equipped:

MISSISSIPPI

BOOK LIST

FOR

ALL

Office of Elementary Education and Reading
Office of Secondary Education
Summer 2020
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### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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acknowledgments:

To ensure this list truly represented various backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs, a diverse group was required in order to collaborate and create this project. We would like to thank the following team members for their work.

From the Mississippi Department of Education, we would like to acknowledge:

- Amy Baker
- Jasmine Bell
- Natalie Breithaupt
- Coretta Doss
- Sandra Elliott
- Aimee Hawkins
- Molly Henderson
- Nicole Hunter
- Stephanie Mollett
- Tiffany Nickleberry
- Kimberly Petermann
- Kasey Rather
- LaTondra Robinson
- Christine Spell
- Missaha Thompson
- Melanie Watkins
- Delphony Williams

We would also like to extend thanks to the various groups of Mississippi public school teachers, librarians, and administrators who assisted us in both rating and identifying the final titles chosen for this list and for providing feedback throughout the development process. Thanks to their assistance with this project, we are confident that we are providing Mississippi educators, parents, and students with a resource that will equip them to be college, career, and culturally ready.
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introduction:

“Words are not just words. They are the nexus—the interface—between communication and thought. When we read, it is through words that we build, refine, and modify our knowledge” Marilyn Jager Adams (2009, p. 180).

Mississippi strives to develop students that are not only college and career ready but also culturally ready. This resource intends to equip educators to make purposeful instructional decisions around the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness standards while promoting literacy that acknowledges a variety of text types. This resource also provides students with texts that will serve as “mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors.” Mirrors refer to texts where students can see themselves in the characters and events, while windows apply to texts that allow students to look out into the larger world and experience cultures, life experiences, and communities different from their own. Sliding glass doors refer to texts that not only introduce students to stories different from their own but encourage them to walk through and move forward, acting in an attempt to change the narrative.

For students to become well-rounded readers, they need to engage with high-quality, rigorous texts that represent varying cultures, genres, and facets of the human experience.

Through a collaborative process, Mississippi teachers, administrators, parents, and librarians contributed to the creation of this list; consideration of individual texts and their potential for intertextuality through pairing was a factor in title selection.

The opportunities and applications for this resource are varied; therefore, teacher guidance and review are essential to providing students with appropriate and balanced reading choices that will ultimately foster increased independent reading and stamina.

While appropriate within the context of the text, titles may contain language and content that may require additional conversations. Administrators, teachers, and families should make informed decisions regarding text selections, and if a text for consideration is not familiar, please review the book first.

**methodology:**

The books identified in this list were not chosen at random; to appear on this list, a title had to meet specific criteria as outlined by a rubric developed by a team composed of a librarian, literacy personnel, a college professor, and a high school English teacher. The specific components of the rubric helped the team identify whether a chosen text contained:

- Appropriate grade-level complexity,
- A balance of diverse characters, cultures, perspectives, orientations, races, and ages, and
- Relativity to the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards.

The formal rubric used in the book-identification process can be found in the appendices of this document.

In addition, the team made the decision to focus on identifying newer texts in the hope that the themes and characters would be more relatable. While newer texts were a priority, the team also recognized the importance of classic texts and made attempts to present traditional titles in newer formats, such as graphic novels, to make these texts appealing to the modern student. The team used resources such as the Magnolia book list, Novelist, We Need Diverse Books, and Common Sense Media to help identify potential titles. A minimum of thirty-six fiction and thirty-six nonfiction titles were selected for each grade with the intention of narrowing down the list and potentially pairing titles.

Selected texts were then presented to a panel composed of Mississippi educators and parents, including public school teachers, librarians, administrators, and literacy coaches. This panel then reviewed each text thoroughly, using a second rubric to rate each title on the following criteria:

- Publication date (newer texts received higher scores),
- Whether the text was available in bilingual or graphic novel formats,
- Whether the text was an award winner,
- Whether the text contained diversity, and if the diverse group or culture was appropriately represented (texts were scored higher if the author of the text belonged to the same diverse group), and
- Whether or not the text was appropriate for the suggested grade due to language and content presented in the text.

**CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS**

is the ability to learn from and relate respectfully with people of your own culture as well as those from other cultures.
As the panel reviewed each text, they also provided their reasoning as to why a text should or should not remain on the final list based on their various experiences and potential interactions with the texts in their own classrooms, buildings, and homes.

The final list presented in this document offers Mississippi teachers, parents, and students with titles that are fresh, approachable, diverse, and directly linked to multiple Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards. In addition, most titles are also recipients of one or more book awards, including the Coretta Scott King Award, the Newbery and Caldecott awards, the Magnolia Book Awards, or the YALSA and ALA awards.
lexile vs. literacy:

Students and books are assigned a score on the Lexile scale, in which lower scores reflect easier readability for books and lower reading ability for students. The Lexile framework uses quantitative methods, based on individual words and sentence lengths to produce scores. However, the scores do not reflect factors such as maturity of themes, content, and language. According to the Lexile website, there is no direct correspondence between a specific Lexile measure and a specific grade level. Within any grade, there will be a range of readers and a range of reading materials in school libraries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE LEVEL</th>
<th>PROFICIENT LEXILE LEVELS</th>
<th>ADVANCED LEXILE LEVELS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>700-1000</td>
<td>1001-1700+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>800-1050</td>
<td>1051-1700+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7</td>
<td>850-1100</td>
<td>1101-1700+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>900-1150</td>
<td>1151-1700+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9</td>
<td>1000-1200</td>
<td>1201-1700+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 10</td>
<td>1025-1250</td>
<td>1251-1700+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>1050-1300</td>
<td>1301-1700+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 12</td>
<td>1050-1300</td>
<td>1301-1700+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fiction and nonfiction books help students to understand the world around them and what they might be going through. Independent reading or student choice reading helps encourage children to enjoy reading on their own to improve comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency. When students have an opportunity to choose fiction or nonfiction reading materials, students have ownership in their education and make reading a priority.

