



RAINIER  
SCHOLARS

LITERARY  
RESOURCES











2020

# Literary Resources 2020 - Table of Contents

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RAINIER  
SCHOLARS

	<b>4TH GRADE BOOKS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>5TH GRADE BOOKS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>6TH GRADE BOOKS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>7TH GRADE BOOKS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>8TH GRADE BOOKS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>9TH GRADE BOOKS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>10TH GRADE BOOKS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>11TH GRADE BOOKS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>12TH GRADE BOOKS.....</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>READING GUIDES.....</b>	<b>13</b>

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS BY GRADE LEVEL - *With Some Essential Questions in Blue*

The books below are either texts that we have used successfully with students or are books that meet our criteria for an engaging inquiry. We have included sample Essential Questions as necessary anchors for young minds engaging challenging questions we all have to answer in some form or another.

Note: Grade level attributions are primarily technical measures that align with basic reading ability considerations. There is no formula that allows one to measure the inference load of a book. EQs ask students to stretch a little even if the words on the page don't seem so challenging, the inferences required for an EQ allow all kids to build their inference muscles.

Reading Guides for selected books can be found at the end of this document.

### 4TH GRADE BOOKS

*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams Garcia - *What does love look like? What makes people strong?*

*The Most Beautiful Place in the World* by Anne Cameron - *What makes a home/family? Is learning a privilege?*

*The Real Thief* by William Steig - *How do we know what is fair? What makes a good friend?*

*The Friendship* by Mildred D Taylor - *How do we know what is fair? What does fear do?*

*What Jamie Saw* by Carolin Coman - *What does fear do? What are moms for?*

*The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleischman - *What makes a good friend? Does money make people better than others?*

### 5TH GRADE BOOKS

*Bull Run* by Paul Fleischman - *What does war do?*

*Ghost* by Jason Reynolds - *What keeps people from being themselves?*

*Chess Rumble* by G. Neri - *What keeps people from being themselves? Does thinking solve problems?*

*The Wonderful O* by James Thurber - *What are words for? What makes people brave?*

*Cinderella Liberator* by Rebecca Solnit - *How should we behave? What makes a hero?*

*Usagi Yojimbo* by Stan Sakai - *What makes a hero? What is justice?*

## 6TH GRADE BOOKS

*I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This* by Jacqueline Woodson - *What makes a good friend? What does prejudice do?*

*Fist Stick Knife Gun* by Jamar Nicholas & Geoffrey Canada - *What does violence do? What keeps people from being themselves?*

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck - *What does love look like? How do we decide right from wrong?*

*The Omnivore's Dilemma: Young Reader's Edition* by Michael Pollan - *What should people eat? What is good food?*

*The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson - *What makes a parent?*

*The Circuit, Breaking Through, Reaching Out* by Francisco Jimenez - *What keeps people from being themselves? What's an education for? Is education a privilege?*

## Middle School Workshop Reading List Selections for 6th Grade

*New Kid* by Jerry Craft

*Black Boy* by Richard Wright

*A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. LeGuin

*A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly

*The Pearl* - by John Steinbeck

*Free Lunch* - by Rex Ogle

## 7TH GRADE BOOKS

*A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. LeGuin - *What keeps people from being themselves? What is knowledge for? What makes a hero?*

*Shipbreaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi - *How do we decide right from wrong? How do we decide if someone is morally good?*

*The Cartoon History of the Universe Vol I* by Larry Gonick - *What makes a civilization?*

*Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow - *What is technology for? How do people know when they're free?*

*Make Lemonade/True Believer* by Virginia Euwer Wolff - *What keeps people from being themselves? What does education do?*

*A War of Gifts* by Orson Scott Card - *How do people fight back fairly? Are grownups fair?*

*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

*Pudd'nhead Wilson* by Mark Twain

*Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson

*Something Wicked This Way Comes* by Ray Bradbury

*Soldier's Heart* by Gary Paulsen

*Bull Run* by Paul Fleischman

*Lyddie* by Katherine Paterson

*The Member of the Wedding* by Carson McCullers

*Mr. Pip* by Lloyd Jones

*Maud Martha* by Gwendolyn Brooks

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

*Nothing* by Janne Teller

*The Circuit* by Francisco Jimenez

# Literary Resources 2020

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*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

*We* by Yevgeny Zamyatin

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell

*Equal Rites* by Terry Pratchett

*Alice in Wonderland/Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll

*The Once and Future King* by T.H. White

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

## Middle School Workshop Reading List Selections for 7th Grade

*Milkweed* by Jerry Spinelli

*Trevor* by James Lecesne

*Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger

*Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan

*Herland* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

*The Enemy* by Charlie Higson

## 8TH GRADE BOOKS

*The Cartoon History of the Universe Vol II* by Larry Gonick - *What does progress look like? What makes a good society?*

*Jumped* by Rita Williams Garcia - *What makes a good witness? Who should we help?*

*Genesis* by Bernard Beckett - *What makes a good society? How do people know when they are free?*

*God Loves Man Kills* by Chris Claremont - *When should people fight back? What makes a good protest?*

# Literary Resources 2020

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*The Silence of Our Friends* by Nate Powell and Mark Long - *When should people fight back? What makes a good protest?*

*All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque - *What does war do? What is war for?*

*Pudd'nhead Wilson* by Mark Twain - *What does racism look like? What does racism do?*

*The Case Against Sugar* by Gary Taubes - *What does sugar do? Why is sugar everywhere?*

*Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai

*Sold* by Patricia McCormick

*The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson

*Thirsty* by M.T. Anderson

*Lie* by Caroline Bock

*The Rules of Survival* by Nancy Werlin

*Buried Onions* by Gary Soto

*The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier

*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

*Milkweed* by Jerry Spinelli

*Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

*Montana 1948* by Larry Watson

*Doubt* by John Patrick Shanley

*Spoon River Anthology* by Edgar Lee Masters

*A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. LeGuin

*Give a Boy A Gun* by Todd Strasser

*The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood (all Rainier Scholars have read *The Odyssey*, Stanley Lombardo, trans.)

# Literary Resources 2020

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*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card

*X-Men: God Loves, Man Kills* by Chris Claremont and Brent Anderson

*The Ox-Bow Incident* by Walter van Tilburg Clark

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

## Middle School Workshop Reading List Selections for 8th Grade

*The Wave* by Todd Strasser

*Nothing but the Truth* by Avi

*Doubt* by John Patrick Shanley

*Piecing me Together* by Renee Watson

## 9TH GRADE BOOKS

*Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller

*The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder

*At the Mountains of Madness* by H.P. Lovecraft

*Touching Snow* by M. Sindy Felin

*Before We Say Goodbye* by Gabriella Ambrosio

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

*Shah of Shahs* by Ryszard Kapuscinski

*Persepolis* by Marjani Satrapi

*Across The Wire* by Luis Alberto Urrea



# Literary Resources 2020

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*The Tortilla Curtain* by T.C. Boyle

*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

*The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury

*Becoming Abigail* by Chris Abani

*Girls Like Us* by Rachel Lloyd

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

*A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly

*The Word for World is Forest* by Ursula K. LeGuin

*Ill Nature* by Joy Williams

*Survival in Auschwitz* by Primo Levi

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

*Plagues and Peoples* by William McNeil

*The Secret Epidemic* by Jacob Levenson

*On Empire* by Eric Hosbawm

*Sea of Poppies* by Amitav Ghosh

*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

## 10TH GRADE BOOKS

*A Good Man is Hard to Find* by Flannery O'Connor

*As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner

*The Plague* by Albert Camus

*World War Z* by Max Brooks

# Literary Resources 2020

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*The Moon is Down* by John Steinbeck

*Night Draws Near* by Anthony Shadid

*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers

*The Prince* by Niccolo Machiavelli

*Plunkitt of Tammany Hall* by William L. Riordan

*Propaganda* by Edward Bernays

*1984* by George Orwell

*V for Vendetta* by Alan More and David Lloyd

*The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

*Freedom: Stories Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* by Various

*The Umbrella of U.S. Power* by Noam Chomsky

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

*In Other Rooms, Other Wonders* by Daniyal Mueenuddin

*The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair

*Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

*The Women of Brewster Place* by Gloria Naylor

*Get to Work: And Get a Life, Before It's Too Late* by Linda R. Hirslunan

*A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn

*The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing Vols I & II* by M.T. Anderson

## 11TH GRADE BOOKS

*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

*Profit Over People* by Noam Chomsky

*Cane* by Jean Toomer

*The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

*The Geneva Conventions*

*Peace* by Richard Bausch

*War is Not Over When It's Over: Women Speak Out from the Ruins of War* by Ann Jones

*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

*Ficciones* by Jorge Luis Borges

*The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

*Bless Me Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya

*The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

*Taking Economics Seriously* by Dean Baker

*The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*

*We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda* by Philip Gourevitch

*Beasts of No Nation* by Uzodinma Iweala

*My Antonia* by Willa Cather

*The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfighting Heaven* by Sherman Alexie

# Literary Resources 2020

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*The Milagro Beanfield War* by John Nichols

*Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place* by Terry Tempest Williams

*The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

*Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of Age in the Bronx* by Adrian Nicole

## 12TH GRADE BOOKS

*One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn

*Hadji Murad* by Leo Tolstoy

*Carrie* by Stephen King

*The Good Thief* by Hannah Tinti

*When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor* by William Julius Wilson

*All Bright Court* by Connie Rose Porter

*Bastard Out of Carolina* by Dorothy Allison

*Kindred* by Octavia Butler

*Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf

*The Big Short* by Michael Lewis

*Mismeasure of Man* by Stephen Jay Gould

*The Odyssey* by Homer (Fagles or Lombardo translation)

*Odysseus in America* by Jonathan Shay

*The Truth About the Drug Companies: How They Deceive Us and What to Do About It* by Marcia Angell

*The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan

# Literary Resources 2020



*A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf

*Letters to a Young Contrarian* by Christopher Hitchens

*The Future of Life* by E.O. Wilson

*Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler

*And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic*, by Randy Shilts

*The Women's Room: A Novel* by Marilyn French

*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Seventh Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers* by Kate Turabian, Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb and Joseph Williams

## READING GUIDES

Use these reading guides as you go. The numbers before the colon are page numbers. Bold questions are especially important for seminar.

