Responsibility Requires Action
Responsibility is the active side of morality: doing what I should do, doing what I said I would do, what is best for everybody; especially doing the one thing I should be doing right now.

Middle School

Cycle II 2015-2016

Island of the Blue Dolphins
Scott O’Dell
This novel tells the tale of Karana, an Indian girl living on an island off the coast of California. As her tribe evacuates, she suddenly jumps off the ship when she realizes her brother has been left behind. The story is a survival tale with a female Robinson Crusoe for its heroine. Karana’s solitude and bitterness at the loss of her brother is tempered by the restorative power of nature as she struggles to survive.

Esperanza Rising
Pam Munoz Ryan
This novel tells of a Mexican girl’s fall from riches and her immigration to California in the 1930s. The story highlights her awareness of Mexico’s post-revolution tensions, the rivalry with Oklahoma Dust Bowl victims, and struggles of Mexican workers trying to organize themselves to ask the U.S. Government for better living conditions. California author and setting.

Iqbal
Francesco D’Adamo
When young Iqbal is sold into slavery at a carpet factory, his arrival changes everything for the other overworked and abused children. It is Iqbal who explains to them that despite their master’s promises, he plans on keeping them as slaves indefinitely. But it is also Iqbal who inspires them to look to a future free from toil…and is brave enough to show them how to get there. This moving fictionalized account of the real Iqbal Masih is told through the voice of Fatima, a young Pakistani girl whose life is changed by Iqbal’s courage.

High School

Cycle IV 2015-2016

The Outsiders
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.

Breaking Through
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
Historical/Social Sciences 9-12

Lord of the Flies
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