Benefits of student choice reading:
- Engagement increases
- Stronger reading skills are developed
- Students are more actively involved in learning
- Students are more excited to share what they learn
- Build skills for future learning

graphic novels:

How Graphic Novels Can Turn Struggling or Reluctant Readers into STRONG READERS

Reading novels that support the College-and Career-Readiness Standards is important, but students cannot become lifelong readers if they do not open those books. As educators, we should encourage our students to read, even if the book has pictures.

There are several benefits to using Graphic Novels in English Language Arts (ELA) classrooms:

1. RICH IN TEXT
   Even though there is not much text to a graphic novel, they are still telling stories using dialogue and making students analyze what they see and comprehend. Every single graphic novel varies in the amount of text it has and how it is presented, but they are each their own ELA lesson.

2. DIVERSITY
   Graphic novels are diverse with a vast collection of characters that ALL students can respond to or react to. Representation matters for equipping ALL students to be culturally ready. It helps students determine how they connect with characters, settings, and cultures within what they read or see.

3. BRIDGE BOOKS
   Graphic novels will vary in terms of complexity. This format can be used as scaffolding where students can increase the reading level or confidence and move into more complex texts.

4. GATEWAY LITERATURE: Graphic novels can be used as a gateway that moves kids to those bigger and better novels that educators want students to read. Graphic novels engage students first and get them hooked, and then teachers can move students to more grade-level text.

Using Graphic Novels with English Learners (EL)

Graphic Novels can be essential to ELs as they can benefit from the clues that the pictures can provide to reinforce the story's meaning, enhancing comprehension, and vocabulary. These types of literature can be used as high-quality supplemental instruction in all content areas. Additionally, graphic novels can help reinforce concepts in ELA, including plot structure and character development.

Here are four ways that graphic novels can benefit ELs:

1. **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**
   The illustrated panels of graphic novels provide visual information that gives helpful context to idioms, metaphors, and other figures of speech.

2. **COMPLEX, AGE-APPROPRIATE INTERESTS**
   Graphic novels support well-developed plots, storylines, and characters, so they can be used to teach complicated subjects that are appropriate for older students.

3. **PUNCTUATION AND EMPHASIS**
   The dialogue used in graphic novels uses frequent punctuation and the bolding of key terms to demonstrate how a phrase would be said aloud. The accompanying illustrations give additional visual clues to how dialogue should be read.

4. **UNFAMILIAR CULTURAL NORMS**
   Unlike text-only passages, the visuals show characters’ facial expressions, gestures, and positions to help reinforce cultural values and social issues.

**RESOURCE**  https://www.lexialearning.com/blog/4-surprising-ways-comics-and-graphic-novels-can-benefit-english-language-learners-
### Understanding the Book Lists:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author (Publication Date)</th>
<th>Type of Text</th>
<th>Grade Level(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amina’s Voice</td>
<td>By: Hena Khan (2018)</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>5th Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Pakistani American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family’s vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community. 197 pgs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>LEXILE:</strong> 800L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brendan Buckley’s Universe and Everything in It</td>
<td>By: Sundee T. Fraizer (2007)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brendan, a biracial ten-year-old, applies his scientific problem-solving ability and newfound interest in rocks and minerals to connect with his white grandfather, and to learn why he and Brendan’s mother are estranged. 198 pgs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>LEXILE:</strong> 630L</td>
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#### Glossary of Terms

- **BILINGUAL FORMAT**: A book that is available in multiple languages
- **DIGITAL FORMAT**: A book that is available as an audio book or an ebook
- **FICTION**: Literature that describes imaginary events and people
- **GRAPHIC NOVEL (GN)**: A book written in comic-strip format
- **LEXILE (L)**: A measurement of the reading level of a text
- **NONFICTION**: Writing that is based on facts, real events or people, such as biography or history
- **STEAM**: An approach to teaching that includes Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry

#### Lexile Codes

- **AD – ADULT DIRECTED**: Better when read aloud to a student rather than having the student read independently
- **GN – GRAPHIC NOVEL**: Graphic novels or comic books
- **HL – HIGH-LOW**: Content to engage older students who need materials that are less complex and at a lower reading level
- **NA – NOT AVAILABLE**: Lexile level has not been assigned to the text
- **NC – NON-CONFORMING**: Good for high-ability readers who still need age-appropriate content
fiction:
BOOK LIST
Boxers and Saints
By: Gene Luen Wang (2013)
Boxers & Saints tells two parallel stories. The first is of Little Bao, a Chinese peasant boy whose village is abused and plundered by Westerners claiming the role of missionaries. Little Bao, inspired by visions of the Chinese gods, joins a violent uprising against the Western interlopers. 2 volumes
LEXILE: NA

Chains
By: Laurie Halse Anderson (2008)
A young slave, Isabel, and her sister, Ruth, are supposed to be freed when their owner dies, but due to lack of a will, they are sold instead to their owner’s nephew. He sells them to a Loyalist family that moves Isabel and Ruth to New York. 316pgs
LEXILE: 780L

Code Name: Butterfly
By: Ahlam Bsharat (2016)
With irony and poignant teenage idealism, Butterfly draws us into her world of adult hypocrisy, sibling rivalries, girlfriends’ power plays, unrequited love...not to mention the political tension of life under occupation. As she observes her fragile environment, Butterfly is compelled to question everything around her. 97pgs
LEXILE: NA

