

Character Based Literacy High School Reading List: Cycle I

Title Author		LEXILE
Quarter 1: Responsibility Requires Action		
<i>The Adventures of Ulysses</i> Bernard Evslin	The mythological wanderings of Odysseus are recounted by the Greek epic poet, Homer. (Circa 550 B.C.) Legend, Poetry English-Language Arts/Vocabulary, English-Language Arts/Writing, History/Social Science 9-12 <i>* Description for The Odyssey</i>	860L
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> John Steinbeck	The hardships faced by migrant agricultural workers who arrived in California during the Great Depression are depicted by this Nobel Prize-winning California author. This edition features an essay by Studs Terkel. Historical Fiction, Realistic Fiction English-Language Arts/Writing, History/Social Science 9-12	680L
<i>Heaven</i> Angela Johnson	When fourteen-year-old Marley discovers her parents are not her natural parents, her previously peaceful world is suddenly not what it seemed to be. This novel is useful for a discussion about adoption.	790L
Quarter 2: Change Requires Effort		
<i>Holes</i> Louis Sachar	Young Stanley Yelnats is sent to a correctional boot camp for a crime he did not commit. Through a series of flashbacks and subplots, the reader solves the puzzle of Camp Green Lake. One of these flashbacks reveals a racially motivated murder. This young adult novel is very useful for studying prediction, foreshadowing, and plot structure. Fiction English-Language Arts/Literary Elements, Mathematics, Science 6-8, 9-12	660L
<i>Nectar in a Sieve</i> Kamala Markandaya	The life of a simple peasant woman in a primitive village in India is told as her entire life becomes a gallant, persistent battle to care for those she loves. Fiction English Language Arts/Writing	900L
<i>A Christmas Carol</i> Charles Dickens	"Bah Humbug!" said Scrooge. With those famous words unfolds a tale that renews the joy and caring that are Christmas. This story reminds us with laughter and tears how the true Christmas spirit comes from giving with love. (book jacket)	900L
Quarter 3: Leadership Requires Engagement		
<i>13 Days</i> Robert F. Kennedy	During the thirteen days in October 1962 when the United States confronted the Soviet Union over its installation of missiles in Cuba, few people shared the behind-the-scenes story as it is told here by the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy. In this unique account, he describes each of the participants during the sometimes hour-to-hour negotiations, with particular attention to the actions and views of his brother, President John F. Kennedy.	NA
<i>Code Talker</i> Joseph Bruchac	Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. But now Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker.	NA
<i>Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl</i> Anne Frank and B.M. Mooyart-Doubleday	Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. By turns thoughtful, moving, and amusing, her account offers a fascinating commentary on human	1080L

	courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.	
Quarter 4: Justice Requires Restraint		
<i>Night</i> Elie Wiesel	This true account relates the author's experiences as a Jewish boy with his family in a Nazi concentration camp. Images and context are powerful and emotionally charged. Biography/Autobiography History/Social Science 9-12	590L
<i>Farewell to Manzanar</i> Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston	Along with 10,000 other Japanese Americans, seven-year-old Jeanne Wakatsuki grew up behind barbed wire, under searchlight towers, and with armed guards. Life in the Japanese internment camps of World War II is portrayed in this balanced, historically accurate account. Biography/Autobiography History/Social Science 6-8, 9-12	1040L
<i>Fallen Angels</i> Walter Dean Myers	Active duty in Vietnam is seen through the eyes of a seventeen-year-old African American private. He and his new buddies experience bonding, battles, grave wounds, and the brutal fact that not all will return home. Language reflects the battlefield setting.	650L
Quarter 5: Courage Requires Fortitude		
<i>Othello</i> William Shakespeare	Othello, a brave and frequently absent Moor general, is tricked by the evil Iago into believing his beloved Desdemona has been unfaithful. Blind jealousy leads Othello on a course of action with tragic results. (Circa 1604.) Drama English-Language Arts/Writing 9-12	1010L
<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> J.K. Rowling	The exciting experiences of Harry Potter are described as he goes from being an ordinary boy to being an unusual student at Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. This story is highly useful as a read-aloud book as well as for independent reading. It is the first book in the series that includes HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS, HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN, and HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE. Fantasy 3-5, 6-8	880L
<i>The House on Mango Street</i> Sandra Cisneros	A young girl living in a Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago ponders her environment and evaluates her relationships with family and friends. Realistic Fiction, Short Story English-Language Arts/Literary Elements 9-12	870L
Quarter 6: Integrity Requires Wholeness		
<i>The Contender</i> Robert Lipsyte	Alfred Brooks is scared. He's a high school dropout and his grocery store job is leading nowhere. His best friend is sinking further and further into drug addiction. So Alfred begins going to Donatelli's Gym, a boxing club in Harlem that has trained champions. There he learns it's the effort, not the win, that makes the man.	760L
<i>The Joy Luck Club</i> Amy Tan	This California author depicts the contrasting world views of women born in China who immigrated to the United States and their American-born daughters. As the story unfolds, the younger characters in the novel discover the importance of preserving their culture. Fiction English-Language Arts/Vocabulary, History/Social Science	930L
<i>Our Town</i> Thornton Wilder	Wilder's masterpiece is the classic play on Americana set in a New England town during the early twentieth century. Through simple dialogue and nostalgic touches, the play magically conveys a profound love story between George Gibbs and Emily Webb set against a rich study of citizens of a small town. Drama 9-12	NA

Character Based Literacy High School Reading List: Cycle II

Title Author		LEXILE
Quarter 1: Responsibility Requires Action		
<i>The Circuit</i> Francisco Jimenez	These 12 poignant short stories about a family of migrant workers in the California fields are based on the author's own experiences. Each story describes the tenacity and courage of a family determined to build on its limited opportunities. California author and setting. Biography/Autobiography, Historical Fiction, Short Story English-Language Arts/Writing, History/Social Science 6-8, 9-12	880L
<i>The Long Valley</i> John Steinbeck	This classic collection, first published in 1938, serves as a wonderful introduction to Steinbeck's work. Set in the beautiful Salinas Valley of California, Where simple people farm the land and struggle to find a place for themselves in the world, these stories reflect Steinbeck's characteristic interests: the tensions between town and country, laborers and owners, past and present. (Book Jacket)	NA
<i>Julius Caesar</i> William Shakespeare	Brutus, best friend of the Roman ruler Caesar, reluctantly joins a successful plot to murder Caesar and subsequently destroys himself. (Circa 1599.) Drama English-Language Arts/Vocabulary, History/Social Science 9-12	770L
Quarter 2: Change Requires Effort		
<i>East Side Dreams</i> Art Rodriguez	Travel with Art Rodriguez as he dreams of his past. He experiences an unpleasant childhood full of difficult obstacles that could have profoundly impaired his chance for a normal life. This story is an encouragement to both young and old as Art leaves his delinquent life behind and moves into a promising future. (Book Jacket)	NA
<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> Zora Neale Hurston	Told in rich dialect, this story describes an African American woman's search for a fulfilling relationship through two loveless marriages. She finally finds an ideal match with Tea Cake, an itinerant laborer and gambler. This book was published for an adult readership and thus contains mature content. Before handing the text to a child, educators and parents should read the book and know the child. Fiction English-Language Arts/Vocabulary 9-12	1080L
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> Harper Lee	Prejudice and class distinction emerge as enemies of justice and truth as eight-year-old "Scout" Finch tells of life in a small Alabama town where her father is a lawyer. Fiction, English-Language Arts/Writing, History/Social Science	870L
Quarter 3: Leadership Requires Engagement		
<i>The Jungle</i> Upton Sinclair	The Jungle by Upton Sinclair is a novel that unveils the corruption and bad practices of the meatpacking industry during the early 20th century.	1170L
<i>Bread Givers</i> Anzia Yezierska	This masterwork of American immigrant literature is set in the 1920s on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and tells the story of Sara Smolinsky, the youngest daughter of an Orthodox rabbi, who rebels against her father's rigid conception of Jewish womanhood. Sarah's struggle towards independence and self-fulfillment resonates with a passion all can share.	NA
<i>The Art of Keeping Cool</i> Janet Taylor Lisle	Fear permeates the Rhode Island coastal town where Robert, his mother, and sister are living out the war with his paternal grandparents: Fear of Nazi submarines offshore. Fear of Abel Hoffman, a German artist living reclusively outside of town. And for Robert, a more personal fear, of his hot-tempered, controlling grandfather. Will Elliot's ability to detach himself from the turmoil around him be enough to sustain him when prejudice and suspicions erupt into violence? And can Robert find his own way to deal with the shocking truth about his family's past?	730L

