The page is framed by a decorative border of stylized books and lightbulbs. The top border consists of a row of eight book icons, each with a lightbulb on top. The left and right borders are vertical columns of alternating book and lightbulb icons. The bottom border is a row of eight book icons, each with a lightbulb on top.

MEK Review Reading Lists Grades 4-8

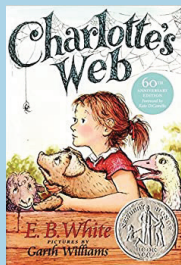
Below are 50 book recommendations from our expert MEK Review teachers for students in fourth through eighth grade.

These books all have immense literary merit and will foster a love for reading in your child, while also expanding their horizons. The books are divided by age level, but within each level there are suggestions that are easier to more difficult, so students can boost their reading level. The book selections are from a diverse set of authors written in a variety of methods such as stories, poetry, and even graphic novels.

Enjoy!

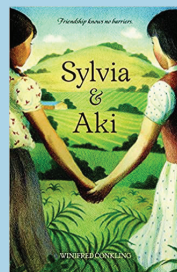


FOURTH GRADE READING LIST



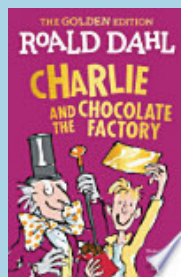
1. *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White

This children's classic from 1952 tells the story of a little girl named Fern, her beloved little pig Wilbur, and a smart spider named Charlotte. When Wilbur is in danger of being slaughtered by the farmer, Charlotte comes up with a clever plan to save Wilbur's life.



2. *Sylvia & Aki* by Wilfred Conkling

This book tells the true story of Sylvia Mendez and Aki Munemitsu who lives intersect on a Southern California farm, where they begin a journey to desegregate schools for Latino children, culminating in the landmark Mendez vs. Westminster School District court case.



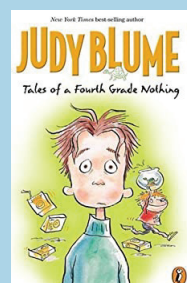
3. *Charlie & The Chocolate Factory* by Ronald Dahl

A great introduction to the revered children's author Ronald Dahl, this book tells the classistory of Willy Wonka's famous chocolate factory and the five lucky children who will be allowed inside!



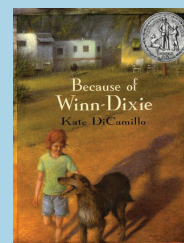
4. *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Gary Paulson

The beloved tearjerker shares the heart-warming story of Billy and his two dogs, Old Dan and Little Ann, as they hunt in the rough terrain of the Ozarks. A story about determination, loss, and the powerful bond between man and man's best friend.



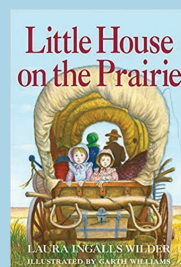
5. *Tales of Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author comes the story of a nine-year-old boy Pete, his pet turtle Dribble, and Pete's two-year-old brother Fudge. Fudge seems to cause mischief wherever he goes, but adults find Fudge adorable while Peter and his turtle grow increasingly frustrated!



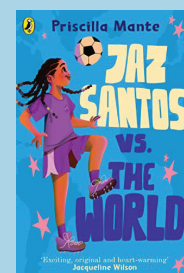
6. *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo

This classic tale from Newbery Medalist author tells the story of ten-year-old India Opal Buloni and her new dog Winn-Dixie. Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal spends the summer making new friends and learning about her mother, who left when Opal was three.



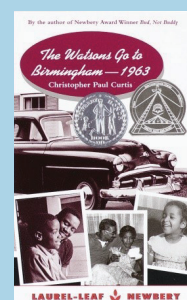
7. *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder

The third book in the Little House series, which became an American phenomenon, is the autobiographical story of the Ingalls family in the late nineteenth century on the prairies of Kansas, working to overcome the obstacles and dangers they encounter on the new homestead.