Countdown: Sixties Trilogy
By: Deborah Wiles (2010)
Eleven-year-old Franny Chapman, the daughter of a pilot stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, must contend with the effects of the Cuban Missile Crisis with her family and classmates. 377pgs
LEXILE: 800L

The Crossover
By: Kwame Alexander (2014)
Josh and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. Josh has mad beats, too, and he uses them to tell his family’s story in verse. 240pgs
LEXILE: 750L

Dark Sons
By: Nikki Grimes (2017)
Alternating poems compare and contrast the conflicted feelings of Ishmael, son of the Biblical patriarch Abraham, and Sam, a teenager in New York City, as they try to come to terms with being abandoned by their fathers and with the love they feel for their younger stepbrothers. 190pgs
LEXILE: 740L

The Fall of the House of Usher
By: Edgar Allan Poe (1839)
The story begins with the unnamed narrator arriving at the house of his friend, Roderick Usher, having received a letter from him complaining of an illness and asking for his help. 72pgs
LEXILE: GN550L

Freak the Mighty
By: Rodman Philbrick (1993)
Two boys - a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces - forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force. This simple yet timeless story explores many themes, including bullying -- an important topic in today's schools. 192pgs
LEXILE: 1080L
**Gathering Blue**  
By: Lois Lowry (2000)  
This book tells the story of outcasts and how society treats them. Although the world they live in is perfect, the main character soon realizes her gift is the only valuable contribution she has. 240pgs  
LEXILE: 780L

**How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story**  
By: Tim Tingle (2015)  
A Choctaw boy tells the story of his tribe’s removal from their Mississippi homeland, and how their exodus to the American West led him to become a ghost - one able to help those left behind. 160pgs  
LEXILE: HL480L

**The Giver**  
By: Lois Lowry (1993)  
Twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly utopian community where only one person, the Giver, holds the memories and emotions of the entire society. When Jonas becomes the Receiver of Memories, he begins to understand his world is not as it seems. 208pgs  
LEXILE: GN480L

**If I Ever Get Out of Here**  
By: Eric Gansworth (2013)  
Lewis “Shoe” Blake is used to the joys and difficulties of life on the Tuscarora Indian reservation in 1975: the joking, the Fireball games, the snow blowing through his roof. What he’s not used to is white people being nice to him. 368pgs  
LEXILE: 850L

**A Good Kind of Trouble**  
By: Lisa Moore Ramée (2019)  
All twelve-year-old Shayla wants to do is follow the rules, but when she starts seventh grade, the rules have changed. 358pgs  
LEXILE: NA

**In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse**  
Jimmy McClean is a Lakota boy - though you wouldn’t guess it by his name: his father is part white and part Lakota, and his mother is Lakota. When he embarks on a journey with his grandfather, Nyles High Eagle, he learns more and more about his Lakota heritage. 176pgs  
LEXILE: 620L

**Hope Was Here**  
By: Joan Bauer (2000)  
When Hope and her aunt move to small-town Wisconsin to take over the local diner, Hope’s not sure what to expect. As Hope starts to make her place at the diner, she also finds out everyone can use a little hope to help get through the tough times...even herself. 186pgs  
LEXILE: 780L

**A Light in the Forest**  
By: Conrad Richter (1953)  
A young pioneer boy is kidnapped by the Lenni Lenape tribe and adopted into their culture. When he has to return to his original family and culture, he must face tough questions. 192pgs  
LEXILE: 870L

**Gathering Blue**  
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This book tells the story of outcasts and how society treats them. Although the world they live in is perfect, the main character soon realizes her gift is the only valuable contribution she has. 240pgs  
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LEXILE: 870L
A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story
By: Linda Sue Park (2010)
When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. 121pgs
LEXILE: 720L

Lucky Broken Girl
By: Ruth Behar (2017)
Ruthie Mizrahi and her family recently emigrated from Castro’s Cuba to New York City, and just when she’s finally beginning to gain confidence in her mastery of English—and enjoying her reign as her neighborhood’s hopscotch queen—a horrific car accident leaves her in a body cast and confines her to her bed for a long recovery. 256pgs
LEXILE: 670L

Mexican Whiteboy
By: Matt de la Pena (2008)
Danny, who is tall and skinny but has a talent for pitching a fastball, cannot seem to fit in at school in San Diego, where his Mexican and white heritage causes people to judge him before he even speaks. 249pgs
LEXILE: 680L

Miracle’s Boys
By: Jacqueline Woodson (2000)
Twelve-year-old Lafayette’s close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention center and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother. 133pgs
LEXILE: 660L

Monster
By: Walter Dean Myers (1999)
This book depicts how race affects the criminal justice system. As the main character awaits trial for murder, he realizes some people see him as a monster. 281pgs
LEXILE: 670L

The Only Road
By: Alexandra Diaz (2016)
Everyone in Jaime’s small town in Guatemala knows someone who has been killed by the Alphas, a powerful gang that’s known for violence and drug trafficking, and anyone who refuses to work for them is hurt or killed. 320pgs
LEXILE: 830L

New Kid
By: Jerry Craft (2019)
As one of the few kids of color in his new school, Jordan feels out of place. He finds comfort in his art as he tries to navigate both worlds. 249pgs
LEXILE: GN320L

Ninth Ward
By: Jewell Parker Rhodes (2010)
In New Orleans’ Ninth Ward, twelve-year-old Lanesha-who can see spirits-and her adopted grandmother have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them. 217pgs
LEXILE: HL1030L

A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story
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New Kid
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As one of the few kids of color in his new school, Jordan feels out of place. He finds comfort in his art as he tries to navigate both worlds. 249pgs
LEXILE: GN320L

