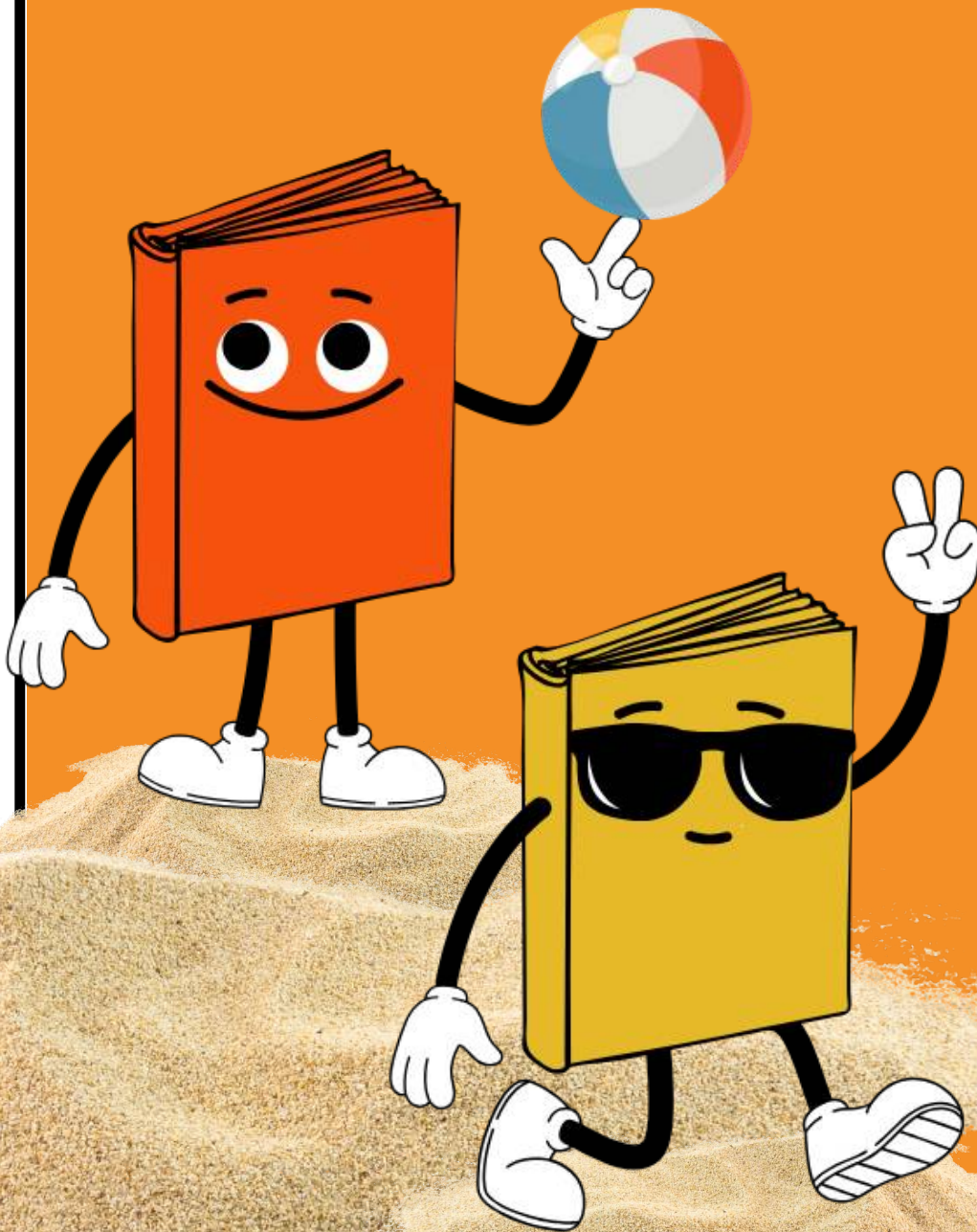


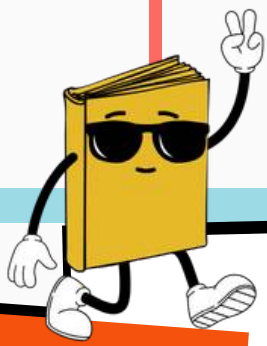
Word Nerd
Collaborative

**ELA ENGAGEMENT
GAME PLAN**



SUMMER

2026



THANKS FOR SHOWING UP.

Dear Teacher Friend,

First of all: thank you.

While many people see summer as a season to completely disconnect from school, you're still showing up for kids. You're still planning lessons, building relationships, encouraging readers and writers, and creating spaces where students can continue to grow.

That matters. More than you probably realize.

Summer school teachers are a special kind of educator. It takes extra heart to keep showing up when everyone else is heading to the beach, sleeping in, or pretending email doesn't exist. 😊 You are giving your students extra time, extra attention, and extra opportunities—and that is something worth celebrating.

But here's something else I hope you remember this summer:
Learning can still be FUN.

In fact, summer might be the perfect time to loosen the grip a little. To laugh more. To experiment. To let students move, create, discuss, play games, try weird writing prompts, discover a book they actually enjoy, or have the kind of classroom conversations that don't always fit neatly into a regular school year pacing guide. That's exactly what I hope to help you do with this Summer ELA Engagement Game Plan.

Inside, you'll find ready-to-go lessons, activities, writing prompts, read aloud ideas, and engaging resources designed to help you spend less time planning and more time actually enjoying your summer life outside of school.

Because yes, your students matter deeply. But so do YOU.

I hope these resources help free up some of your evenings for sunshine, hobbies, iced coffee, gardening, lake days, naps, reading for fun, or whatever fills your cup back up again. You deserve that too.

So here's to a summer of meaningful learning, lighter planning, and finding moments of joy both inside and outside the classroom.

— AMANDA

STILL TEACHING.



ENJOY YOUR SUMMER.
♡ YOU DESERVE IT. ♡



LEARN.
HAVE FUN.
SHINE!



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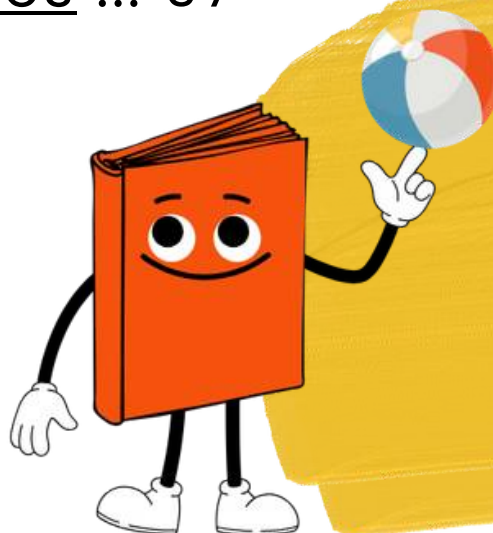
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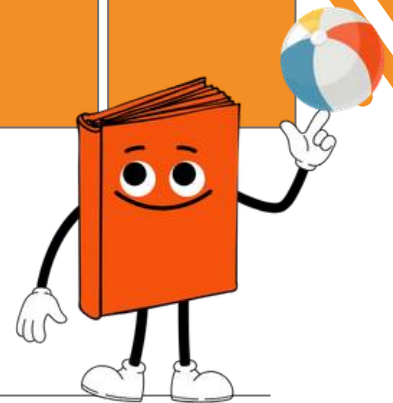


OPEN, THEN CLICK FILE
MAKE A COPY

June 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wednes.	Thurs.	Friday	Satur.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

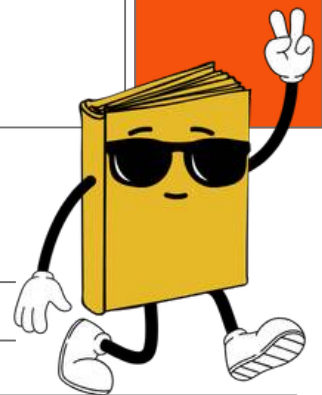
Notes:



July 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wednes.	Thurs.	Friday	Satur.
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Notes:





FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAYS

SUMMER FCF



Little Blog on the Prairie
by Cathleen Davitt Bell

Realistic Fiction
Prose

** Includes Author Interview

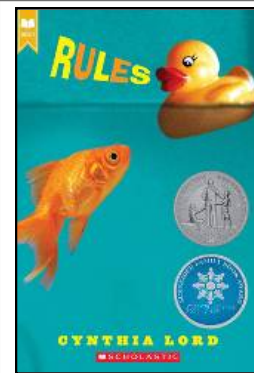
SUMMER FCF



To Night Owl From Dogfish
by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer

Realistic Fiction
Epistolary

SUMMER FCF



Rules
by Cynthia Lord

Realistic Fiction
Prose

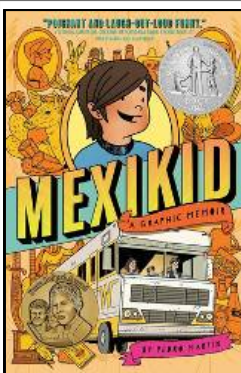
SUMMER FCF



Across the Desert
by Dusti Bowling

Realistic Fiction
Survival Story
Prose

SUMMER FCF



Mexikid
by Pedro Martin

Realistic Fiction
Graphic Novel

SUMMER FCF



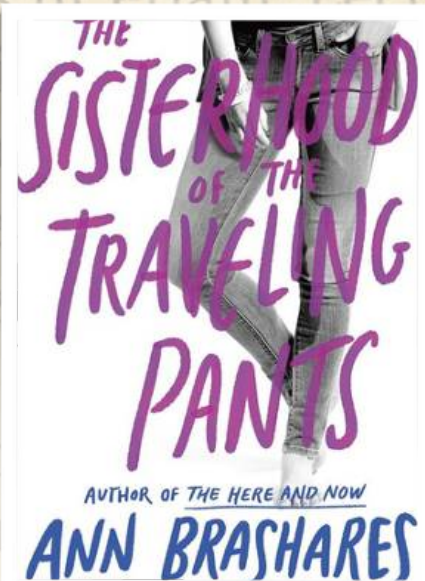
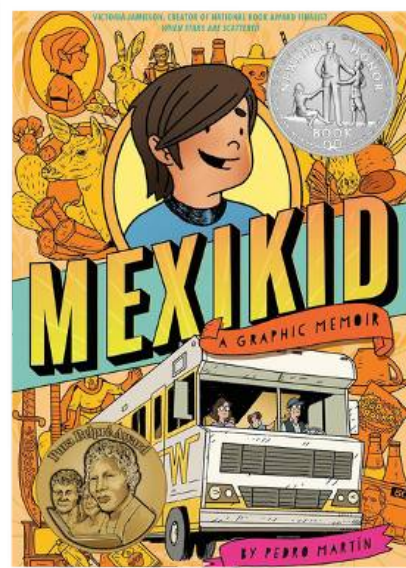
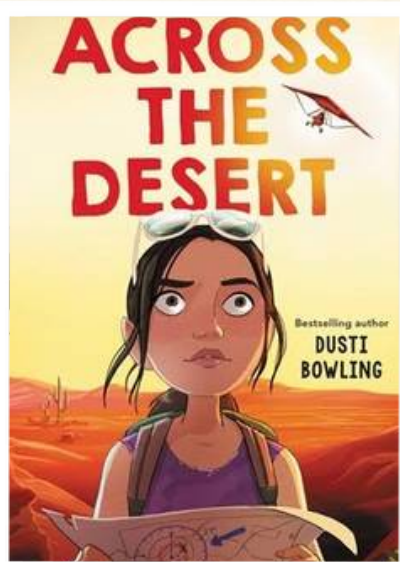
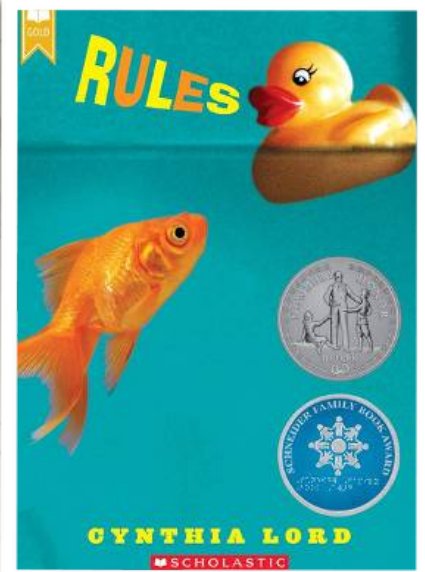
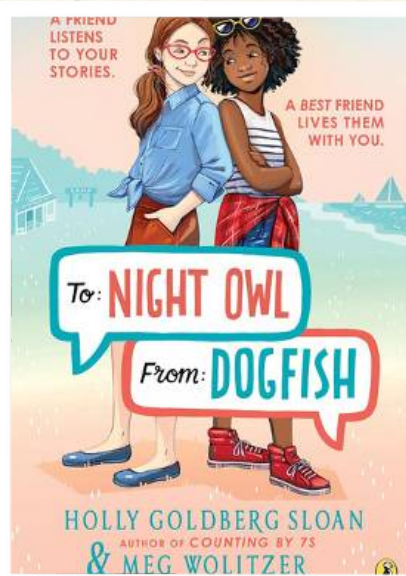
The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants
by Ann Brashares

Realistic Fiction
Prose
Book 1 in a Series

SUMMER

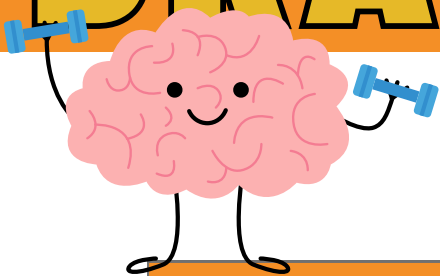


FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAYS



You gotta check them out!

BRAIN BREAKS

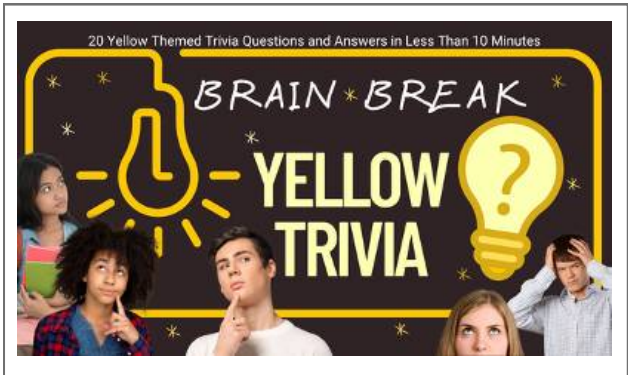


Help your students reset their brains and moods with a little break. Try a fun trivia game! Totally optional, but you can use the LEADERBOARD on page 29 to keep track of student teams and scores throughout the month.

Summer Trivia



Yellow Trivia



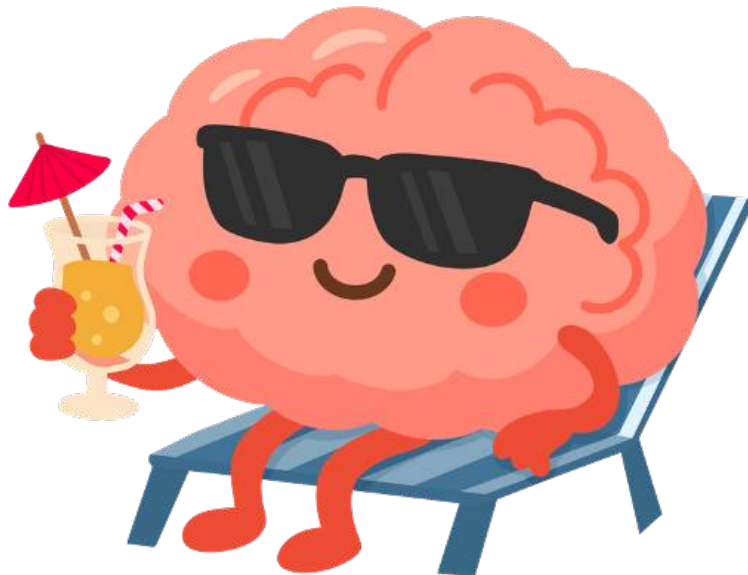
Spot it!!



Did you know?

“Brain breaks benefit not only students but teachers, too. They help improve the pacing of your lesson while keeping you and your students refreshed, focused, and engaged.”