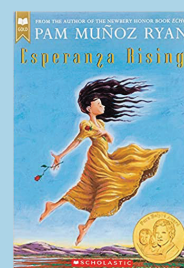
8. *The Dream Team: Jaz Santos vs the World* By Priscilla Mante

Jaz Santos-Campbell is on a mission to prove to the world and her mom that girls can play football (soccer) too! Together she puts together the Dream Team, seven very different girls who must work together to be taken seriously as footballers.



9. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis

This Newbery and Coretta Scott King Honoree book is about one family's unforgettable road-trip to Birmingham, Alabama during the Civil Rights movement. The Watson family, on their way to visit Grandma, learn that laughter and love can get them through even one of the darkest times in American history.



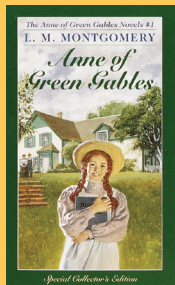
10. *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

This beloved story follows Esperanza, who lives a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico, until a sudden tragedy forces her and her mother to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. A story about injustice, prejudice, determination, and family.





FIFTH GRADE READING LIST



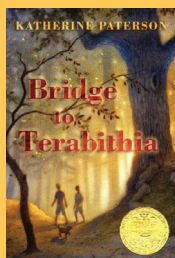
1. *Anne of Green Gables* By L.M. Montgomery

A beloved classic that follows the adventures of 11-year-old orphan, Anne Shirley. After being sent to live with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, Anne must face the struggles and joys that come along with settling into her new home, making friends, and finding her way in the world.



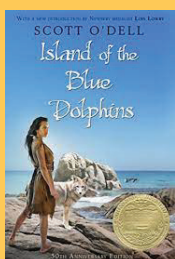
3. *A Wrinkle in Time* By Madeleine L'Engle

The story follows Meg Murry, a young girl who is transported on an adventure through time and space with her younger brother and her best friend to rescue her father, a gifted scientist, from the evil forces that hold him prisoner on another planet.



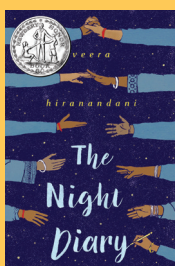
5. *Bridge to Terabithia* By Katherine Paterson

Jess Aarons and Leslie Burke are two fifth-graders who become friends and create an imaginary land called Terabithia, a magical place where they can escape their troubles. This is a classic coming of age story of friendship, childhood, and individuality.



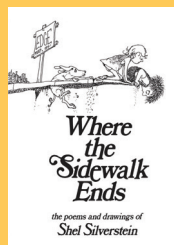
7. *Island of the Blue Dolphins* By Scott O'Dell

Based on a true story, this novel tells the tale of 12-year-old, Karana, who is left stranded on an island off the coast of California and forced to learn the necessary skills to survive on her own after her father and others of her tribe are killed by a ship of Russian fur traders.



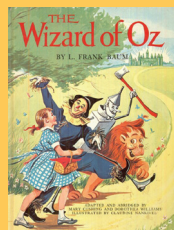
9. *The Night Diary* By Veera Hiranandani

In 1947, twelve-year-old Nisha, who is half-Hindu and half-Muslim, recounts her family's experience during the division of India into two separate countries, India and Pakistan, through entries she writes in her diary.



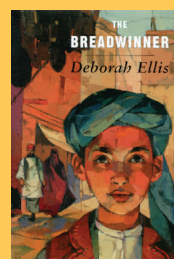
2. *Where the Sidewalk Ends* By Shel Silverstein

This collection of children's poetry is filled with fanciful stories and poems that address the concerns of growing up and other childhood worries alongside imaginative images.



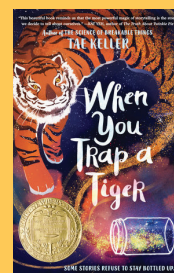
4. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* By L. Frank Baum

Follow Dorothy Gale on her adventures down the yellow brick road to the land of Oz with her friends, the Scarecrow, the Tinman, and the Cowardly Lion as she tries to find the Great and Powerful Oz to help her get back home.



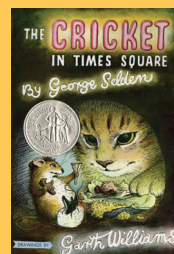
6. *The Breadwinner* By Deborah Ellis

After her father is arrested by the Taliban, 11-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy in order to become the breadwinner for her family. This novel deals with complex issues surrounding the civil unrest in Afghanistan and the constraints of life under the Taliban, particularly for women.



