Change Requires Effort
Change is possible. Change requires three things; a vision, a plan, and effort. It requires changing bad habits to good habits. It requires effort even when we don’t feel like working. It requires one step at a time.

Middle School

**Cycle II 2015-2016**

**Riding Freedom**
Pam Munoz Ryan
Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst ran away from an orphanage in the mid-nineteenth century, posed as a boy, moved to California as a stagecoach driver, and fooled everyone by her appearance. Based on a true story, this book about Charley’s life has interesting connections to California history. California author and setting.

**Where the Red Fern Grows**
Wilson Rawles
This story of a young boy’s childhood in the Ozarks features his intense relationship with two coon hounds and the many adventures they have while hunting. The story follows Billy from the time he only dreams of having dogs to the moment one of them is killed while saving its master.

**Jesse**
Gary Soto
To escape a home dominated by his alcoholic stepfather, 17-year-old Jesse abruptly leaves high school, moves into an apartment with his older brother, and takes classes at Fresno City College. It is 1968, and the brothers face both the threat of being drafted and the daily grind of their poverty. Racial and class prejudice limit their employment opportunities to field labor, and they pick melons, oranges, or cotton, depending on the season.

High School

**Cycle IV 2015-2016**

**Bud, not Buddy**
Christopher Paul Curtis
Ten-year-old Bud - “not Buddy” - Caldwell is an orphan on the run during the Great Depression. He escapes from an abusive foster home to find the man he believes to be his father. One dilemma after another uncovers a tough character who perseveres and triumphs in his quest. See also *The Watson’s Go to Birmingham-1963*. Historical Fiction, Humor

**Of Mice and Men**
John Steinbeck
George and Lenny, migrant workers in the Salinas Valley of California during the Great Depression, dream of a time when they will have enough money to buy their own farm. Lenny, a mentally retarded young man, unwittingly commits murder. His friend, George, must determine the most humane way for justice to be done. California author. Fiction, English-Language Arts/Vocabulary, History/Social Science 9-12

**All Quiet on the Western Front**
Erich Maria Remarque
This novel depicts the experiences of a group of young German soldiers fighting and suffering during the last days of World War I.