-- [Reading Rockets Website](#)





Writing Prompts

Week 1

Monday
Family Vacation

Tuesday
A Twister Tale

Wednesday
The Mystery Driver

Thursday
Creature in the Lake

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 2

Monday
Beach Day Recipe

Tuesday
Teen Job Survival Guide

Wednesday
Post Card From the Future

Thursday
Ode to the AC

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 3

Monday
Lost in the Corn Maze

Tuesday
Road Trip Playlist

Wednesday
Aliens at the Waterpark

Thursday
Travel Tour Diary

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 4

Monday
Letters from Camp

Tuesday
Sandcastle Kingdom

Wednesday
Up a Creek without a Paddle

Thursday
Light the Night

Friday
Free Write Friday

Week 5

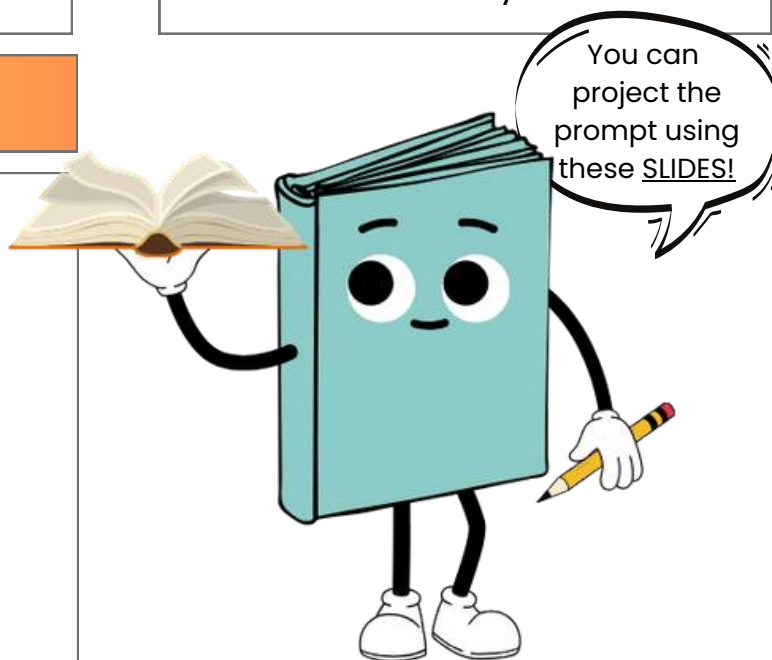
Monday
Boardwalk Fashion

Tuesday
The Perfect S'more

Wednesday
Summer Camp on Mars

Thursday
Backyard Olympics

Friday
Free Write Friday



LESSONS



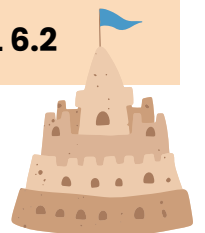
1 NOVEL UNITS

On the lesson planning page of our Word Nerd Collaborative Website, I've got unit studies for a whole bunch of books. If you're in charge of a reading summer school or want to assign an independent study for a student this summer, check out the list and then dive into the materials!

2 WOULD YOU RATHER – SUMMER EDITION

Looking for a high-energy, classroom-safe brain break that also supports persuasive writing skills? This month's edition of Would You Rather is packed with fun, debate-worthy questions featuring activities and locations associated with summer. No prep. Just press play and let students think, move, and argue (politely!). This is the perfect summer school activity that will be both FUN and EDUCATIONAL.

STANDARDS: CCSS: RL 6.1, RL 6.10, SL 6.4, SL 6.5, W6.4, W6.10, L 6.1 AND L 6.2





Summer 2026

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1 TEACHER BESTIE TALKS

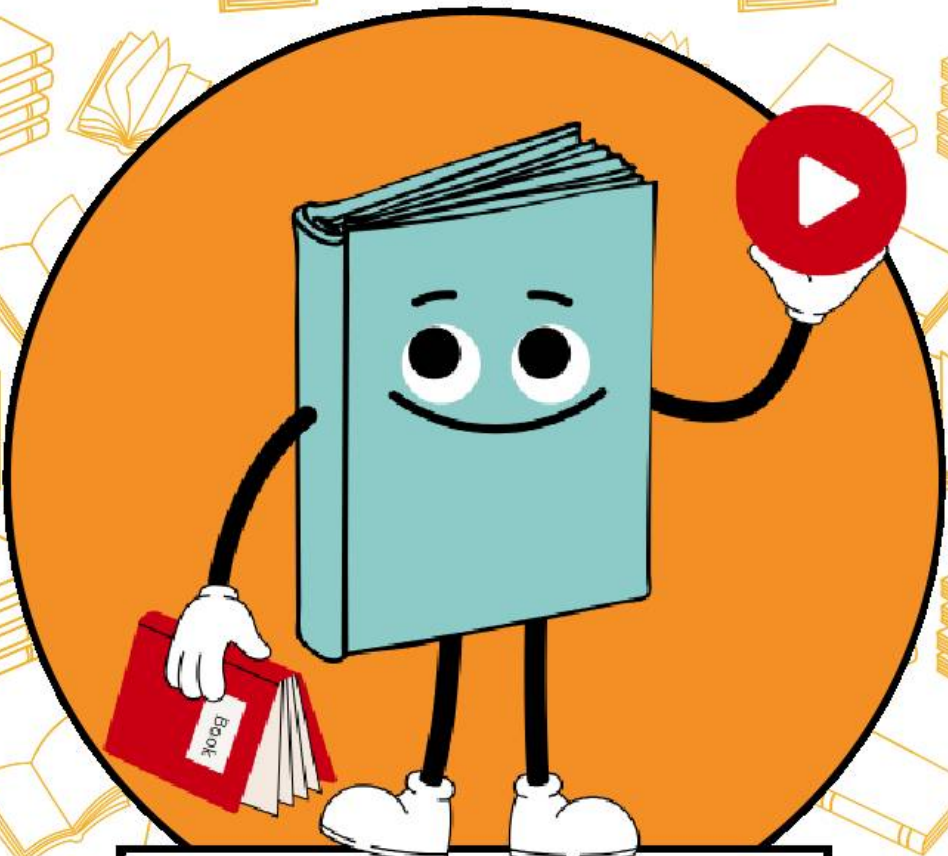
In this NEW video series I share all sorts of funny stories and fantastic strategies! Listen while you drive, exercise, fold laundry and lay by the pool/lake this summer! I promise each quick episode is packed with relatable moments and ideas you can implement ASAP next school year!

2 WORD NERD DAILY

If you haven't had a chance to check out my new app - WORD NERD DAILY, now is the time! It's an amazing tool that can help you quickly access FCF videos, brain breaks, writing prompts and more. It also has your very own lesson planning and book recommending chatbot - RitaBot! I can't wait for you to download and explore WND and see how amazing it is going to be when you want to find a quick resource or level up your lessons next year!

3 FCF SUMMER CHALLENGE

Want to level up your book recommending skills but aren't sure which books to recommend? Not sure you can squeeze reading ten books into your summer plans? No worries! I've got just the thing! Explore 5 curated lists of AMAZING-MUST RECOMMEND books, choose one and then listen to the First Chapter Friday video of each. Complete the challenge and submit your tracking chart for the chance to win a prize. Learn all the details on starting on page 104.



Summer 2026

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY SELECTIONS

LITTLE BLOG ON THE PRAIRIE

by Cathleen Davitt Bell



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



Little Blog on the Prairie

by Cathleen Davitt Bell



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Funny summer Camp Book!

Camp Frontier promises families the "thrill" of living like 1890s pioneers. Gen will be thrilled if she survives the summer stuck in a cabin with her family and no modern amenities. But ever the savvy teen, Gen sneaks in a phone and starts texting about camp life. Turns out, there are some good points-like the cute boy who lives in the next clearing. But when her texts go viral as a blog and a TV crew arrives, Gen realizes she may have just ruined the best vacation she's ever had.

A CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center) choice book for 2011!

AR Reading Level: 5.1

Who Wrote It?

Cathleen Davitt Bell has hiked on the rocky Italian coastline, used positive visualization to control pain, visited every bowling alley in the Adirondacks, invented her own kind of pasta dish (write and she'll give you the recipe), and is halfway to raising two kids in partnership with a terrific husband. She can tell a pretty mean ghost story, make butter with ingredients from the



corner deli, and has published four very good books! You can learn more about her and her work at cathleendavittbell.com.

Lexile Level: 820L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆

Four horizontal lines for writing thoughts.



TO: NIGHT OWL FROM: DOGFISH

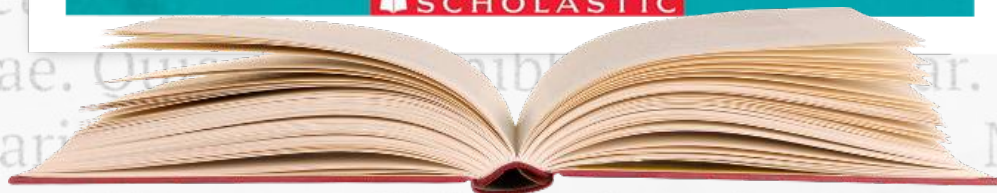
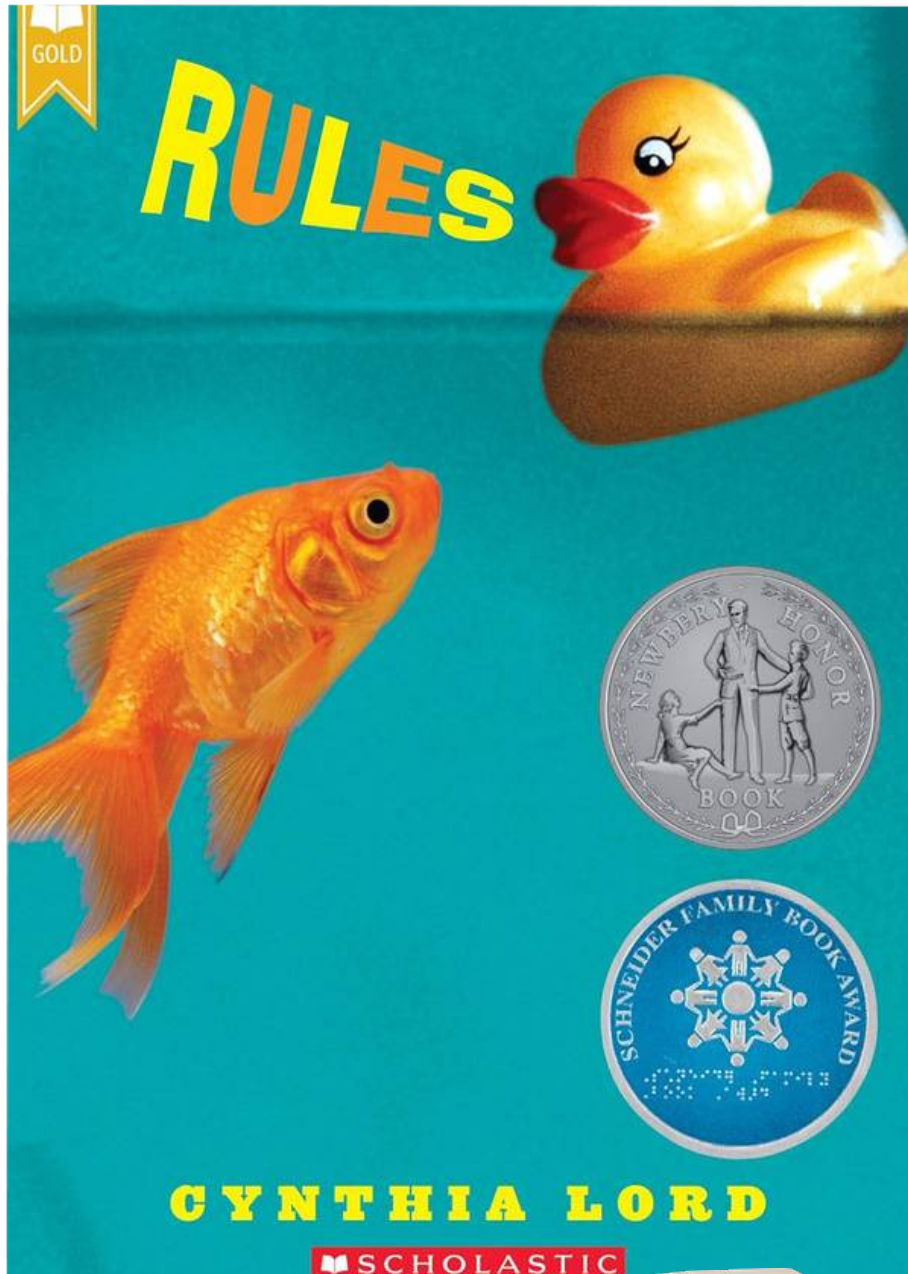
by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