8. *When You Trap a Tiger* By Tae Keller

This is the uplifting story of a young girl named Lily, who unearths family secrets as she goes on a quest to save her sick grandmother. This tale uses elements of Korean folklore to explore the theme of family heritage.

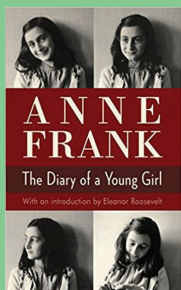


10. *The Cricket in Times Square* By George Selden

This beloved tale tells the story of Chester Cricket, who gets trapped inside a picnic basket and is transported from his home in Connecticut to the middle of New York City. Once in New York, Chester and his new friends, Harry, Tucker, and Mario, a cat, a mouse, and a little boy, go on exciting adventures.

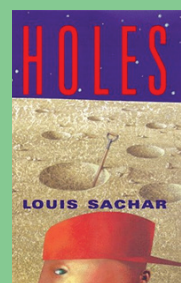


SIXTH GRADE READING LIST



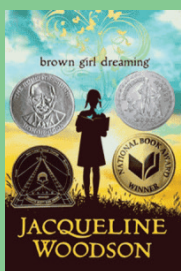
1. *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank

This worldwide classic is the diary of a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl, Anne Frank, in 1942, when the Nazis occurred Holland. Anne records her experiences living with her family in a "Secret Annexe" of an old office building. This diary introduces children to the horrors of World War II and the great resilience and beauty of the human spirit.



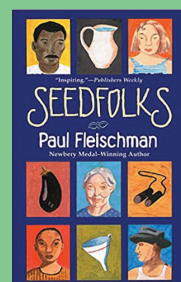
3. *Holes* by Louis Sachar

This young adult novel centers on Stanley Yelnats, a fourteen-year-old who is sent to a correctional boot camp for juveniles after he is sentenced for a crime he didn't commit. At Camp Green Lake, ironically in a desert in Texas, Stanley learns about the history of the area, his own heritage, how the past affects the present, and how to lift the Yelnats curse.



5. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

This award-winning book tells the story of the author's childhood, in verse. A great introduction to poetry, racism, and the Civil Rights Movements, this book shares the author's experiences growing up in South Carolina and New York during the 1960s and 1970s.



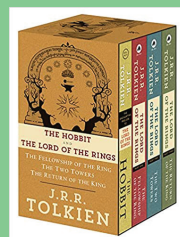
7. *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman

This award-winning young adult novel is about a community garden that begins in a vacant lot in Cleveland. Fleischman uses thirteen speakers to tell the story of this diverse neighborhood, filled with people from all walks of life, as they all come together to tend to the first year of this garden.



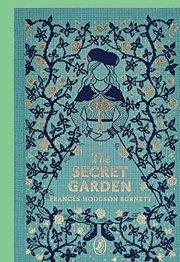
9. *Displacement* by Kiku Hughes

A historical graphic novel, this book follows sixteen-year-old Kiku who gets stuck back in time, during the 1940s, alongside her young grandmother and other Japanese-American citizens who are forced into internment camps during World War II. A story about social injustice, resilience, and resistance.



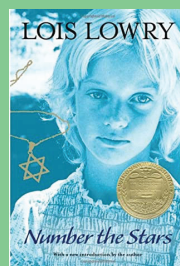
2. *Lord of the Rings Series* By J.R.R. Tolkien

This beloved fantasy set in Middle Earth follows Bilbo, Frodo, Gandalf and many others as they fight against the forces of evil in their epic journey to destroy the One Ring in *The Hobbit*, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*.



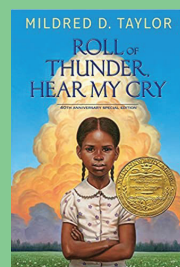
4. *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

An enduring classic of children's literature, this book from 1910 is about stubborn and rude Mary Lennox, a young English girl who returns to England from India and undergoes a transformation of character as she lives with her uncle Archibald Craven and discovers a mysterious locked garden on his manor.