Ninth Ward
By: Jewell Parker Rhodes (2010)
In New Orleans’ Ninth Ward, twelve-year-old Lanesha-who can see spirits-and her adopted grandmother have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them. 217pgs
LEXILE: HL1030L
Out of the Dust
By: Karen Hesse (1997)
The story told in sparse first-person, free-verse poems, tells of Billie Joe’s courage and determination as she tries to cope with her mother’s tragic death and her grieving father’s deterioration during the Great Depression. 227pgs
LEXILE: 1040L

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
By: Mildred D. Taylor (1976)
Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family’s struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. 288pgs
LEXILE: 990L

The Queen of Water
By: Laura Resau and Marie Virigina Farinango (2012)
Born in an Andean village in Ecuador, Virginia lives with her large family in a small, earthen-walled dwelling. When she is taken as a slave, she embarks upon a journey of self-discovery. 368pgs
LEXILE: 890L

Shadow and Bone (Trilogy)
By: Leigh Bardugo (2013)
Orphaned by the Border Wars, Alina Starkov is taken from obscurity and her only friend to become the protege of the mysterious Darkling. 358pgs
LEXILE: 800L

Refugee
By: Alan Gratz (2017)
Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together. 338pgs
LEXILE: 800L

Someday We Will Fly
By: Rachel Dewoskin (2020)
In 1940, fifteen-year-old Lillia and her family escape Warsaw after the disappearance of her mother. They head to Shanghai and fight to survive, while caught in the crosshairs of World War II. 352pgs
LEXILE: 800L

Rick
By: Alex Gino (2020)
Rick’s never questioned much. He’s gone along with his best friend Jeff, even when Jeff’s acted like a bully and a jerk. But now Rick is entering middle school and new doors are opening. 240pgs
LEXILE: 780L

Star-Crossed
By: Barbara Dee (2018)
When Mattie is cast as Romeo in an eighth-grade play, she is confused to find herself increasingly attracted to Gemma, a new classmate who is playing Juliet. 277pgs
LEXILE: 640L
Where the Watermelons Grow
By: Cindy Baldwin (2020)
Twelve-year-old Della Kelly feels that she’s the only one who can help save her mother from the mental illness that has taken over her mind again. While her father struggles to keep the family farm alive in the shadows of a savage drought that is rocking the region, Della sets out to find a cure for her mother in the magic honey made by a mysterious local woman known as the Bee Lady. 259pgs
LEXILE: 1020L

Tales of the Mighty Code Talkers (Volume 1)
By: Arigon Starr (2016)
Based on the true stories of the Native American Code Talkers, this incredible graphic novel features nine original stories by Native American artists and writers documenting the heroic tales of Code Talkers from World War I through Korea. 108pgs
LEXILE: NA

Sylvia & Aki
By: Winifred Conkling (2013)
Young Sylvia Mendez never expected to be at the center of a landmark legal battle, and young Aki Munemitsu never expected to be sent away from her home and her life as she knew it. The two girls definitely never expected to know each other, until their lives intersected on a Southern California farm in a way that changed the country forever. 151pgs
LEXILE: 760L

The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba’s Struggle
By: Margarita Engle (2008)
Free verse poetry written in clear, short lines make up this fascinating book about the Cuban struggle for independence from Spain. Engle is Cuban-American and includes stories from her grandmother that describe those who fought for freedom. 169pgs
LEXILE: NA

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LEXILE: NA

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LEXILE: 760L
nonfiction: BOOK LIST

7-8th GRADE
**Chasing Lincoln’s Killer**  
By: James Swanson (2009)  
This book provides an hour-by-hour recount of the twelve-day chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia to find John Wilkes Booth, the man who assassinated Abraham Lincoln.  
208pgs  
LEXILE: 1060L

**Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter**  
By: Adeline Yen Mah (2010)  
Adeline’s affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her, and life does not get any easier when her father remarries. Adeline and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her step-siblings are spoiled.  
240pgs  
LEXILE: 960L

**Courage Has No Color**  
By: Tanya Lee Stone (2013)  
In 1940s America, racism and segregation still permeated most aspects of everyday life, even in the military. At Fort Benning, Georgia, First Sergeant Walter Morris knows that for his men to be treated like soldiers, they have to train and act like them. Will the military elite and politicians recognize the potential of these men?  
147pgs  
LEXILE: 1090L

**The Distance Between Us: A Memoir**  
By: Reyna Grande (2013)  
Reyna Grande vividly brings to life her tumultuous early years in this story of a childhood spent torn between two parents and two countries, as her parents make the dangerous trek across the Mexican border to “El Otro Lado” (The Other Side) in pursuit of the American dream.  
336pgs  
LEXILE: 780L

**Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans**  
By: Don Brown (2015)  
Author and illustrator Brown traces the impact and effects of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans from August of 2005 up through 2012, by which time only 80 percent of New Orleans’ residents had returned.  
96pgs  
LEXILE: GN920L

**The Duel: The Parallel Lives of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr**  
By: Judith St. George (2016)  
Highlights similar aspects of the lives of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, and examines how the two war heroes and founding fathers ended up in a duel that cost one of them his life.  
99pgs  
LEXILE: 1040L

**The Diary of a Young Girl**  
By: Anne Frank (1947)  
Anne Frank is one of the most discussed Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Her diary documenting her life in hiding during the German occupation of the Netherlands in World War II is one of the world’s most widely known books.  
280pgs  
LEXILE: 1020L