RULES

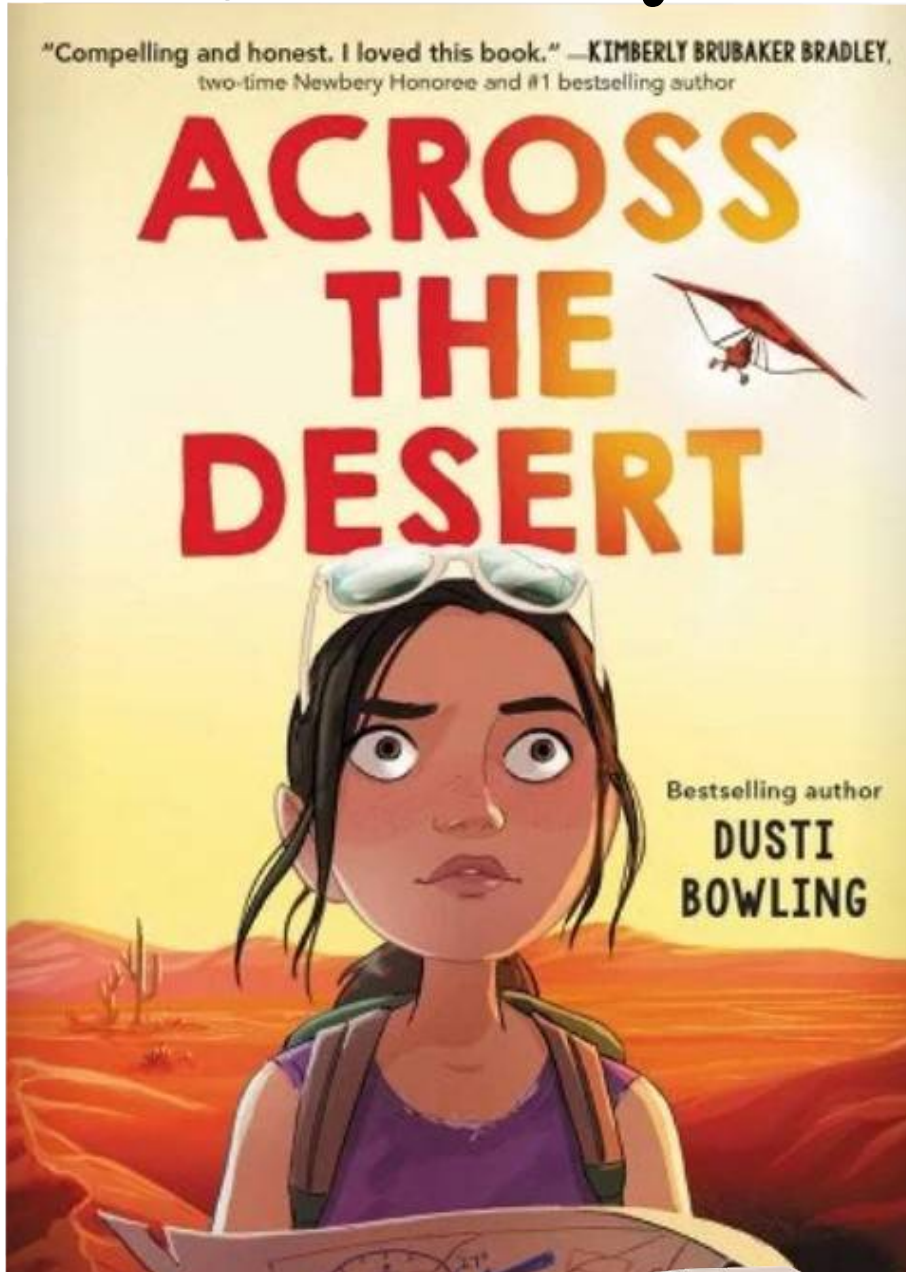
by Cynthia Lord



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

ACROSS THE DESERT

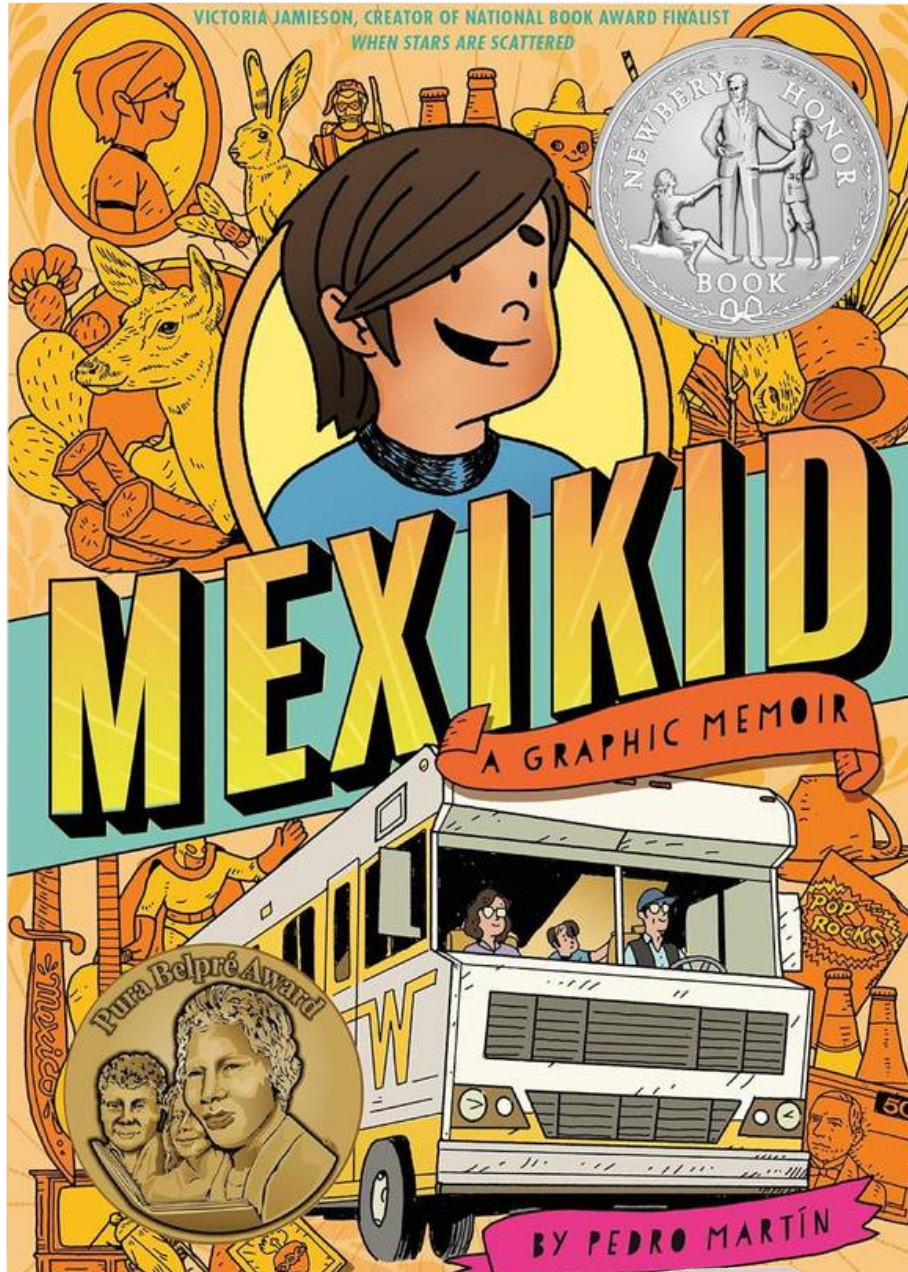
by Dusti Bowling



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

MEXIKID

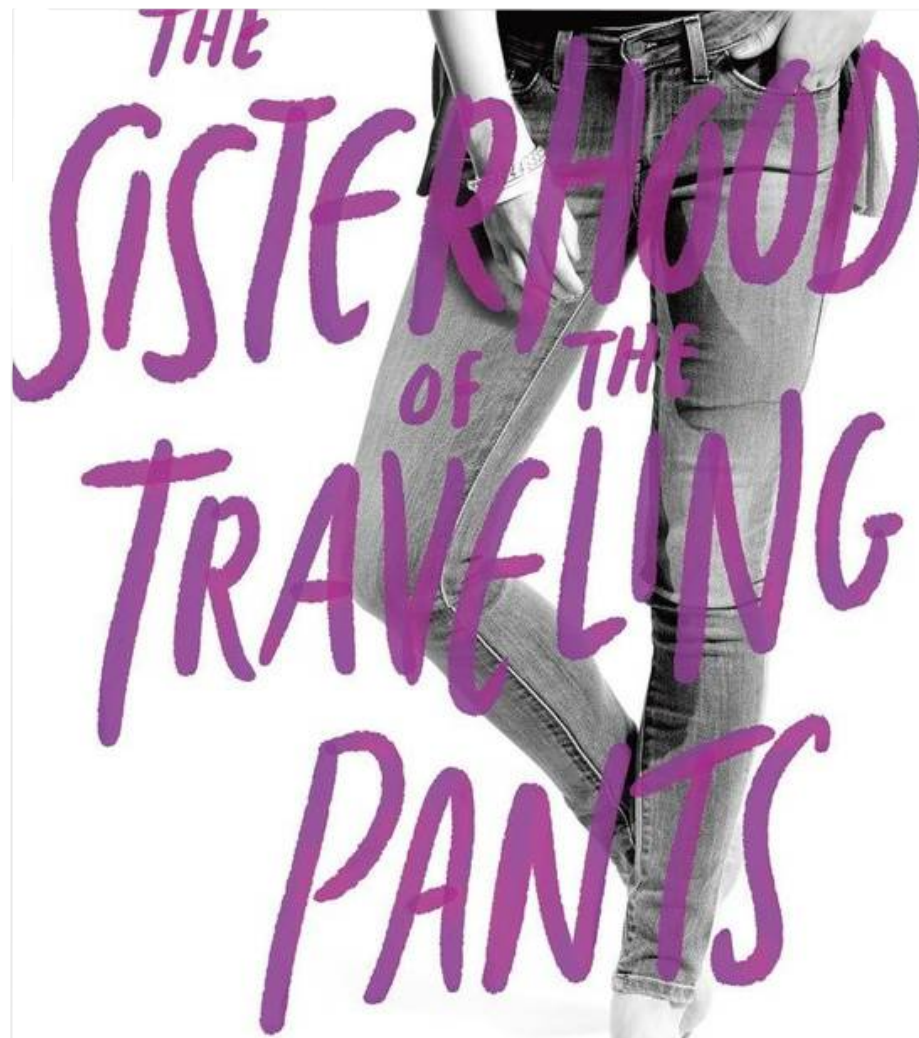
by Pedro Martín



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS

by Ann Brashares



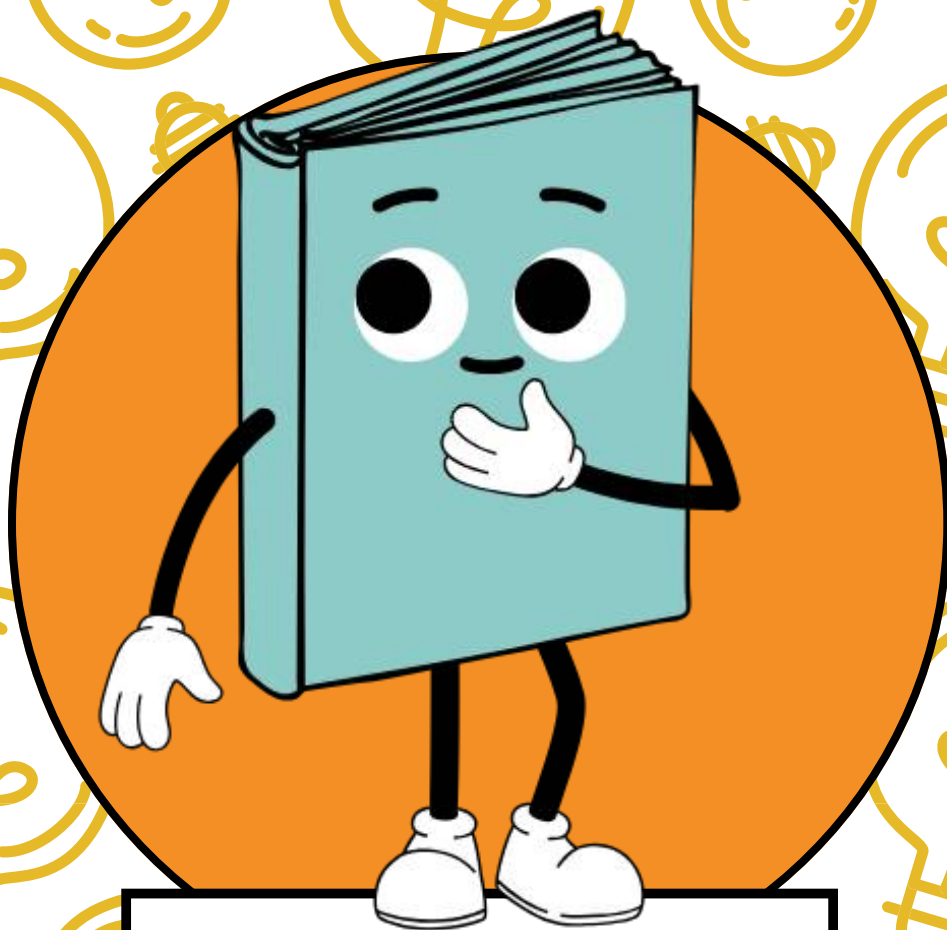
THE
SISTERHOOD
OF THE
TRAVELING
PANTS

AUTHOR OF THE HERE AND NOW

ANN BRASHARES



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Summer 2026

BRAIN BREAKS

LINKS + ANSWER SHEETS/KEYS

How to do **TRIVIA**

FOR EACH BRAIN BREAK YOU WILL FIND:

1. Link to the YouTube video version (all around 8-11 minutes)
2. Student answer sheets
3. Modified student answer sheets for students of different ages/abilities
4. Printable question and answer sheets (to use with or without the video)
5. Answer key
6. List of additional considerations, applications and implementation ideas
7. ALL SORTS OF FUN!! :)

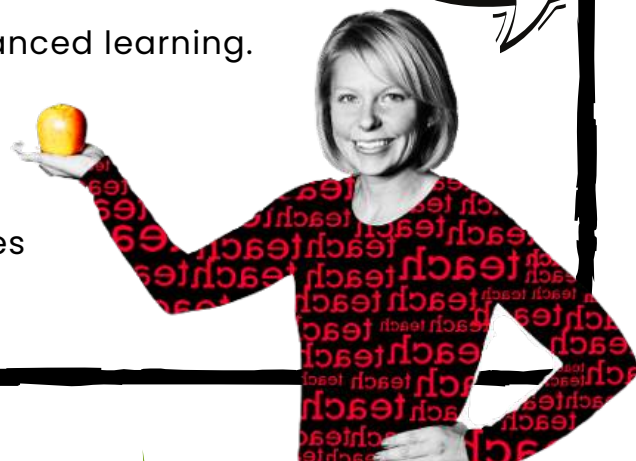
DIRECTIONS

1. Play the video showcasing 20-30 themed trivia questions.
2. Using the the provided printable worksheets, or scratch paper, have students record their guesses.
3. During the answer portion of the slideshow/video pause to allow students to share out or discuss their ideas/guesses with the whole class, in small groups or in partnerships.
 - a. This step is optional, but I find that if you want to get your students talking, it works great. If you need a few minutes of silence... you can ban conversation and it works just fine that way too!
4. Reveal final answers.
5. Total up scores
6. Record scores on the leaderboard (page 29)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/IDEAS

1. This activity can be used as a brain break, ice breaker or fun game.
2. In my classes we keep our teams the same for an entire quarter. We have a "leader board" where we keep a running score for all of our brain break games. This is great for team building or creating comradery in a classroom learning environment. :)
3. You can assign this to individuals (ie: in Google Classroom) to do on their own, or complete the challenge as a whole class activity using a screen and projector.
4. This activity can work well in person or via distanced learning.
5. Because the videos are on YouTube, this is an activity that students can easily try/repeat at home with family members. :)
6. Consider letting a classroom helper or leader be the "game show host" and call on classmates to share their ideas and reveal the answers.

Tired of the same old Brain Breaks? I've got you covered.



Summer Brain Break LEADERBOARD

In each square record either the # of points a team earned, or their place (1st, 2nd, etc.) The method you choose will determine whether the winner will be the team with the highest or lowest score.

TEAM #1

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #2

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #3

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #4

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #5

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total

TEAM #6

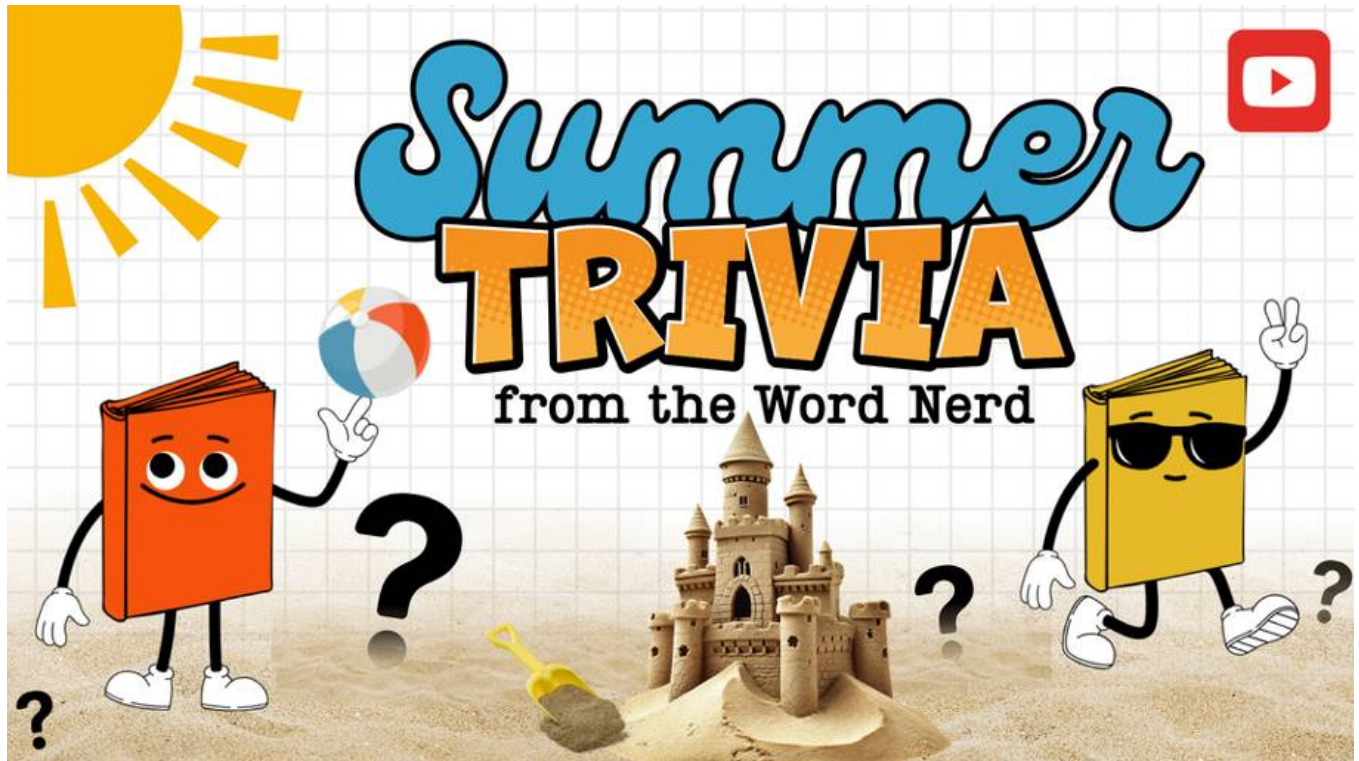
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total



Trivia Game Video Link

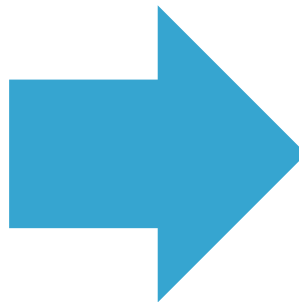
Use the below links to access the video for this activity.
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

SUMMER TRIVIA VIDEO



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Outer Space trivia questions: https://youtu.be/KZMa8R9Zk4Y?sub_confirmation=1

Or, use this QR code!





Summer Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on
the lines below.

Video
Quiz -->



Name/Team Name: _____

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

How did you do? Are you a SUPERSTAR when
it comes to Summer Trivia?!?!



Summer Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Write your answers on the lines below.

Video Quiz -->



Name/Team Name: _____

1: A B C D

11: A B C D

2: A B C D

12: A B C D

3: A B C D

13: A B C D

4: A B C D

14: C _____ L _____ V _____

5: A B C D

15: A B C D

6: A B C D

16: A B C D

7: A B C D

17: A B C D

8: A B C D

18: A B C D

9: A B C D

19: A B C D

10: A B C D

20: A B C D

How did you do?
Are you a SUPERSTAR
when it comes to Summer
Trivia?!?!?!?

Score: _____ / 20

Are you a superstar when it comes to Summer Trivia? Take this Trivia quiz and see!