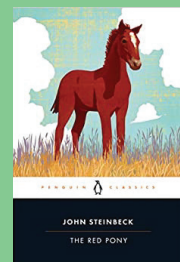
6. *Number The Stars* by Lois Lowry

This work of historical fiction follows ten-year-old AnneMarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen in 1943, Nazi-occupied Copenhagen. When the Jews of Denmark are "relocated," Annemarie must go on a dangerous mission to try to save Ellen's life.



8. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* By Mildred D. Taylor

Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this cherished young adult classic tells the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. Told from the point-of-view of Cassie Logan, a nine-year-old sister and daughter in the Logan family.

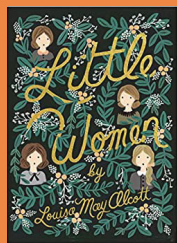


10. *Red Pony* by John Steinbeck

From famed American author John Steinbeck comes this episodic novella about Jody Tiflin, a boy living on a ranch in northern California, who forms a special bond with a hot-tempered pony named Gabilan. Through this connection, Jody learns not only about how to train a horse, but also about the ways of nature and the hard lessons of working on a ranch.

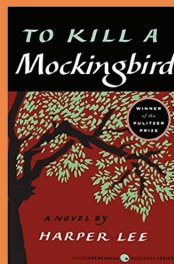


SEVENTH GRADE READING LIST



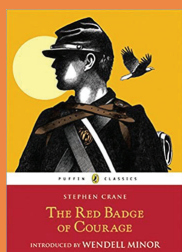
1. *Little Women* By Louisa May Alcott

This classic follows four of American literature's most beloved women - the March sisters, Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth. Each sister has her own strengths, foibles, personality, and obstacles to overcome as they live in New England during the Civil War, laughing, fighting, and growing up from girls into young women.



2. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

This Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece is told from the perspective of six-year-old Scout Finch growing up in the deep South during a time of racial inequality. Her father, Atticus Finch, attempts to prove the innocence of Tom Robinson, a black man who has been wrongly accused of rape in 1930s Alabama.



3. *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

This classic tale of the American Civil War follows Henry Fleming, who dreams of the thrill of battle but is disillusioned by the horrors of war. Now as a young soldier, he must struggle with his self-doubt, fear, and the need for courage.



4. *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

This famous coming-of-age novel first published in 1967 is told in first-person perspective by teenager Ponyboy Curtis who is part of a working-class gang called the "greasers" who is conflicting with a rival gang called the "Socs."



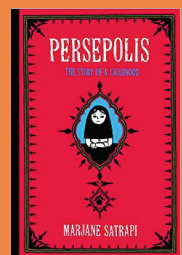
5. *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

This wonderful young adult novel is about Auggie Pullman, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face. As Auggie goes to mainstream school for the first time in 5th grade, he and his community must deal with bullying, empathy, compassion, and acceptance.



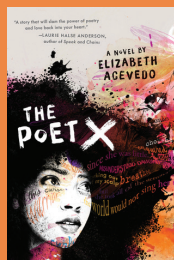
6. *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang

This New York Times bestselling graphic novelist is about three seemingly unrelated characters: Jim Wang, the only Chinese-American at his new school, the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the greatest Chinese fables, and Chin-kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype. Their lives and stories come together in an action-packed modern fable.



7. *Perspolis* by Marjane Satrapi

This funny and heartbreaking graphic memoir tells the story of Marjane Satrapi growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. From ages six to fourteen, Marjane paints a vivid picture of daily life in Iran and a young girl's perspective on the history of this fascinating country and her own personal family.



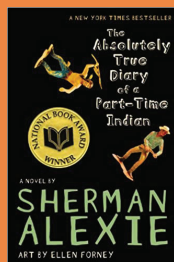
8. *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo

From the renowned slam poet Elizabeth Acevedo comes the story of Xiomara Batista, a fifteen-year-old girl growing up in Harlem. Xiomara discovers slam poetry as a way to pour out her passion and frustrations and learn to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world.