**Eleanor Roosevelt: Fighter for Justice**  
By: Ilene Cooper (2019)  
This book provides a biography of the civil rights work of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and discusses her wealthy childhood and how over the years she became an icon and voice for the underrepresented and voiceless.  
189pgs  
LEXILE: 1120L
Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race
By: Margot Lee Shetterly (2018)
A picture book profiling four African-American women mathematicians—Katherine, Dorothy, Mary, and Christine—who were hired by NASA to do the math work that would help the U.S. send the first astronauts into space. 40pgs
LEXILE: 960L

The Electric War: Edison, Tesla, Westinghouse, and the Race to Light the World
By: Mike Winchell (2019)
The text examines the relationship and rivalry among Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse, and Nikola Tesla to invent the most efficient way to provide artificial lighting using electricity in the nineteenth century. 260pgs
LEXILE: NA

The Invincible Summer of Juniper Jones
By: Daven McQueen (2020)
It’s the summer of 1955. Ethan Harper, a biracial kid raised mostly by his white father, is sent to live with his grandparents in Alabama for the summer. His eyes are finally opened to the conversation of race. 312pgs
LEXILE: NA

Freed from Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott
By: Russell Freedman (2006)
This nonfiction tells the story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. 114pgs
LEXILE: 870L

The Great War: Stories Inspired by Items from the First World War
By: David Almond (2015)
Each short story in this riveting collection by acclaimed authors is inspired by an artifact from WWI. The objects themselves, such as a butter dish, compass, and school magazine, appear mundane until one begins to realize that each item serves as an entry point into the unique experiences of those who lived through the war. 289pgs
LEXILE: 820L

Headstrong: 52 Women Who Changed Science—and the World
By: Rachel Swaby (2015)
A powerful, global, and engaging response, covering Nobel Prize winners and major innovators as well as lesser-known but hugely significant scientists who influence our every day life. 273pgs
LEXILE: NA

March (3-Book Series)
By: John Lewis (2016)
Using a graphic novel format featuring illustrations by Nate Powell, author Lewis presents a stunning, engaging autobiography that details key moments in his long, busy life. The first of a trilogy, this title chronicles the era from Lewis’ childhood through his involvement in the civil rights movement. 121pgs
LEXILE: GN760L
Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass: An American Slave
By: Fredrick Douglass (1845)
This autobiography recounts the life and experiences of slaves in America. 158pgs
LEXILE: NA 📚 📚 📚

A Night to Remember
By: Walter Lord (1955)
The book depicts the sinking of the RMS Titanic in 1912, as told by the 63 survivors interviewed by Lord. This book gives minute-by-minute descriptions of the sinking and the actions of the passengers on board as they faced death or rescue. 175pgs
LEXILE: 950L 📚 📚

No Better Friend
By: Robert Weintraub (2018)
Explores the true story of Frank Williams, an Air Force technician, and Judy, a purebred Pointer, who met in a Prisoner of War camp during World War II. Frank and Judy bonded together to survive and inspire fellow prisoners in the camp. 296pgs
LEXILE: 1030L 📚

Older Than Dirt: A Wild but True History of Earth
By: Don Brown (2017)
Almost 14.5 billion years ago, it all started with a BIG BANG and what began as a cloud of gas, dust, and rock, eventually took shape and bloomed into a molten sphere; battered by asteroid collisions, ice ages, and shifting tectonic plates, our fledgling planet finally pushed forth continents. 112pgs
LEXILE: GN730L 📚 📚

The Other Wes Moore
By: Wes Moore (2011)
Wes Moore discusses how he met and interviewed another man also named Wes Moore who followed a very different and destructive life than his own. Moore outlines the life decisions that led each of them in different directions and provides black-and-white photographs. 250pgs
LEXILE: 990L 📚 📚

Parkland Speaks
By: Sarah Lerner (2019)
Presents a collection of written and visual works created by the survivors of the Valentine’s Day shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018. Works range from poems and eyewitness accounts to drawings and photographs. 208pgs
LEXILE: 940L

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science
By: John Fleischman (2015)
A railroad construction foreman, Phineas, was blasting rock near Cavendish, Vermont, in 1848 when a thirteen-pound iron rod was shot through his brain; miraculously, he survived another eleven years and became a textbook case in brain science. 86pgs
LEXILE: 1030L 📚

Story Painter: The Life of Jacob Lawrence
By: John Duggleby (1998)
The paintings of Jacob Lawrence tell stories: stories of enslavement and freedom, of human migration and renaissance, and struggle and triumph. A collection of these stunning paintings provides the backdrop for this exceptional biography. 55pgs
LEXILE: 950L 📚
Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina
By: Michaela DePrine (2016)

The autobiography of Michaela DePrine, who lived the first few years of her life in war-torn Sierra Leone until being adopted by an American family. Now seventeen, she is one of the premiere ballerinas in the United States. 249pgs

LEXILE: 940L

Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World
By: Sy Montgomery (2014)

Enhanced with personal photographs, this powerful biography examines the extraordinary life of Temple Grandin. Diagnosed with autism as a toddler, Temple grew up realizing she was very different and became an example of the unique differences people with Autism can make. 148pgs

LEXILE: 960L

Ten Days a Madwoman
By: Deborah Noyes (2016)

In an era when women journalists were typically assigned stories about household duties, Nellie Bly was a pioneer of investigative journalism. This is the compelling true story of how one dedicated journalist admitted herself to an asylum to write a groundbreaking exposé. 136pgs

LEXILE: 1210L

They Called Us Enemy
By: George Takei (2019)

Actor, author, and activist George Takei recounts his childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps for Japanese Americans during World War II and the impact the experience had on his later life. 204pgs

LEXILE: GN680L

This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How To Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work
By: Tiffany Jewell (2020)

Offers young people twenty illustrated lessons with activities for standing up to racism. 160pgs

