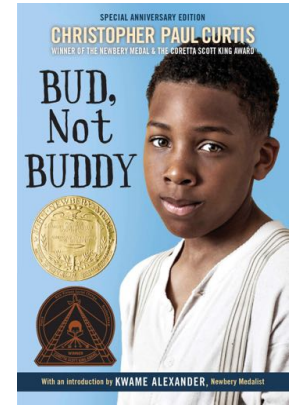


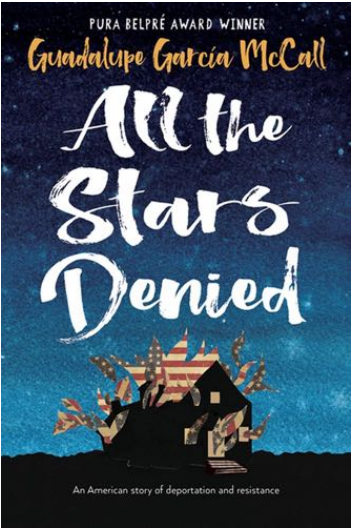
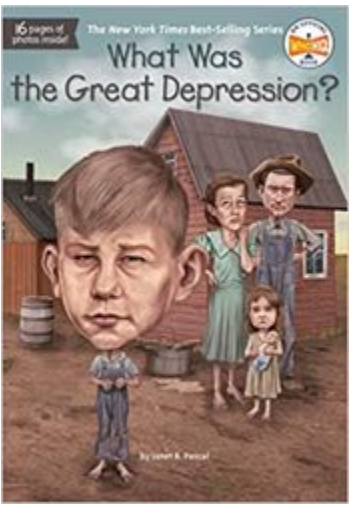
Dear families of incoming sixth graders,

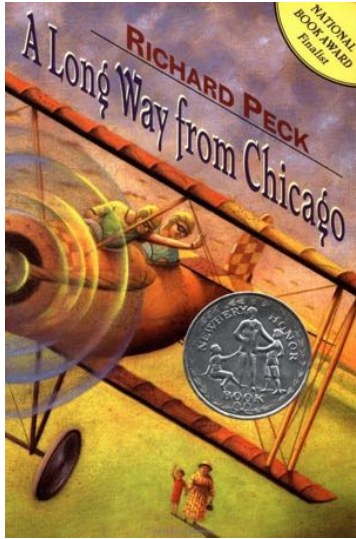
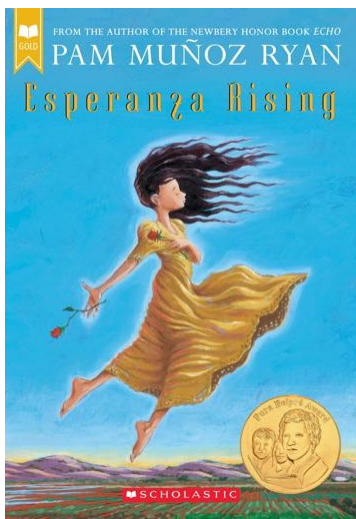
We are so excited to welcome you to middle school next year! As our first unit in the fall we will be reading *Bud, not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis and *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse. Both of these books take place during the Great Depression, a significant era in United States history. For your summer reading, your student has already chosen **two books** from this list of options. Each book is relevant to the Great Depression and will help build your understanding for our first unit. In addition to this book you choose, the best way to prepare for middle school is to continue with your independent reading.

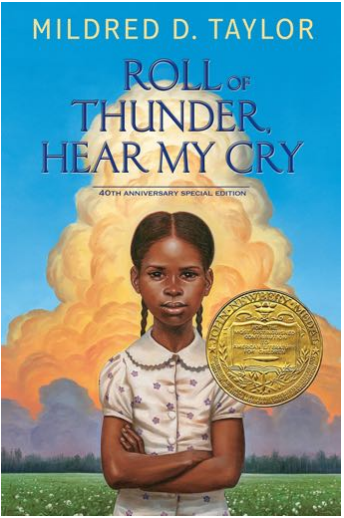
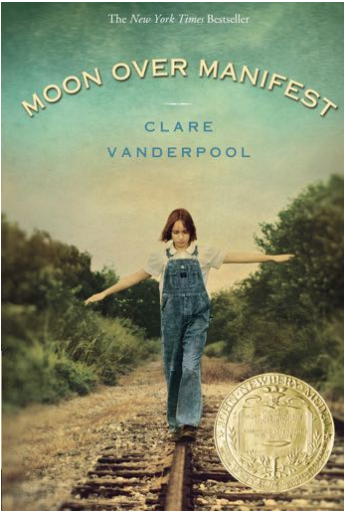
Throughout our first unit in the fall, we will also be asking the question: *How can enduring tremendous hardship contribute to personal transformation?* Earlier this month, students choose their two books. Your students are welcome to choose more than one option!