### ***Becoming*** by Naomi Leon

#### **Essential Question:** *What makes a family?*

1. 4: Why do people underestimate Owen? What makes Owen different?
2. 5: Should Naomi be proud of her last name?
3. 6-8: What is life like at Avocado Acres?
4. 9: Why does Naomi keep so many lists?
5. 10: What is "the sanctuary"? Does Naomi belong there?
6. 11: Does Naomi's appearance mean she is different from her family?
7. **12: Why does Gram say she has no business raising Naomi and Owen? Is she right?**
8. 13: Why does Naomi carve?
9. 19: Why don't they recognize their mother? Is this what a mom looks like?
10. 20: Mom thinks Owens tape is strange but Gram says its ok, who is right?
11. **23: What kind of mother was Skyla?**
12. 24: Does leaving the kids with Gram make her a bad mother?

# Literary Resources 2020

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13. 25: How does Naomi feel about Skyla's return?
14. 29: Is Skyla's return a good thing?
- 15.37: Is being a mother a right?**
- 16.37: Do families need to be legal?**
17. 40: What kind of mother had Naomi imagined?
- 18.42: Do moms get to give up? Is this what Skyla did?**
19. 44: Is giving Skyla a chance the right thing to do?
20. 46: Do new clothes make things better?
21. 60: Was it the new clothes that brought Naomi good luck?
22. 62: Owen...
23. 64: What is wrong with Skyla?
24. 65: Should she call Skyla mom?
25. 68: Is Naomi being a good sister?
26. 69: Can family let us down?
- 27.74: Why didn't Gram tell them about their Dad? Should family keep secrets?**
28. 80: Does sending money make him a good father?
29. 81: Was it wrong for Gram to stop looking for their father?
30. 84: Were the conferences a big deal or a little deal?
31. 86: Does Skyla have a right to tell Naomi what to do?
32. 95: Does Clive sound like a good father?
33. 99: Does Gram have a right to keep Naomi from Las Vegas?
34. 101-104 \*Checkers
35. 107: Should Naomi tell about the beer?
36. 114: Is Owen just another problem for Skyla?
37. 117-119: Is it wrong for Naomi to talk back to her mother?
38. 122: Why do Naomi and Owen fear their mother?
- 39.125: How does a family make you feel safe?**
- 40.127: Does Naomi belong with her real mom or with Gram?**
41. 137: Why does Naomi know she belongs with Owen and Gram?
42. 149-150: What does Naomi learn about her name?
43. 163: Why is finding Naomi's father so important?
44. 168: Was it wrong for Naomi to use the phone without asking?
45. 170: Why does Naomi feel like she belongs in Mexico?
46. 176: Can your family be people you have never met?

47. 194: Why is it so important for Naomi to carve the Lion?
48. 205: Why does her father run away from her? Does this make him a bad man?
49. 216: Why does meeting Santiago go better than the first meeting with Skyla?
50. 222: Should Naomi forgive her father for not fighting harder for them?
- 51.230: Are families made in courtrooms?**
52. 236: Does Gram give Naomi and Owen everything they need?
- 53.237: Do kids always belong with their parents?**
54. 240: Did the judge make the right decision?
55. 243: How did Mexico change Naomi?
56. 244: Can we every stop loving our family members?

## After Questions for *Becoming*:

*Which experiences best help Naomi determine who her real family is?*

*Does Naomi have a “normal” family? Is there such a thing?*

## **The Breadwinner** by Deborah Ellis

### Essential Question: *How do you know where you belong?*

1. 15: Why can't Parvana help her father read the letters?
2. 16: Why does she still go the market with her father?
- 3. 16: Can you belong in a place if you don't feel safe?**
4. 17: What happened to Parvana's friends?
- 5. 18: Where does Parvana's father think she belongs? Does she agree?**
6. 19: Why was Nooria more upset than Parvana about school closing?
7. 20: Do the bombs determine where Parvana and her family belong?
8. 21: Why don't the Taliban belong in Afghanistan?
- 9. 22: What is the city of Kabul like? Who belongs there?**
10. 25: Is it fair that Parvana has so much responsibility?
11. 28: What is their home like?
12. 28: Why must they keep their distance from neighbors? What does this do?
13. 32-33: How do father's stories help the family?

14. 34: Why is Parvana's father attacked? Do his ideas belong in the Taliban's Afghanistan?
15. 36: Was saving the books the right choice?
- 16.40: Does Parvana's mother feel like she belongs in her city?**
17. 41: How can the townspeople know what mother is asking if she does not speak? Does this mean that they are a strong community?
18. 42: What does the story of Malali do for Parvana?
19. 46: Parvana's mother said she wanted to leave Afghanistan. Does this make her a quitter?
20. 50-52: How does Parvana support her family?
21. 53: Does Parvana belong inside or outside the market?
22. 56-57: What kind of woman is Ms. Weera?
23. 62-63: Is it right for her family to ask to her become a boy?
24. 63 Can others decide where we belong?
- 25.63-65: What will she gain/ lose by changing? Is it worth it?**
- 26.67: Does she belong more in the city now that she is a boy?**
27. 67 What is the difference between being noticed here and not on page 61
28. 68: How does being a boy change how her family treats her?
29. 75: Can the Taliban soldier have feelings like other humans?
- 30.79-82: How does Parvana becoming boy change the family's life?**
31. 85: Who is leaving the little gifts on Parvana's blanket? Why?
32. 88: Why has Shauzia become a boy too?
33. 90: How does Parvana's family make Shauzia feel like she belongs?
34. 92: Is publishing the magazine worth the risk?
35. 96: Why do they dig up the bones? Is it the right thing to do?
36. 107: What is happening at the soccer field?
37. 108: Do the "boys" belong there?
38. 110: How is Shauzia's family different from Parvana's?
39. 111: Why would Shauzia want to remain a boy?
- 40.112-113: Is it right for Shauzia to plan to leave her family?**
41. 117: What responsibility do we have to help others?
42. 122-123: Does Parvana belong with her family or with Mrs. Weera?
43. 134: What does Homa's story do to Parvana?
- 44.137: Can Parvana be both a son and a daughter?**
45. 139: Where does Shauzia belong?



46. 141: Who is right, Mrs. Weera or Shauzia?  
47. 142: Do the flowers belong in the market place?

## After Questions for *The Breadwinner*:

*Can Parvana belong in a place like Afghanistan if it works so hard to keep her...*

*Where did she belong the most?*

## **A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens

*This winter break we will be reading A Christmas Carol. We chose this book, not because of the Christmas setting, but because we want to expose students to a classic piece of literature. Scrooge is a popular fictional character that reflects on and comes to terms with his own actions.*

*A Christmas Carol is a very challenging book. The book and the people in it speak with a vocabulary that most people are not used to. This means that you will have read closely and pay careful attention to how words are used in order to understand the book. You will also need to use a dictionary to make sense of it. Be sure to use the glossary at the back of the book and a dictionary as you read.*

*Write out your answers on loose leaf paper, skip a space between each question. Answers must be in complete sentences.*

### Essential Question: *How Should We Behave?*

1. 2: (last paragraph) What kind of man is Scrooge?
2. 3: What does “no wind that blew was bitterer than he” mean?
3. 3-4: (last two sentences) What does Scrooge like?
4. 4: (last five sentences): “But he couldn’t...for them to part” What do these sentences tell us about Scrooge?
5. 6: What right does Scrooge have to be dismal?
6. 7: (middle paragraph): Should Christmas be a “kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time”?
7. 9: (1st paragraph): What does Scrooge mean when he says “I’ll retire to Bedlam”? Why does he say this?
8. 10-11: (last sentence) What does Scrooge mean by “make idle people merry”?

9. 11: (2nd paragraph): What does “surplus population” mean? What kind of man is Scrooge?
10. 13: What is Scrooge complaining about?
11. 24: (2nd to last paragraph): What did Marley’s spirit do in life? How does Marley feel about this?
12. 27: What are the Spirits supposed to do for Scrooge?
13. 35: What does “your welfare!” mean?
14. 38: What was Scrooge’s childhood home situation like?
15. 50-51: What choice is Scrooge making on these pages?
16. 61: What does Scrooge mean by “the lesson is working now”? Is it?
17. 74: Why does the Spirit repeat Scrooge’s words about the “surplus” population?
18. 75: How do the Cratchits feel about Scrooge?
19. 82: How does Scrooge’s nephew feel about him?
20. 89: (1st paragraph): What does “taught Scrooge his precepts” mean?
21. 91: Why does the Spirit repeat Scrooge’s words from earlier on this page?
22. 93: (3rd paragraph from bottom): What kind of man is Scrooge now?
23. 95: What kind of funeral does Scrooge have? What does this tell us about him?
24. 100: Did Scrooge die alone?
25. 103: What did Scrooge do when he was alive?
26. 113: Why does Scrooge ask about things that “will be”?
27. 114: What does Scrooge promise to do?
28. 125: What kind of man is Scrooge? **How should we behave?**

## *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

### **Essential Question:** *What keeps people from being themselves?*

As you read, track Holden’s hat. Put a small *H* in the margin each time it comes up. Also track who Holden says he hates and thinks is a phony.