Quarter 4: Justice Requires Restraint

<p><i>The Good Earth</i> Pearl S. Buck</p>	<p><i>The Good Earth</i> follows the life of Wang Lung, a Chinese man who rises from a peasant farmer, struggling for a living, to become the head of the powerful House of Wang. Pearl Buck's life in rural China gave her vast insight into the minds of Chinese peasants. Buck's writing can also be viewed as depicting not just a Chinese farmer, but a "universal farmer," one who knows that his riches and security come from the good earth its History/Social Science 9-12</p>	<p>1530L</p>
<p><i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> Lorraine Hansberry</p>	<p>This play tells the story of the Younger family; and touches on issues they face in their lives: generational clashes, the civil rights, and the women's movement. The setting is a one bed room apartment where five Youngers live and have occupied for generation. Are they destined to remain in this apartment for more generations to come or will they one day have a piece of land to call home? Recommended Literature 1990, Drama 9-12</p>	<p>NA</p>

<p><i>Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963</i> Christopher Paul Curtis</p>	<p>This story follows the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, as they travel south to visit their grandmother in Alabama. There they are confronted with the 1963 bombing of black churches. The book combines humorous characterization with important history. This selection is useful for fifth- and eighth-grade history studies. Historical Fiction History/Social Science 3-5, 6-8</p>	<p>1000L</p>
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Quarter 5: Courage Requires Fortitude

<p><i>Parrot in the Oven</i> Victor Martinez</p>	<p>Manny, fourteen years old, is confronted with an alcoholic father, friends involved in gangs, and a rough neighborhood. Manny struggles to make the right choices and to somehow belong. The novel contains mature and graphic situations. California author. Realistic Fiction English-Language Arts/Vocabulary 3-5, 6-8</p>	<p>1000L</p>
<p><i>Under the Blood Red Sun</i> Graham Salisbury</p>	<p>This novel depicts 1941 Hawaii through the eyes of a thirteen-year-old Japanese American boy, Tomi Nakaji, as he struggles with the racism, violence, and hardship that arise when his father and grandfather are wrongfully arrested after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The language used in the book and the emotional intensity of the story aptly reflect the theme and setting. Historical Fiction History/Social Science 3-5, 6-8</p>	<p>640L</p>
<p><i>The Hobbit</i> J.R.R. Tolkien</p>	<p>In the land of Middle Earth - inhabited by dwarves, elves, goblins, dragons, and humans - Bilbo Baggins, the hobbit, encounters many adventures when he is persuaded to join a band of dwarves on an expedition to recover a stolen treasure hidden by a thieving dragon. See other titles by this author. Fantasy 6-8</p>	<p>1000L</p>