LEXILE: NA

Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers
By: Deborah Heiligman (2019)

The deep and enduring friendship between Vincent and Theo Van Gogh shaped both brothers’ lives. Confidant, champion, sympathizer, friend-Theo supported Vincent as he struggled to find his path in life. 454pgs

LEXILE: 900L

We Are Displaced
By: Malala Yousafzai (2019)

Malala’s experiences visiting refugee camps caused her to reconsider her own displacement — first as an Internally Displaced Person when she was a young child in Pakistan, and then as an international activist who could travel anywhere in the world except to the home she loved. 224pgs

LEXILE: NA

We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices
By: Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson (2019)

Presents a collection of inspirational works created by fifty diverse authors and artists intended to encourage young activists to keep fighting for human rights. 87pgs

LEXILE: 850L
We’ve Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children’s March
By: Cynthia Levinson (2012)
We’ve Got a Job tells the little-known story of the 4,000 black elementary, middle, and high school students who voluntarily went to jail in May of 1963. The children succeeded in desegregating one of the most racially violent cities in America. 176pgs
LEXILE: 1020L

Witches!
By: Rosalyn Scherzer (2011)
Read as the riveting, true story unfolds of the victims, crooked officials, and mass hysteria that turned a mysterious illness affecting two children into a witch hunt. Not only did it take over a dozen people’s lives, but it also ruined hundreds more. 144pgs
LEXILE: NC1190L

A Year Without Mom
By: Dasha Tolstikova (2015)
This story follows 12-year-old Dasha through a year of turmoil after her mother leaves for America. Set in the early 1990s in Moscow, and political change is in the air, but Dasha is more worried about facing her own challenges without her mother. 176pgs
LEXILE: 690L

A Young People’s History of the United States
By: Howard Zinn (2009)
Historian Howard Zinn presents a unique history of the United States for young people combining his 2007 edition in two volumes, reminding students that “America’s true greatness is shaped by our dissident voices, not our military generals.” 448pgs
LEXILE: 1020L
appendix a
THEMES & PAIRINGS
# MAIN THEME: Coming of Age Stories

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANCHOR TEXT</th>
<th>FICTION PAIRINGS</th>
<th>NONFICTION PAIRINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Countdown: Sixties Trilogy</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: Deborah Wiles&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: 800L</td>
<td><strong>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: Mark Twain&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: 920L</td>
<td><strong>A Year Without Mom</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: Dasha Tolstikova&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: 690L</td>
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<td>377pgs</td>
<td>168pgs</td>
<td>1876</td>
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<td><strong>My Dog Skip</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: Willie Morris&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: 1380L</td>
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<td><strong>Rick</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: Alex Gino&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: 780L</td>
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<td><strong>Star-Crossed</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: Barbara Dee&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: 640L</td>
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# MAIN THEME: Survival

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<tr>
<td><strong>A Night to Remember</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: Walter Lord&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: 950L</td>
<td><strong>The Great Wide Sea</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: M.H. Herlong&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: 660L</td>
<td><strong>Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Below the Chilean Desert</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: Marc Aronson&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: 1070L</td>
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<tr>
<td>175pgs</td>
<td>283pgs</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<td><strong>Hatchet</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: Gary Paulsen&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: 1020L</td>
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# MAIN THEME: Code Talkers

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<tr>
<td><strong>Tales of the Mighty Code Talkers (Volume 1)</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: Arrigon Starr&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: NA</td>
<td><strong>Code Talkers</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: Joseph Bruchac&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: 910L</td>
<td><strong>Can You Crack the Code?</strong>&lt;br&gt;By: Ella Schwartz&lt;br&gt;LEXILE: NA</td>
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<td>108pgs</td>
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*Equipped Book List text*
## MAIN THEME: Holocaust Stories

### ANCHOR TEXT
- **The Diary of a Young Girl**
  - By: Anne Frank
  - LEXILE: 1020L | 280pgs | 1947

### FICTION PAIRINGS
- **Maus 1: A Survivor’s Tale**
  - By: Art Spiegelman
  - LEXILE: NA | 159pgs | 1986

### NONFICTION PAIRINGS
- **The Boy on the Wooden Box**
  - By: Leon Leyson
  - LEXILE: 1000L | 240pgs | 2013

- **Four Perfect Pebbles: A Holocaust Story**
  - By: Marion Blumenthal Lazan and Lila Perl
  - LEXILE: 1080L | 160pgs | 1996

- **Hidden Like Anne Frank**
  - By: Marcel Prins Pete and Henk Streenhuis
  - LEXILE: 790L | 240pgs | 2014

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## MAIN THEME: Moving Beyond Your Circumstances

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<td><strong>Lucky Broken Girl</strong></td>
<td>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</td>
<td>Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass: An American Slave*</td>
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<tr>
<td>By: Ruth Behar</td>
<td>By: Sherman Alexie</td>
<td>By: Fredrick Douglass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEXILE: 670L</td>
<td>256pgs</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Piecing Me Together</td>
<td>Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina*</td>
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<td>By: Renee Watson</td>
<td>By: Michaela DePrine</td>
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## MAIN THEME: Choosing Sides

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<tr>
<td><strong>A Light in the Forest</strong></td>
<td>Just a Drop of Water</td>
<td>The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*</td>
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<tr>
<td>By: Conrad Richter</td>
<td>By: Kerry O'Malley Cerra</td>
<td>By: Wes Moore</td>
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<td>LEXILE: 870L</td>
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<td>The Lines We Cross</td>
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<td>By: Randa Abdel-Fattah</td>
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<td>LEXILE: HL690L</td>
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<td>The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano</td>
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<td></td>
<td>By: Sonia Manzano</td>
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<td>LEXILE: 720L</td>
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<td>The Rock and the River</td>
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<td></td>
<td>By: Kekla Magoon</td>
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<td>The Stars Beneath Our Feet</td>
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<td></td>
<td>By: David Barclay Moor</td>
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<td>LEXILE: 650L</td>
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<td>Stella by Starlight</td>
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<td>By: Sharon M. Draper</td>
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### MAIN THEME: What is Justice

