

Woodside School
Upper School Summer Reading List 2023

5th Grade Book - one book is required

Locomotion by, Jacqueline Woodson

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson

In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home and finding his poetic voice at school.

This novel touches on themes, such as belonging, that are also present in the novels students read in fifth grade.

6th Grade - both books are required

Lions of Little Rock by, Kristin Levine

Lions of Little Rock

In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over integration, but her friendship with a new student named Liz helps her find her voice and fight against racism.

This novel contains themes about bravery, courage and overcoming adversity, that are also present in the novels students will read in sixth grade.

El Deafo by, Cece Bell

El Deafo

Graphic Novel, biographical

The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her "superpower."

This graphic novel contains themes of acceptance, overcoming adversity, disability and friendship that are also present in the first novel students read in sixth grade.

<p>7th Grade - both books are required <i>Shooting Kabul</i> by, NH Senzai</p> <p><i>They Called Us Enemy</i> by, George Takei</p>	<p>Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in the summer of 2001, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left behind.</p> <p>This novel touches on themes from novels students read in sixth grade and transitions them into the literature of seventh.</p> <p>A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American relocation centers during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon, and America itself, in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.</p> <p>This graphic novel contains themes about belonging that are also present in the first novel students will read in seventh grade.</p>
<p>8th Grade - both books are required <i>Heart of a Samurai</i> by, Margi Preus</p> <p><i>White Bird</i> by, R.J. Palaco</p>	<p>In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companions castaways on a remote island, fourteen-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.</p> <p>This novel connects the social studies curriculum in seventh grade to themes in the eighth grade curriculum of cultural identity and acceptance.</p> <p><i>White Bird</i> tells the story of Julian's Grandmere's childhood as she, a Jewish girl, was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during World War II and how the boy she once shunned became her savior and best friend.</p> <p>This historical fiction novel directly connects to our first unit of study, which includes World War II, the Holocaust, and the play adaption of the <i>Diary of Anne Frank</i>.</p>