Quarter 6: Integrity Requires Wholeness

<p><i>Dragonwings</i> Lawrence Yep</p>	<p>In 1903 Moonshadow travels from a remote village in China to California to join his father, whom he has never seen. Despite tremendous difficulties and disasters, father and son struggle to build a life in San Francisco, working toward their dream of creating a dragon-like flying machine. California author and setting. Historical Fiction History/Social Science 3-5, 6-8</p>	<p>870L</p>
<p><i>Animal Farm</i> George Orwell</p>	<p>A group of barnyard animals overthrow and chase off their exploitative human masters and set up their own egalitarian society. Everyone willingly works overtime, productivity soars, and for one brief, glorious season, every belly is full. Then pigs, intelligent and power-loving leaders, fall to the temptations of power and form a new dictatorship even more brutal than the former one. Fiction History/Social Science 9-12</p>	<p>1170L</p>
<p><i>An Island Like You</i> Judith Ortiz</p>	<p>Interconnected short stories feature life in Puerto Rico and in a New Jersey neighborhood. The Latino characters indulge in rivalries, a project to bring live theater to the barrio, and other activities. Fiction/Short Story English-Language Arts/Vocabulary, History/Social Science 9-12</p>	<p>NA</p>

Character Based Literacy High School Reading List: Cycle III

Title Author		LEXILE
Quarter 1: Responsibility Requires Action		
<i>Buried Onions</i> Gary Soto	See the barrio life seen through the eyes of a young man desperately seeking a way out. All Eddie wants is to get by, hold down a job, and walk a straight line into the future. But trapped in a city sweltering in grip of poverty, crime, and unfulfilled dreams, Eddie finds his life-day by day, moment by moment-spiraling slowly out of control. (book jacket)	850L
<i>Kindred</i> Octavia Butler	A contemporary Los Angeles woman travels back in time to an Antebellum plantation, where she is assumed to be a slave and discovers the identity of her ancestors. Violent confrontations and emotional intensity are aspects of this novel depicting the political, ethical, and social influences of slavery on both black and white Americans. Fantasy, Fiction, Historical Fiction 9-12	580L
<i>The Pigman</i> Paul Zindel	When sophomores John and Lorraine played a practical joke a few months ago on a stranger named Angelo Pignati they had no idea that they were starting. Virtually overnight, almost against their will, the two befriended the lonely old man. But now Mr. Pignati is dead. (book jacket) 1990 Recommended Literature 9-12	950L
Quarter 2: Change Requires Effort		
<i>The Afterlife</i> Gary Soto	After his murder in the opening chapter, teenaged Chuy tells the story of what it is like for him to be dead, what he observes among the living in his former Fresno neighborhood, and how he alters his ethical choices from those he made while living. Fantasy, English-Language Arts/Literary Elements 9-12	810L
<i>Cannery Row</i> John Steinbeck	The adventures and misadventures of cannery workers living in the run-down waterfront section of Monterey, California, are recounted and exposed. California author. Fiction, English-Language Arts/Writing, History/Social Science 9-12	930L
<i>A Lesson Before Dying</i> Ernest J. Gaines	Two young black men, one condemned to death for a murder and the other a teacher, form a bond in a small Cajun Louisiana community in the late 1940s. Fiction, Historical Fiction English-Language Arts/Writing, History/Social Science 9-12	750L
Quarter 3: Leadership Requires Engagement		
<i>The Golden Compass</i> Philip Pullman	Lyra Belacqua is content to run wild among the scholars of Jodan College, with her daemon familiar always by her side. But the arrival of her fearsome uncle, Lord Asriel, draws her to the heart of a terrible struggle—a struggle born of Gobblers and stolen children, witch clans and armored bears. And as she hurtles toward danger in the cold far North, Lyra never suspects the shocking truth: she alone is destined to win, or to lose, this more-than-mortal battle.	930L
<i>Falling Leaves</i> Adeline Yen Mah	Born in 1937 in a port city a thousand miles north of Shanghai, Adeline Yen Mah was the youngest child of an affluent Chinese family who enjoyed rare privileges during a time of political and cultural upheaval. But wealth and position could not shield Adeline from a childhood of appalling emotional abuse at the hands of a cruel and manipulative Eurasian stepmother. Adeline struggled for independence as she moved from Hong Kong to England and eventually to the United States to become a physician and writer.	950L
<i>Macbeth</i> William Shakespeare	In 1603, James VI of Scotland ascended the English throne, becoming James I of England. London was alive with an interest in all things Scottish, and Shakespeare turned to Scottish history for material. He found a spectacle of violence and stories of traitors advised by witches and wizards, echoing James's belief in a connection between treason and witchcraft. In depicting a man who murders to become king, <i>Macbeth</i> teases us with huge questions. Is Macbeth tempted by	780L

