

# MSVA & HSVA–Live! Novel List

*\*Grades 7-8 : Students will receive digital text at no additional cost.*

*\*Grades 9-12: Students need to purchase their own hard copy. Please note you are using the correct ISBN number when placing your order.*

| [English 7](#) | [English 8](#) | [English 9](#) | [English 10](#) | [English 11](#) | [English 12](#) |

English 7 [major themes/topics covered]	
<p><b><u>Out of My Mind</u></b> by Sharon Draper</p> <p>ISBN: <b>978-1416971719</b></p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctors, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.</p>
<p><b><u>The Pearl</u></b> by John Steinbeck</p> <p>ISBN: <b>978-0140177374</b></p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>Like his father and grandfather before him, Kino is a poor diver, gathering pearls from the gulf beds that once brought great wealth to the Kings of Spain and now provide Kino, Juana, and their infant son with meager subsistence. Then, on a day like any other, Kino emerges from the sea with a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg, as "perfect as the moon." With the pearl comes hope, the promise of comfort and of security....</p> <p>A story of classic simplicity, based on a Mexican folk tale, <i>The Pearl</i> explores the secrets of man's nature, the darkest depths of evil, and the luminous possibilities of love.</p>
<p><b><u>A Single Shard</u></b> by Linda Sue Park</p> <p>ISBN: <b>978-0547534268</b></p>	<p>Tree-ear is fascinated by the celadon ware created in the village of Ch'ulp'o. He is determined to prove himself to the master potter, Min—even if it means making a solitary journey to present Min's work .</p>
<p><b><u>The Wednesday Wars</u></b> by</p> <p>ISBN: <b>978-0547237602</b></p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>Seventh grader Holling Hoodhood isn't happy. He is sure his new teacher, Mrs. Baker, hates his guts. Holling's domineering father is obsessed with his business image and disregards his family. Throughout the school year, Holling strives to get a handle on the Shakespeare plays Mrs. Baker assigns him to read on his own time, and to figure out the enigmatic Mrs. Baker. As the Vietnam War turns lives upside down, Holling comes to admire and respect both Shakespeare and Mrs. Baker, who have more to offer him than he imagined. And when his family is on the verge of coming apart, he also discovers his loyalty to his sister, and his ability to stand up to his father when it matters most.</p>

## English 8

[Time of War, Moral Compass and Survival]

<p><b>The Hobbit</b> By J.R.R. Tolkien</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0345339683 <a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>The Hobbit is set in Middle-earth and follows home-loving Bilbo Baggins, the hobbit of the title, who joins the wizard Gandalf and the thirteen dwarves of Thorin's Company, on a quest to reclaim the dwarves' home and treasure from the dragon Smaug.</p>
<p><b>The Diary of Anne Frank The Diary of a Young Girl (Excerpts)</b> by</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0553577129 <a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>The Diary Of A Young Girl is the real diary of a teenage girl that begins on Anne's 13th birthday (12 June 1942) when she gets a diary. It tells the story of her family who live in Frankfurt, Germany and suddenly have to go into hiding as a result of Hitler and the Nazi Party's treatment of Jews in Europe during the second world war. They escape to Amsterdam where they go into hiding with other Jews. The novel details those who had to hide in the annex, and the everyday issues they faced living with one another. Not only this, but they had to deal with the outside forces of knowing the treatment of Jewish people in the rest of Europe. Anne documents the two years she faced in the Annex as she grew into a young adult.</p>
<p><b>Fahrenheit 451</b> by Ray Bradbury</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1451673319 <a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p><i>Fahrenheit 451</i> tells the story of Guy Montag and his transformation from a book-burning fireman to a book-reading rebel. Ray Bradbury's 1953 novel <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> is set in a dystopian society that burns books in order to control dangerous ideas and unhappy concepts. The novel tells the story of Guy Montag, a fireman who questions the book-burning policy and undergoes extraordinary suffering and transformation as a result. Montag lives in an oppressive society that attempts to eliminate all sources of complexity, contradiction, and confusion to ensure uncomplicated happiness for all its citizens. As Montag comes to realize over the course of the novel, however, his fellow citizens are not happy so much as spiritually hollow. People in this world are constantly bombarded with advertisements and shallow entertainments, leaving them no space to think for themselves or assess their own emotional states. The result is a society that grows increasingly selfish, pleasure-seeking, disconnected, and empty.</p>
<p><b>Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief</b> by Rick Riordan</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0786838653 <a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p><b>The Lightning Thief</b> is a light-hearted fantasy about a modern 12-year-old boy who learns that his true father is Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea. Percy sets out to become a hero by undertaking a quest across the United States to find the entrance to the Underworld and stop a war between the gods. The novel provides a high-interest, humorous introduction to the Greek myths. It works well if taught in conjunction with mythology, which is a core component of most English state curriculum frameworks. The novel can also be taught at any time after the introduction of Greek mythology, to draw on students' prior experience as per standard three of the Standards for English Language Arts of the National Council of Teachers of English. The novel offers an excellent chance for students to explore the Classical heritage of Greece as it applies to modern civilization; to analyze the elements of the hero's quest rendered in a modern-day story with a first-person narrator to whom students can easily relate; and to discuss such relevant issues as learning disabilities, the nature of family, and themes of loyalty, friendship and faith.</p> <p><b>*Students will be choosing this OR Hatchet for the final Spring unit</b></p>
<p><b>Hatchet</b> by Gary Paulsen</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1416936473 <a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p><b>Hatchet</b> is a nineteen-chapter fictional novel written by American author <b>Gary Paulsen</b> and published in 1986. <i>Hatchet</i> is a survival novel about a thirteen-year-old boy named Brian Robeson who finds himself completely alone in the Canadian wilderness with only a hatchet as his tool. Brian is forced to deal with the dangers of the wilderness and learn to fend for himself while he awaits for someone to finally save him. Gary Paulsen was inspired to write <i>Hatchet</i> by his own survival experiments and tendencies.</p> <p><b>*Students will be choosing this OR Percy Jackson for the final Spring unit</b></p>