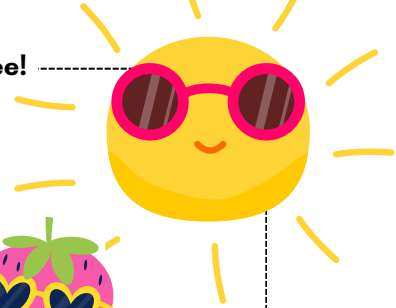


Trivia
Video

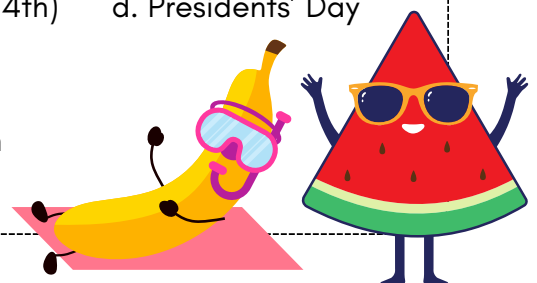


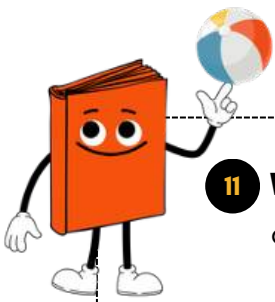
Name: _____

Summer Trivia



- 1 What holiday is the unofficial start of summer?**
a. Labor Day b. Memorial Day c. Father's Day d. Independence Day
- 2 What is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere called?**
a. Summer's Start b. Dog Days of Summer c. Summer Bummer d. Summer Solstice
- 3 Which U.S. state is known for the hottest average summer temperatures?**
a. Florida b. California c. Hawaii d. Texas
- 4 Which item is traditionally associated with summer picnics and is over 90% water?**
a. Watercress b. Water Bottle c. Watermelon d. Water Balloon
- 5 Which U.S. city is famous for its boardwalk and amusement park, making it a popular summer destination?**
a. Coney Island, NY b. Atlantic City, NJ c. Myrtle Beach, SC d. Santa Monica, CA
- 6 What vitamin does our body produce when exposed to sunlight?**
a. Vitamin A b. Vitamin B c. Vitamin C d) Vitamin D
- 7 Which U.S. state is known for its summer lobster festivals?**
a. Maine b. Maryland c. Massachusetts d. Mississippi
- 8 Cities in warm climates sometimes experience higher temperatures due to human activities and infrastructure. What is this called?**
a. Climate Chaos b. Urban Heat Island Effect
c. Sweaty City d. Inner City Concrete Consequences
- 9 Which U.S. summer holiday celebrates our country's birthday and is associated with fireworks and barbecues?**
a. Flag Day b. Juneteenth c. Independence Day (July 4th) d. Presidents' Day
- 10 What is Donna Summer famous for?**
a. Disco Singing + Dancing b. Roller Skating Champion
c. Olympic Swimmer d. Inventor of Stiletto shoes





11 What is the most popular flavor of ice cream in the U.S.?

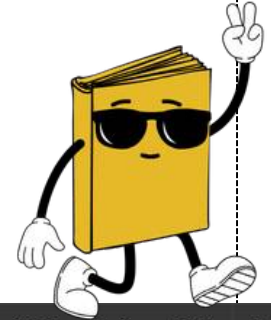
- a. Chocolate b. Vanilla c. Rocky Road d. Mint Chip

12 The Summer Isles, offering a unique blend of rugged landscapes and charming coastal communities, are a group of islands located off of what country?

- a. Indonesia b. Australia c. Scotland d. Japan

13 What does SPF stand for?

- a. Sun Protection Factor b. Some Protective Function
c. Sunscreen Por Favor d. Sunshine Performance Facilitator



14 What three Zodiac signs occur during the Summer?

- 1) _____
2) _____
3) _____



15 The United States has the record for hottest temperature ever recorded. Where was it?

- a. Phoenix, AZ b. Death Valley, CA c. Miami, FL d. Dallas, TX

16 How many popsicles are sold annually in the United States?

- a. 2 million b. 2 billion c. 2 trillion d. 2 quadrillion



17 What country has the most coastline in the world?

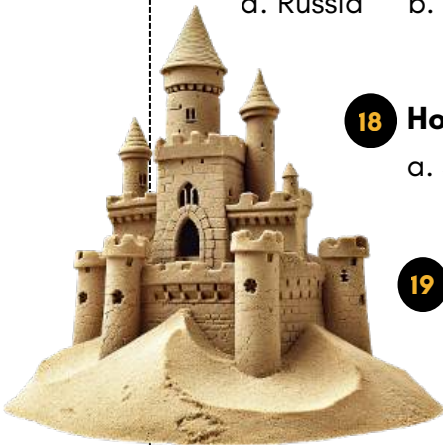
- a. Russia b. Canada c. Indonesia d. USA

18 How tall is the Guinness world record-holding tallest sand castle?

- a. 40 ft b. 50ft c. 60 ft d. 70 ft

19 What country is home to the biggest waterpark in the world?

- a. Germany b. Dubai c. Brazil d. Spain



20 Which U.S. holiday marks the unofficial end of summer?

- a. Labor Day b. Memorial Day
c. Father's Day d. Independence Day





Summer Trivia Answer Key

Directions: If you'd like to check student answers without the video, here is the answer key.

Video
Quiz -->



ANSWER KEY

1. D) one million
2. B) supernova
3. B) Venus
4. C) Wall-E
5. A) Mars
6. D) -450 degrees Celsius
7. B) 1958
8. D) 10
9. B) 90 Minutes
10. C) Perseverance
11. A) 1,000 Light Years
12. C) 8 minutes
13. A) Uranus
14. B) Sputnik
15. B) Sally Ride
16. B) 2 Billion
17. B) Canada
18. D) 70 ft.
19. B) Dubai
20. A) Labor Day

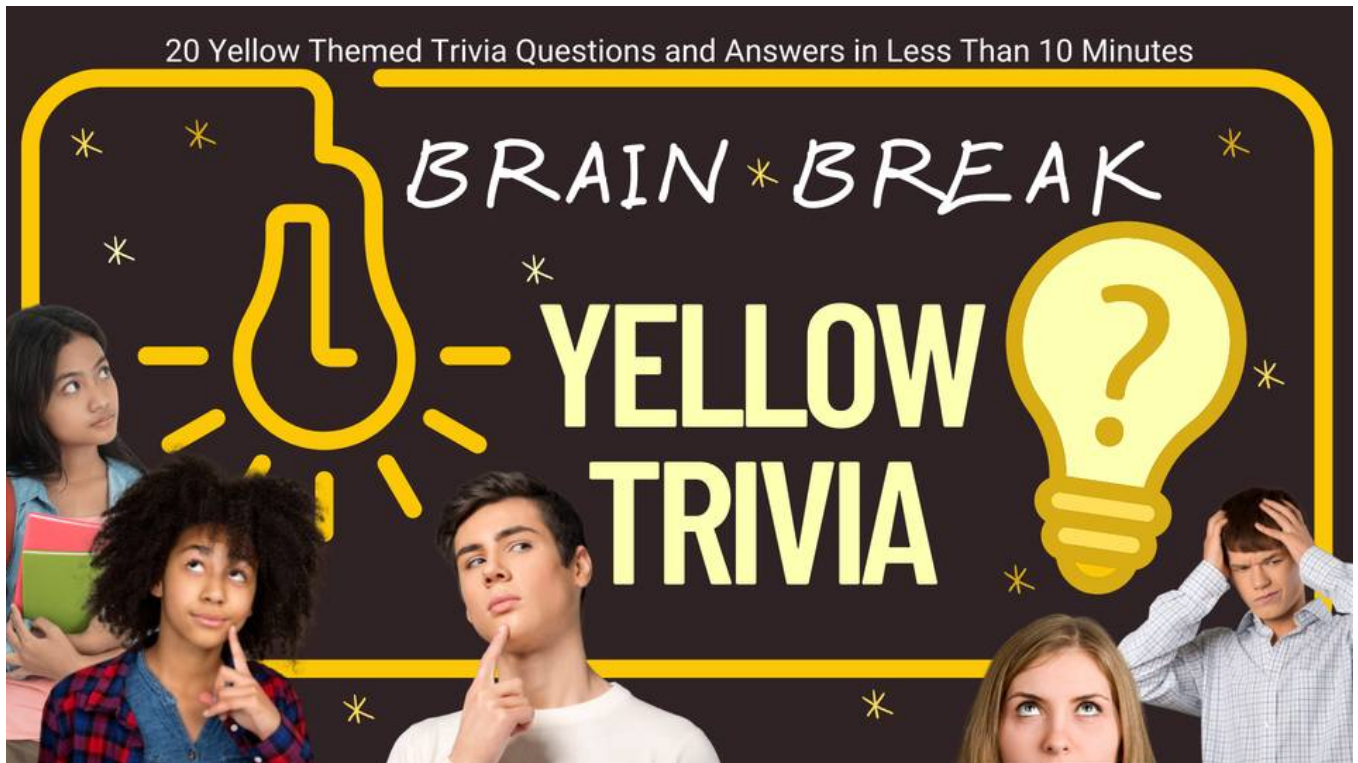
Thanks for playing!
Check out more Brain Breaks on YouTube!



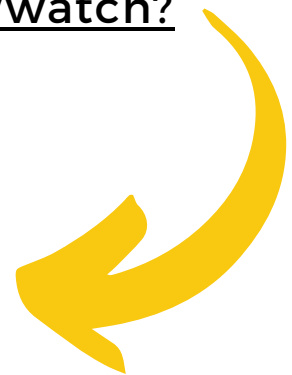
Trivia Game Video Link

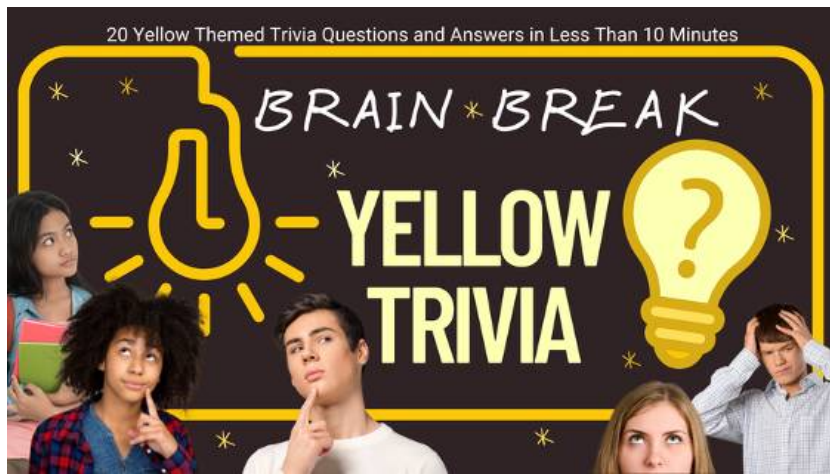
Use the below links to access the video for this activity.
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

YELLOW TRIVIA BRAIN BREAK GAME



This link will take you to the YouTube Video of Yellow Trivia questions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rn4uStDgFQo>





Yellow Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for each question below.

Trivia Video



Name/Team Name: _____

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

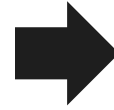
How did you do?
Are you a **YELLOW TRIVIA ROCKSTAR?!?!**



Yellow Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

Trivia
Video



Name/Team Name: _____

1: Golden Easy Street or Yellow Brick Road

2: Big Bird or Feather Head

3: Sea Vessel or Submarine

4: A B C D

5: A B C D

6: 13 or 15

7: A B C D

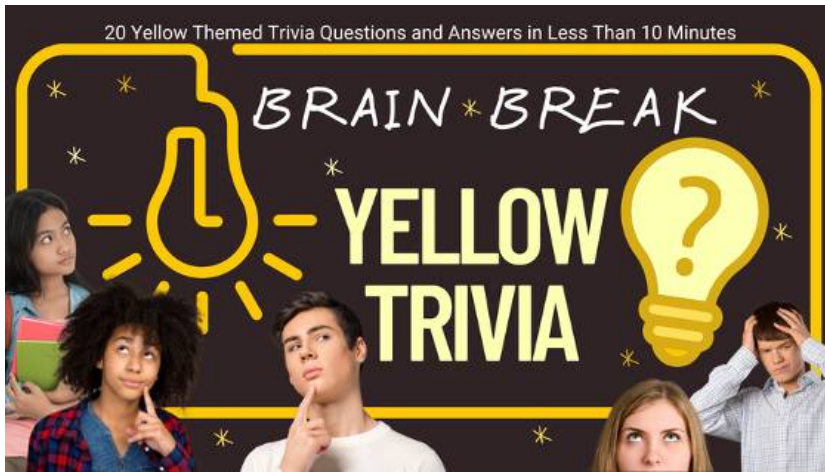
8: True or False

9: A B C D

10: The Incredible Hulk or The Green Lantern

11. Yellow Coat or Yellow Jacket

12: True or False



Yellow Trivia Answer Sheet

Directions:
Circle your answer for
each question below.

13: Yellowstone or Yellowrocks

14: True or False

15: A B C D

16: True or False

17: honey licorice cherry caramel lemon
lime banana grape kiwi strawberry

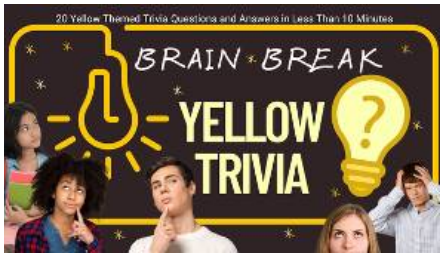
18: pineapples or lemons

19: A B C D

20: The Corn Palace or The Golden Castle

How did you do?
Are you a YELLOW TRIVIA MASTER?!?!?

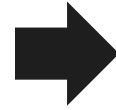
Score: _____ / 20



Yellow Trivia Brain Break Game

Name: _____

Trivia
Video



1 In the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy must travel on what road to reach the Emerald City? (3 words)

The _____

2 What is the name of this yellow creatures who calls Sesame Street home. (2 words)



3 In 1968, a band called the Beatles wanted to live in what yellow water craft? (1 word, 9 letters)

4 In 2015, Kraft removed all artificial flavors, preservatives and synthetic colors from its boxed mac & cheese using what to produce its iconic color instead?

- a) dandelions
- b) turmeric
- c) mustard
- d) butter

5 What is the average height of a sunflower?

- a) 1 foot
- b) 2 feet
- c) 3 feet
- d) 4 feet

6 How many yellow tokens have been played in this Connect 4 game so far?

** video has different image.
There will be 2 different answers.



7 Which country makes and exports the most mustard?

- a) South Africa
- b) Canada
- c) Mexico
- d) Thailand

8 True or False: Taxis have always been yellow.

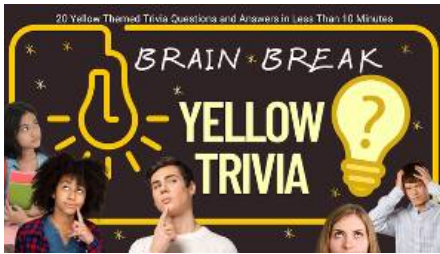
- a) True
- b) False



9 In which country were the doors of traitors and criminals painted yellow?

- a) France
- b) Russia
- c) Italy
- d) Australia

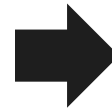
10 Which comic book character is afraid of the color yellow?



Yellow Trivia Brain Break Game

Name: _____

Trivia
Video



11 This bee is a member of a colony that can grow to the size of 5,000 workers. What is its name? (2 words)



Yellow



12 True or False: The original Post-It Notes' pale yellow color was chosen by chance, from the color of the scrap of paper used by the lab next door to the Post-It team.

- a) True
- b) False

13 Old Faithful, America's most famous geyser, is located in which National Park? (1 word, 11 letters)

14 True or False: A banana can float.

- a) True
- b) False

15 The traditional name for a fisherman's yellow coat is a...

- a) wetty
- b) captain's coat
- c) slicker
- d) rain cover

16 True or False: Yellow diamonds are the rarest color of diamonds in the world.

- a) True
- b) False

17 Name 3 flavor of yellow candy.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

18 What yellow fruit can be used as hand sanitizer? (1 word, 5 letters)

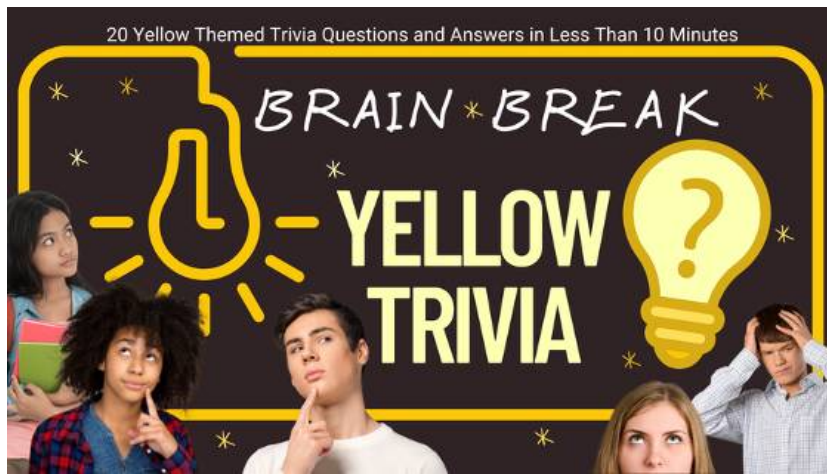
19 What percentage of pencils produced in America are painted yellow?

- a) 25%
- b) 50%
- c) 75%
- d) 100%

20 What is the name of this vegetable inspired building in South Dakota? (2 words)

The _____





Yellow Trivia Answer Key

Directions:

If you'd like to check student answers without the video, here is the answer key. # 6 has two different answers, depending on whether you used the video or print version of the quiz game.

ANSWER KEY

1. Yellow Brick Road
2. Big Bird
3. Submarine
4. B) Turmeric
5. C) 3 feet
6. 13 (video) 10 (print)
7. B) Canada
8. False
9. A) France
10. Green Lantern
11. Yellow Jacket
12. True
13. Yellowstone
14. True
15. C) Slicker
16. False
17. honey, lemon, pineapple, caramel, butterscotch, banana, toffee
18. Lemons
19. C) 75%
20. The Corn Palace

Thanks for playing!
Check out more Brain Breaks on YouTube!