	<p>fate, or by his or his wife's ambition? Why does their success turn to ashes? Like other plays, <i>Macbeth</i> speaks to each generation. Its story was once seen as that of a hero who commits an evil act and pays an enormous price. Recently, it has been applied to nations that overreach themselves and to modern alienation. The line is blurred between Macbeth's evil and his opponents' good, and there are new attitudes toward both witchcraft and gender.</p>	
Quarter 4: Justice Requires Restraint		
<p><i>Friedrich</i> Hans Peter Richter</p>	<p>In chronological episodes a young boy tells about the fate of his Jewish friend, Friedrich, in Nazi Germany. Friedrich's life becomes a torment as his family is destroyed and he himself is forced into hiding, alone and in secrecy. This is an intense and unforgettable story of the persecution of the German Jews. Historical Fiction, K-8, 1988 Recommended Literature</p>	650L
<p><i>Tunes for Bears to Dance To</i> Robert Cormier</p>	<p>After his brother's death, Henry moves with his parents to a new town, where he meets and befriends Mr. Levine, an elderly survivor of the Holocaust who spends his days craving a replica of his childhood village. Enter Mr. Hairston, who holds power over Henry's life. He is a man of glittering promises, but he exacts a terrible price from Henry that involves the boy's friendship with Mr. Levine. (book jacket)</p>	840L
<p><i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i> Alan Paton</p>	<p>In the 1950s, a black South African accused of a crime turns to his minister father and a white attorney for help, but the racial problems of the country prevent justice from being served. Human rights violations in South Africa during apartheid are depicted. Fiction, History, Social Science 9-12</p>	860L
Quarter 5: Courage Requires Fortitude		
<p><i>Children of the River</i> Linda Crew</p>	<p>At thirteen, Sundara fled Cambodia with her aunt's family to escape the Khmer Rouge army, leaving her parents, two siblings and the boy she had loved since childhood behind. Now at seventeen she is trying to fit in at her Oregon high school and be "a good Cambodian girl" at home. A good Cambodian girl never dates; she waits for her family to arrange her marriage to a Cambodian boy. But what about Jonathan, an extraordinary American boy that she is drawn to?</p>	700L
<p><i>Whirligig</i> Paul Fleischman</p>	<p>Brent Bishop discovers the meaning of accountability when his drunken action causes the death of Lea Zamora. As a part of his retribution, Lea's mother asks him to construct, in four geographic corners of the country, four whirligigs resembling Lea. During the process Brent experiences a cleansing transformation. This book addresses controversial issues of interest to many adolescents and includes scenes and language that reflect mature content. Before handing the text to a child, educators and parents should read the book and know the child. California author. Realistic Fiction</p>	760L
<p><i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> C.S. Lewis</p>	<p>The adventurous journey of four English children is traced as they discover the magical land of Narnia behind an old wardrobe. They join the good and powerful lion, Aslan, in a battle against the reign of the evil witch and restore peace. The novel is engaging and imaginative. Further adventures in Narnia may be found in the other six books of The Chronicles of Narnia series. Fantasy 6-8</p>	940L

