Anne series.

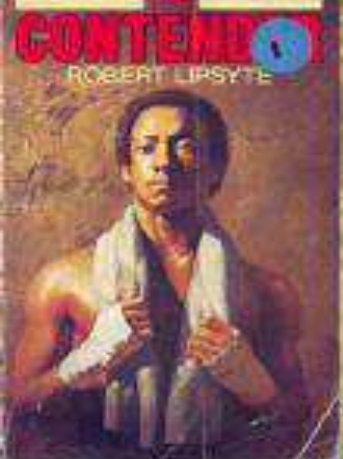


The Black Stallion

–Walter Farley

This is the story of the wildest of all wild creatures-an untamed stallion.

Grade 8 Continued...



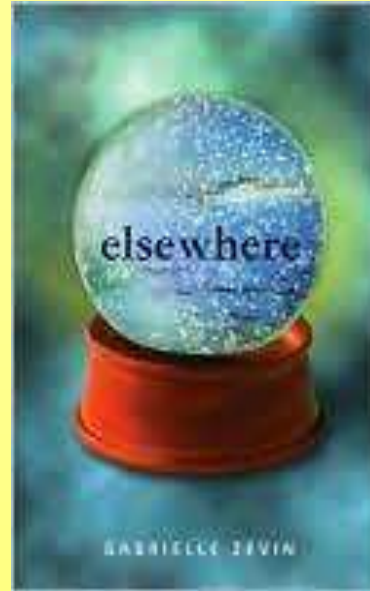
The Contender –Robert Lipsyte

This novel tells the story of a young black man's struggle to grow up in Harlem and become a fighter.

Death Be Not Proud – John Gunther

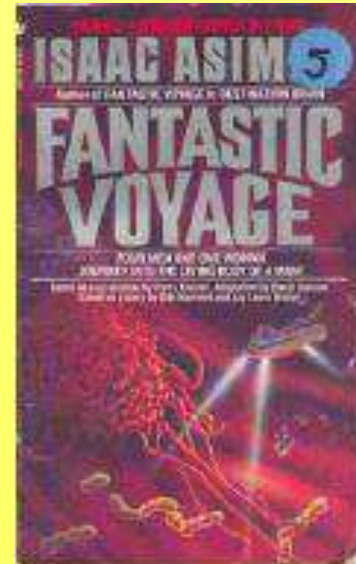
This is the true story of a teenager's heroic battle against cancer.

Divergent - Veronica Roth
In Beatrice Prior's dystopian world, society is divided into five factions each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor, Abnegation, Dauntless, Amity, and Erudite. On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives.



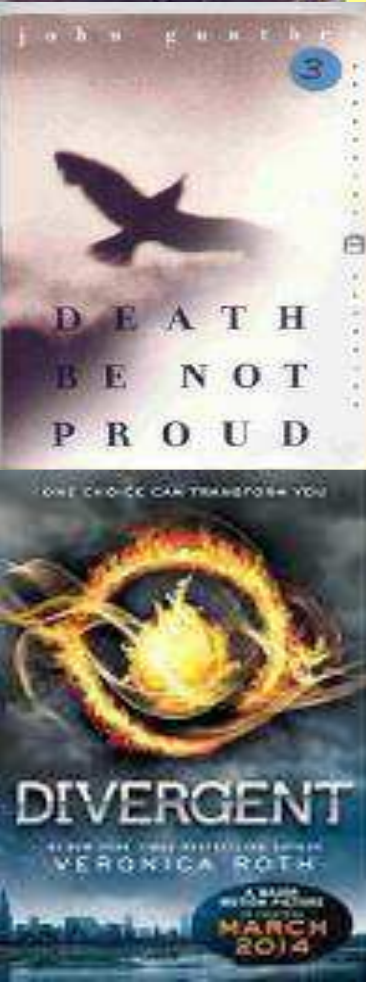
Elsewhere –Gabrielle Zevin

This young adult novel is a tender, funny, and thought-provoking story about first love and seeing death as the other half of life. Liz discovers a place so like Earth, but also completely different.