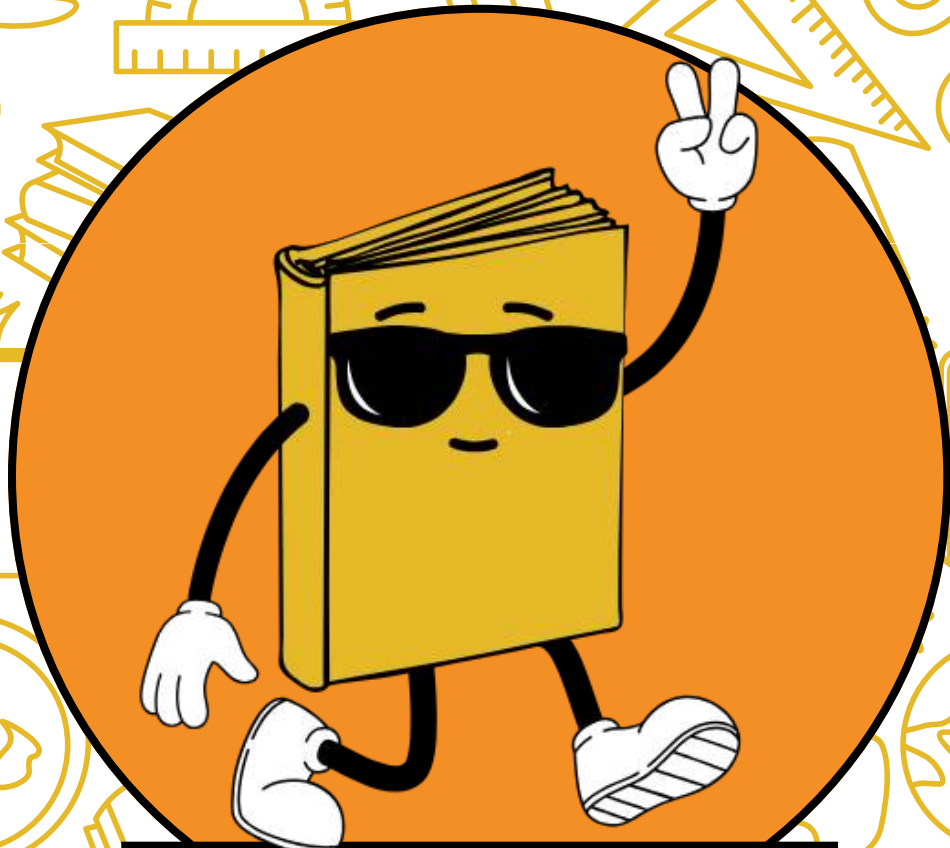
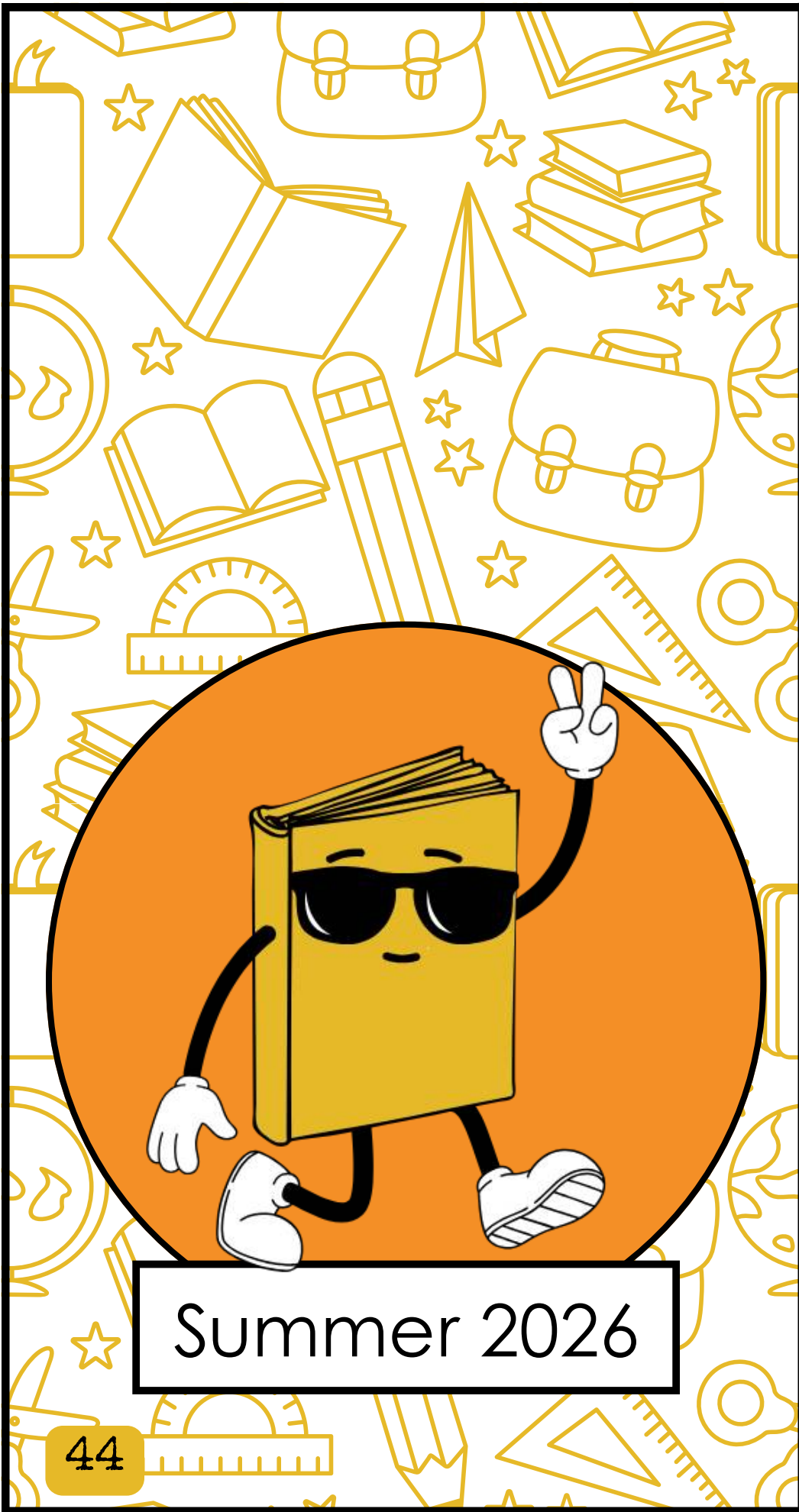
Trivia Game Video Link

Use the below links to access the video for this activity.
Click the title, image or link to get to the video!

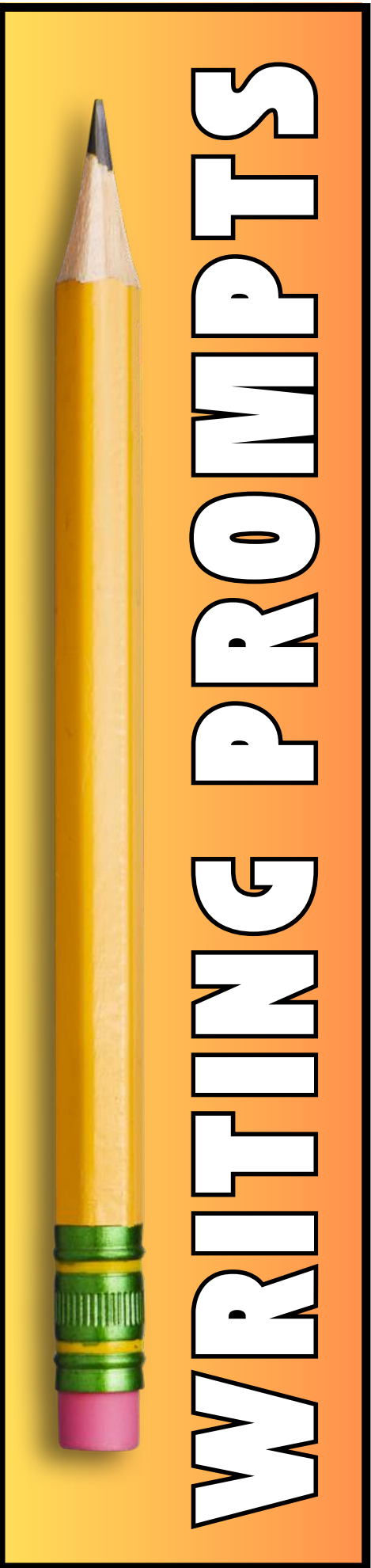
SPOT IT GAME!



This trivia video game doesn't have an answer sheet set, but here is the link will take you to the YouTube Video of Spot It Pictures: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oj1INnAJAso&list=PLpVe6VlpCwJaE9T7VogM63ZaYiHcjE-me&index=20>



Summer 2026



WRITING PROMPTS



THIS PRODUCT INCLUDES

- 1 5 weeks of printable writing prompts (prompt + writing space)
- 2 A Canva Presentation of the writing prompts to project on a big screen in your classroom. These are editable if you click (FILE - MAKE A COPY) once in Canva.
(Link:<https://canva.link/jfn4t4poxa0xsry>)
- 3 A Gem and Opportunity Feedback form for students and teachers to use when giving a critique.
- 4 A rubric for teachers to use to evaluate the writing products created by their students with these prompts. Students can also use this rubric to self-score/evaluate their writing. I wouldn't "grade" every journal write. Maybe ask students to pick one a week they'd like you to score.
- 5 A list of journal writing tips for students.
As well as two videos
 - 1) full of ideas for teachers to engage reluctant writers.
 - 2) A winter inspired instrumental playlist

5

JOURNAL WRITING TIPS

- 1 Take a minute to think before you start writing. Review what happened in the text, browse any text annotations you made, think about how you related to the characters' situation/emotions in today's scenes.
- 2 Put your phone/chromebook/tablet away. Distractions can easily pull you out of the writing flow.
- 3 If you feel like you are stuck or have nothing else to say, but we still have writing time left, re-read what you have written. This might inspire more ideas. Or, you can go back and add in details to your response that you did not include the first time around.
- 4 You can always go back to the text/prompt/image for clues, reminders, ideas to add.
- 5 Before submitting your work, whisper read your work aloud to yourself. This will help you catch small, easy to fix errors.
- 6 Listen to an instrumental playlist to create a blanket of white noise that will help you focus on your task, rather than the distractions surrounding you. Try this video! (link: <https://youtu.be/ofJEBZvG0dA>)



STANDARDS IN ACTION

Writing Standards – W.6

W.6.3 – Write narratives – Students write stories from prompts such as:

- Continue the Story (e.g., the icicle, winter hike time machine, frozen stream), Write a snow globe story, Epic Snowball Fight, Snowman Adventure, Mystery in the Winter Woods,
- Narrative skills: plot, character, setting, sensory details, pacing.

W.6.3a–e – Narrative components

- Establish context & point of view
- Use dialogue (e.g., Eskimo/polar bear prompt)
- Use sensory language (winter woods mystery, frozen stream)
- Organize events effectively
- Provide a conclusion

W.6.4 – Produce clear and coherent writing

Students draft daily responses with built-in rubrics guiding clarity and organization.

W.6.5 – Strengthen writing through revision

The Gems & Opportunities feedback sheet supports peer review and self-editing.

W.6.10 – Write routinely over extended and shorter time frames

Explicitly builds stamina, increasing writing time over the month.

Daily prompts + Free Write Fridays = routine writing practice.

Language Standards – L.6

L.6.1 & L.6.2 – Conventions of grammar, capitalization, punctuation

Rubric criteria and repeated practice reinforce correct writing conventions.

L.6.5 – Figurative language & word choice

Especially in prompts like:

- Snow Similes activity, Descriptive scene building, Winter mystery sensory writing

L.6.6 – Acquire and use vocabulary

Prompts require precise descriptive word choice tied to winter imagery.



Use this rubric to first communicate your writing expectations to students and then to evaluate the writing products they create. Students and/or peers can also use this rubric to self/peer score/evaluate the pieces of writing.

The rubric can be found at the bottom of each prompt for easy access for both you and your students. There is also a page with 3 rubrics to print and cut for use with this or other writing tasks.

I assign 2 points if the task was completed and done well, 1 if the task was attempted but not mastered, and 0 if the task was not attempted at all.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10



MULTI-USE FORMS

The following pages will be used multiple times throughout the resources, but are included just once to save space in the file.

- Free Write Fridays
- Gem and Opportunity Feedback Sheets
- Writing Rubric Sheets

Free Write Friday

Choice A:
Go back and add onto a story you started earlier this week.

Choice B:
Write about a topic of your choice.

GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

My Name: _____
Name of classmate I am reviewing: _____
Date: _____

TITLE OF PIECE/DATE WRITTEN

GEMS LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL.	OPPORTUNITIES LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE.

FINAL COMMENTS
WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10



GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



My Name:

Name of classmate I am reviewing:

Date:

Title of Piece/Date Written



GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

OPPORTUNITIES



LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Comments:

WEEK 1 PROMPTS

Monday: Family Vacation

Tuesday: A Twister Tale

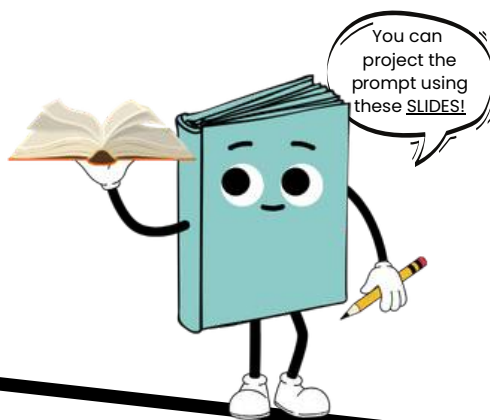
Wednesday: The Mystery Driver

Thursday: Creature in the Lake

Friday: Free Write Friday



The prompts in this resource can be done in any order, but are organized into weekly collections.



WEEK 2 PROMPTS

Monday: Beach Day Recipe

Tuesday: Teen Job Survival Guide

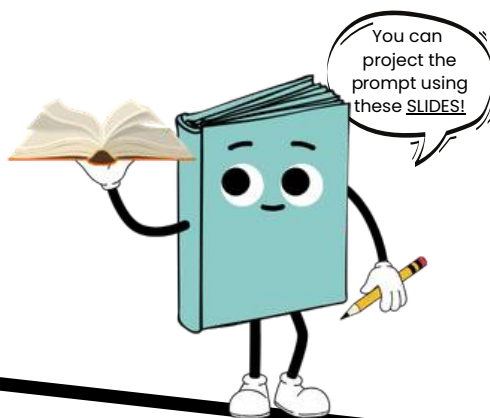
Wednesday: Post Card from the Future

Thursday: Ode to the AC

Friday: Free Write Friday



The prompts in this resource can be done in any order, but are organized into weekly collections.



NAME: _____

WRITING PROMPTS
FROM THE WORD NERD

Write a dramatic and overly serious poem praising air conditioning during a heat wave.



An ode is a formal lyric poem that celebrates or praises a person, place, thing, or idea. Originating in Ancient Greece as sung performances, odes are highly emotional and dignified in tone.



IMAGINE YOU BUILT A SNOWMAN THAT COMES TO LIFE. WHAT ADVENTURES DOES THE SNOWMAN HAVE?

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal lines for writing.

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

WEEK 3 PROMPTS

Monday: Lost in the Corn Maze

Tuesday: Road Trip Playlist

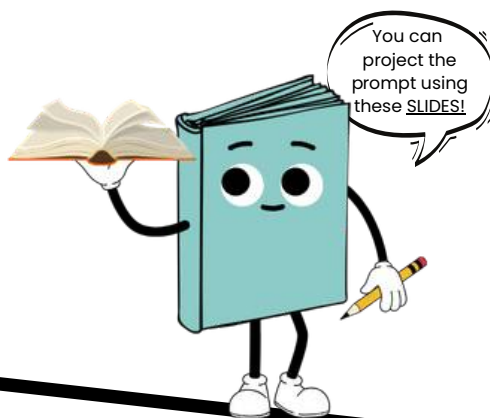
Wednesday: Aliens at the Water Park!

Thursday: Travel Tour Diary

Friday: Free Write Friday



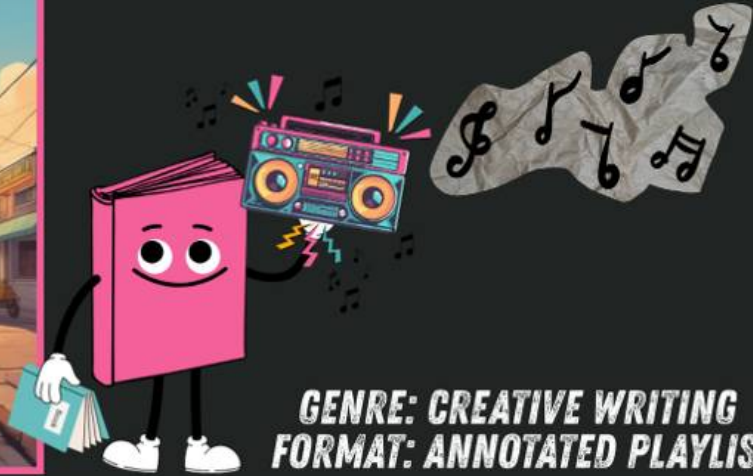
The prompts in this resource can be done in any order, but are organized into weekly collections.



NAME: _____

ROAD TRIP PLAYLIST

CREATE A SUMMER ROAD TRIP PLAYLIST AND EXPLAIN WHY EACH SONG BELONGS.