Quarter 6: Integrity Requires Wholeness

<p><i>I Heard the Owl Call My Name</i> Margaret Craven</p>	<p>Kingcome, a village so ancient that, according to Kwakiut myth, it was founded by the two brothers left after the great flood. It is a place of such incredible natural richness that hunting and fishing remain a primary food source. Kingcome's younger generation is disenchanting and alienated from its heritage. And now, coming upriver is a young vicar, Mark Brian, on a journey of discovery that can teach him-and us- about life, death and the transforming power of love. (book jacket) 1990 Recommended Literature 9-11</p>	<p>1080L</p>
<p><i>The First Part Last</i> Angela Johnson</p>	<p>In this prequel to HEAVEN, sixteen-year-old Bobby struggles between sleep deprivation, school pressures, and an increasing sense of fear as he cares for his infant daughter, Feather. Chapters alternate between life before and after the birth of Feather, effectively capturing Bobby's sometimes conflicting emotions as a young father and revealing why he is raising Feather without her mother. Realistic Fiction English-Language Arts/Literary Elements 9-12</p>	<p>790L</p>
<p><i>Somewhere in the Darkness</i> Dean Myers</p>	<p>Jimmy is fourteen, lives in Harlem and is holding his own in a pretty tough world. But things get tougher when Jimmy's father Crab, shows up. Crab, who disappeared nine years ago, suddenly wants Jimmy to know him. They set off on a trip halfway across the country to visit Crab's old haunts. On this trip Jimmy learns about his father and about himself, finding out that while things can't always be fixed, sometimes they can be understood, and maybe even forgiven. (book jacket)</p>	<p>640L</p>

Character Based Literacy High School Reading List: Cycle IV

Title Author		LEXILE
Quarter 1: Responsibility Requires Action		
<i>The Outsiders</i> S. E. Hinton	Fourteen-year-old Ponyboy is loyal to his brothers and his gang from the wrong side of the tracks. Ponyboy is caught in a turbulent chain of events after his best friend kills a member of a rival gang. Ponyboy's life becomes a nightmare of violence as he struggles to find a place for himself in a difficult world. This novel was written by a teenager who continues to produce popular fiction for young adults.	750L
<i>Breaking Through</i> Francisco Jimenez	Since coming from Mexico to California ten years ago, fourteen-year-old Francisco is still working in the fields, fighting to "break through" to improve his life and complete his education. Social issues of poverty and prejudice in the 1950s are related through his adolescent experiences. Photos are included. Sequel to THE CIRCUIT: STORIES FROM THE LIFE OF A MIGRANT CHILD. California author and setting. Realistic Fiction History/Social Science 9-12	750L
<i>Lord of the Flies</i> William Golding	Stranded on an island when an atomic war destroys the rest of the world, a group of young boys revert to savagery as they struggle to survive. Fantasy, Fiction English-Language Arts/Writing, History/Social Science 9-12	770L
Quarter 2: Change Requires Effort		
<i>Bud, not Buddy</i> Christopher Paul Curtis	Ten-year-old Bud - "not Buddy" - Caldwell is an orphan on the run during the Great Depression. He escapes from an abusive foster home to find the man he believes to be his father. One dilemma after another uncovers a tough character who perseveres and triumphs in his quest. See also THE WATSON'S GO TO BIRMINGHAM-1963. Historical Fiction, Humor, 6-8	950L
<i>Of Mice and Men</i> John Steinbeck	George and Lenny, migrant workers in the Salinas Valley of California during the Great Depression, dream of a time when they will have enough money to buy their own farm. Lenny, a mentally retarded young man, unwittingly commits murder. His friend, George, must determine the most humane way for justice to be done. California author. Fiction, English-Language Arts/Vocabulary, History/Social Science 9-12	630L
<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> Erich Maria Remarque	This novel depicts the experiences of a group of young German soldiers fighting and suffering during the last days of World War I.	830L