## English 9

### Dreams, Loyalty, and Compassion

<p><b>For Every One</b> by Jason Reynolds</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1481486255</p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>For Every One is a stirring free-verse book by Jason Reynold about the frustration and rewards of pursuing your passion. Reynolds, who originally presented the poem at the 2011 opening of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, writes frankly about his own self-doubt and pain as he became a successful writer. He rejects any notion that he has advice or tips to share, and discourages readers from getting too caught up in realizing their dreams. Instead, Reynolds notes that the struggle itself is enriching, and offers compassion, empathy, and words he hopes might provide comfort and encouragement. As lonely as the road can seem, he offers reassurance that plenty of dreamers are following the same path.</p>
<p><b>Other Words for Home</b> by Jasmine Warga</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0062747815</p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives.</p> <p>At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US—and her new label of "Middle Eastern," an identity she's never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises—there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.</p>
<p><b>Antigone</b> by Sophocles trans. by Richard Emil Braun</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0195061673</p>	<p>The daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta, Antigone is an unconventional heroine who pits her beliefs against the King of Thebes in a bloody test of wills that leaves few unharmed. Emotions fly as she challenges the king for the right to bury her own brother. Determined but doomed, Antigone shows her inner strength throughout the play.</p>
<p><b>The Hunger Games</b> by Suzanne Collins</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0439023528</p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV.</p> <p>Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she steps forward to take her sister's place in the Games. But Katniss has been close to dead before—and survival, for her, is second nature. Without really meaning to, she becomes a contender. But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weigh survival against humanity and life against love.</p>

## English 10

### Human Connection, Choices, Family Ties and Relationships

<p><b>The Outsiders</b> by S. E. Hinton</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0142407332</p>	<p><i>The Outsiders</i> has been one of the most popular books among teens and preteens since it came out in 1967. Ponyboy and his Greaser gang fight rival gang the Socs (short for "Socials," the wealthier, more preppie kids) and try to make a place for themselves in the world. The juvenile delinquent characters are fully and humanely developed in this realistic look at life, death, and growing up, told from a teen's point of view. The book was based on the author's high school experience in Tulsa, OK, in 1965, but the time and setting are not specified in the text.</p>
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<a href="#">Common Sense Media</a>	
<p><b>Romeo and Juliet</b> by William Shakespeare</p> <p>Teacher will provide a digital text.</p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>In Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare creates a violent world, in which two young people fall in love. It is not simply that their families disapprove; the Montagues and the Capulets are engaged in a blood feud.</p> <p>In this death-filled setting, the movement from love at first sight to the lovers' final union in death seems almost inevitable. And yet, this play set in an extraordinary world has become the quintessential story of young love. In part because of its exquisite language, it is easy to respond as if it were about all young lovers.</p>
<p><b>Home Is Not a Country</b> by Safia Elhillo</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0593177082</p>	<p>Nima doesn't feel understood. By her mother, who grew up far away in a different land. By her suburban town, which makes her feel too much like an outsider to fit in and not enough like an outsider to feel like that she belongs somewhere else. At least she has her childhood friend Haitham, with whom she can let her guard down and be herself. Until she doesn't.</p> <p>As the ground is pulled out from under her, Nima must grapple with the phantom of a life not chosen, the name her parents didn't give her at birth: Yasmeen. But that other name, that other girl, might just be more real than Nima knows. And more hungry. And the life Nima has, the one she keeps wishing were someone else's. . .she might have to fight for it with a fierceness she never knew she had.</p>