GENRE: CREATIVE WRITING
FORMAT: ANNOTATED PLAYLIST

Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = ___/10

Teacher Comments:

WEEK 4 PROMPTS

Monday: Letters from Camp

Tuesday: Sandcastle Kingdom

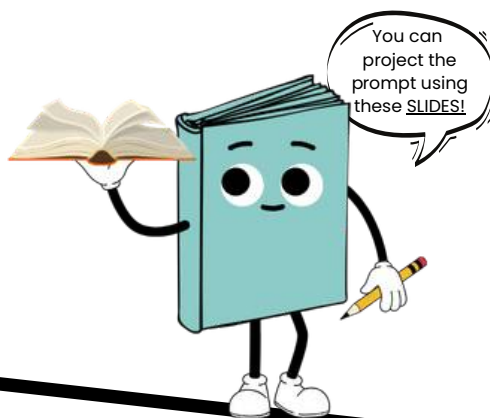
Wednesday: Up a Creek Without a Paddle

Thursday: Light the Night

Friday: Free Write Friday



The prompts in this resource can be done in any order, but are organized into weekly collections.



WEEK 5 PROMPTS

Monday: Boardwalk Fashion

Tuesday: The Perfect S'more

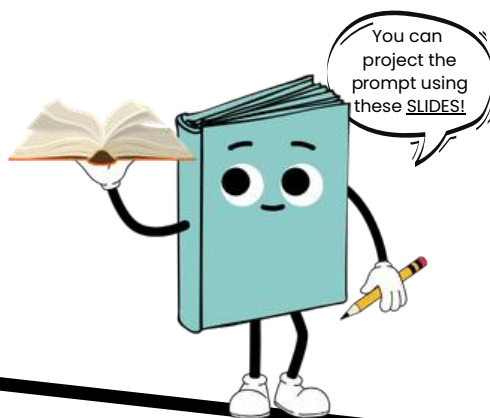
Wednesday: Summer Camp on Mars

Thursday: Backyard Olympics

Friday: Free Write Friday



The prompts in this resource can be done in any order, but are organized into weekly collections.

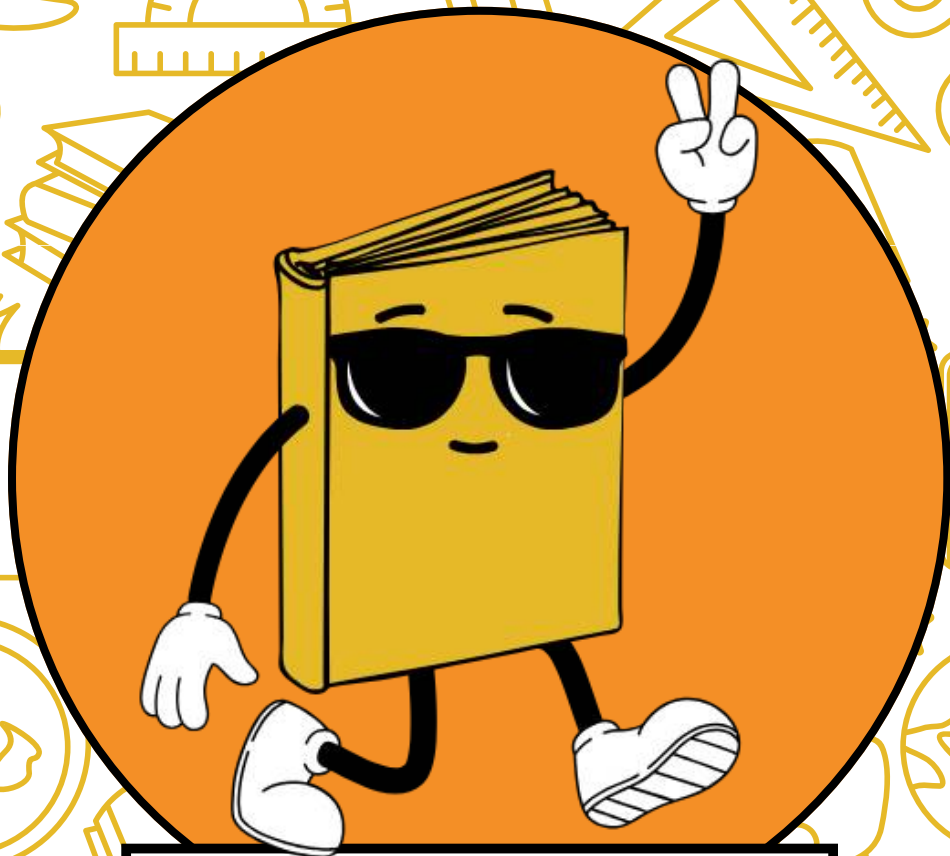
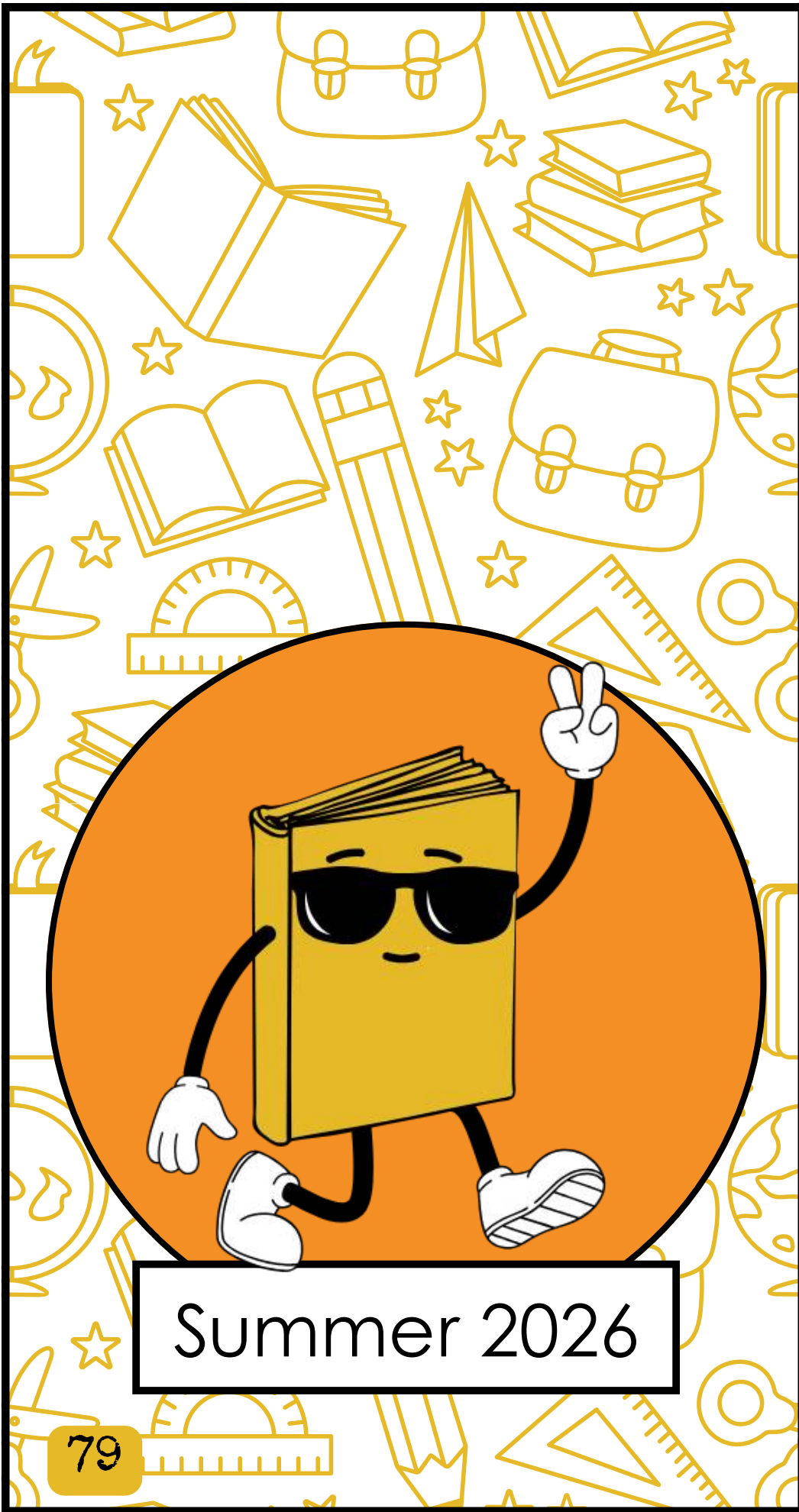


Writing Prompts that *WORK.*

GET HIGH-INTEREST PROMPTS YOUR STUDENTS WILL ACTUALLY WANT TO RESPOND TO—PLUS SIMPLE IDEAS FOR HOW TO USE THEM.

Email PDFs of the prompts to yourself for quick, easy lesson planning anytime.

Word Nerd Daily
an app from Amanda Zieba



Summer 2026

LESSONS

NOVEL UNITS

Head to the LESSONS page on the Word Nerd Collaborative Website and you'll be able to find a stockpile of resources for the following novels. Choose one book, read it with your summer school students and leave alllllll the planning to me! 😊 Happy reading!



Novel List

- A Long Walk to Water
- A Wrinkle In Time
- The Birthday Cache
- Breakout
- Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice
- The Invention of Hugo Cabret
- Orphan Train Raiders
- Rules

I have also created full novel study units for a few friends of mine. These can be found for FREE on their author websites!

- Haven by Valerie Biel
- McKenzie's Last Run by Gayle Rosenberg

DOWNLOAD THE WORD NERD DAILY APP AND BE NOTIFIED WHEN NEW EPISODES ARE RELEASED!

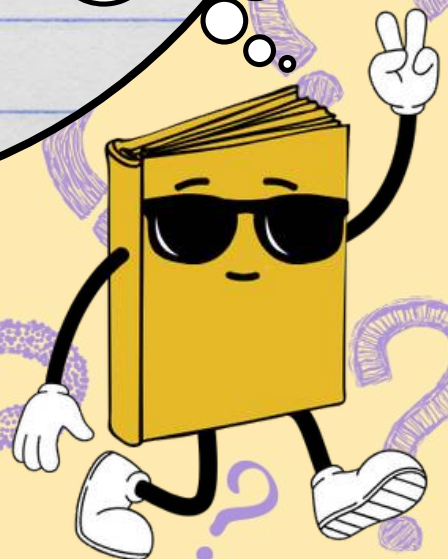
Would You Rather...

PERSUASIVE WRITING WORKSHEETS



SUMMER

EDITION



CREATED BY THE WORD NERD

TAKEAWAYS

Even silly prompts (“Would you rather have pizza every day or ice cream every day?”) still help students practice the serious structure of argumentative writing—without the intimidation of “real” essay topics. This lowers the stakes while reinforcing core skills.

WE WANT STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO:

- Choosing a side → Making a clear claim.
- Backing it up → Giving 2-3 strong reasons with evidence or examples.
- Using transitions → Showing relationships between ideas.
- Acknowledging the other side → Strengthening their argument.
- Concluding clearly → Wrapping up their reasoning in a persuasive way.



**SPARK STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT -
START WITH THE VIDEO!**



Video Link



STANDARDS IN ACTION

W.6.1 – Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

- Students should learn to:
 - Make a claim → choose one option in their “Would You Rather?”
 - Give reasons → explain why they chose it.
 - Use evidence/examples → support their reasoning with logic, facts, or even life experience.
 - Acknowledge the other side → briefly explain why someone might choose differently, and why their choice is stronger.

W.6.1a – Introduce claims clearly, organize reasons and evidence.

- Skill Focus: Write an introductory sentence that states their choice.
- Ex: “I would rather be a ballerina than a weightlifter because it fits my personality and challenges me in new ways.”

W.6.1b – Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

- Skill Focus: Develop 2–3 strong reasons with examples or explanations.
- Ex: “Dancing allows me to express myself creatively, and it’s also excellent exercise.”

W.6.1c – Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify relationships among claims, reasons, and evidence.

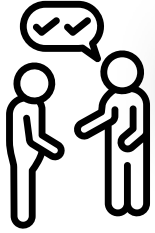
- Skill Focus: Use transition words like for example, in addition, because, however, and therefore to guide readers.

W.6.1d – Establish and maintain a formal style.

- Skill Focus: Write in a clear, academic voice (not “texting language”), even if the topic is silly.
- Ex: “I’d choose...” instead of “Because it’s cool.”

W.6.1e – Provide a concluding statement or section.

- Skill Focus: Wrap up by restating the claim and leaving a final thought.
- Ex: “For these reasons, being a ballerina would be a better fit for me than being a weightlifter.”



BUILD YOUR CASE

You've made your choice... now it's time to convince someone else to agree with you! Use this organizer to help plan and write your persuasive paragraph. Strong persuasive writers make a claim, give clear reasons, support their ideas, and wrap it all up like a pro!

FOLLOW THESE STEPS!

✓ **Step 1: Make Your Claim**

Write a strong opening sentence that clearly states your answer to the Would You Rather question.

Example: I would rather live in a treehouse than on a boat because I love nature and dislike water.

✓ **Step 2: Give Your Reasons**

List 2-3 strong reasons why you chose your answer. Add examples or explanations for each one.

✓ **Step 3: Use Transitions**

Use words like because, for example, in addition, also, however, even though to connect your ideas and make your writing flow.

✓ **Step 4: Think About the Other Side**

Can you think of why someone might choose the other option? Briefly explain why your choice is still the better one.

Example: Some people might say... But I think...

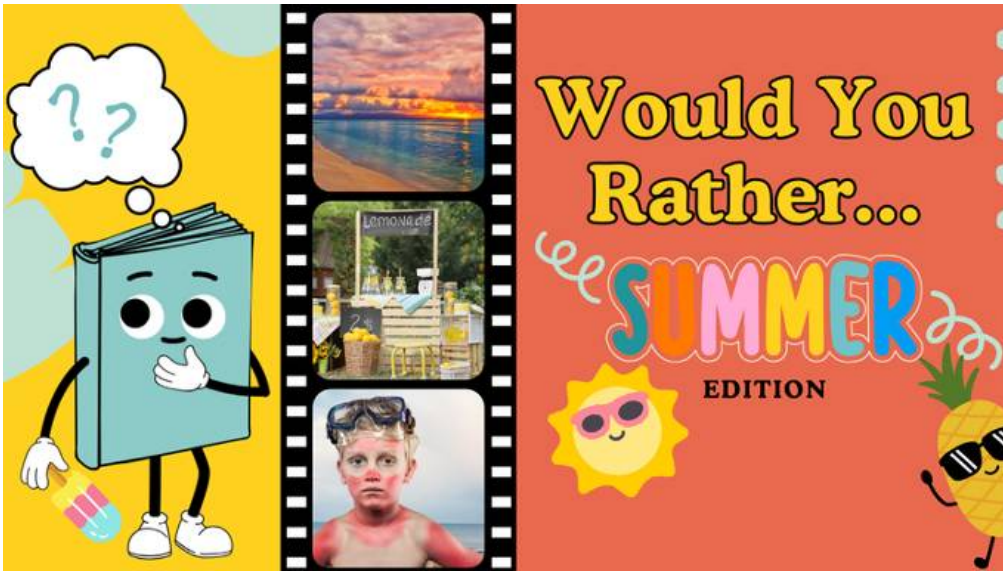
✓ **Step 5: Wrap It Up**

Write a conclusion sentence that restates your choice and leaves the reader convinced.

Example: That's why I would definitely rather live in a treehouse!

WOULD YOU RATHER?

Name: _____



VIDEO



Video Link

Directions: As you watch the video, circle your preferred choice and then follow the physical cue on screen!

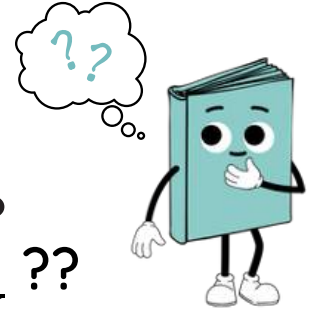
1. Would you rather be permanently sunburned or permanently thirsty?
2. Would you rather live somewhere that was always summer or never summer?
3. Would you rather work at a lemonade stand or an ice cream shop?
4. Would you rather go to the pool or the beach?
5. Would you rather go on a camping vacation or a hotel vacation?
6. Would you rather go to summer camp in the swamp or in the desert?
7. Would you rather be a swim suit designer or a hat designer?
8. Would you rather swim in an ocean or a lake?
9. Would you rather go to an amusement park or a movie theater?
10. Would you rather mow the lawn or water the plants?

Respond: Which would you rather match up do you have the strongest feelings about? Why?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Summer Edition



Would You Rather...

_____ or _____

??

Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.

[Large empty rectangular box for brainstorming ideas and planning a response.]

[A series of horizontal lines for writing a response.]

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

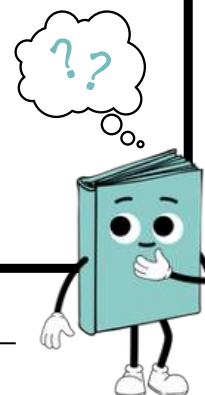
Summer Edition



Would You Rather...

live somewhere that was always summer or never summer?

Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



Horizontal lines for writing the response.

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

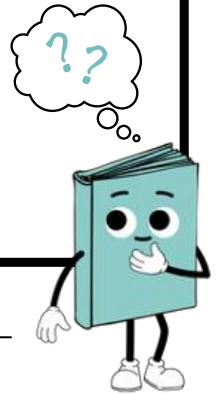
Summer Edition



Would You Rather...

work at a lemonade stand or an ice cream shop?

Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal lines for writing a response.

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

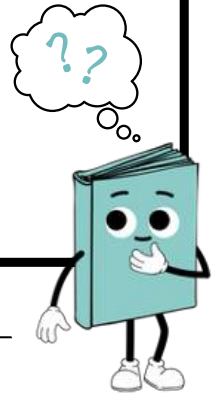
Summer Edition

Would You Rather...

go to the pool or the beach?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



Handwriting lines for writing a response.