Quarter 3: Leadership Requires Engagement

<i>Death Be Not Proud</i> John Gunther	Johnny Gunther was only seventeen years old when he died of a brain tumor. During the months of his illness, everyone near him was unforgettably impressed by his level-headed courage, his wit and quiet friendliness, and, above all, his unfaltering patience through times of despair. This deeply moving book is a father's memoir of a brave, intelligent, and spirited boy.	1060L
<i>The Hunger Games</i> Suzanne Collins	In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games," a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she must represent her district in the Games. The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed.	NA
<i>Dead Man Walking</i> Helen Prejean	In 1982, Sister Helen Prejean became the spiritual advisor to Patrick Sonnier, the convicted killer of two teenagers who was sentenced to die in the electric chair of Louisiana's Angola State Prison. In the months before Sonnier's death, the Roman Catholic nun came to know a man who was as terrified as he had once been terrifying. She also came to know the families of the victims and the men whose job it was to execute—men who often harbored doubts about the rightness of what they were doing.	1140L

Quarter 4: Justice Requires Restraint

<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> William Shakespeare	Two lovers are destroyed by the hatred of their families for one another in this play about prejudice, innocence, and power. (Circa 1595). Drama, English-Language Arts/Writing, Visual and Performing Arts 9-12	NA
<i>Red Scarf Girl</i> Ji Li Jiang	Ji-Li Jiang is a highly-ranked student, exceptional athlete, and avid follower of Chairman Mao's new China until her family's bourgeois background brings persecution and wrecks her educational opportunities and dreams of a successful career. This well-written memoir provides a detailed look at everyday life in 1960s Shanghai and presents a dilemma for readers to ponder. California author. Biography/Autobiography English-Language Arts/Literary Elements, History/Social Science 9-12	780L
<i>Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis</i> Pete Nelson	Recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the Navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later. Written in simple chronological order, it tells a powerful story. Illustrated with photographs. Nonfiction History/Social Science 9-12	1260L

Quarter 5: Courage Requires Fortitude

<i>The Pearl</i> Steinbeck, John	This intriguing story of a poor Mexican pearl diver who finds the largest pearl ever seen is a suspenseful reading experience. Steinbeck weaves an allegorical tale of greed and treachery that overwhelms the major characters. Fiction 9-12	1010L
<i>Hatchet</i> Gary Paulsen	After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian survives 54 days in the wilderness, initially with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother. Brian also learns to survive his parents' divorce. THE RIVER is the sequel; BRIAN'S WINTER is an alternate ending to the story; and BRIAN'S RETURN chronicles what happens three years after Brian's wilderness ordeal. Realistic Fiction 6-8	1020L
<i>Catfish and Mandala: A Two-Wheeled Voyage Through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam</i> Andrew Pham	This autobiographical account tells of a Vietnamese American who feels like an outsider in both America and Vietnam. After his sister commits suicide, Andrew quits his job at United Airlines and sells all his possessions. He takes off on a year-long bicycle journey through the Mexican desert, around a thousand-mile loop in Japan, and finally travels the length of Vietnam. He chronicles his five months in Vietnam searching for his own cultural identity through food, people, and customs. Narrative Nonfiction 9-12	NA

Quarter 6: Integrity Requires Wholeness

<p><i>A Child Called "It": One Child's Courage to Survive</i> David Pelzer</p>	<p>Pelzer writes about his abusive mother who singles him out among his siblings for repeated emotional and physical punishment. This book was published for an adult readership and thus contains mature content. Before handing the text to a child, educators and parents should read the book and know the child. Biography/Autobiography 9-12</p>	<p>850L</p>
<p><i>Child of the Owl</i> Lawrence Yep</p>	<p>The story is set in 1960 in San Francisco's Chinatown. Casey, a Chinese American teen, slowly discovers the value of her Chinese heritage while living with her grandmother. The story examines the effects of Casey's father's gambling addiction on the lives of the other family members. California author and setting. Fiction, Realistic Fiction 6-8</p>	<p>920L</p>
<p><i>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</i> Julia Alvarez</p>	<p>Interrelated stories describe the experiences of the four Garcia sisters before and after their family's exile from the Dominican Republic. The novel is set in New York in the 1960s. Fiction, Short Story History/Social Science 9-12</p>	<p>950L</p>