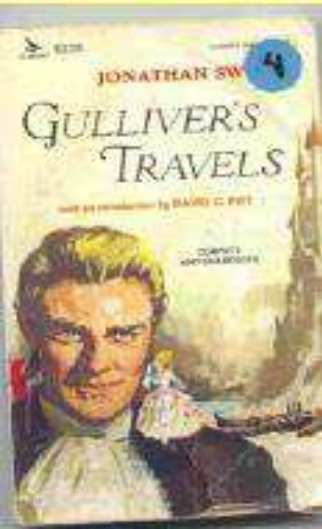


Fantastic Voyage –Isaac Asimov

Four men and a woman, reduced to microscopic size, enter a man's bloodstream to remove a blood clot.

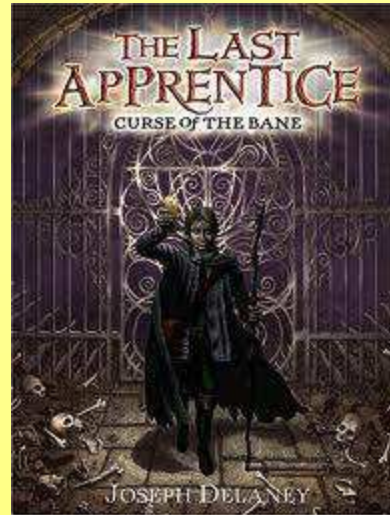


Grade 8 Continued...



Gulliver's Travels – Jonathan Swift

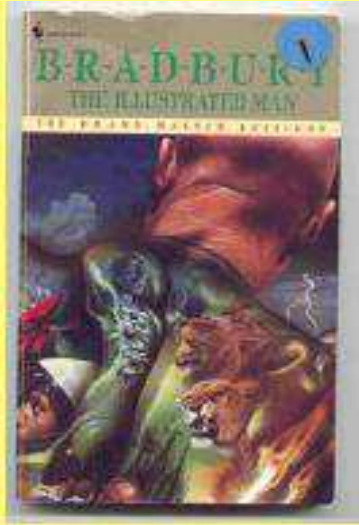
Generations learn the failings of man from this travel story to fantastic lands.



The Last Apprentice – Curse of the Bane

Joseph Delaney

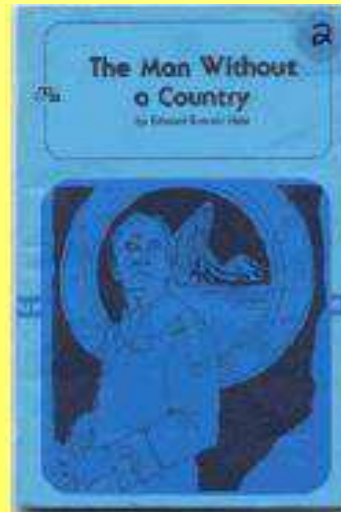
New challenges await Thomas Ward as the teen confronts the bane, a creature who can control others' thoughts in book two of the series.



Illustrated Man –

Ray Bradbury

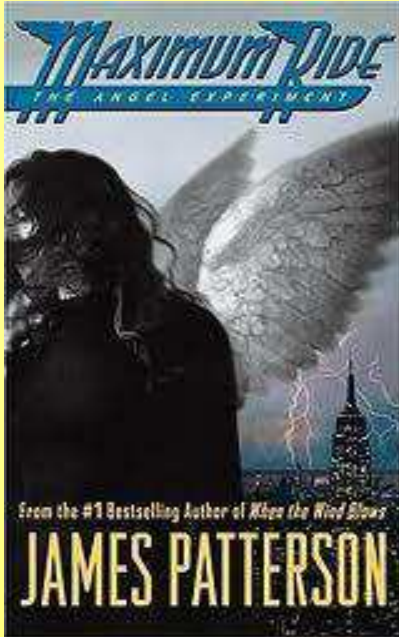
Stories that blend weird fantasy and chilling truth involving time and space.



