

ANNOTATED CLASSROOM LIBRARY SELECTIONS

Context: This year, I will be teaching 12th grade World Literature & Composition and AP Literature and Composition. I teach at a school that can be categorized as low-achieving. Often, my scholars come in reading below grade level and disengaged with the practice of reading. With that being said, there are groups of students who have contrasting characteristics. Therefore, in this document, you will see a wide range of texts. Ultimately, my goal is to gather items that promote enjoyable reading by being culturally relevant and providing diverse characters that are well developed through an engaging plot.

Week 2: Middle Grades Text		
Title	Author	Reasoning (Why)
<i>Ghost Boys</i>	Jewell Parker Rhodes	Relevant to Today's Social/Political Climate. Does a Great Job Relating Current News Headlines to the Past.
<i>One Crazy Summer</i>	Rita Williams-Garcia	Great story detailing sisterhood and points of historical significance in African-American history.
<i>Boy in the Back of the Class</i>	Onjali Rauf	Interesting Plot that Brings to Light the Immigrant Experience and Rallying Behind a Fellow Classmate.
<i>Genesis Begins Again</i>	Alicia D. Williams	Does a Great job Exploring Colorism and Racism in Our Communities. Will be Super Good for Students who Enjoyed the Reading of <i>The Bluest Eye</i> .

Week 3: Speculative Fiction		
Title	Author	Reasoning (Why)
<i>The Belles</i>	Dhonielle Clayton	Great character development. Details the idea of beauty. Possibly a great read for my girls.
<i>Illuminae</i>	Amie Kaufman & Jay Kristoff	Interesting book development. Easy read that isn't too long.

Week 4: Realistic Fiction		
Title	Author	Reasoning (Why)
<i>With the Fire on High</i>	Elizabeth Acevedo	Strong Female Latinx Character. Emphasizes Having a Passion & Pursuing it.
		Talks About Police Brutality of

<i>Light it Up</i>	Kekla Magoon	Unarmed Black Female. Offers Another Narrative Goes Beyond African American Boys. Written in Vignettes.
<i>One of Us Lying</i>	Karen McManus	A Good Amount of Mystery and Thriller. It will Attract Students who are Interested in Investigations.
<i>American Royals</i>	Katharine McGee	May get students interested in the Royal Family and how Monarchy works.
<i>Dear Martin</i>	Nic Stone	Diverse range of topics that were covered. From police brutality to black-on-black crime, gang affiliation, affirmative action, and many more. I think this could find a home in a high school classroom library. Possibly, excerpts could be reviewed in the curriculum and taught whole-group. This text lends itself to great classroom discussions because there are a variety of controversial topics.

Week 5: Unexpected Perspectives		
Title	Author	Reasoning (Why)
<i>Pride</i>	Ibi Zoboi	Touches on Gentrification in a Community. Also, is a Remake, so it could be a Cool Way to Connect Students to the Original/Reference the Original.
<i>Long Way Down</i>	Jason Reynolds	Awesome book! Great character development, suspense, and interesting writing/craft.
<i>The Poet X</i>	Elizabeth Acevedo	Another powerful novel written in prose. Powerful female character that addresses the tension and conflicts within a young woman's life. From sex to religion and acceptance, Acevedo does a great job navigating these topics with ease.
<i>Truly Devious</i>	Maureen Johnson	Strong female protagonist that doesn't rely on romance. Love the combination of mystery and thriller. Easy read for students and great for those interested in forensics science or CSI.

Week 6: Historical Fiction		
Title	Author	Reasoning (Why)
<i>Revolution</i>	Deborah Wiles	This book is well-written and gives an important voice to the children of the civil rights era. I love how Deborah juxtaposes the experiences of Sunny and Raymond during the Freedom Summer movement of 1964. I also love how she incorporates primary sources and relevant historical quotes/resources to give additional context to the political and social context of that period.
<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	Super easy read that is written in prose. Jacqueline does a great job using imagery to convey her life as a child in the 60s and 70s. Readers get a glimpse of the complexities within identity and family.
<i>Romanov</i>	Nadine Brandes	Strong Anastasia retelling that allows students to bring in background information learned in history and possibly the movie, <i>Anastasia</i> , to establish initial interest and stay committed to reading the text.
<i>X</i>	Ilyasah Shabazz	Great historical fiction version of Malcolm X's life and story. Crafted and told beautifully by his son. In a curriculum that relies heavily on MLK, I think it's important to show other prominent figures and ideals from the civil rights movement.

Week 7: Mental Health		
Title	Author	Reasoning (Why)
<i>Shout</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	Beautifully crafted story highlighting some of the sensitive stories of sexual assault. Provides a lane to speak on the abuse and the power within finding one's voice in the fight end sexual assault and value women's bodies.
<i>Speak</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	The "prequel" to <i>Shout</i> . Also talks about sexual assault from a fictional stance, may be easier to digest

		prior to reading <i>Shout</i> .
<i>Girl In Pieces</i>	Kathleen Glagsgow	A great text that allows for the discussion of self-harm and cutting. Great character and plot development.
<i>You Asked for Perfect</i>	Laura Silverman	A great, relatable story that would be a great read for my seniors, since the main character is in high school and chronicles the need to be perfect and how damaging that can be to the human psyche.
<i>Darius the Great is Not Okay</i>	Adib Khorram	I really enjoyed this book because it's from a perspective that isn't often talked about (male, Persian). Therefore, this text will help dispel the notion that girls are emotional and prone to mental health issues.