## English 11

### Values and Motivations

<p><b>The Crucible</b> by Arthur Miller</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0142437339</p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>Based on historical people and real events, Miller's drama is a searing portrait of a community engulfed by hysteria. In the rigid theocracy of Salem, rumors that women are practicing witchcraft galvanize the town's most basic fears and suspicions; and when a young girl accuses Elizabeth Proctor of being a witch, self-righteous church leaders and townspeople insist that Elizabeth be brought to trial. The ruthlessness of the prosecutors and the eagerness of neighbor to testify against neighbor brilliantly illuminates the destructive power of socially sanctioned violence.</p> <p>Written in 1953, The Crucible is a mirror Miller uses to reflect the anti-communist hysteria inspired by Senator Joseph McCarthy's "witch-hunts" in the United States.</p>
<p><b>Brown Girl Dreaming</b> by Jacqueline Woodson</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0147515827</p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.</p>
<p><b>American Born Chinese</b> by Gene Luen Yang</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1250811899</p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>American Born Chinese tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. American Born Chinese is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax.</p>

<p><b>Pride and Prejudice</b> by Jane Austen</p> <p>ISBN: 978-0141439518</p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>Few have failed to be charmed by the witty and independent spirit of Elizabeth Bennet in Austen's beloved classic <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>. When Elizabeth Bennet first meets eligible bachelor Fitzwilliam Darcy, she thinks him arrogant and conceited; he is indifferent to her good looks and lively mind. When she later discovers that Darcy has involved himself in the troubled relationship between his friend Bingley and her beloved sister Jane, she is determined to dislike him more than ever. In the sparkling comedy of manners that follows, Jane Austen shows us the folly of judging by first impressions and superbly evokes the friendships, gossip and snobberies of provincial middle-class life.</p>
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<h2 style="margin: 0;">English 12</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Perspective and Reality, Resilience</h3>	
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<p><b>Long Way Down</b> by Jason Reynolds</p> <p>ISBN: 978-1481438261</p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>Will, the 15 year old protagonist, has a choice to make. Does he take revenge for his brother's death and follow The Rules he has grown up with? A 60 second ride on an elevator forces Will to meet his past, and each story offers a different perspective on The Rules. Novel is written in verse.</p>
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<p><b>Hamlet</b> by William Shakespeare</p> <p>ISBN 10-9780743477123</p>	<p>Hamlet is Shakespeare's most popular, and most puzzling, play. It follows the form of a "revenge tragedy," in which the hero, Hamlet, seeks vengeance against his father's murderer, his uncle Claudius, now the king of Denmark. Much of its fascination, however, lies in its uncertainties.</p> <p>Among them: What is the Ghost--Hamlet's father demanding justice, a tempting demon, an angelic messenger? Does Hamlet go mad, or merely pretend to? Once he is sure that Claudius is a murderer, why does he not act? Was his mother, Gertrude, unfaithful to her husband or complicit in his murder?</p>
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<p><b>The Road</b> by Cormac McCarthy <i>*Novel will be taught if time permits</i></p> <p>ISBN: 978-0307387899</p>	<p>A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other.</p> <p>The Road is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.</p>
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<p><b>The Great Gatsby</b> by F. Scott Fitzgerald</p> <p>ISBN: 9780743273565</p> <p><a href="#">AbeBooks link for purchasing</a></p> <p><a href="#">Common Sense Media</a></p>	<p>The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald's third book, stands as the supreme achievement of his career. First published in 1925, this quintessential novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the mysteriously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island at a time when The New York Times noted "gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession," it is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.</p>
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**For Every One**

by Jason Reynolds

ISBN: 978-1481486255

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For Every One is a stirring free-verse book by Jason Reynold about the frustration and rewards of pursuing your passion. Reynolds, who originally presented the poem at the 2011 opening of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, writes frankly about his own self-doubt and pain as he became a successful writer. He rejects any notion that he has advice or tips to share, and discourages readers from getting too caught up in realizing their dreams. Instead, Reynolds notes that the struggle itself is enriching, and offers compassion, empathy, and words he hopes might provide comfort and encouragement. As lonely as the road can seem, he offers reassurance that plenty of dreamers are following the same path.