A Man Without a Country –Edward Hale

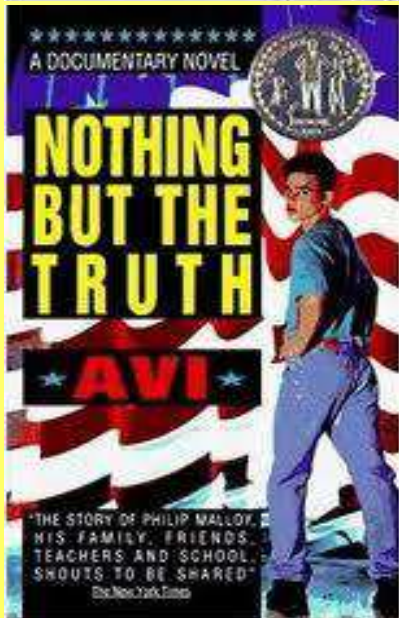
“Damn the United States! I wish I never hear of the United States again!” Phillip Nolan’s wish was his sentence.

Grade 8 continued...



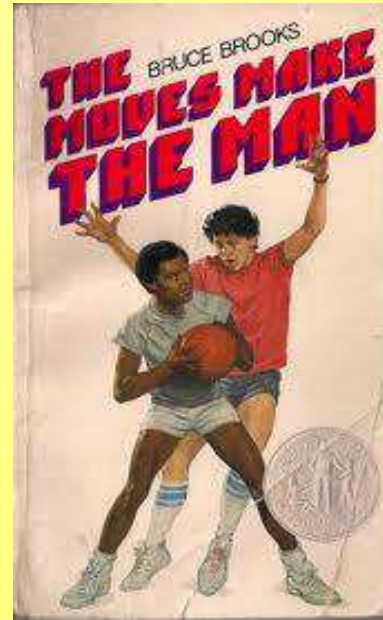
Maximum Ride The Angel Experiment-

James Patterson
A group of genetically enhanced kids who can fly and have other unique talents are on the run from part-human, part-wolf predators called Erasers in this exciting science fiction thriller.



Nothing But The Truth – Avi

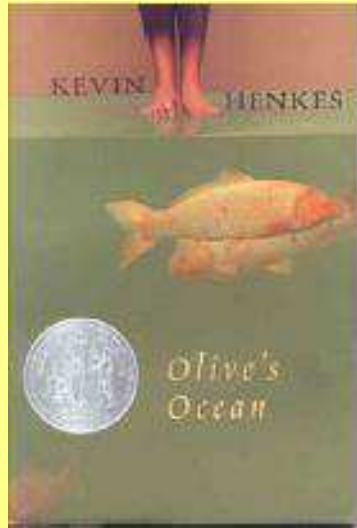
In this thought-provoking examination of freedom, patriotism, and respect, ninth-grader, Philip Malloy, is kept from joining the track team by his failing grades in English class.



The Moves Make the Man –Bruce Brooks

A black boy and an emotionally troubled white boy in North Carolina form a precarious friendship. The bond that holds them together? Basketball.

Grade 8 Continued...



Olive's Ocean –Kevin Henkes

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, Martha gains perspective about her life.



Ranger's Apprentice- The Ruins of Gorlan John Flanagan

Flanagan spins up a solid fantasy story with plenty of monsters, weapons, a likable pair of heroes, and a growing menace from a rarely-seen villain making a comeback.



Oliver Twist –Charles Dickens

The moving tale of an orphan who must make his way through the horrors of London's sinister underworld.



The Red Kayak - Priscilla Cummings

Brady loves life on the Chesapeake Bay with his friends J.T. and Digger. Tragedy strikes when the DiAngelos' kayak overturns in the bay, and Brady wonders if it was more than an accident

Grade 8 Continued...