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<td><strong>Monster</strong></td>
<td><strong>Eleanor Roosevelt: Fighter for Justice</strong>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>By: Walter Dean Myers</td>
<td>By: Ben Mikaelson</td>
<td>By: Ilene Cooper</td>
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<tr>
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<td>256 pgs</td>
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<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> Connects to Mississippi Exemplar Units and Lessons: <strong>English Language Arts-Grade 7</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Touching Spirit Bear</strong> By: Ben Mikaelson</td>
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### MAIN THEME: Far From Home

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<td><strong>A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story</strong></td>
<td><strong>They Called Us Enemy</strong>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>By: Linda Sue Park</td>
<td>By: George Takei</td>
<td>By: Malala Yousafzai</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEXILE: 720L</td>
<td>121 pgs</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LEXILE: GN680L</td>
<td>204 pgs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Refugee</strong> *</td>
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<td>LEXILE: 800L</td>
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<td><strong>Someday We Will Fly</strong> *</td>
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<tr>
<td>By: Rachel Dewoskin</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEXILE: 800L</td>
<td>352 pgs</td>
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*Equipped Book List text*
appendix b
NOVEL STUDY CHECKLIST
CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE NOVEL STUDY CHECKLIST

The following checklist will ensure that the proposed novel studies reflect a more culturally responsive nature as well as lead to more student-centered learning. Teachers will use the form to include the elements of the unit/lesson plan that support the indicators.

SUMMARY

1. Incorporating culturally-responsive novels and supportive learning materials

   Building strong personal voice in various diverse characteristics through novel selection

   Building strong personal voice in various diverse characteristics through high-quality learning materials that support the novel study

   Valuing various diverse characteristics habitually through novel studies, rather than on special occasions

2. Developing student-centered learning by using a system of collaboration and communication

   Consistently combining individual and group efforts and accountability for task performance

   Creating classroom climates and opportunities for collaborative composing, revising, and editing tasks

   Using a system of peer response to encourage high-quality learning
### Utilizing cross-curricular topics to build on student learning

- Using topics or subjects that connect across the grade-level curriculum
- Connecting novels and supportive learning materials to enhance students’ learning experience
- Analyzing how other diverse characteristics connect to other curriculum topics outside the novel study

### Elements of the Unit/Lesson Plan

List all resources that will be used for the novel study:
appendix c
READING ASSIGNMENT APPROVAL FORMS
READING ASSIGNMENT
BOOK APPROVAL LETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As part of the ______________________________ [school name] __________________________ [class], each student is expected to read a novel related to __________________________ [curriculum unit] from a list of pre-approved titles. They are responsible for reading the book and completing a series of assignments related to it for ____________________ [time period], which includes __________________________ [types of assignments/assessments].

☐ **Teacher Assigned Book:** The primary objective of this assignment is to allow students to choose and read books that interest them that connect to the curriculum unit. We want your student to feel as though he or she is reading material that is interesting to him or her but is also challenging. However, because each parent/guardian feels differently about what is appropriate for their own child, __________________________ [school name] requires all students to have their book approved first by you. Please see the attached document for a brief summary of each novel.

☐ **Student Selected Book (from a list of pre-approved titles):** The primary objective of this assignment is to allow students to exercise choice and read books that interest them while connecting to the curriculum unit. We want your student to feel as though he or she is reading material that is interesting to him or her but is also challenging. However, because each parent/guardian feels differently about what is appropriate for their own child, __________________________ [school name] requires all students to have their book approved first by you. Please see the attached document for a brief summary of each novel.

When you are approving your student’s reading, please look it over to ensure that you feel the content of the novel is appropriate for your student. If you have objections, have your student choose another book; if the book was assigned, discuss the title with the teacher. Please have a discussion with your student about what types of books and topics you feel are appropriate and instruct them not to select books that contain topics or language that you would not want them to read. Once you have approved the book, please sign the attached book approval form.

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact __________________________ [teacher’s name] at __________________________ [teacher’s contact information].
READING ASSIGNMENT
BOOK APPROVAL FORM

Student Name

Book Title

Author
Number of Pages: ______

I, ________________________________________________________, am aware that my child will be reading the above named book in connection with the curriculum unit during this nine weeks. I understand that this book was

☐ assigned by the teacher and that by signing this form, I give my student permission to read this book. I understand I am approving the content of this book, and the teacher will approve the book for level appropriateness.

☐ selected by my child and that by signing this form, I give my student permission to read this book. I understand I am approving the content of this book, and the teacher will approve the book for level appropriateness.

____________________________________  ______________________
Parent/Guardian Signature  Date

____________________________________  ______________________
Teacher Signature  Approval Date
appendix d
EVALUATION TOOLS
EQUITY BOOK LIST EVALUATION

This evaluation tool will help teachers and librarians with their final selections for diversity, equity, and inclusion books for instruction and for student-choice reading.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOOK TITLE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUTHOR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADE LEVEL</td>
<td>THEME/TOPIC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Rate the book on its publication date.
   Use the scale below.
   - 1: 40 years or older
   - 2: 30-39 years old
   - 3: 20-29 years old
   - 4: 10-19 years old
   - 5: 10 years or newer

2. Rate the book based on the appropriateness of the Lexile Level.
   Use the scale below.
   - 1: Too easy/hard to read for grade level
   - 2: Below grade level
   - 3: At grade level
   - 4: Above grade level

3. Rate the book based on the additional factors.
   Use the scale below.
   - Additional factors: Award Winner, Bilingual Format, Graphic Novel Format, and Digital Format
   - 1: One additional factor
   - 2: Two additional factors
   - 3: Three additional factors
   - 4: Four additional factors
The book celebrates diverse characters and/or written by an author of color.
Use the scale below.