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

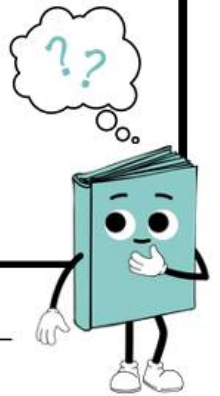
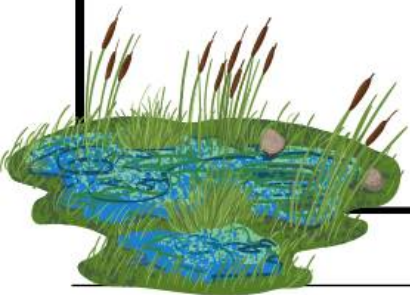
Summer Edition

Would You Rather...

go to summer camp in the swamp or in the desert?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

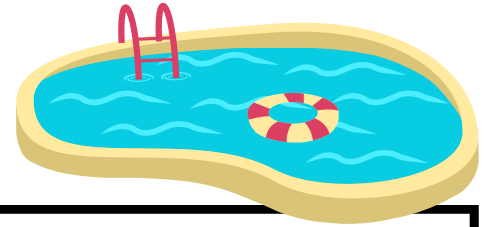
Comments:

Name: _____

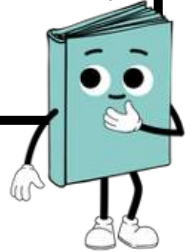
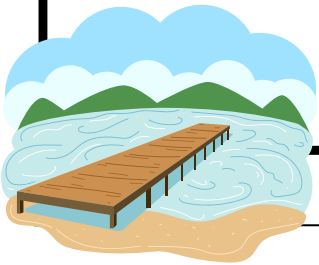
Date: _____

Summer Edition

Would You Rather... swim in a pool or a lake?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



Handwriting lines for the response area.

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

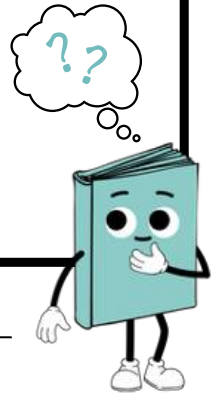
Summer Edition

Would You Rather...

go to an amusement park or a movie theater?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal lines for writing.

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:

Name: _____

Date: _____

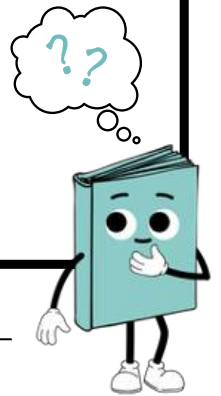
Summer Edition

Would You Rather...



have PE taught by pro athletes or PE taught by college athletes?

Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.

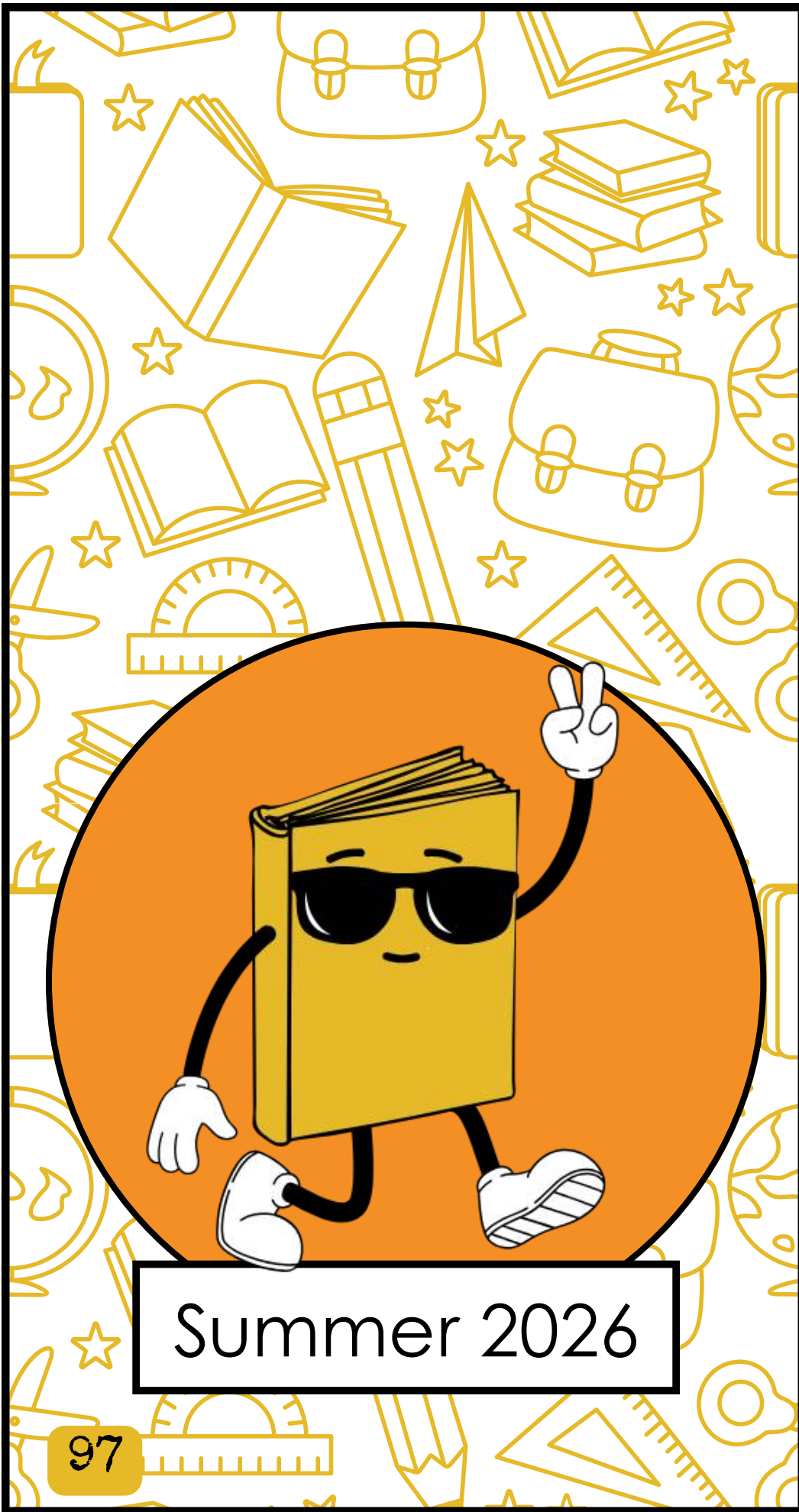


Handwriting lines for the response area.

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
Total Points = ___/10			

Comments:



Summer 2026

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
BECAUSE YOU DESERVE THEM!

TEACHER BESTIE TALKS

In this NEW video series I share all sorts of funny stories and fantastic strategies! Listen while you drive, exercise, fold laundry and lay by the pool/lake this summer! I promise each quick episode is packed with relatable moments and ideas you can implement ASAP next school year!



5 EPISODES AND COUNTING!

 YouTube



DOWNLOAD THE WORD NERD DAILY APP AND BE NOTIFIED WHEN NEW EPISODES ARE RELEASED!

MUST TRY!

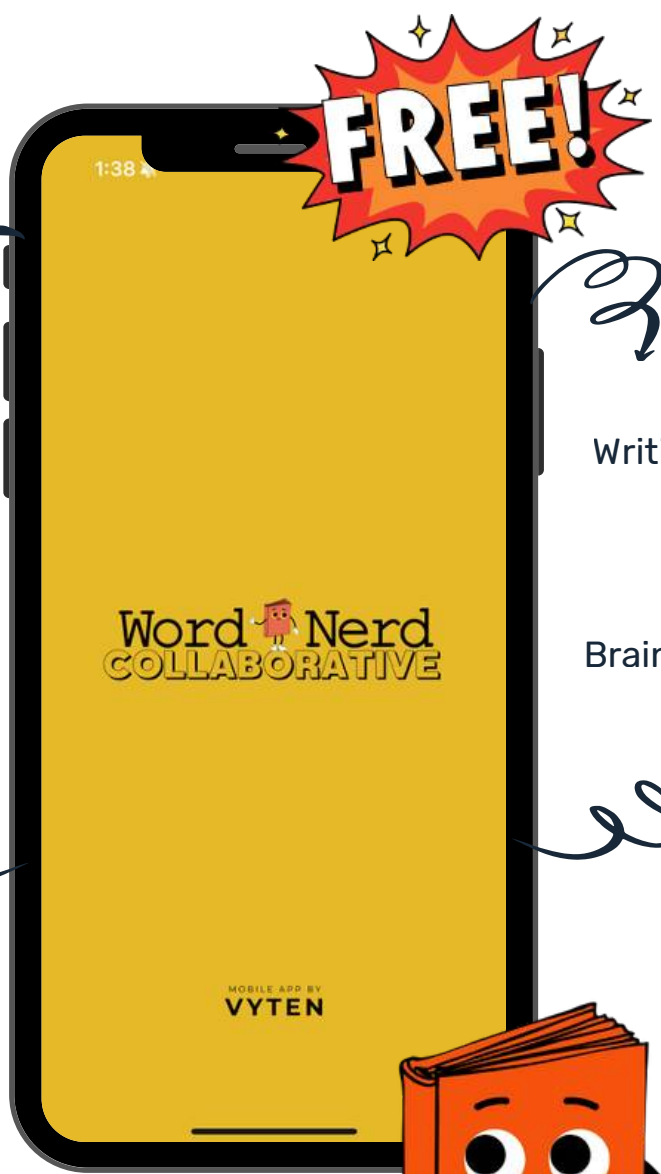
Word Nerd Daily

an app from Amanda Zieba



First Chapter Friday Videos

ChatBot for Reading Recs and Lesson Planning



Writing Prompt Library

Brain Break Videos



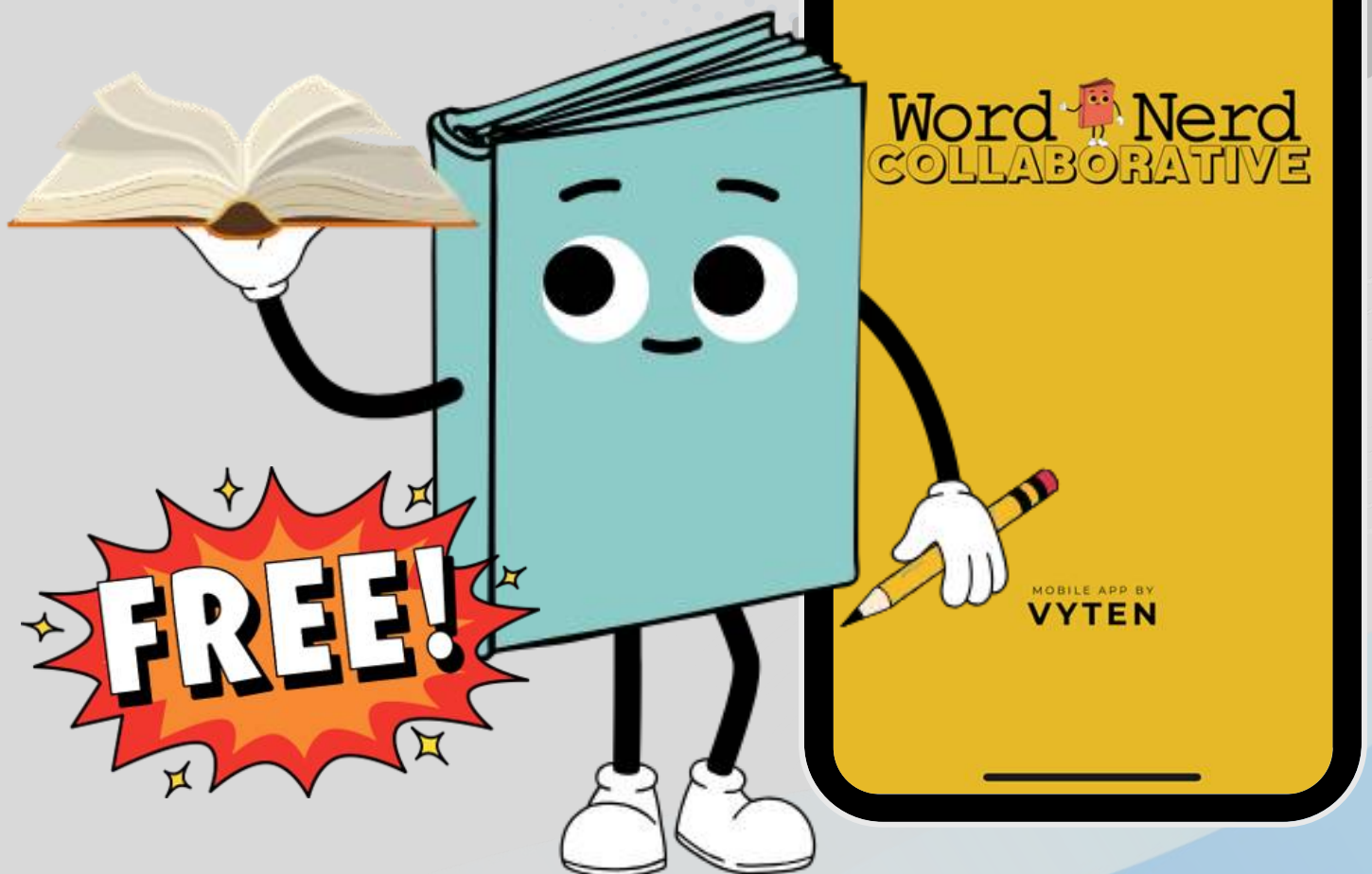
AVIALBE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES

Word Nerd Daily

an app from Amanda Zieba

Access a growing library of middle school ELA resources you can use right away. No subscriptions, no paywalls.

- **ORGANIZED VIDEO LIBRARY**
- **READING REC + LESSON PLANNING CHATBOT**
- **EMAIL RESOURCES DIRECTLY TO YOURSELF AT SCHOOL**



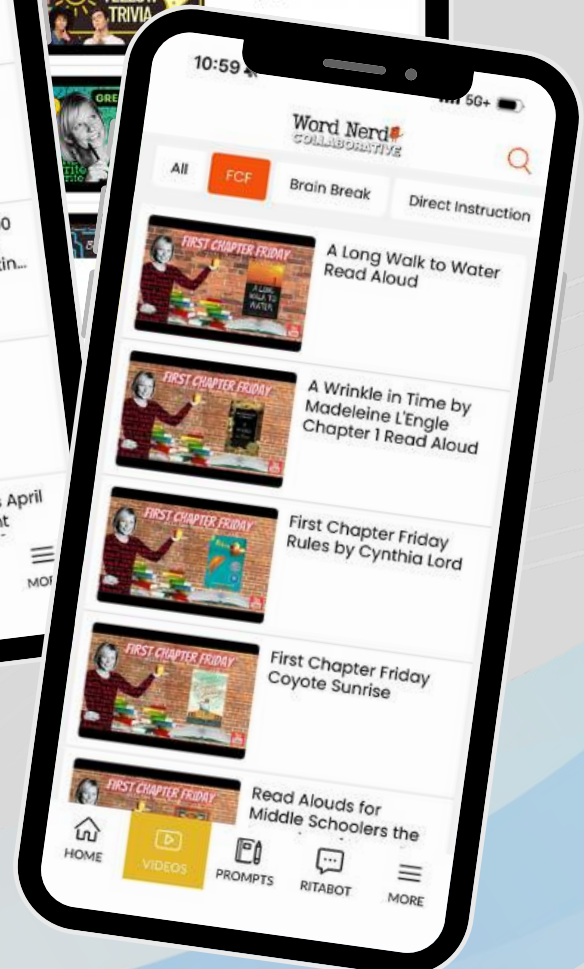
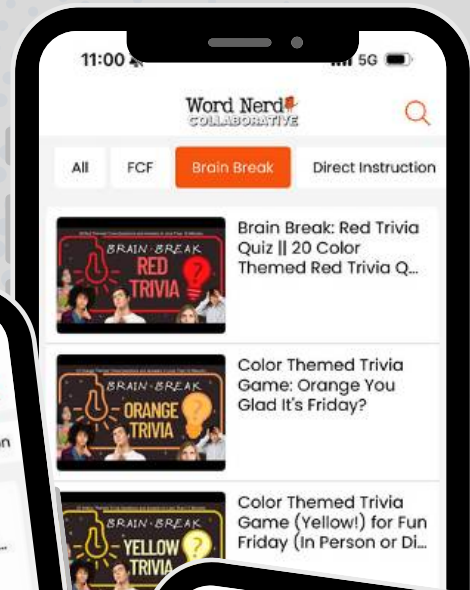
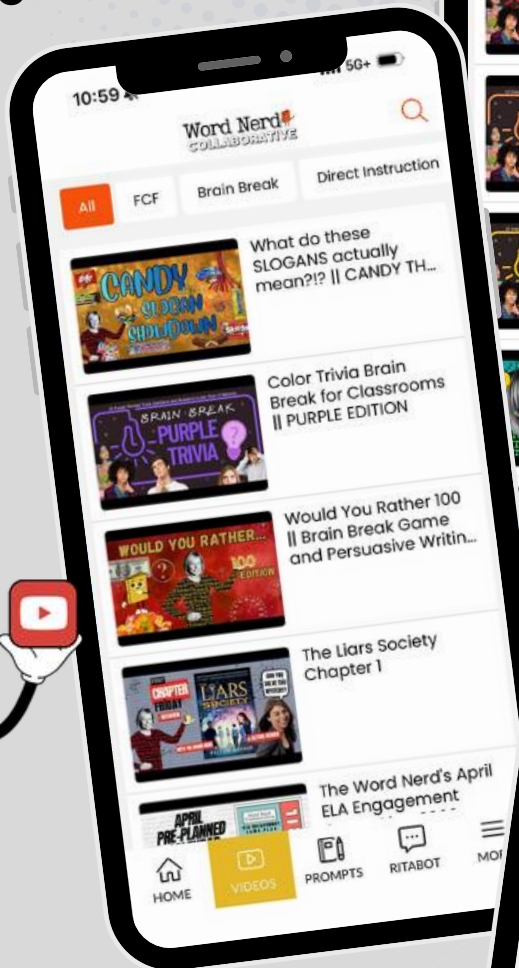
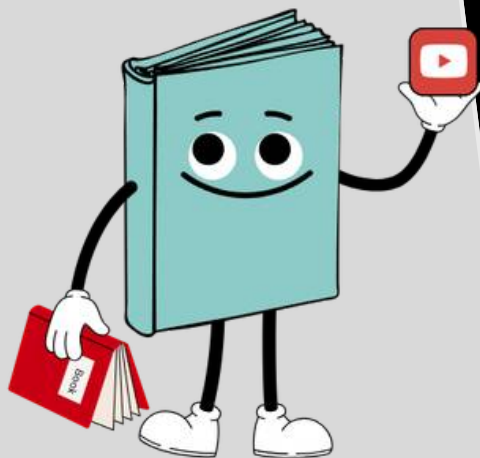
Built by a teacher who gets it!