1. **3: Where is Holden?**
2. 4-9: What do you learn about his school life? Family life?
3. 12-13: Does Holden take life seriously? Should he?
4. **17-18: Is Holden smart?**

# Literary Resources 2020

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5. 20: Why isn't Holden concerned for the future?
6. 26-27: Is Holden being fair to Ackley?
7. 29: What does it mean to be sadistic? Why does Holden act this way?
8. 44: What makes Holden so nervous?
- 9. 49: What happened to Holden's brother?**
- 10.50: Is Holden's reaction to the death surprising?**
11. 53-8: What is the fight about? Does Holden deserve to get knocked out?
12. 64: Should Holden hate Stradlater?
13. 68: Why is he crying?
14. 71-6: Why does Holden lie to the woman?
- 15.88: How does Holden feel about his sibling in comparison to himself?**
- 16.91-8: Is Holden having fun?**
17. 101: Why did he show Jane the mitt?
18. 105-14: What is Holden so angry about? Is it justified?
- 19.116-17: How is Holden in reality? How does he want to be?**
20. 129: Why does he talk aloud to Allie?
21. 130: How does Holden feel about religion? Does this match his personality?
22. 133-6: Does Holden react appropriately?
23. 147: What does he mean when he says money makes you feel blue?
24. 155: Why does he have such fond memories of the museum?
25. 159: Why won't he go inside?
26. 162-166: What makes him change his mind about Sally?
- 27.171-4: Is he in lousy shape or is he a madman?**
28. 188: What is a "typical Caulfield conversation"?
29. 201-2: What did missing the funeral do to Holden?
- 30.209: How does he feel about Phoebe? Is this surprising considering how he feels about everyone/ thing else?**
31. 217-9: Is he right about Pencey?
32. 221: Why is he so impacted by James Castle?
33. 225: What does Holden want to be? Why?
34. 233: Why is he crying?
35. 243: Why warn him about a fall?
36. 244: What advice does Mr. Antolini give Holden? Do you agree?
- 37.249-53: Is Mr. Antolini a pervert?**

38. 260: Why does Holden react like this?

39. 268-9: Why do they get into a fight?

**40.276: Is Holden an honest person?**

## After Questions for *Catcher in the Rye*:

*Is Holden a reliable narrator?*

*What's wrong with Holden?*

*What did the red hat do for him?*

## *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl

1. 4: What is life like for the Bucket family?
2. 6: Is this a good birthday present?
3. 10: What do the legends say about Mr. Wonka?
4. 20: Why did the Wonka factory close?
5. 23: Are the golden tickets just a selfish way to sell more bars?
6. 25: Should Charlie be hopeful like his Grandpa?
7. 27: Are Charlie's grandparents too critical of Augustus?
8. 28: What have the golden tickets done to the people in town?
9. 30: Did Veruca play fair?
10. 31: Is it wrong to spoil children?
11. 35: How is Charlie behaving?
12. 41: Do all children behave like Mike Teavee?
13. 42: Was it wrong for Grandpa to spend the money on chocolate?
14. 47: What is happening to Charlie?
15. 49: Is Charlie selfish for spending the \$1 on a chocolate bar?
16. 51: Would it be better to sell the ticket for a lot of money?
17. 65: What kind of man is Mr. Wonka?
18. 74: Should the kids be expected to behave in a room made of chocolate?
19. 79: Is Mr. Wonka taking advantage of the Oompa-Loompas?
20. 84: Who is responsible for Augustus' accident?

21. 89: Are the Oompa-Loompas right about Augustus?
22. 107: Does Violet deserve to be turned purple?
23. 111: Is chewing gum such a bad habit?
24. 114: Why are Violet and Augustus called naughty?
25. 125: Why is Veruca a “bad nut”?
26. 129: The Oompa-Loompas say Veruca is not the only one to blame, do you agree?
27. 139: Why is Mr. Wonka so mean to Mike Teavee?
28. 150: What does the TV do to kids?
29. 163: Are children better listeners and learners than adults?
30. 164: Why is Charlie the best choice to run the factory?

## *Chew on This* by Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson

### **Essential Question:** *Where does good food come from?*

- 1. 7-8 Why don't people think about what they eat?**
2. 18 What did Walt do to make hamburgers more popular?
3. 19 What made fast food restaurants so popular?
4. 23 How did the McDonald brothers change fast food?
5. 45-49 Why target advertisements to children?
6. 50 Why would someone study nagging?
7. 52-54 What are some of the ways advertisers learn what children like?
8. 56 Should advertisers be allowed to target children?
9. 59 Why is McDonalds a toy company and not a fast food company?
10. 75 Why do fast food chains hire so many teenagers?
11. 103 Why are McDonalds fries so good?
12. 106-108 How do we know what tastes good?
- 13. 113 Is the strawberry milkshake food?**
- 14. 126 Should food companies have to tell us what is in our food?**
15. 138 Why do schools sell junk food to kids?
16. 148 What does soda do?
- 17. 164 What do factory farms do?**
18. 173 What is a McNugget?
- 19. 194 Why is our food making us sick?**

20. 208 Why do we get fat?
21. 215 What does sugar and trans fat do to our insides?
22. 226- 230 Is surgery a good solution to the problem?
23. 250 Does everyone have the same feelings about food?

## After Questions for *Chew on This*:

*Who is to blame for our current health crisis?*

*What changes need to be made?*

*What can you do?*

## **The Circuit** by Francisco Jiménez

**Essential Questions:** *What keeps us from being ourselves? Why do Papa's eyes sparkle every time he talks about California? Is it wrong for the family cross into California? What is life like in the camp?*

1. 9: Does leaving the kids in the backseat of the car make them bad parents?
2. 11: Did Francisco deserve to be punished?
3. 12: What kinds of memories does Roberto have about school?
4. 15: Does he belong at this school?
5. 21: Why did Francisco give the butterfly picture to Curtis?
6. 23: What kind of mother is she?
7. 27: What does Torito's illness do to the family?
8. 37: Why does Francisco tell the story of Miguel?
9. 43: What does being poor do?
10. 45: Why is Mama crying?
11. 49: What is wrong with Francisco's father?
12. 66: Should they get in trouble for not going to school?
13. 69: What does it mean for Francisco that they have to move again?
14. 70: Why would he be upset that school is ending?
15. 75: Why does Francisco play the game if he does not like the rules?

16. 76: Is it wrong for Gabriel to refuse to do the work?
17. 77: What makes Francisco stand up to Carlos?
18. 79: Why does he stop playing the game?
19. 84: Why doesn't Francisco want to invite his friend over?
20. 86: What kind of student is Francisco?
21. 89: What did the pennies mean to Francisco?
22. 93: What does Francisco learn after the house burns down?
23. 96: How does fear of la migra make the family behave?
24. 102: How is school different this time around?
25. 107: Is this a fair school assignment?
26. 108: Is this what school is for?
27. 111: Should Francisco and his family be deported?

## **Doubt** by John Patrick Shanley

*The play is told in 9 acts- remember that you need to read the italicized stage directions too. The questions under the roman numerals are for the different acts.*

### **Essential Question:** *How do we know what's true?*

*What is the sermon about? Why do you think Father Flynn chose this topic?*

#### **II**

What kind of woman is sister Aloysius?

What kind of teacher does she want Sister James to be?

#### **III**

How does Father Flynn behave with the boys?

#### **IV**

Why does Sister James go to Sister Aloysius?

What are the two talking about on pages 20-21?

Why does Sister Aloysius believe Donald Muller is the victim?

If they believe Father Flynn has done something, why not tell on him?

#### **V**

Is it right for Father Flynn to try to keep the secret?

Why isn't Sister Aloysius satisfied with Father Flynn's story? Do you believe him?

## VI

What is Father Flynn's sermon about?

## VII

Why is Sister James having bad dreams?

Does Father Flynn help Sister James realize the truth?

## VIII

What do you learn about Donald Muller's home life?

What is Mrs. Muller's reaction to the accusation? Is she right?

Is Sister Aloysius trying to protect the students or is she trying to get rid of Flynn?

Does calling his former parish prove anything?

## IX

Does his resignation prove he is guilty?

What does she have doubt?

### After Questions for Doubt:

*How would this story change if we could hear from Donald himself?*

*Who do you believe and why?*

### Free Lunch by Rex Ogle

#### Essential Question: *What keeps people from being themselves?*

1. 8: Why does he pick a fight? Is he being a brat?
2. 12: Is mom's reaction surprising?
3. 13: **Do you agree that "love is not free"? What does it mean that things cost more when you are poor?**
4. 16: Does he deserve the punishment?
5. 18-19: **What is life like with mom, Sam, and Ford?**
6. 21: Why would the teacher give him these looks? Have you ever felt judged by a teacher?



# Literary Resources 2020

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7. 24: What would you have done in the lunch line?
8. 27: Why is talking to grandma so important?
- 9. 31: Rex says adults are not always smarter than kids, do you agree?**
10. 42: Is it selfish for Rex to ask about football?
11. 44-45: Is the fight Rex's fault?
12. 47: Where is your safe place?
- 13.50: Why doesn't the teacher want him reading that book?**
14. 56: Is having a place to sit in middle school important?
15. 60: What does it mean to be a rabbit? A snake?
16. 67: Is what mom is doing stealing? Is she wrong to do it?
- 17.78-9: Should he wish for a different mom?**
18. 94: Why would Rex think God hates him? Is he a bad kid?
19. 96: If he doesn't say the things, is he still bad for thinking them?
20. 104-5: Is he old enough to be left for the weekend?
21. 117: Should mom have defended him?
22. 123: Is Rex one of the good guys?
23. 128-33: Why does mom get upset by abuela's help?
- 24.137: Why would Rex hate himself?**
25. 139: Is Rex right to call out his teacher like this? Would you have done it? Are you surprised by her reaction?
- 26.149: Is change always a good thing for kids like Rex?**
- 27.155: Does Rex have a right to be upset?**
- 28.157: What does it mean that mom is a grenade? What would this do to a kid?**
29. 162: Do you feel bad for Sam?
30. 166: Should Rex apologize?
31. 172: Why are the rules different for Liam than for Rex? Do you have friends like this?
32. 187-91: What makes Christmas so special?
33. 194: Is Ethan right when he says Rex is not special and everyone is embarrassed of parents?
- 34.199: What gives Rex hope and allows him to be ready for a fresh start?**