1: Not diverse in terms of cultural, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability OR contains diversity but includes harmful stereotypes, generalizations, not-authentic stories, or discriminatory content about a group of people.
2: Contains some diversity but may misrepresent or generalize a group of people.
3: Explores diversity in an authentic and relevant way.
4: Truly explores and celebrates the diversity.

The book is directly connected to English Language Arts MS College- and Career-Readiness (MS CCR) Standards.
Use the scale below.

1: Vaguely connected to the English MS CCR standards.
2: Closely connected to at least one English MS CCR standard.
3: Closely connected to multiple English MS CCR standards.

The book is directly connected to other MS CCR Standards.
Use the scale below.

1: Vaguely connected to other MS CCR standards.
2: Closely connected to at least one other MS CCR standard.
3: Closely connected to multiple other MS CCR standards.

Write at least two sentences why the book should be added to the classroom or school libraries and/or to instruction.
**SCHOOL/CLASSROOM LIBRARY COLLECTION**

**DIVERSITY QUESTIONNAIRE**

Use the following questions as a guide to analyze the library collection and determine where there are strengths and where there are gaps in diversity.

1. **The school library contains multiple books that include…**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-human, anthropomorphic main characters (e.g., talking animals, talking trucks, talking vegetables, imaginary or science fiction creatures, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **The school library contains numerous books that include…**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main characters of color or different nationality/ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main characters with different types of gender identity and gender expression</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main characters with disabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **The school library contains numerous books that…**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are written or illustrated by a person of color or of different nationality/ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature a person of color or different nationality/ethnicity on the cover</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature contemporary diverse characters and storylines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feature a range of family structures and family configurations</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are written or illustrated by a person of color or of different nationality/ethnicity</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature contemporary diverse characters and storylines</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### The school library contains numerous books that...

| Feature a range of family structures and family configurations |
| Feature characters with different types of gender identity and gender expression |
| Are set in a different country during the present time |
| Are reflective of my students’ cultures and heritages |
| Explore different socioeconomic backgrounds |
| Explore religious diversity |
| Are set in different geographic settings (urban, rural, suburban) |
| Are written in languages meaningful to my students’ backgrounds or the community in which they live (e.g., Spanish, Chinese, Arabic) |
| Teach about immigration to the United States beyond the Ellis Island-narrative |
| Teach about Black/African-American contributions to the United States beyond the Civil Rights Movement |
| Feature diversity throughout the year, not just in heritage and observance months (e.g., Black History Month, Native American History Month) |

### The majority of books featuring people of color or different nationality/ethnicity people...

| Are only about issues of race, prejudice, or discrimination |
| Are only culturally specific (e.g., flags, food, festivals) |
| Are only culturally neutral or contain incidental diversity |
### The majority of books featuring people of color or different nationality/ethnicity people...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contain harmful stereotypes about a group of people</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contain inaccurate/outdated information about a group of people</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contain generalizations about a group of people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contain misrepresentations of a group of people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contain discriminatory content about a group of people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-authentic stories about a group of people</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### The school library reflects...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The diversity of my students and the community in which we live (e.g., gender, race, family structure, language, culture, socioeconomic background, etc.)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

appendix e

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT STUDENT READING
BOOK INFORMATION AND SUPPORT MATERIALS

- **Lexile: Find a Book** (Grades 5 – 12)  
  https://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search

  Search for books based on Lexile codes, which provides information on the book’s intended usage, or find books that are easy to decode or have a lot of patterning to help beginning readers.

- **Novelist: MAGNOLIA** (Grades 5 – 12)  
  https://magnolia.msstate.edu/


- **Reading is Fundamental Educator Resources** (Grades 5 – 12)  
  https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/educators

  Online support materials aligned to hundreds of children’s book titles and much more.
Beanbright Reading Tracker
(Grades 5 – 12)
https://www.beanbright.com/
Beanbright helps facilitate reading challenges and gain more data on students’ free-choice reading.
EDUCATOR AND SCHOOL LIBRARIAN RESOURCES

A Guide to Using Graphic Novels with Children and Teens (Grades 5 – 12)

Graphic novels are books written and illustrated in the style of a comic book. The format includes text, images, word balloons, sound effects, and panels. This guide will help teachers and school librarians learn how to incorporate graphic novels into classroom and library lesson plans.

Connect Your Students with Books (Grades 5 – 12)
https://lexile.com/educators/tools-to-support-reading-at-school/strategies-support-readers-level/connect-students-books/

Lexile provides information on connecting students with books at the right level of challenge.

Match Fishtank (Grades 5 – 12)
https://www.matchfishtank.org/curriculum/english-language-arts/

Through this site, teachers can explore and draw from full courses or individual units, lessons, or assessments. All the resources support rigorous, standards-driven instruction to support vocabulary, writing, and reading skills.

Lexile by Chapter Guides
(Grades 5 – 12)

Books vary in text complexity, chapters within each book can vary as well. When teaching a book in class, Lexile by Chapter Guides can help better plan instruction.
Lexile PowerV Vocabulary Tool
(Grades 5 – 12)

More than 125,000 books in Find a Book include a vocabulary tool that identifies up to 10 challenging words that are important for students to know.