Book	Author	Image	Genre	Description
<i>The Mighty Miss Malone</i>	Christopher Paul Curtis		Historical Fiction	<p>"We are a family on a journey to a place called wonderful" is the motto of Deza Malone's family. Deza is the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, singled out by teachers for a special path in life. But it's 1936 and the Great Depression has hit Gary hard, and there are no jobs for black men.</p> <p>When her beloved father leaves to find work, Deza, Mother, and her older brother, Jimmie, go in search of him, and end up in a Hooverville outside Flint, Michigan. Jimmie's beautiful voice inspires him to leave the camp to be a performer, while Deza and Mother find a new home, and cling to the hope that they will find Father. The twists and turns of their story reveal the devastation of the Depression and prove that Deza truly is the Mighty Miss Malone.</p>

<p><i>All the Stars Denied</i></p>	<p>Guadalupe Garcia McCall</p>		<p>Historical Fiction</p>	<p>In the heart of the Great Depression, Rancho Las Moras, like everywhere else in Texas, is gripped by the drought of the Dust Bowl, and resentment is building among white farmers against Mexican Americans. All around town, signs go up proclaiming No Dogs or Mexicans and No Mexicans Allowed.</p> <p>When Estrella organizes a protest against the treatment of tejanos in their town of Montesecco, Texas, her whole family becomes a target of repatriation efforts to send Mexicans back to Mexico whether they were ever Mexican citizens or not. Dumped across the border and separated from half her family, Estrella must figure out a way to survive and care for her mother and baby brother. How can she reunite with her father and grandparents and convince her country of birth that she deserves to return home?</p> <p>There are no easy answers in the first YA book to tackle this hidden history. In a companion novel to her critically acclaimed <i>Shame the Stars</i>, Guadalupe Garcia McCall tackles the first mass deportation event that swept up hundreds of thousands of Mexican American citizens during the Great Depression.</p>
<p><i>What was the Great Depression?</i></p>	<p>Janet B. Pascall</p>		<p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>On October 29, 1929, life in the United States took a turn for the worst. The stock market – the system that controls money in America – plunged to a record low. But this event was only the beginning of many bad years to come.</p> <p>By the early 1930s, one out of three people was not working. People lost their jobs, their houses, or both and ended up in shantytowns called “Hooverilles” named for the president at the time of the crash. By 1933, many banks had gone under. Though the U.S. has seen other times of struggle, the Great Depression remains one of the hardest and most widespread tragedies in American history. Now it is represented clearly and with 80 illustrations in our What Was...? series.</p>

<p><i>A Long Way from Chicago</i></p>	<p>Richard Peck</p>		<p>Historical fiction</p>	<p>The book tells the story of Joey and his sister Mary Alice, city children from Chicago who visit their Grandma Dowdel in her sleepy, rural town during eight summers between 1929 to 1942, the years of the Great Depression</p>
<p><i>Esperanza Rising</i></p>	<p>Pam Muñoz Ryan</p>		<p>Historical fiction</p>	<p><i>Esperanza Rising</i> joins the Scholastic Gold line, which features award-winning and beloved novels. Includes exclusive bonus content! Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp.</p> <p>Esperanza isn't ready for the hard work, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances-because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.</p>

<p><i>Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry</i></p>	<p>Mildred D. Taylor</p>		<p>Historical fiction</p>	<p>Winner of the Newbery Medal, this remarkably moving novel has impressed the hearts and minds of millions of readers.</p> <p>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. And it is also Cassie's story—Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, even as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.</p> <p>* "[A] vivid story.... Entirely through its own internal development, the novel shows the rich inner rewards of black pride, love, and independence."—Booklist, starred review</p>
<p><i>Moon over Manifest</i></p>	<p>Clare Vanderpool</p>			<p>Winner of the 2011 Newbery Award.</p> <p>The movement of the train rocked me like a lullaby. I closed my eyes to the dusty countryside and imagined the sign I'd seen only in Gideon's stories: <u>Manifest—A Town with a rich past and a bright future.</u></p> <p>Abilene Tucker feels abandoned. Her father has put her on a train, sending her off to live with an old friend for the summer while he works a railroad job. Armed only with a few possessions and her list of universals, Abilene jumps off the train in Manifest, Kansas, aiming to learn about the boy her father once was. Having heard stories about Manifest, Abilene is disappointed to find that it's just a dried-up, worn-out old town. But her disappointment quickly turns to excitement when she discovers a hidden cigar box full of mementos, including some old letters that mention a spy known as the Rattler. These mysterious letters send Abilene and her new friends, Lettie and Ruthanne, on an honest-to-goodness spy hunt, even though they are warned to "Leave Well Enough Alone."</p> <p>Abilene throws all caution aside when she heads down the mysterious Path to Perdition to pay a debt to the reclusive Miss Sadie, a diviner who only tells stories from the past. It seems that Manifest's history is full of colorful and shadowy characters—and long-held secrets. The more Abilene hears, the more determined she is to learn just what role her father played in that history. And as Manifest's secrets are laid bare one by one, Abilene begins to weave her own story into the fabric of the town.</p> <p>Powerful in its simplicity and rich in historical detail, Clare Vanderpool's debut is a gripping story of loss and redemption.</p>