9. *I was their American Dream* by Malaka Gharib

This coming-of-age graphic memoir is about a young Malaka Gharib, navigating her childhood chasing her parent's ideals, learning to code-switch between her family's Filipino and Egyptian customs, and adapting to white culture, all while dealing with the typical crushes and problems of a teenager in America.



10. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

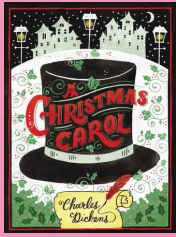
This young adult novel follows Native American teenager Arnold Spirit Jr., a.k.a. Junior, living on a Spokane Indian Reservation, who makes the controversial decision to attend a nearly all-white public high school away from the reservation. Told with great humor and depth, this story chronicles what it's like for a young Native American boy in the modern world.



MEK REVIEW

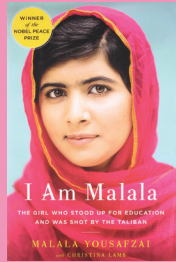


EIGHTH GRADE READING LIST



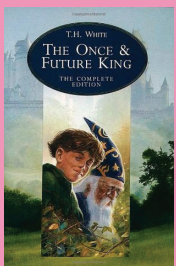
1. *A Christmas Carol* By Charles Dickens

This classic novel by one of the most prolific authors of his time, tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean-spirited, selfish old man, who learns the meaning of Christmas when he is visited by the ghosts of Christmases past, present, and future.



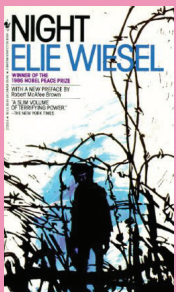
3. *I Am Malala* By Malala Yousafzai

A powerful autobiography of Malala Yousafzai, who experienced unthinkable violence at the hands of the Taliban in Pakistan and her inspirational fight for her right to an education.



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

Loosely based on the book Le Morte d'Arthur by Sir Thomas Malory, published in 1485, this novel chronicles the youth and education of King Arthur, his rule as a king, and the romance between Sir Lancelot and Queen Guinevere.



7. *Night* By Elie Wiesel

The inspiring and powerful memoir of, Elie Wiesel, who, as a young boy, was torn from his home and his family and sent to Auschwitz after the Nazi occupation of Hungary in 1944. Wiesel faces unthinkable odds and takes readers on a journey through a harrowing tale of survival, hope, and humanity.



9. *Things Fall Apart* By Chinua Achebe

Okonkwo is the leader of an Igbo community in Nigeria, but when he accidentally kills a clansman, he is banished and sent into exile. This novel recounts the events that led to the tragedy and what happens after Okonkwo returns to his community after seven years.



2. *Of Mice and Men* By John Steinbeck

This novella tells the experiences of Lenny and George, two migrant workers searching for new opportunities during the Great Depression. This story explores the themes of friendship, independence, and the American Dream.



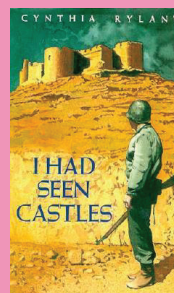
4. *Frankenstein* By Mary Shelley

This novel blends elements of Romanticism and Gothicism to tell the tale of Victor Frankenstein, a young doctor obsessed with creating life, until one particular scientific experiment goes disastrously awry, and he must pay the tragic price for his greed.



6. *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers

This novel follows the trial of 16-year-old, Steve Harmon, for his participation in a robbery-turned-murder. At worst, Steve is a nonviolent lookout. At best, Steve is innocent of the crimes to which he's accused. But which one is the truth?



8. *I Had Seen Castles* By Cynthia Rylant

John Dante grew up playing with toy soldiers and glorifying war. In 1942, John enthusiastically enlists in the American army, despite the anti-war sentiments of his girlfriend. However, once he steps foot overseas in the midst of World War II, his idealistic and innocent view of war changes when he is faced with the horror of reality.



10. *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga

The rags to riches tale of Balram Halwai, a village boy living in India, trying to find his place in society, who journeys to Delhi to work as a chauffeur, but ultimately flees to Bangalore after he kills his master and steals his money. This novel is an examination of caste, corruption, and poverty in India.