

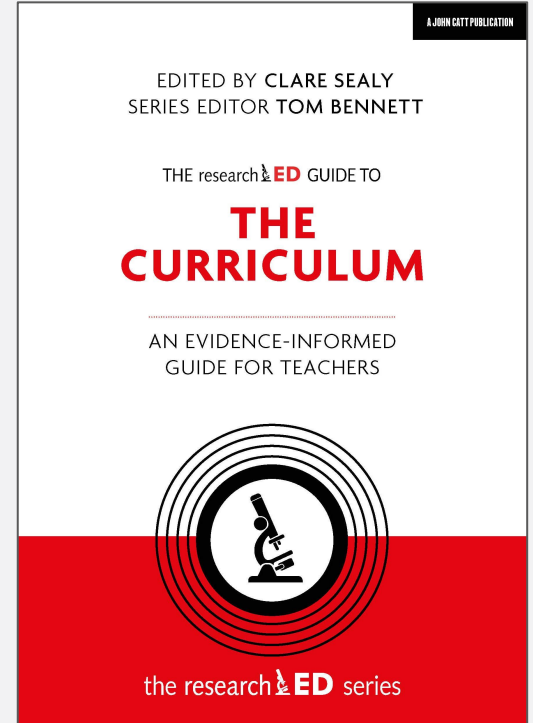


# Middle School ELA

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Curriculum Revisions

“The role of curriculum is to take learners’ shallow knowledge and understanding of a topic and make it deeper. For this to happen, the curriculum needs to be planned carefully so that key ideas and concepts are continuously revisited, remembered and built upon.”



# Explore

Read the summaries of the texts below.

- What similarities and differences do you notice?
- What ideas are “continuously revisited, remembered and built upon” in these texts?

GOLD

From the Newbery Honor author of  
THE MOSTLY TRUE ADVENTURES OF HOMER P. FIGG

**RODMAN PHILBRICK**



# **Freak the Mighty**

SCHOLASTIC

MAX. FREAK. BEST FRIENDS. FOREVER.

"I never had a brain until Freak came along..."

That's what Max thought. All his life he'd been called stupid. Dumb. Slow. It didn't help that his body seemed to be growing faster than his mind. It didn't help that people were afraid of him. So Max learned how to be alone. At least until Freak came along.

Freak was weird, too. He had a little body -- and a really big brain. Together Max and Freak were unstoppable.

Together, they were Freak the Mighty.

“Some novels are engaging and some novels are important. *Refugee* is both.”

—Ruta Sepetys, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Salt to the Sea*

**A L A N G R A T Z**

Author of **PRISONER 8-3087**

Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world.

Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America.

Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe.

Although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.



