

Rising 6th grade

***The Jacket* by Andrew Clements:** Will Daniel be able to forgive Phil for an accusation that was based on racial prejudice? What will each boy learn about the other, and most important, about himself?

****The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Curtis:** The everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Michigan in 1963 are drastically changed after a trip to Birmingham, Alabama, where racial violence erupts.

****Some Kind of Courage* by Dan Gemeinhart:** Joseph has lost just about everyone he has ever loved. When his pony is taken away by a man who had no right to take her, he is dead set on getting her back.

***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli:** In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

****Making Bombs for Hitler* by Martha Skrypuch:** When Lida and her younger sister are caught and separated by the Nazis, Lida is sent to a labor camp, where she works from dawn to dusk and struggles to survive and reconnect with Larissa.

***Wonder* by R.J. Palacio:** Ten-year-old Auggie, born with extreme facial abnormalities, goes from being homeschooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school, where he endures taunts and bullying and struggles to be seen as just another student.

***The Wednesday Wars* by Gary Schmidt:** During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to religion classes, seventh-grader Holling stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of Shakespeare and he learns about the world he lives in.

Rising 7th grade

***True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi:** As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious.

***Tangerine* by Edward Bloor:** Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football-hero brother, fights for his right to play soccer despite his near-blindness.

****Restart* by Gordan Korman:** Chase Ambrose forgets everything after falling off a roof and losing consciousness. He forgets his name. He forgets his parents. He forgets what he was doing up there on that roof. And he forgets that he's the biggest bully at Hiawasse Middle School.

***Mockingbird* by Katherine Erskine:** Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school. While at home, she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

***Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson:** After his anger erupts into violence and to avoid prison, Cole agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on Native American Circle Justice at a remote Alaskan Island and encounters a huge Spirit Bear that changes his life.

****Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen:** After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

***Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga:** Jude is sent with her mother to the safety of a relative's home in Ohio when their Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence. Jude adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises.

Rising 8th grade

****Refugee* by Alan Gratz:** Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, and all face unimaginable dangers.

****The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander:** Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

****Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt:** Winnie Foster is faced with difficult decisions after she is kidnapped by the Tuck family, who have discovered a spring that gives eternal life. Text contains mild violence.

***The Giver* by Lois Lowry:** While training to be the Receiver of Memory, Jonas experiences joy and sadness for the first time. He becomes convinced his society has given up too much, and he can no longer accept the sameness.

***The Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline Cooney:** A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity. The plot contains profanity and sexual situations.

***Counting by 7s* by Holly Sloan:** Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

****A Night Divided* by Jennifer Nielsen:** When her family is abruptly divided by the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta harbors forbidden thoughts about freedom and reuniting with her loved ones before a coded message from her father inspires a daring plan.

*SOAR book for that grade level. Students who read SOAR books for their grade and earn a 70% or higher can receive 10 points extra credit all year in Mrs. Foust's class.