## **Genesis** by Bernard Beckett

**Essential Questions:** *What makes a good society? How do people know when they are free?*

1. 3: What do they think of imagination in this society? What does this tell you about them?
2. 5-6: Does the political/environmental situation sound familiar?
3. 7: What does “fearful superstitious times” mean?
4. 7: What interferes with peoples’ ability to believe in one another? What could help?
5. **8: Can a fearful society be a good one?**
6. **9: What did they do with the plague? Why?**
7. **10: Can a society “race forward to the past”?**
8. 11: Do stability and order make a good society?
9. **11: What makes these five things, threats? Why do the people listen to Plato?**
10. **11: What kind of society are they building? Would strict classes contribute to stability and order?**
11. 13: How does Anax feel about Adam?
12. 14: What made them suspicious of Adam? Why would this be a problem for them in this society?
13. 15: What character traits make Adam a problem for them? Are these a problem for us?
14. 17: What are the sentry rules for? Why would a society need rules like these?
15. 22: What is the “trouble” with Adam? Why would this be trouble?
16. **32-3: Does a society need a certain level of empathy to function? Do we have it?**
17. 32: Why do the examiners “straighten” at Anax’s answer?
18. 38: Pay attention to the name of the other student.
19. **46: What do the officials tell the public about Eve and the plague? Can people be free if they can’t find the truth?**
20. **47: What is happening to this society? Could they have avoided this?**
21. **49: Why did the Philosophers have the trial?**
22. **50: What does it mean that ideas change their hosts?**
23. **51: What is happening in this society? Why?**
24. **51: What does the council do in response to what’s happening? Why?**
25. 52: Why was the trial a disaster for the council?
26. **52: Who is most likely to rebel? Is this true for our society?**

- 27..69:What does Art look like?
- 28.75: Is Art conscious?
- 29.83: Should a robot be the same as humans or better?
- 30.83:Are righteousness and compatibility the same thing? Which is more important?**
- 31.86: Should Adam talk to Art?
- 32.86:Why does Anax say “how I’m feeling”?
- 33.89-90:Are humans beneath Art?**
- 34.97: How is Art more human?**
- 35.98: Do you think Art was built by humans or ideas?**
- 36.99: Should a robot be able to lie?
- 37.100: Does Adam win the argument?**
- 38.115:What is the consequence of irreverence?**
- 39.116:Why was the republic built the way it was, what was it supposed to do for people? Did it do this?**
- 40.117:What does the Academy do? Is this a good society?**
- 41.127: Does Art have feelings now?
- 42.132:Why does Art want to be free?**
- 43.141:Would you trust Art?
- 44.143:What is Art doing?**
- 45.143:Why does Adam ask Art to kill him?**
- 46.144:Why would Adam have a look of triumph?**
- 47.144:What do the examiners faces look like?
- 48.144:What species came before them?!!
- 49.145:What did Art do for all of them?!!**
- 50.147: How did Art become Adam?**
- 51.148:What is the virus?**
- 52.148-50:What is the Academy for?**

## **After Questions for Genesis:**

*Can you find any hints about the ending in the text?*

*What exactly is the Academy fighting?*

## *Herland* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

### **Essential Question:** *What difference does gender make?*

1. 4-5: What do each of the men do? Does it influence how they behave?
2. 9-10: What does each man expect to find?
3. 11: How do Jeff and Terry's ideas about women differ?
4. **13: Why is he surprised to see they are civilized?**
5. **14-15: Why do they believe there must be men?**
6. 17: Are the women what Terry expected?
7. 19: What is town like?
8. **20: What is the difference between "women in the abstract" and these women?**
9. 22: Why didn't they fight back?
10. **24-27: How are they treated as prisoners? What does this tell you about the women?**
11. 30: What is the difference between real women and these women?
12. 39: Are you surprised they are not punished?
13. 41: What will give them freedom? Do they deserve it?
14. 49-51: How did they become a land without men?
15. 52: Why does Terry have such a hard time believing it? Do you agree?
16. **53: What does it mean to be "feminine"?**
17. 54: Is competition necessary?
18. **60-62: What is motherhood? Do we see it as an honor?**
19. **64: Is this a place you would want to live?**
20. **67: Why does Terry have the hardest time fitting in?**
21. 68: What does "the finished product is not a private one" mean? Do you agree with this idea?
22. 74: Who gets to raise children? Is this a good idea?
23. **78: Why won't Terry call them girls?**
24. 80: Why is being told he is like the women an insult?
25. 81: Can men and women/ boys and girls be friends?
26. **83: Who is right- Jeff, Terry, or the women?**
27. **90: How are each man's relationships different?**

- 28. 93-95: Based on their children, what do they value?
- 29. 101: Why is there no punishment? Would this work in our society?
- 30. 109-113: Does marriage work for them?**
- 31. 118: Was sending them away the right choice?

## After Questions for *Herland*:

*Why did she make each man so different?*

*Was there a “good guy”?*

*Would you rather live in Herland or Hisland?*

## ***I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This*** by Jacqueline Woodson

*A book about prejudice, friendship, and sexual abuse. It is a difficult subject, but given its prevalence in American society, one that deserves our attention. Teachers should take care to assess whether the book is a timely resource for students.*

### **Essential Question:** *What does prejudice do? What makes a good friend?*

- 1. 1: Do white and Black kids mix at your school?
- 2. 2: What's the difference between “welfare” and the “state”? Are either of these terms prejudiced?
- 3. 2: Why would Marie become more practical after her mother leaves?**
- 4. 2: How do people “get broken”?**
- 5. 4: Why don't the white kids thrive at Chauncey High?
- 6. 5: What makes someone “trash”? Do you think her father knows any white people? Are his views prejudice or racism?
- 7. 11-12: When should a friend break a promise?**
- 8. 13: Why does Marie scowl at Lena? Is this prejudice?
- 9. 14: What do we learn about Lena from this page?
- 10. 14: Is her father's suspicion of white people warranted?

11. 15: What makes her father see things in “black and white”? Is this prejudice?
12. 15: Are Sherry and Marie prejudiced, racist, or something else?
13. 15: Should kids care about who they are?
14. 16: Why does Sherry glare at Lena? Does Lena’s behavior tell us anything about her life?
- 15. 16-17: Why does Sherry keep asking Lena where she’s from?**
16. 18: Is Sherry prejudiced or racist? How does Marie change on this page? Why does she?
- 17. 20: What’s an Uncle Tom? Is Marie one?**
18. 21: Why does Marie say “whatever”?
19. 25: What kind of father is he?
- 20. 27: Are the epithets equal? Do Black Americans need someone to hate?**
21. 28: Is it just how the world is? Is her father assuming people are always prejudiced?
- 22. 30-1: What makes a young woman suspicious about affection? Do teenagers need hugs as much as younger kids?**
23. 32: How do we know when someone is struggling?
- 24. 33: Why would Sherry keep kids away from Lena? Should any kid have that power?**
25. 34: Are Sherry and Marie friends?
- 26. 39: Why does Lena ask about Marie’s father?**
- 27. 41: What is Lena talking about? Is there such a thing as “too much love”?**
28. 47: How can someone’s life “fill up with absence”? Can friends help with this?
29. 49-50: Is Sherry prejudiced? Is she a good friend? Is Marie Lena’s friend?
- 30. 51: Why does Marie talk to Lena this way?**
- 31. 52: Is Marie a good friend?**
- 32. 53: Why does Marie think it couldn’t happen to anyone she knows?**
- 33. 54: Why does Marie respond the way she does? Is she a friend?**
- 34. 56: Why doesn’t Marie believe Lena?**
- 35. 57: Can someone watch their mama walk away and stay mean?**
- 36. 58: Does the loss of their mothers connect them in some way?**
37. 59: What is Marie doing? Why?
38. 60: Why wouldn’t Lena mention Marie’s race?
39. 66-7: Why is Marie’s father concerned about Lena?
40. 68-9: Should Marie listen to her dad?
- 41. 71: Does blood make family? What does?**

- 42.74: Should Marie tell her father? Would you tell?**  
43.75: Why doesn't Lena tell? Is this a good reason?  
**44.77: Does she have to love him?**  
**45.78: Should Lena hang on to the "little bits"?**  
**46.80: Why does Marie talk to Lena like this?**  
**47.81: Why does Marie say she hates them?**  
**48.81: Why can't she be mad at the man?**  
**49.91: Should girls trust the world? How have they been interrupted?**  
50.95: Does Marie understand her privilege? Does she advise Lena well?  
51.101-2: Does Audre Lorde's advice apply to Marie and Lena? To all girls?  
**52.106-7: Do secrets make friends?**  
53.110-11: Should Marie tell someone?  
54.114: Should Marie have told someone sooner?

## After Questions for *I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This*:

*How would this book be the same or different if the main characters were boys?*

*How about if both girls were poor?*

## **Milkweed** by Jerry Spinelli

### Essential Question: *What makes a strong community?*

- 4-5: What kind of community have the boys formed? How do they treat "stopthief" when he shows up?**
- 13: What is Uri's code? Does this make him better than the others?**
- 18: Why is he so impressed with the Jackboots?
- 21: Why humiliate members of a community publicly?
- 22-3: What is Uri trying to get Misha to understand?
- 29: Why does Uri give him a name and whole story? What does it do for him?**
- 48: Is it silly for them to believe in angels?
- 49: What does it mean- "when you are nothing, you're free to believe anything"

9. 52-5: What does Misha do for the orphanage? What do they do for him?
10. 58: Why did the man leave?
11. 59: Should Uri give up on Misha?
12. 63: Why does Dr. Korczak answer like this?
13. 65: What changes for Misha?
- 14.67: What does it mean to be “interchangeable” in society? Is this a sign of a strong or weak society?**
15. 71: Is the Dr. optimistic or stupid?
- 16.75-8: How are the different members of Janina’s family “surviving” in the ghetto?**
17. 86: Why do the bodies stop having shoes and socks?
18. 91: Why do they keep calling the rats squirrels and why won’t Mrs. Milgrom eat it?
- 19.102: Why would Jews guard other Jews? Is this forgivable?**
20. 104: Why does he stop being a Gypsy?
21. 116: Should Uncle Shepsel become Lutheran?
22. 129: Why do the couples stop to take pictures of Janina?
23. 139: Is it right for Misha to tell on Janina?
- 24.157: Why do they still celebrate? Do they have anything to celebrate?**
25. 160: Why doesn’t Mr. Milgram do anything about the stolen candle stick?
26. 166-7: Which way is better- Misha’s or Janina’s?
27. 171: Is Uncle Shepsel a traitor or is he smarter than the others?
28. 178: Why do they refuse to believe?
29. 180: Should Mr. Milgram try to separate himself from Janina?
- 30.202: What did the war do to him?**
31. 208: Why doesn’t he tell about Janina?