**REFUGEE**



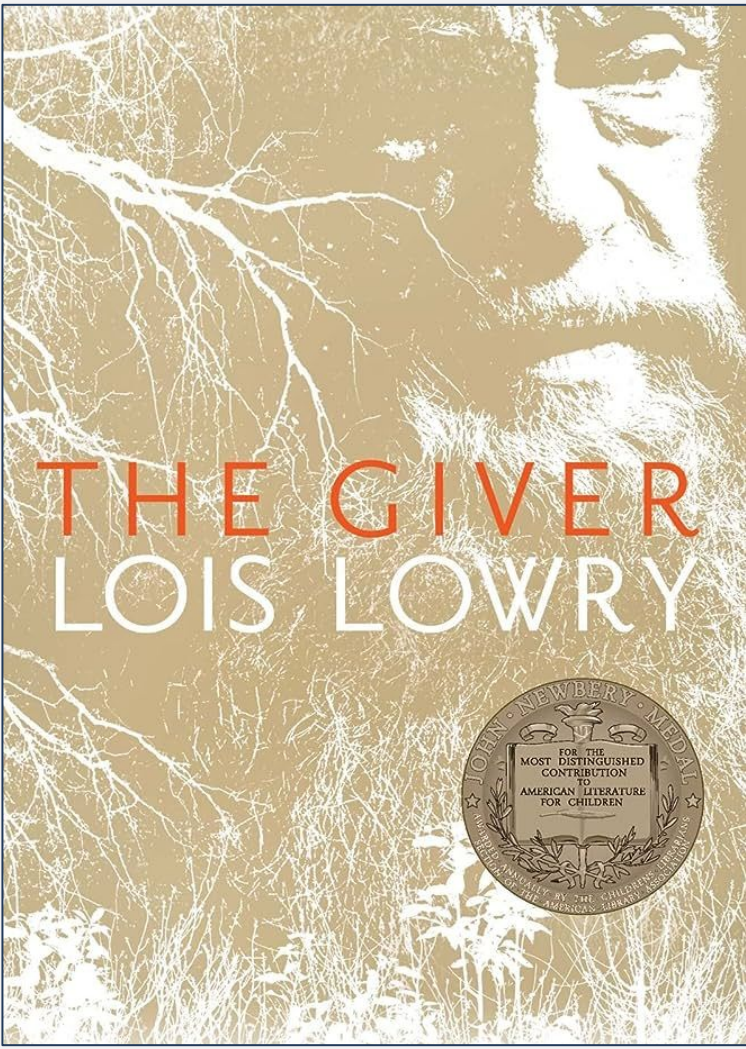
brown girl dreaming

**JACQUELINE  
WOODSON**

Three-time Newbery Honor Author

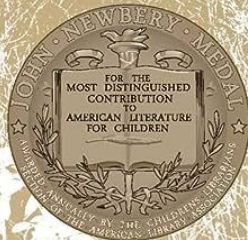
Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.





# THE GIVER

LOIS LOWRY



In a world with no poverty, no crime, no sickness and no unemployment, and where every family is happy, 12-year-old Jonas is chosen to be the community's Receiver of Memories. Under the tutelage of the Elders and an old man known as the Giver, he discovers the disturbing truth about his utopian world and struggles against the weight of its hypocrisy. With echoes of Brave New World, in this 1994 Newbery Medal winner, Lowry examines the idea that people might freely choose to give up their humanity in order to create a more stable society. Gradually Jonas learns just how costly this ordered and pain-free society can be, and boldly decides he cannot pay the price.

# Goals

Build powerful knowledge throughout and between grades

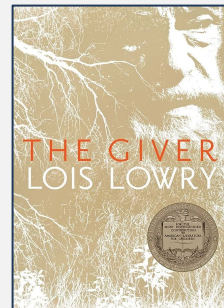
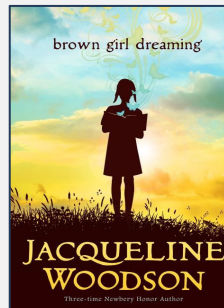
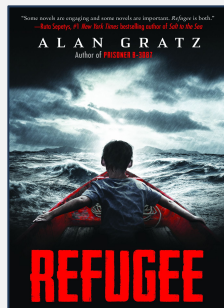
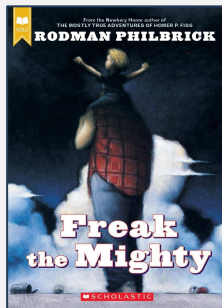
Balance a diversity of perspectives, experiences, and voices

Ensure students study increasingly challenging, grade level texts



# 6th

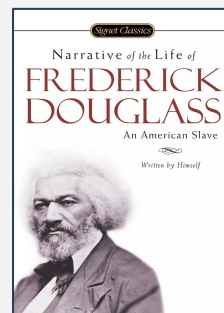
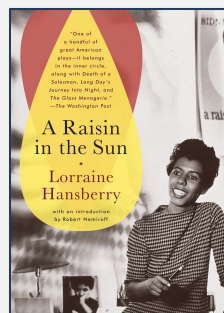
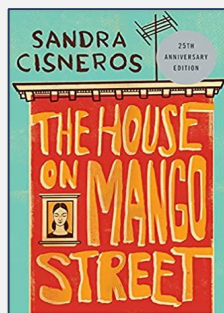
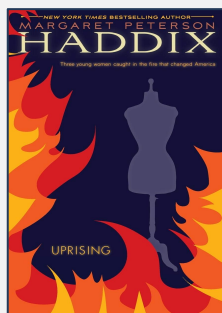
## Coming of Age



Teacher Choice

# 7th

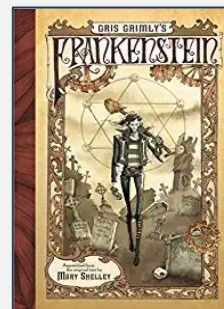
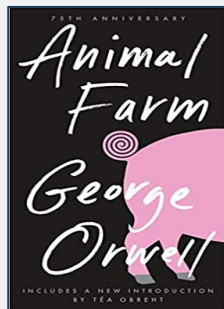
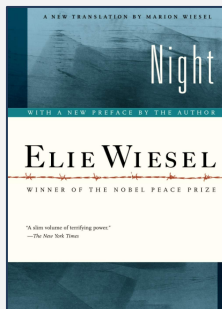
## Defining America