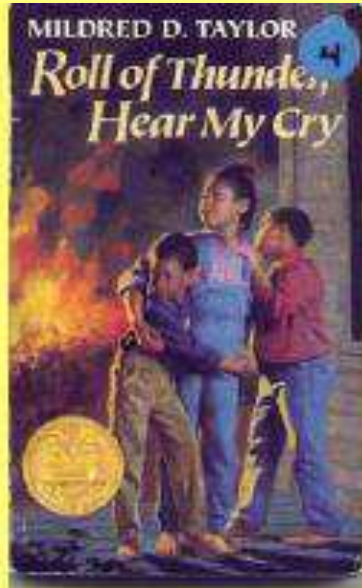
Rebecca –Daphne DuMaurier

This is the story of a young bride who is haunted by the ghost of her husband's first wife.



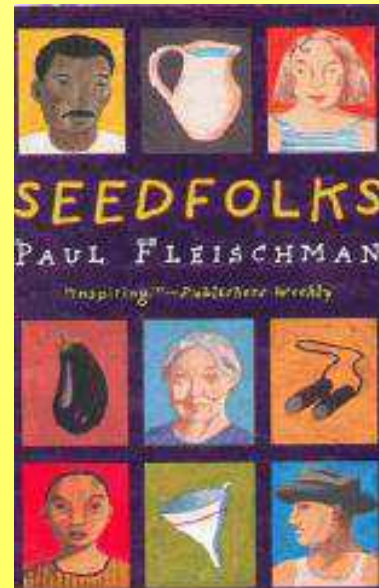
Schooled – Gordon Korman

Capricorn Anderson had never watched a television show before. He'd never tasted a pizza. See how his life changes when he leaves the Garland Farm commune.



Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry –Mildred Taylor

A southern black family is determined to maintain their pride and independence against hard times and racial inequality.



Seedfolks –Paul Fleischman

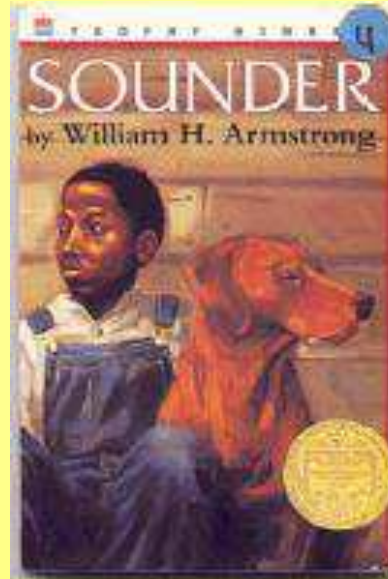
An urban neighborhood is transformed when a young Vietnamese girl begins a garden in an abandoned lot. Soon people from all backgrounds join to turn the littered lot into a garden for the whole community.

Grade 8 Continued...



Shane—Jack Schaefer

Set in the Old West, this is the story of a gunman's struggle to escape his past by living with a normal, loving family.



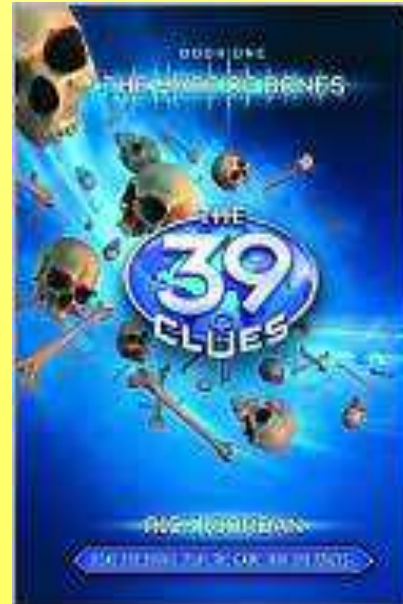
Sunder –William Armstrong

This is a heart-wrenching story of a black family in the South.



