

Dear families of incoming eighth graders,

We are so excited for next year! As one of your summer reading required texts you will read *The Martian* by Andy Weir in preparation for your first unit in Science.

As your second book your student has chosen one of the following options as a way to build your understanding of our first essential question: *What is the Power of Storytelling?* Each of these options showcase different ways to tell stories in preparation to read *The Crossover*--a story told in verse.

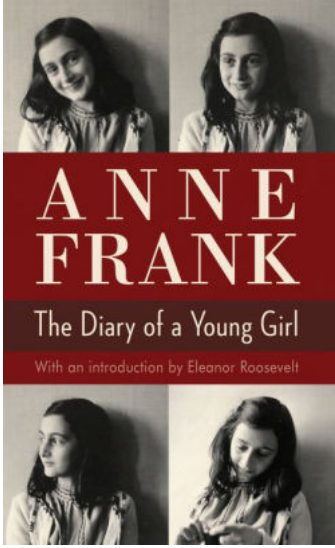
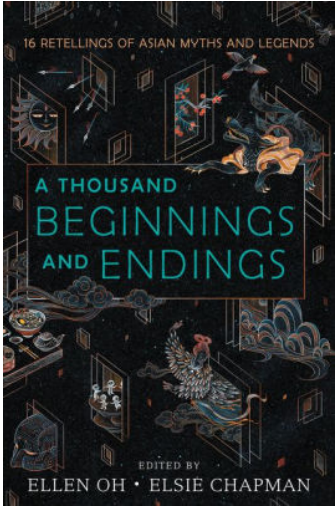
Students are welcome to read more than one option. As always, students should continue with their independent reading!

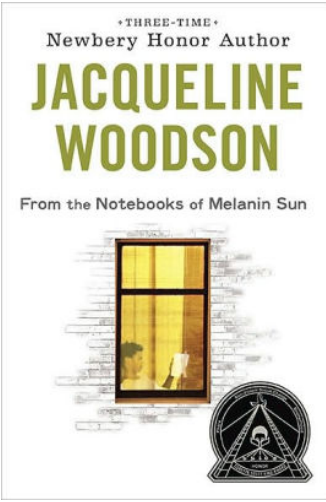
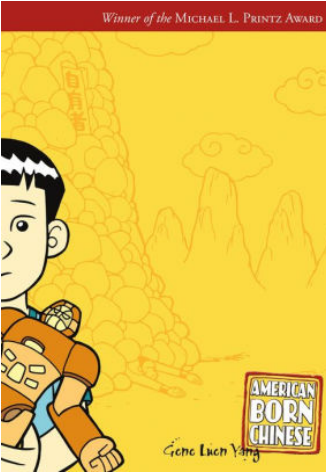
"BOLD! EXPLOSIVE! ... I LOVE THE CROSSOVER EVERYONE WILL!" --NIKE COWAN



Book	Author	Image	Form/G enre	Description
<i>Clap when you Land</i>	Elizabeth Acevedo		Novel in verse	<p>In a novel-in-verse that brims with grief and love, National Book Award-winning and <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author Elizabeth Acevedo writes about the devastation of loss, the difficulty of forgiveness, and the bittersweet bonds that shape our lives.</p> <p>Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people...</p> <p>In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.</p> <p>Separated by distance—and Papi's secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered.</p> <p>And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.</p>