Teacher Choice

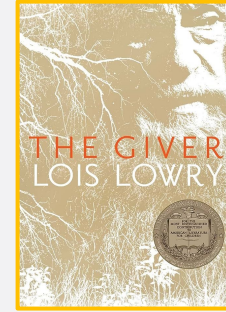
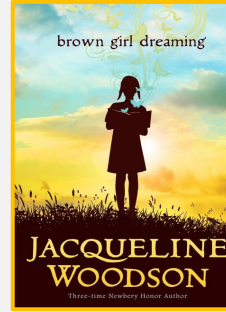
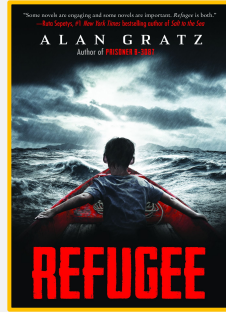
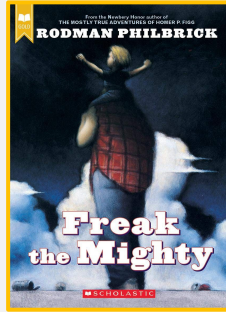
# 8th

## Human Nature



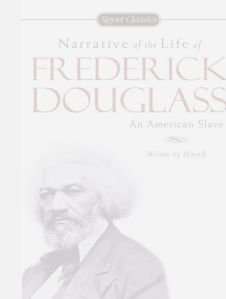
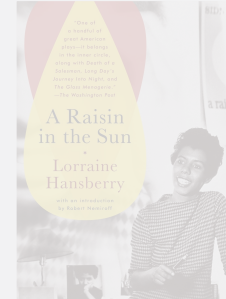
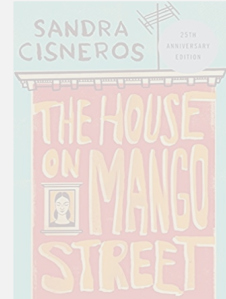
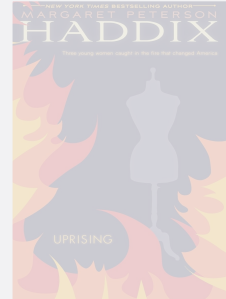
Teacher Choice

**6th**  
Coming  
of Age



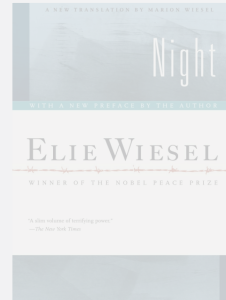
**Teacher  
Choice**

**7th**  
Defining  
America



**Teacher  
Choice**

**8th**  
Human  
Nature



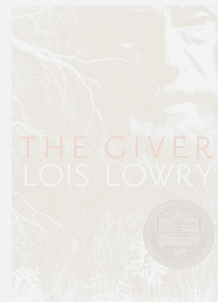
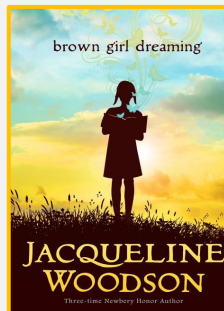
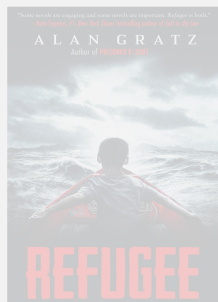
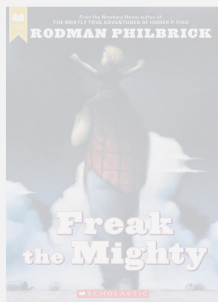
**Science  
Fiction**



**Teacher  
Choice**

# 6th

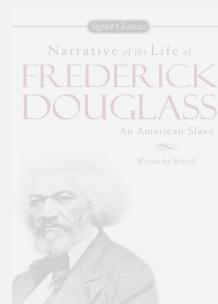
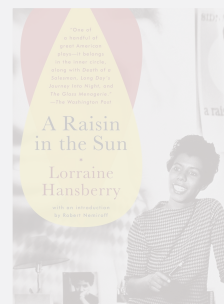
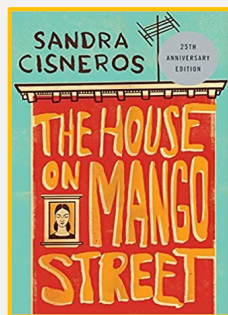
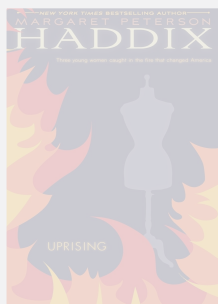
## Coming of Age