## **After Questions for Milkweed:**

*How did Misha’s experience shape him?*

*What role did the different communities play in Misha’s life?*

*What are the elements of a healthy thriving community?*



## *The Most Beautiful Place in the World* by Ann Cameron

**Essential Questions:** *What makes a home? What makes a family? Is learning a privilege?*

1. 13: Why does the author have him describe the town? What details would you include to describe your town?
2. 14: Why do you think he's never seen another town? What's a town you would want to see?
3. 15: What does the fact that they carry everything tell us about the town? What's an important thing you carry?
4. **18: Why/How can stories be more important than cars? What's an important story from your life?**
5. 19: Why is grandma lucky for them? Do you have anyone who makes you feel lucky?
6. 20: Why does grandma need someone she can trust? Who would you trust if you were grandma?
7. 20-21: Can a crowd make a place feel like home? Which people would you invite to live with you?
8. **23: Is working since age 13 worth it for grandma if she owns a home? What job would you take if you had to start tomorrow?**
9. 24: Why isn't electricity important? Which household utility could you give up?
10. 25: Should Juan's mom marry the man? What would you say to Juan's mom?
11. 26: Should Juan's mom take the bed? Why do you think she's doing this?
12. 27: Is not having a place to sleep worse than not having a mom? Should any kid have to choose between these two?
13. 27: Does a bed make a home? What objects make a home for you?
14. 29: What makes Juan less scared? What makes you less scared?
15. **29: Is home a place where people are less scared? What makes a home?**
16. 30: Does Juan really not "belong to anyone"? What makes you feel alone?
17. 31: How does Juan's mom greet him? What kind of greeting makes you feel at home?
18. **33: What kind of man is the stepfather? Do you think this has something to do with why Juan can't live with his mom?**
19. 35: Why does his mom say he can't come back? How would you feel if you were Juan?
20. **37: How should Juan feel about his mother and brother? How would you feel?**
21. **40: Does Juan need a job? Is it fair for him to have to work? How would you feel about working?**

22. 42: How does Juan feel about school? How do you feel about school?
23. 42: Is school a privilege to Juan? Do you feel like school is a privilege?
24. 42: Do love and education have anything to do with each other? Why?
25. 43: What is Juan scared of? Should he be scared? Would you be?
- 26.43: Does grandma need money more than Juan needs school? What kind of student do you think Juan would be?**
- 27.46: How old is Juan? Is this a lot of stuff for a kid this young?**
- 28.47: What advice does grandma give Juan? Would you follow this advice?**
29. 47: Is school important? What other things does grandma's advice apply to?
- 30.49: Is school worth fighting for? Even at seven?**
- 31.50: What kind of student is Juan? Would you want him in your class?**
- 32.51: Is Aunt Tina missing something? Do adults overlook stuff about you?**
- 33.51-52: Why does grandma cry? Is learning a privilege?**
- 34.53: Will school help Juan answer the questions grandma is curious about? Why do you think she's curious about these questions?**
- 35.54: Can doing your best all the time be "inconvenient"? What motivates you to do your best?**
- 36.54: Are high expectations an expression of love? Who has high expectations of you?**
37. 57: Is grandma right about the most beautiful place? Is Juan right too?
38. Why do you think their definitions of the most beautiful place are different?

## **New Kid** by Jerry Craft

### **Essential Question:** *What keeps people from being themselves?*

1. 12-13: Why does Jordan hide from his neighborhood friends?
- 2. 24-35: What kind of people does Jordan meet on his first day?**
3. 25: What is an "Oreo"? Is it possible to be "white on the inside"?
4. 31: Why does Jordan look away from Drew when he was happy to see Maury?
5. 40: Does the "Dude Pyramid" exist at your school? How is it the same/ different?
6. 51: Is it right for Jordan's dad to say he needs to wait and see until 9th grade?
- 7. 56: What are Jordan's tips for taking the bus, and why does he need them?**

8. 59: Why are all the eyeballs facing Drew and Jordan? Would this happen at your school?
9. **60: Why do teachers keep calling them the wrong names? What does that do to someone?**
10. 64: Why are Maury and Jordan on different planets?
11. 76-81: Was taking a risk and joining the soccer team worth it?
12. **86-88: How are Jordan and Drew's experiences the same/ different? How do they handle challenges?**
13. 89: Why do they call each other the wrong names on purpose?
14. **96-97: What are mom and dad arguing about? Who is right?**
15. 114-115: What advice does grandpa give Jordan?
16. 130-131: What makes the book covers funny/ not funny?
17. 133-135: Should Drew be upset about his gifts?
18. 149-153: What does Jordan learn by going over to Liam's house?
19. 158-159: What is Jordan's dad worried about? Should he be?
20. 162: What happens when Jordan tries to hang out with his neighborhood friends?
21. 170: Why is coming back from a break so difficult?
22. 198-209: Was it a good idea to fight with Andy? Was the punishment fair?
23. **218-221: What was Ms. Rawle's reaction to finding Jordan's notebook? Did he handle it well?**
24. 239: Why are they laughing?
25. 242: Should he sign Andy's yearbook? Would you?

## After Questions for New Kid:

*What keeps Jordan going and able to face the challenges at school?*

*How does one school year change Jordan? Is it for the better?*

*Is racism and diversity everybody's business at your school? Or is it only a concern and problem for some?*

*Do Jordan and Drew belong at Riverdale?*

## **Nothing But the Truth** by Avi

### **Essential Question:** *How do we know what's true?*

1. **3:**What do you learn about Philip from his diary entry?
2. **4:**What do you learn about Ms. Narwin from her letter?
3. 6:What kind of teacher is Mr. Lunser?
4. 8:Why is Philip worried about his parents?
5. 11: Do you think Allison likes Philip?
6. 13: Did Philip deserve a C- on his exam?
7. 16: Is it a good idea for the superintendent to get involved with the election?
8. 22: Should Philip be allowed on the track team? Is he right to be so upset with Narwin?
9. **35:What did Philip do wrong?**
10. 38: Is Philip telling Todd the truth?
11. 41: Is Mr. Lunser reliable?
- 12.**43-4: Is Philip telling his parents the truth?**
13. 48: Do his parents respond the way you would expect?
- 14.**49-51:Why does Philip do it again? Should he be sent to the principal's office?**
- 15.**52: Is the principal being fair?**
16. 57:Why does Philip's dad give him this advice? Is it good advice?
- 17.**59: Does Philip have the right to do it?**
18. 61: Is the principal being fair?
19. 69:What rule did he break?
20. 76-7:What do the other kids think about what Philip did?
21. 79-81: Is Philip honest?
22. 86: Does Philip believe this?
23. 92-5: Is the reporter asking the right questions?
- 24.**99: Does the article get it right?**
25. 106-110: How do different people respond to the story? Who is right?
26. 111: Is what Dr. Seymore says about truth accurate?
27. 117: Is Ms. Narwin right about Philip?
28. 119: Does the memo help clear things up?
29. 128-31:What do the updated memos add?

30. 140: Does Ms. Narwin deserve this treatment?

**31. 143: Does Philip being moved out of class mean he was right?**

32. 148: What does “hands are not meant to be even” mean? Is it right?

**33. 159: Is Ms. Narwin being fair to Philip?**

34. 162: Is Ms. Narwin being treated fairly?

**35. 166: What do you learn about Philip from his diary entry?**

**36. 171: Did Philip win?**

## After Questions for *Nothing But the Truth*:

*How does the format of this book help/ hurt the reader?*

*What did Philip do wrong and was he fairly punished?*

*How do you learn the truth?*

## *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

**Essential Questions:** *What does love look like? How do we decide right from wrong?*

1. 4: Why does George talk to Lennie this way? Does he love him?
2. 5: Does having a dead mouse in his pocket tell us anything about Lennie? What?
3. 6: Why does George complain about Lennie this way?
4. 9: Should Lennie be trusted with animals?
- 5. 10: Is it right that George speaks this way to Lennie? What does love look like?**
6. 10-11: Does George understand Lennie?
7. 12: Does George love Lennie?
- 8. 13: What is the dream about? What do George and Lennie have that other men don't? Is this love?**
9. 14: Why is the dream about skipping work? Is it right that many people do not have this choice?
10. 6-17: Do you think the conditions described in the bunk house have anything to do with the dream?
11. 18: What kind of boss do they have?

12. 19: Do the boss's boots tell us anything important?

**13.21: Why does George take "so much trouble" for Lennie?**

14. 22: Why is George so upset? Does this have anything to do with the dream?

15. 26: What does it mean that Curley's wife has "the eye"?

16. 27: Does the situation with Curley have anything to do with the dream?

17. 28: Does George love Lennie?

18. 30: Is Lennie right about the ranch "not being a good place"?

19. 31: What kind of man is Slim?

20. 32: What does love look like?

21. 33: Is it right to kill pups to keep them from starving?

22. 33-4: Should Candy shoot his dog?

23. 34: Does George love Lennie?

24. 37-8: What does love look like?

25. 39: Should George have Lennie travel for work?

**26.42: Is shooting the dog the right thing to do?**

**27.54-5: What does the dream offer them that they don't have now?**

**28.56: Why does Candy want to be a part of the dream?**

**29.57: If they never really believed in the dream, why do they talk about it so often?**

**30.58: Should Candy have shot his own dog?**

31. 61: Do you think Curley will keep the secret?

32. 67-8: Why does Crooks tease Lennie?

**33.70: Why does Crooks doubt the dream?**

**34.73: Why does Crooks ask to be a part of the dream?**

**35.75: Can the dream be a defense against something?**

**36.77: What could Curley's wife do to Crooks? How? Should she have this power?**

**Would she have it now?**

37. 79: Why does Crooks back out of the dream?

**38.86-7: Did Lennie do the bad thing on purpose? Could it have been avoided?**

**39.90: Why does George doubt the dream now?**

40. 102: Did George make the right decision? Could it have been avoided?

