

## ELA Grade 9 - Unit 3 - Book Clubs & Theme Essay

Students will be immersed in book clubs, all of which fall into three distinct categories. The first category, “Thematically Relevant,” includes titles with similar structures, characters, and themes that students could identify and explore in the core novel, *Just Mercy*. The second category provides options for students who want to hone their craft when analyzing themes. The final category includes a list of options for students who might want something that speaks more to their daily lives: “Life of a Teen.” These titles include characters who are similar in age to our freshmen students and might be dealing with similar situations. As such, these titles help our students feel understood and seen. *Titles* can be seen broken down in this chart (see below). This list is not limited to the options below, as teachers are always searching for new and exciting reads to add to our extensive collection. *Students will independently apply the skills taught in the core text to their book club book while having rich discussions. The teacher will facilitate these discussions and meet with small groups/clubs that need support with previously taught skills and strategies. Throughout the book club experience, groups will gather evidence to support their thinking about theme as they will ultimately craft a formal theme essay to present their analysis.*

As a final note, all titles are vetted through research (which includes consideration from other districts), professional resources (such as the LMC and professional academic reviews), student suggestions, and teacher experience (before providing a text as an option, members of the department read the entirety of the text).

*Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Analyzing, Collective Intelligence*

### Proposed Book Club Offerings / Options:

**\*In green = Common Sense Media’s age suggestion\***

	Thematically Relevant	Great for Tracking Theme	Life of a Teen
<b>Challenge (Honors-bound)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee (12+)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding (12+)</li> <li><i>Catch-22</i> by (N/A)</li> <li><i>Of Mice and Men</i> by John Steinbeck (13+)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Breakfast with Buddha</i> by Roland Merullo (N/A)</li> </ul>
<b>On Grade Level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>All American Boys</i> by J. Reynolds and B. Kiely (12+)</li> <li><i>The Hate U Give</i> by Angie Thomas (N/A)</li> <li><i>This is My America</i> by Kim Johnson (12+)</li> <li><i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i></li> <li><i>Patron Saints of Nothing</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Salt to the Sea</i> by Ruta Sepetys (13+)</li> <li><i>Sing, Unburied, Sing</i> by Jesymn Ward (N/A)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Summer of Letting Go</i> by Gae Polisner (N/A)</li> <li><i>Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes</i> by Chris Crutcher (N/A)</li> </ul>
<b>Highly Engaging</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Monster</i> by Walter Dean Myers (N/A)</li> <li><i>Wolf Hollow</i> by Lauren Wolk (10+)</li> <li><i>Dear Martin / Dear Justyce</i> by Nic Stone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Giver</i> by Lois Lowry (11+)</li> <li><i>Purple Heart</i> by Patricia McCormick (15+)</li> <li><i>Red Kayak</i> by Priscilla Cummings (N/A)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Speak</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson (14+)</li> <li><i>Everyday</i> by David Levithan (14+)</li> <li><i>Orbiting Jupiter / Jupiter Rising</i> by Gary D. Schmidt (12+)</li> </ul>