Shoeless Joe –W.P. Kinsella

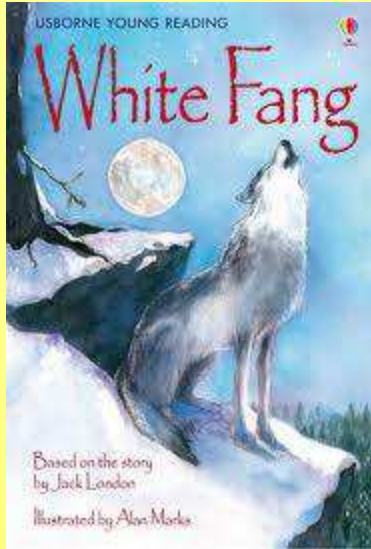
This is the story of Ray, an insurance man turned Iowa farmer –a baseball fanatic who builds his “Field of Dreams.”



The 39 Clues – The Maze of Bones – Rick Riordan

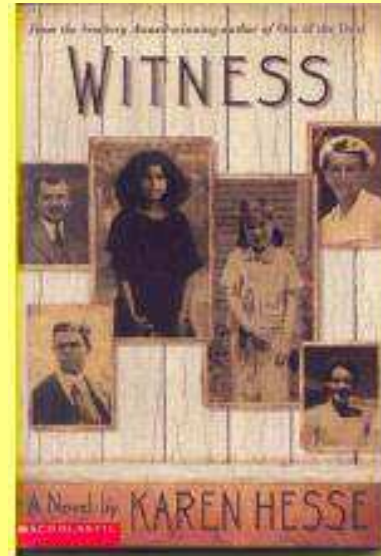
Grace Cahill, matriarch of the world's most powerful family, dies and leaves behind a challenge to her descendants. They can either inherit one million dollars, or forgo the money and receive the first of 39 clues that will lead them on an around-the-world adventure.

Grade 8 Continued...



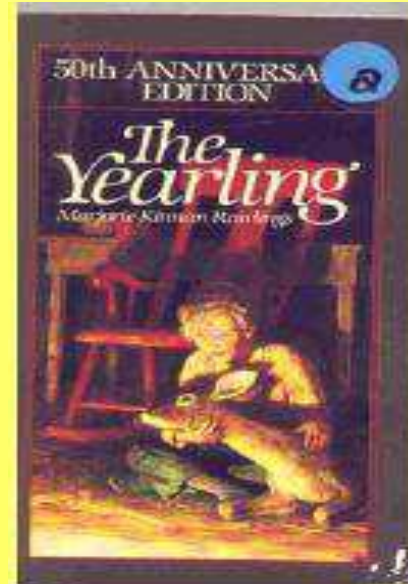
White Fang –Jack London

This is the story of the taming of a wild wolf-dog through the patience and devotion of one man.



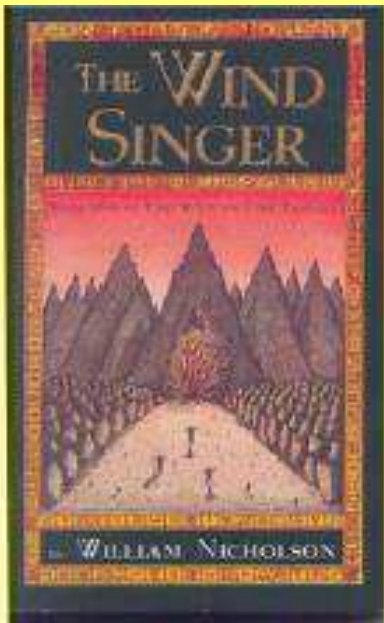
Witness -Karen Hesse

The year is 1924, a small town in Vermont is falling under the influence of the Ku Klux Klan, two girls find themselves among those who are no longer welcome.



The Yearling – Marjorie Rawlings

Jody Baxter, living in the Florida backwoods with his pet fawn, experiences the joys and pains of growing up.



The Wind Singer - William Nicholson
Relegated to the lowest levels of society after a schoolroom rebellion, Kestral Hath and her twin brother seek to recover the wind singer from the evil spirit lord.

Have a great summer!



Have fun reading!