## ***Omnivore's Dilemma*** by Michael Pollan

### **Essential Question:** *What is Good Food?*

1. 19: What is hidden corn?
2. 24: How has corn changed over time?
3. 26: How did people help corn?
4. 29: What is agribusiness
5. **29: Is corn a hero or a bad guy?**
6. 33: What is hybrid corn?
7. 43: How is farming like a factory?
8. 46: Why are farmers poor?
9. 56: Is it wrong for ADM and Cargill to be “invisible”?
10. 64: Why does the grass need cows?
11. 70: Why are all the cows on feedlots sick?
12. **Why should cows eat grass?**
13. 80-82: What does corn become?
14. **Corn chart- how many of these products have you consumed in the last week?**
15. 89: How do food companies “add value”?
16. **99: What is the government's responsibility to our health?**
17. 105: How does the Omnivore's brain help and hurt us?
18. 111: Why is our lack of food culture problematic?
19. 124: What is the difference between eating corn directly and eating it in processed food?
20. 114: What is “industrial organic”?
21. 136: How did organic food become so mainstream?
22. 138: How do we define organic?
23. 145-146: Is Earthbound a better factory than others?
24. 149: What does it mean to be a “free range” chicken?
25. **Should we be buying organic food?**
26. 168: why does Joe call himself a grass farmer?
27. 192: how do the Salatin's work with the natural instincts of the animals?
28. 201: Why does Joel insist on slaughtering the chickens himself?
29. 214: Why is clean food really the cheapest food you can buy?

## **30.! Why do we need to know more about our food?**

31. 230: What are omega fatty acids?
32. 251: Should we be eating meat?
33. 229: Why is the U.S. raising and slaughtering meat so cruelly?
34. 245: What did Pollan learn from hunting and gathering?

## **35.! What should we eat?**

### **After Questions for *Omnivore's Dilemma*:**

What do you think of Pollan's advice?

*Which food rule might be easiest to follow?*

### **One Crazy Summer** by Rita Williams Garcia

#### **Essential Questions:** *How do people become strong? What does love look like?*

1. 2: What does "spinning straw" mean?
2. 2: Delphine is worried, what does it mean to make a "spectacle" of yourself?
3. **3: Is it right for the girls to be sent to Cecile?**
4. 4: Does Cecile deserve to be forgiven? Is Big Ma mean?
5. **5: Why does Big Ma tell them to "act right"? What does this mean**
6. **Is teaching kids how to act a loving thing to do?**
7. Do you ever count the people when you go places?
8. 6: Are Big Ma's expectations of the woman reasonable for 1968? How about these days?
9. **What expectations do people have of you based on your race or culture?**
10. 10: Does Delphine's behavior about the window seat tell us anything about her? Does it involve being strong or loving?
11. **Why does the number of black people in the place matter? Can one girl disgrace a whole race?**
12. 13: Was it wrong for the lady with the bag to ignore them?
13. **14: What's the difference between a "statement of fact" and a mommy? Is it the same for fathers?**



- 14.15: Why does Delphine talk about the word litter? ∞**
- 15.16: Is it an insult or a compliment when the white lady calls the girls “well behaved”?**
- 16. Does your family tell you how to behave around certain people? Why do you think they do this?**
- 17. Is Delphine loving when she refuses the money?**
- 18.18: Why is the stewardess suspicious of Cecile?**
- 19.23: Did Big Ma make a mistake? Why does Delphine talk about what you can’t say?**
- 20.24: Do you think that Delphine wonders the same things that she did at six?**
- 21.26: How do you think Cecile’s comments make the girls feel?**
- 22.29: Is telling Fern and Vonetta about Mexico the loving thing to do?**
- 23. Should kids be forced to know parents who don’t want them?**
- 24. 31: Does being able to cook at twelve mean Delphine is strong? Would it be the same for a boy who could cook?**
- 25. 32: Does cooking “real food” for someone show love?**
- 26. 33: Why is Delphine surprised that Cecile won’t escort them to Ming’s?**
- 27. 39: Is it loving for Big Ma to complain when the girls are so far away?**
- 28.40: Why doesn’t Delphine need mothering? Does this make her strong, or something else?**
- 29. 41: What do Cecile and Big Ma have in common? What does this tell us about them?**
- 30.43: Do the girls need to know Cecile?**
- 31. 45: What/Who are the Black Panthers?**
- 32.50: Why can’t Delphine have a nice long bath? Does the reason make her strong?**
- 33. 51: Is story time an act of love? Do books make people strong?**
- 34. 52: What is a “talking to white folks” voice? What does one sound like?**
- 35.53: What “hard things” do you do? Do hard things make people strong?**
- 36.54: Why does Delphine hate to think of Cecile leaving them for a normal life?**
- 37.59: What does Fern’s “no” mean? Have you ever seen a kid say this kind of no?**
- 38. 63: What kind of organization is the Black Panthers? Why doesn’t beating eggs make the news?**
- 39. 65: Which sounds better, black or colored? Does it matter?**
- 40.65: What does carrying self hatred around mean? Is there more than one way to do this?**

- 41.69: What is “home training” and why does it matter?**
- 42.73: Can providing breakfast be revolutionary?
- 43.76: What does Delphine know about? Could this make her strong?**
- 44.78: Should family ever tell on family?
- 45.84: Should a name be original or significant?
- 46.87: Why doesn't T.V. show the Panthers the way Delphine sees them?**
- 47.90: What is your la-la-la song? What does it do for you?
- 48.96: Was there no point in sending the girls to Oakland?
- 49.97: Would it be revolutionary for you to think about the people who pick your food? Are they strong?**
- 50.99: Delphine can't help reading the Panthers newspaper, what does she learn? Can the news make people strong?**
- 51.100: Has there been something you wanted to read every word of?
- 52.103: Is there such a thing as a loving lie?**
- 53.104: Why would Big Ma be angry?**
- 54.105: Is Delphine strong even though she's scared?**
- 55.106: Delphine has never made a mess, does this mean she's strong, or something else?**
- 56.107: Does Delphine deserve to have an S on her chest?**
- 57.110: Should Delphine be more selfish? Why did Cecile say this to her?**
- 58.119: How can someone sound too colored?**
- 59.121: What should girls be when they grow up in the 21st Century?**
- 60.124-5: Why didn't Pa tell Big Ma what happened? What do you think the policeman said to him?**
- 61.129: Is avoiding the protest the loving thing to do?**
- 62.130: Does Delphine have any talents?
- 63.139: What do Eunice and Delphine know?**
- 64. Why doesn't Mrs. Peterson believe Delphine? Have you ever had a teacher like Mrs. Peterson?**
- 65.169: Is Cecile trying to be loving here?**
- 66.170: What do they arrest you for in Oakland? Is this like arresting people for being strong?**
- 67.180: Should Big Ma badmouth Cecile in front of the girls?**

68. 182: Does it take strength to be respectful?

69. 198: Is Fern strong?

**70.205: Should Delphine have called her father?**

**71.206: Does Delphine do everything? Does she deserve more help?**

**72. Does knowing Cecile's story make her behavior easier to understand? Would you forgive her? Did she ever learn what love was growing up?**

73. 208: What kept Cecile strong?

**74.209: Was Delphine's life better without Cecile in it?**

**75.210: Is it possible for Delphine to just be eleven?**

76. 215: Did Cecile deserve the hug? Was the hug for the girls, or Cecile, or both?

## After Questions for *One Crazy Summer*:

*Would the story have been different if they were boys without a father? How?*

*What would the story sound like if it had been told from Cecile's point of view?*

*What makes a good parent?*

## The Pearl by John Steinbeck

1. 5: What is The Song of the Family?
2. 8: Why is it surprising that Juana has asked for a doctor?
3. 9-11: How are Kino and his people different from the doctor?
4. 12: What kind of man is the doctor?
5. 22: What does it mean that there were not many pearl buyers, but there was only one?
6. 23: Why does Kino become everyone's enemy?
7. **24-25 What does Kino see in the pearl? What do these things mean?**
8. **25: Why does Kino believe that knowing words and numbers will make them free?**
9. 28: Why does Kino hear The Song of Evil?
10. 28-9: What does making the plan do to Kino?

11. 30: Why is Kino “trapped” by the doctor?
12. 33: What happens to Coyotito?
13. 36: Should Kino fear everyone?
14. 38-9: How does Kino convince Juana that it will be alright?
15. 41: What motivates the pearl buyers?
16. 44-5: What is Juan Tomas cautioning against?
- 17.49: Should he have taken the 1,000 pesos- knowing only what he knew up to that point?**
- 18.51: Why do the towns people and Kino have such a hard time knowing the buyers were right?**
19. 52: Why is Juan Tomas afraid for Kino?
- 20.57: Was it wrong from Juana to take the pearl without consulting Kino?**
21. 58: Is Juan right about manhood and does she need a man?
22. 59: Was the killing of the man an accident? Was it necessary?
- 23.64: Did Juan Tomas do the right thing by helping hide Kino? Would you do that for family?**
- 24.68-9: Why is Kino more determined to keep the pearl? Is he being reasonable?**
- 25.75: Is Juana being stubborn and unreasonable?**
- 26.84: What is happening?**
- 27.86-7: Why throw the pearl away?**

## **After questions for *The Pearl*:**

*What was Kino’s greatest motivator?*

*Was he being selfish the whole time?*

*What responsibility did Juana have?*

## ***Piecing Me Together*** by Renée Watson

**Essential Questions:** *What keeps people from being themselves?  
How do people lead through adversity?*

1. 2-3: Why does Jade feel as though she needs to leave her surroundings to be successful? Have you ever felt this way?
2. 4: What is The Talk? Does your family have this talk with you?
3. **10-11: What does it mean to be someone's deferred dream? Is that fair to put on a child?**
4. **12: Why does Josiah do this? Have you ever changed the way you act to fit in for someone else?**
5. **16: Why didn't she speak up for herself about the study abroad program? Would you?**
6. 18-19: Why was Jade chosen for Woman to Woman? Did she need this opportunity?
7. 36: Should Jade have advocated for herself?
8. 40-41: Should she have let Maxine in and accepted the apology?
9. 50-55: What is Sam's life like?  
**10.57: Why would they feel guilty for having opportunities?**  
**11.58: What does it mean to be stuck in the middle?**
12. 60-61: Is mom overreacting? Why? Have your parents ever been like this?  
**13.85: Why does Jade leave home feeling whole and return in a million pieces?  
What makes you feel whole?**
14. 90: Why doesn't anyone say anything about the car ride conversation? Should they?  
**15.94-95: What influences the way we see and treat ourselves?**
16. 112: Is Jade a pessimist or realist?
17. 130: What does it mean to be "one of those girls" and why is Jade perpendicular to them?  
**18.136: Why is it so hard for Sam to be on Jades side? Have you ever had to have a conversation with a friend like this?**
19. 142: Why is mom so upset by Jade's comments?  
**20.151: Can you be friends with someone who doesn't understand what you go through or how you feel?**
21. 157-66: What is dinner like at Maxine's?