Teacher  
Choice

# 7th

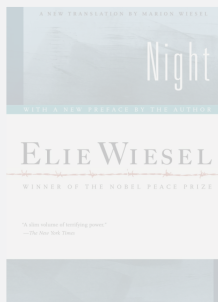
## Defining America



Teacher  
Choice

# 8th

## Human Nature



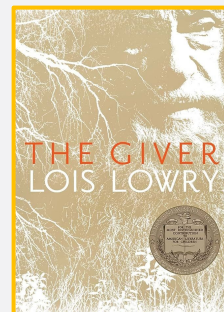
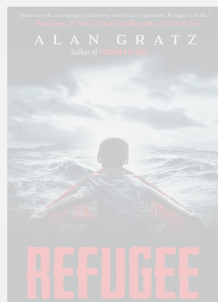
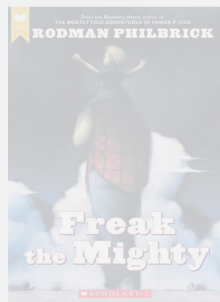
Science  
Fiction



Teacher  
Choice

# 6th

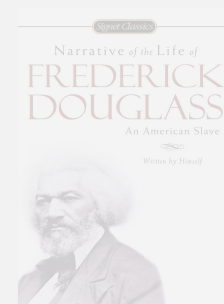
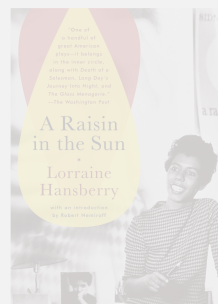
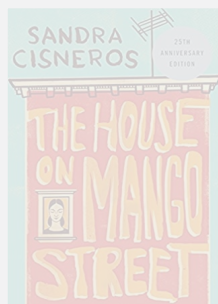
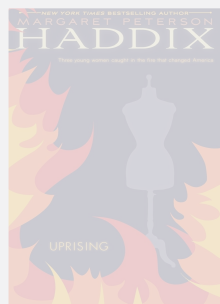
## Coming of Age



Teacher  
Choice

# 7th

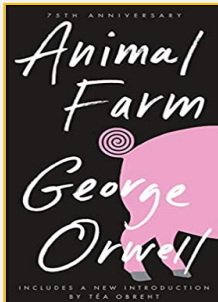
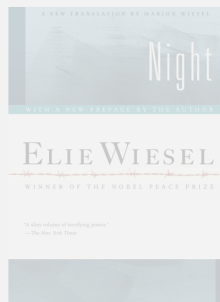
## Defining America



Teacher  
Choice

# 8th

## Human Nature

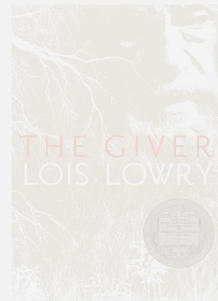
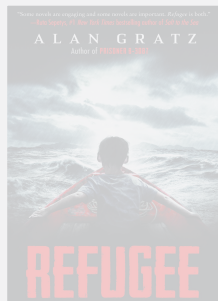
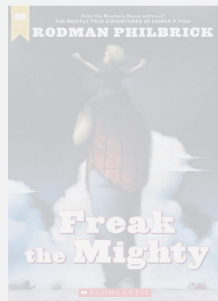


Teacher  
Choice



# 6th

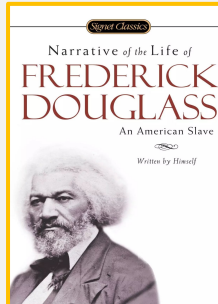
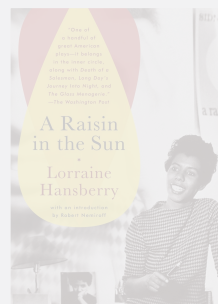
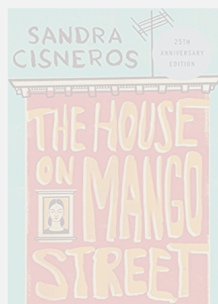
Coming of Age



Teacher Choice

# 7th

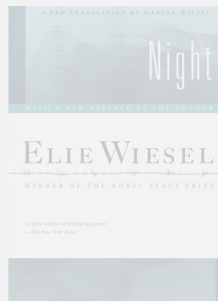
Defining America



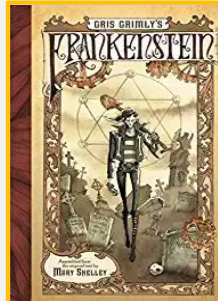
Teacher Choice

# 8th

Human Nature



Science Fiction



Teacher Choice