<p><i>Well-Read Black Girl</i></p>	<p>Ed. Gloria Edim</p>		<p>Essays</p>	<p>Remember that moment when you first encountered a character who seemed to be written just for you? That feeling of belonging remains with readers the rest of their lives—but not everyone regularly sees themselves in the pages of a book. In this timely anthology, Gloria Edim brings together original essays by some of our best black women writers to shine a light on how important it is that we all—regardless of gender, race, religion, or ability—have the opportunity to find ourselves in literature.</p> <p>Contributors include Jesmyn Ward (<i>Sing, Unburied, Sing</i>), Lynn Nottage (<i>Sweat</i>), Jacqueline Woodson (<i>Another Brooklyn</i>), Gabourey Sidibe (<i>This Is Just My Face</i>), Morgan Jerkins (<i>This Will Be My Undoing</i>), Tayari Jones (<i>An American Marriage</i>), Rebecca Walker (<i>Black, White and Jewish</i>), and Barbara Smith (<i>Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology</i>)</p> <p>Whether it's learning about the complexities of femalehood from Zora Neale Hurston and Toni Morrison, finding a new type of love in <i>The Color Purple</i>, or using mythology to craft an alternative black future, the subjects of each essay remind us why we turn to books in times of both struggle and relaxation. As she has done with her book club-turned-online community Well-Read Black Girl, in this anthology Gloria Edim has created a space in which black women's writing and knowledge and life experiences are lifted up, to be shared with all readers who value the power of a story to help us understand the world and ourselves.</p>
<p><i>Monster</i></p>	<p>Walter Dean Myers</p>		<p>Screenplay</p>	<p>This <i>New York Times</i> bestselling novel from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives. <i>Monster</i> is a multi-award-winning, provocative coming-of-age story that was the first-ever Michael L. Printz Award recipient, an ALA Best Book, a Coretta Scott King Honor selection, and a National Book Award finalist.</p> <p><i>Monster</i> is now a major motion picture called <i>All Rise</i> and starring Jennifer Hudson, Kelvin Harrison, Jr., Nas, and A\$AP Rocky.</p> <p>The late Walter Dean Myers was a National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, who was known for his commitment to realistically depicting kids from his hometown of Harlem.</p> <p>Share this highly readable novel at home or in the classroom—it's sure to spark debate and conversation. Walter Dean Myers said: "I would like young people to consider what happened to Steve Harmon, as well as why. There were decisions that Steve made and some he clearly should have made, but didn't. As the author, I'll be satisfied if the reader forms his or her own opinion about these decisions and the consequences."</p>

<p><i>Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl</i></p>	<p>Anne Frank</p>		<p>Nonfiction Diary</p>	<p>Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank’s remarkable diary has become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.</p> <p>In 1942, with the Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, the Franks and another family lived cloistered in the “Secret Annexe” of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and surprisingly humorous, her account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.</p>
<p><i>A Thousand Beginnings and Endings</i></p>	<p>Edited by Ellen Oh and Elsie Chapman</p>		<p>Short story</p>	<p>Sixteen extraordinary authors—including <i>New York Times</i> bestsellers Melissa de la Cruz, Renée Ahdieh, and Julie Kagawa—reimagine the folklore and mythology of East and South Asia in short stories that are by turns enchanting, heartbreaking, romantic, and passionate. This exquisite paperback anthology includes an original bonus story from Ellen Oh. In a starred review, <i>Publishers Weekly</i> called <i>A Thousand Beginnings and Endings</i> a “must-read.” This young adult novel is an excellent choice for accelerated tween readers in grades 7 to 8, especially during homeschooling. It’s a fun way to keep your child entertained and engaged while not in the classroom.</p> <p>A mountain loses her heart. Two sisters transform into birds to escape captivity. A young man learns the true meaning of sacrifice. A young woman takes up her mother’s mantle and leads the dead to their final resting place.</p> <p>Bestselling and award-winning authors explore the timeless themes of East and South Asian lore in sixteen original stories that will appeal to every reader. From fantasy to science fiction to contemporary, from romance to tales of revenge, these stories will beguile readers from start to finish. Edited by We Need Diverse Books co-founder Ellen Oh and Elsie Chapman, this anthology contains stories from sixteen Asian and South Asian authors, including <i>New York Times</i> bestsellers and award-winners. In a starred review, <i>Kirkus</i> called it an “incredible anthology that will keep readers on the edges of their seats, wanting more.”</p>

<p><i>From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun</i></p>	<p>Jacqueline Woodson</p>		<p>Fictional diary</p>	<p>Three-time Newbery Honor author Jacqueline Woodson explores race and sexuality through the eyes of a compelling narrator</p> <p>Melanin Sun has a lot to say. But sometimes it's hard to speak his mind, so he fills up notebooks with his thoughts instead. He writes about his mom a lot—they're about as close as they can be, because they have no other family. So when she suddenly tells him she's gay, his world is turned upside down. And if that weren't hard enough for him to accept, her girlfriend is white. Melanin Sun is angry and scared. How can his mom do this to him— is this the end of their closeness? What will his friends think? And can he let her girlfriend be part of their family?</p>
<p><i>American Born Chinese</i></p>	<p>Gene Luen Yang</p>		<p>Graphic novel</p>	<p>Gene Luen Yang was the fifth the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and is a MacArthur Fellow, a recipient of what's popularly known as the MacArthur "Genius" Grant.</p> <p>A tour-de-force by <i>New York Times</i> bestselling graphic novelist Gene Yang, <i>American Born Chinese</i> tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. <i>American Born Chinese</i> is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax.</p> <p><i>American Born Chinese</i> is the winner of the 2007 Michael L. Printz Award, a 2006 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature, the winner of the 2007 Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album: New, an Eisner Award nominee for Best Coloring, a 2007 Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year, and a <i>New York Times</i> bestseller.</p>