22. 168-9: Why does Mom want Jade to stay in the program? Are you surprised?
23. 182: Why does E.J. say praying is for poor people?
- 24. 185: Did Jade do anything wrong?**
25. 190: Why is it easier for Jade to talk to Lee Lee?
- 26. 199: What does it mean to be seen only as someone who needs and not someone who gives?**
- 27. 201: What keeps her from being herself?**
28. 204: Should Jade just be happy for Sam?
29. 216: Why did Maxine have a hard time at St. Francis?
30. 231: Did she do the right thing by confronting Sam?
31. 234: How has Maxine earned mom's trust?
32. 240: What does it mean to be seen and hear? When have you felt this way?
- 33. 249-52: What has Jade learned about self-advocacy?**

## After Questions for *Piecing Me Together*:

*What did Jade learn from Maxine?*

*What did Maxine learn from Jade?*

*Did Jade need the Woman to Woman program?*

*What qualities make Jade a leader?*

## **Pinocchio** by Carlo Collodi

### **Essential Question:** *How should we behave?*

1. 7: Is this how friends behave?
2. 10: Does Geppetto deserve respect from Pinocchio?
3. 14: Is the cricket right about the importance of school?
4. 23: How is Pinocchio behaving?
5. 29: Is Pinocchio selfish?
6. 31: Is it Pinocchio's fault that such a commotion is made in the theatre?
7. 34: Why does the puppet master take pity on Pinocchio?

# Literary Resources 2020

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8. 35: Why does Pinocchio offer to take Harlequin's place?
9. 37: Should we listen to the advice of others?
10. 40: Why does Pinocchio go with the fox and the cat?
11. 44: Has Pinocchio learned anything?
12. 45: Are kids unlucky?
13. 46: Should Pinocchio have given the murders the money?
14. 51: Does Pinocchio care about his father?
15. 52: Why does the Fairy feel bad for Pinocchio?
16. 56: Does Pinocchio deserve her help?
17. 60: Is telling lies the worst vice a child can have?
18. 63: What do children with thick skulls and hard hearts do?
19. 68: Why is Pinocchio thrown in jail?
20. 73: Was it ok for Pinocchio to take the grapes?
21. 75: Is Pinocchio just a victim of bad luck?
22. 78: How should we treat the dead?
23. 80: Does Pinocchio feel bad about the Fairy's death?
24. 87: Should Pinocchio be ashamed of begging?
25. 91: How should proper boys behave?
26. 92: Is it true that it is never too late to educate ourselves?
27. 96: Does Pinocchio have friends?
28. 99: Is Pinocchio to blame for Eugenio's injury?
29. 108: Should we always help one another?
30. 109: Is Pinocchio honest?
31. 118: What is important to Pinocchio?
32. 127: Does Pinocchio have a heart?
33. 141: How do good mothers behave?
34. 144: Do all opinions deserve to be respected?
35. 147: Is Pinocchio sincere?
36. 153: Why doesn't Pinocchio take mercy on the fox and cat?
37. 157: Does Pinocchio deserve forgiveness?
38. 160: What has Pinocchio learned?

## *The Real Thief* by William Steig

**Essential Questions:** *How do we know what is fair? What makes a good friend?*

1. 2: Why is Gawain bored? What bores you?
2. 3: Why did Gawain take the job? Do you have a friend like Gawain?
3. 3. 4: Are Gawain and the king friends? How do you know?
4. 6: What kind of friend is Gawain? How hard would you try?
5. 7-8: **Is the king being fair? What does “tactless” mean? Was Gawain tactless? What advice would give the king?**
6. 10: **What does “envy” mean? Does envy have anything to do with what Adrian says to the king? What does quod erat demonstrandum mean?**
7. 10: **Is it fair that the king can’t be wrong? Do you know someone who can’t be wrong?**
8. 11: Why did Basil arrest Gawain? Would you arrest Gawain?
9. 12: Should Gawain have had a lawyer? What advice would you give to Gawain?
10. 14: **Should Basil be the judge at Gawain’s trial? Why do you think he is?**
11. 15: Why is Gawain indignant? What does “indignant” mean? Would you be indignant?
12. 16: Why is everyone “attentive” on this page? Is it fair to raise taxes? When do someone’s else’s actions make you attentive?
13. 18: **What does “audacity” mean? Does this word describe Gawain? When do grownups accuse you of audacity?**
14. 18: **Does Gawain have good friends? How do you know when a friend is a good one?**
15. 20: **Should they feel ashamed? Would you feel ashamed if you were one of them?**
16. 20: **Is the sentence fair? How do you know when a consequence is fair?**
17. 21: **Should Gawain fly away? What else could he have done?**
18. 23: **Is Derek a friend? How do you know when someone is a friend?**
19. 24: **Should Derek confess? Would you confess if you were him?**
20. 25: What does envy mean again? Have you ever felt envious?
21. 26: **What does it mean to feel “of consequence”? What makes you feel of consequence?**
22. 27: **What is a modest existence? Would you want a modest existence?**
23. 28: Why does Derek dream of being emperor? What do you think he needs?



24. 28: Is Derek a ruffian? What would you say to him if he was your friend?
25. 28: What is a nabob? Why would anybody want to be one?
26. 33: Was Derek destined for good fortune? What do you think you're destined for?
27. 34: Is Derek selfish? What does selfishness look like?
- 28.35: What should Derek do? Is he a criminal? What makes a criminal?**
29. 36: Why does Derek decide not to confess? Which is the worse punishment to you?
30. 37: Answer the questions in the first paragraph Are these fair questions for Derek?
31. 37: Does Derek deserve a redo of the past? Would you give him a 2nd chance if you were king?
32. 39: Can there be a good reason for stealing? Do you think Derek is being a friend here?
33. 41: Should they feel guilty about Gawain? When have you wanted to give someone a 2nd chance?
34. 47: Should Gawain "savor his miseries"? Have you ever savored a misery?
- 35.51: Should Gawain feel sorry for Derek? Would you feel sorry for him?**
- 36.52: Should Gawain forgive Derek? Would you?**
- 37.54: Has Derek suffered more than anyone? What would make anyone think this?**
- 38.55: Do the people deserve to always wonder for their lack of faith? What is a lack of faith?**
- 39.56-7: Would you forgive the king? What makes a good friend?**

## *Sylvia and Aki* by Winifred Conkling

### **Essential Question:** *How do you know where you belong?*

1. 3: What does Sylvia imagine her first day of school will be like?
2. 4: How did Sylvia's family get the farm?
3. 6: How is the secretary treating Sylvia and her brother? Why?
4. 9: Why doesn't Sylvia's aunt register her own kids for school?
- 5. 11: What does it mean to be treated like "second-best people"?**
6. 21: What does the war have to do with Aki and her family?
- 7. 22: Why does Aki start to think of being Japanese as not merely different but bad?**
8. 25: Why is Aki's mother worried about people thinking they love Japan more than the USA?

9. 29: Why would Aki's mother tear and throw away the family pictures?

**10.43: Does Sylvia belong at her new school?**

11. 48: Why would they take the men first?

12. 62: Why won't Mr. Ortega sign the school petition?

13. 64: Can people be successful in places where others don't care if they succeed?

14. 69: What is the camp like?

15. 75: Do Aki and her family belong at the camp?

**16.83: How have Aki's family and others made the camp feel more like home?**

17. 88: Can people belong in two places at once?

18. 92: Why does Sylvia's father fight so hard to get them in school?

19. 95: Why doesn't Sylvia's father accept the offer of the superintendent? Is that the right thing to do?

20. 97: Can you have freedom if you don't have belonging?

**21.110: Should it be ok to separate the kids if the schools are equal?**

22. 111: Why does Mr. Kent believe that Mexican children belong at Hoover school?

23. 120: Why is this not how Aki imagined peace?

**24.133: What does "equality in opportunity" mean?**

## **Trevor** by James Lecesne

**Essential Question:** *What makes a strong community?*

1. 15: Are they good parents? Why do they ignore him?

2. 18: Is Zac trying to help him?

**3. 23: Is this art or a call for help?**

4. 25: Why does Zac act this way?

5. 27: Are you surprised by mom's reaction?

6. 33: What makes life so good right now?

**7. 36: Is Zac a bad friend?**

8. 42: Is Pinky a coward for writing the letter?

9. 46: Was throwing out the costume a good idea?

10. 49: Is his mom right that he is too young to have a life that doesn't concern her.

11. 52: Are his parents reacting appropriately?

12. 53: Why is this wrong?

13. 54: Do we need labels?

**14.55: What does bullying look like? Have you seen this at your school?**

15. 72: Is the principal doing a good job?

16. 77: What does his suicide note reveal?

17. 82: Should his parents have known?

**18.84: Did Trevor have someone he could trust? How important is that?**

## After Questions for Trevor:

*Who is to blame for Trevor's suicide attempt?*

*What would have made his school community better?*

*Is Trevor's problem unique?*

## The Wave by Todd Strasser

### Essential Question: *What makes a good leader?*

1. 5: Why are teachers split on how they feel about Mr. Ross (Ben)? What do you think the students think about him?
2. 11-12: How do the students react to seeing the film about Nazis?
3. 13: Do we see examples of small minorities ruling the majority today?
4. 17: Why are the kids so mean to Robert?
5. **18: Who is right Laurie or David?**
6. 23: Is this competition in friendship normal? Is it healthy?
7. 26: Are the Nazis hard to understand?
8. **34-37: How do the kids respond to "discipline"? Is this a bad thing?**
9. 38: Why does Robert take to the discipline so quickly?
10. 39: Are the kids hungry for order?
11. **43: What does the wave represent?**
12. 50-51: Who is right, Lauri's mom or dad?
13. **53: Is it easier to have someone think for you?**
14. 58: What does the creation of the Wave Police do to the group?

15. 60-63: Can it be bad if it is making people equal?
16. 65-67: How does *The Wave* change the culture of the school?
17. 72: Is *The Wave* good for Robert? Is Laurie's mom right?
18. 84: Should Mr. Ross have accepted a bodyguard?
19. 88: Is Laurie just a hater?
20. 100: Was it a good idea to write about *The Wave* in the paper?
- 21. 108: Is Mr. Ross right to push them further and keep *The Wave* going?**
22. 114: Is David a bad person or did he do a bad thing?
23. 116: What is the "end" that Mr. Ross has in mind? Should he keep waiting for it?
- 24. 117: Is Mr. Ross a good leader?**
- 25. 133: Do people need leaders?**
- 26. 134-135: What does Mr. Ross want them to understand about leadership and power?**

## After Questions for *The Wave*:

*Was Mr. Ross' experiment worth it?*

*Are the students in the story unique or could this happen at your school?*

*Who is most susceptible to *The Wave*? Why?*

*What made Laurie push back against it?*

*What would you do?*

## What *Jamie Saw* by Carolyn Coman

### Essential Questions: *What does fear do? What are moms for?*

1. 7: Why does the author repeat certain details on this page? What do you think Jamie needs?
2. 8: Was Jamie's mom waiting her whole life to save Nin? What makes a good save?
3. 9: Should Jamie's mom say nothing is going to happen? When has a grownup made you feel better about something?
4. 9: Why can't Jamie get out of the bed? What do you think Jamie is afraid of on this page?
5. 12: Why does he stop breathing? How do our bodies act different when we are scared?

# Literary Resources 2020

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6. 13: Is Van dangerous? What do dangerous people look like?
7. 15: Why does Jamie ask about the magic? Are moms magic?
8. 18: Why is Jamie worried about sleeping? What helps kids sleep?
9. 20: What's the matter with Jamie's mom? How would you help her?
10. 21: Should Jamie miss school? Do you think going to school could help Jamie?
11. 22: Is Ms. Gimber a good teacher? What makes your favorite teacher your favorite?
12. 25: What's the matter with Jamie? How does his mom help?
13. 26: Why would Jamie like knowing what was next? Do you like knowing what's next?
14. 28: Why does Jamie want to keep eating and never leave Earl? What place/time do you never want to leave?
15. 29: Should all kids have an all time favorite book? What's your all time favorite book?
16. 29: Why was Van "the nicest" to Jamie on this page? What do you think Van was doing here?
17. 31: Did Jamie's mom perform magic? What magic have you seen grownups make?
18. 32: Why doesn't Jamie want to talk? What makes talking to grownups hard?
19. 33: How is moving for Jamie and Nin? What does fear do?
20. 34: Should Patty listen to Earl? Would you listen to Earl?
21. 39: Is Jamie a worrier? Would you be worried?
22. 40: Should they move into the trailer? Would you want to live in the trailer?
23. 41: Does Jamie understand what "sitting ducks" means? Would you tell him what it meant if you were his mom?
24. 44: Should his mom tell him they're poor? What would you say to Jamie when he asked for presents?
25. 45: Should Jamie feel sorry for Agnes? Would you feel sorry for Agnes?
26. 52-3: What does fear do? Would you have gone to the fair knowing Van lived in the same town?
27. What does fear do? Would you want any of your teachers to see you afraid outside school?
28. 56-7: What is happening to Jamie and Patty? Would you ask for help?
29. 58: Why does Jamie kick the drawer? What would you do if you were Patty?
30. 61: Are they sick with fear? What do you think they need?
31. 65: Should Ms. Desrochers come to their house? Is there a teacher you would want to visit your house?
32. 67: How does Patty feel about Ms. Desrochers' visit? How would you feel?

33. 68: Why does Patty say they don't need help? Do you agree or disagree with Patty?
34. 69: How does Jamie know Patty will listen to Ms. Desrochers? Would you want Ms. Desrochers as your teacher?
35. 70: How does Jamie feel about Ms. Desrochers visit? How do you think he should feel?
36. 72: Why is Jamie mad at Patty? Do you think he should be mad?
37. 75: Why does Jamie kick Patty? Have you ever wanted to kick a grownup?
38. 80: Should Ms. Desrochers go easy on Jamie at school? What would you want her to do?
39. 82: What gifts would you wish for? What would you get Jamie for Christmas?
40. 84: Why is it hard for Jamie to come back? How would you help him?
41. 92: What does skating do for Jamie? What activity makes you feel the same?
42. 94: Should Van be allowed to visit? Make up your own question here
43. 97: Why is Jamie doing magic? What would you do?
44. 97: Is Jamie brave, scared, or both? Should he have to do this?
45. 101: Why does Jamie say no? What do you think you would say?
46. 105: What kind of magic has Jamie learned in this story?

## ***A Wizard of Earthsea*** by Ursula K. LeGuin

### **Chapter One: *Warriors In The Mist***

“But need alone is not enough to set power free: there must be knowledge.”

1. 2: How does his mother's death shape Dunny?
2. 2: What is Dunny's first experience with power?
3. 3: How did this experience turn out?
4. 3: What does his aunt learn about him based on his experience with the goats?
5. 3: How does she feel about him once she has this knowledge?
6. 4: How does Dunny feel about his playmates?
7. 5: What do we learn about the aunt's character and level of art?
8. 6: Ged learns all his aunt's knowledge in five years: based on her teaching, what type of wizard will he make?
9. 8: Does Sparrowhawk's father know about his talent?
10. 13: How does LeGuin's portrayal of the rigors of magic compare to others you have seen?
11. 14: “For to keep dark the mind of the mageborn, that is a dangerous thing.” Is this true for all minds or only the “gifted”?

## **Chapter Two:** *The Shadow*

“Manhood is patience. Mastery is nine times patience.”

12. 16: Ged thought he would be immediately powerful with Ogion: What does this tell us about how the young view power and its acquisition?

13. 17: “Mastery is nine times patience.” What does Ogion see in Ged that made him say this?

14. 18: How does Ged feel about Ogion’s teaching? Where do these feelings come from?

15. 22: Why does Ged feel a need to impress a girl he does not know?

16. 23 : “Have you never thought how danger must smrnund power as shadow does light?”  
What does this mean for Ged?

17. 24: Does Ogion really teach Ged nothing?

18. 24: Ged chooses Rake: What-if anything-has Ged learned from Ogion?

19. 25: Why does Ogion’s face darken when he hears the name of the ship?

20. 32: Why did the stmm appear as they approached Roke Island?

## **Chapter Three:** *The School for Wizards*

“Even foolery is dangerous, in the hands of a fool.”

21. 34: What does it say about Ged that he did not willingly ask the Doorkeeper for help?

22. 34: What did Ged bring with him into the school?

23. 36: Why would Ogion write Ged such a glowing recommendation given his experience with him?

24. 37: Why does Ged feel uneasy with Jasper?

25. 42: What does Ged vow to do? What does this tell us about him?

26. 44: What does Master Changer tell Ged? How does Ged respond?

27. 45: How does Ged feel about his education thus far on Roke?

28. 45: What does he plan for Jasper?

## **Chapter Four:** *The Loosing of the Shadow*

“Has a shadow a name?”

29. 52: How is Ged doing at Roke?

30. 53: How did the Master Changer influence Ged?

31. 54: What does Ged think his learning will do for him?

32. 57: What led to the duel between Jasper and Ged?

33. 60: What is the shadow?!

34. 65: Why does Gensher refuse Ged's fealty?

35. 73-4: How is Ged's departure from the school different with the Master Doorkeeper?

## **Chapter Five:** *The Dragon of Pendor*

"I did not know men came so young into their power."

36. 76: Why does Ged no longer speak with pride?

37. 77: Why did Ged turn from seeking fame?

38. 83: How did the shadow find Ged after years?

39. 92: Why didn't Ged learn the shadow's name from Yevaud?

## **Chapter Six:** *Hunted*

"It was hard to turn from the bright danger of the dragons to that formless, hopeless horror."

40. 98: Why does the Roke-Wind block the ship Ged is on?

41. 104: Why didn't Ged do anything about what he saw on Skiorh's face?

42. 106: How does the shadow know Ged's name?!

43. 108: How long has the shadow been with Ged?

## **Chapter Seven:** *The Hawk's Flight*

"Ill means, ill end."

44. How is Ged able to resist Serret and the stone?

45. 126: Is Ged strong, or lucky?

46. 127: Why does Ogion say only Ged can drive the Shadow away?

47. 127: Why does Ogion tell Ged to turn around?

## **Chapter Eight:** *Hunting*

"He hunted, he followed, and fear ran before him."

48. 135: Why does the shadow run from Ged?

49. 143: Why can't the shadow draw on Ged's power when he hunts it?

50. 146: Why can't Ged hold the shadow?

## **Chapter Ten:** *The Open Sea*

"I traded all the sunlight and the cities and the distant lands for a handful of power"

51. 179: Why do the shadow and Ged have the same True Name?



52. 179: How does Ged finally defeat the shadow?
53. 181: What does it mean to be whole?
54. 181: Is it better to be whole than to win? Are they the same?

## **After Questions for *A Wizard of Earthsea*:**

*Why did it take so long to catch the shadow?*

*What does the book tell us about how the young should relate to their elders?*

*How are women represented in the book?*

*How is race represented in the book?*

*How do you feel about how race and gender are represented in the book?*

*Must the young rebel in order to gain wisdom?*

*For questions or comments about these Reading Guides, contact  
Drego Little: [dlittle@rainierscholars.org](mailto:dlittle@rainierscholars.org)*