All in 1 VIDEO Library

EVERYTHING YOU NEED—ORGANIZED IN ONE PLACE.

- ✓ FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY READ-ALOUDS
- ✓ BRAIN BREAK GAMES
- ✓ TEACHING TIPS & MINI LESSONS
- ✓ AUTHOR INTERVIEWS
- ✓ WORK-TIME MUSIC

No more
searching.
Just open
the app
and hit
play.



Word Nerd Daily
an app from Amanda Zieba

Writing Prompts that *WORK.*

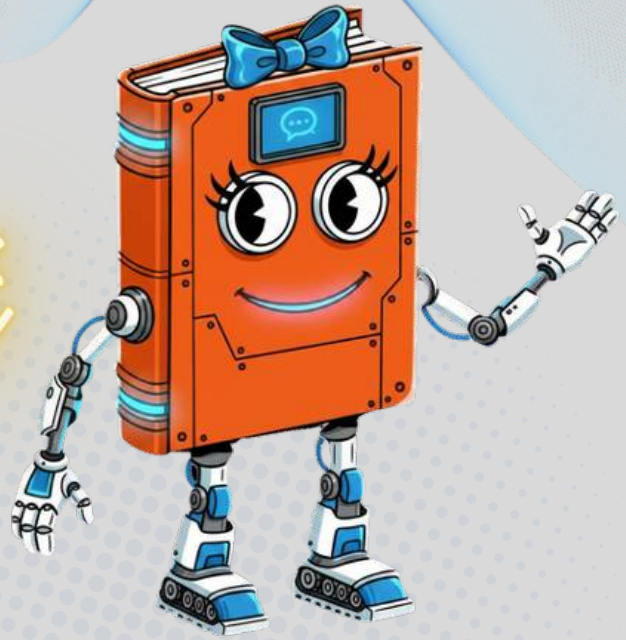
GET HIGH-INTEREST PROMPTS YOUR STUDENTS WILL ACTUALLY WANT TO RESPOND TO—PLUS SIMPLE IDEAS FOR HOW TO USE THEM.



Email PDFs of the prompts to yourself for quick, easy lesson planning anytime.

Word Nerd Daily
an app from Amanda Zieba

Meet RitaBot



**YOUR AI
TEACHING
ASSISTANT!**

ASK FOR:

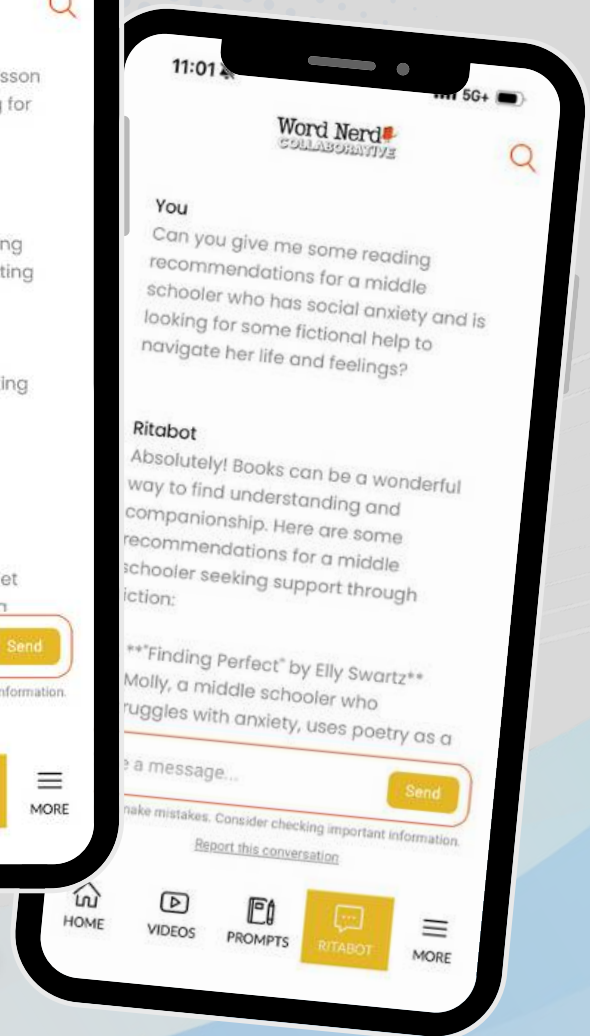
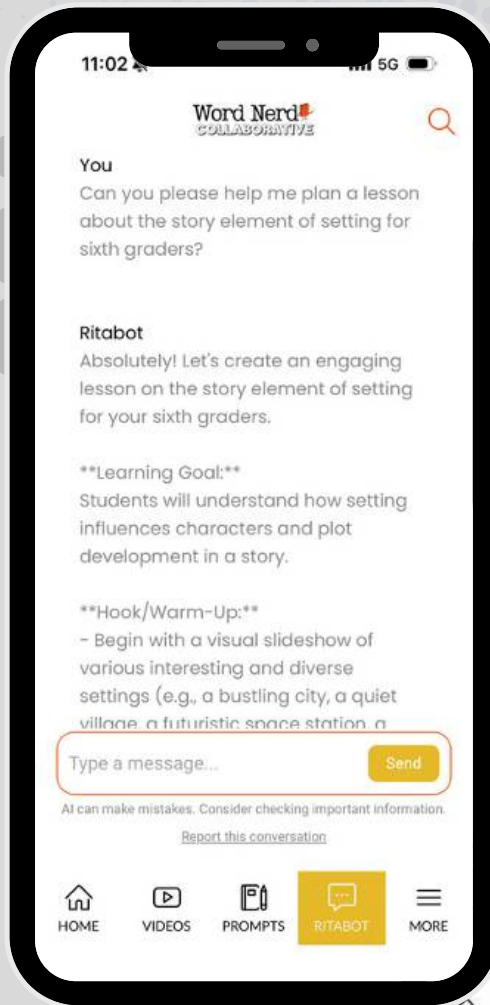
- ✓ **READING RECS**
- ✓ **LESSON IDEAS**
- ✓ **ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

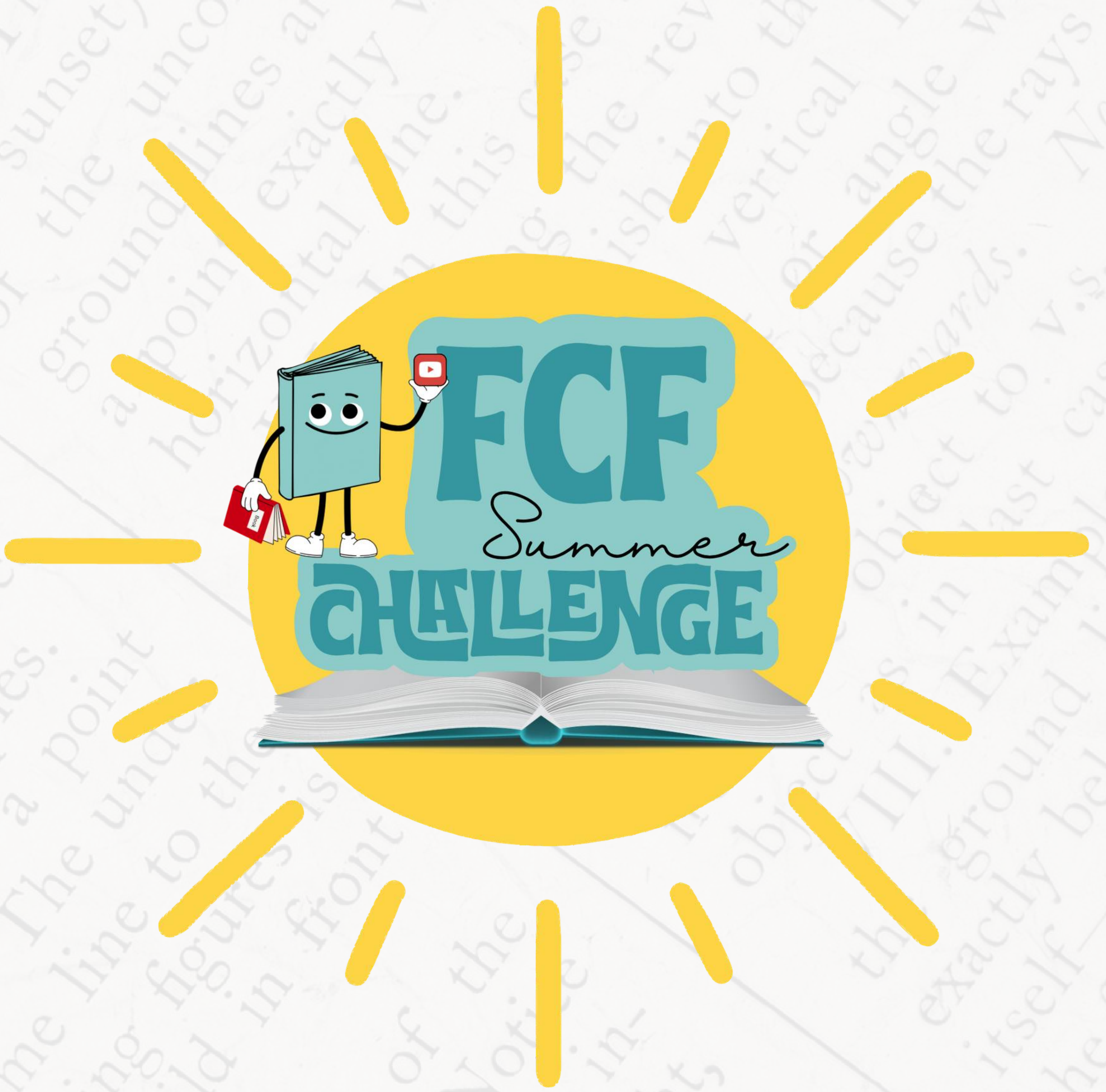


AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES

Word Nerd Daily

an app from Amanda Zieba





Created by the Word Nerd



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Welcome to the Word Nerd's First Chapter Friday Summer Challenge!

This challenge is designed to help you discover amazing middle grade and young adult books so you can head into the new school year with fresh recommendations and renewed reading excitement.

How to Participate

Step 1: Choose a Challenge List

Visit the Summer Challenge landing page and select ONE (or more!) reading lists that match your interests or grade level.

Challenge options include:

- Top 10 Books for 5th Graders
- Top 10 Books for 6th & 7th Graders
- Top 10 Books for 8th & 9th Graders
- Word Nerd's All-Time Favorites
- Hidden Gems & Unsung Heroes

Step 2: Listen to the 10 First Chapter Fridays

Each challenge includes 10 featured books.

For each title:

- ✓ Listen to the First Chapter Friday video (on average 8-20 min each)
- ✓ Record your thoughts on the tracking chart
- ✓ Leave a comment on the YouTube video

The goal is to build your "mental bookshelf" so you can confidently recommend books to a wide variety of readers next school year!

Step 3: Complete Your Tracking Charts

As you listen, fill out the included tracking pages:

- One sentence summary
- Recommendation rating
- Students who would enjoy the book

These notes will become an incredibly valuable recommendation tool during the school year.

Step 4: Submit Your Entry

Once you complete a challenge list:

- Take a quick photo of your completed tracking charts
- (One picture of all pages together is perfectly fine!)
- Email your photo to: wordnerd@amandazieba.com

Be sure to include:

- Your name
- Your mailing address
- Which challenge list you completed
- Your favorite book from the collection

The Prize!!

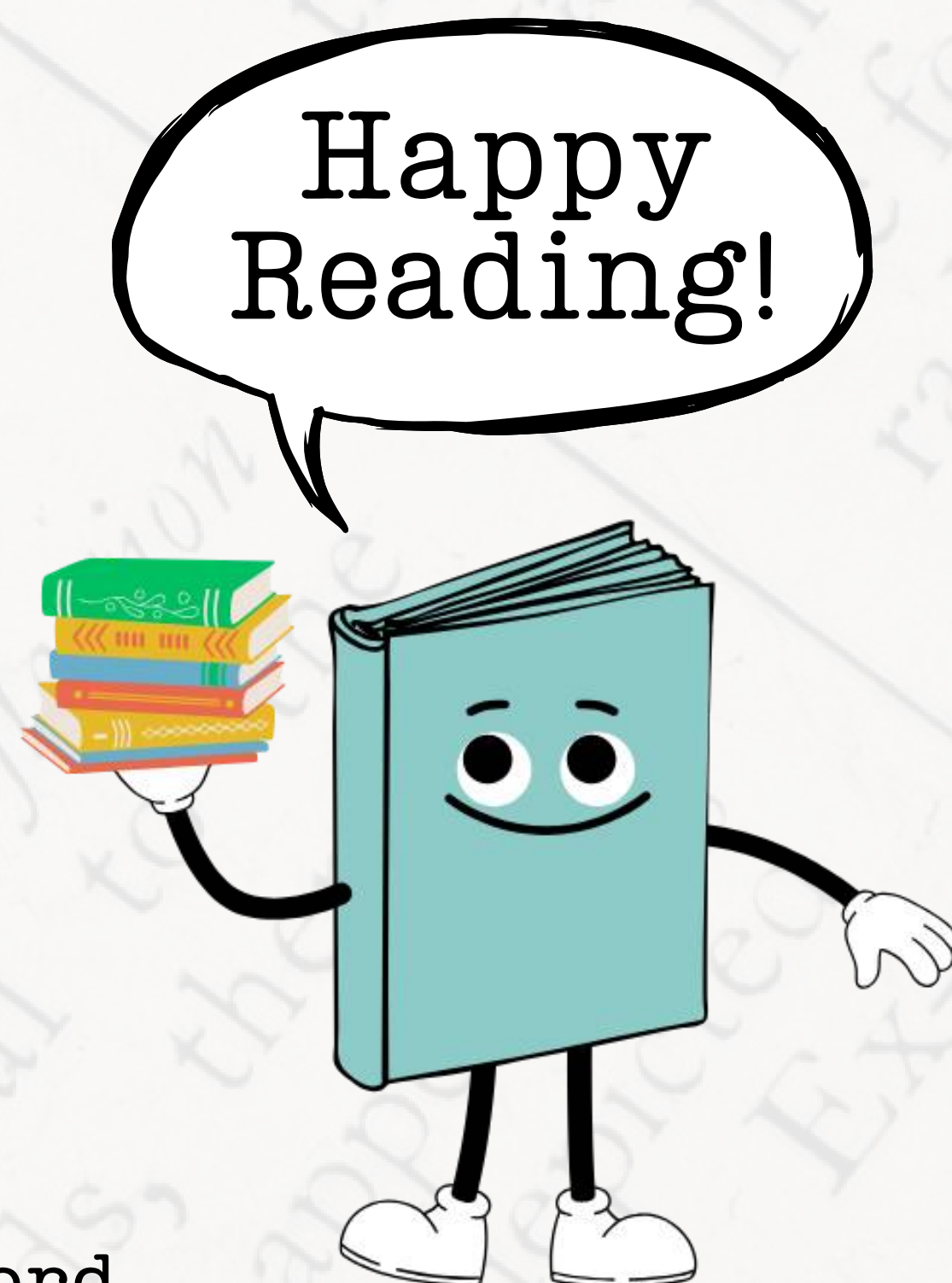
One winner will receive ALL 10 BOOKS from the challenge list they completed! Yes... the actual books.

You may enter up to 6 times by completing multiple challenge lists.

Questions?

Email me anytime!

wordnerd@amandazieba.com



Challenge Deadline

All entries must be submitted by August 1st.

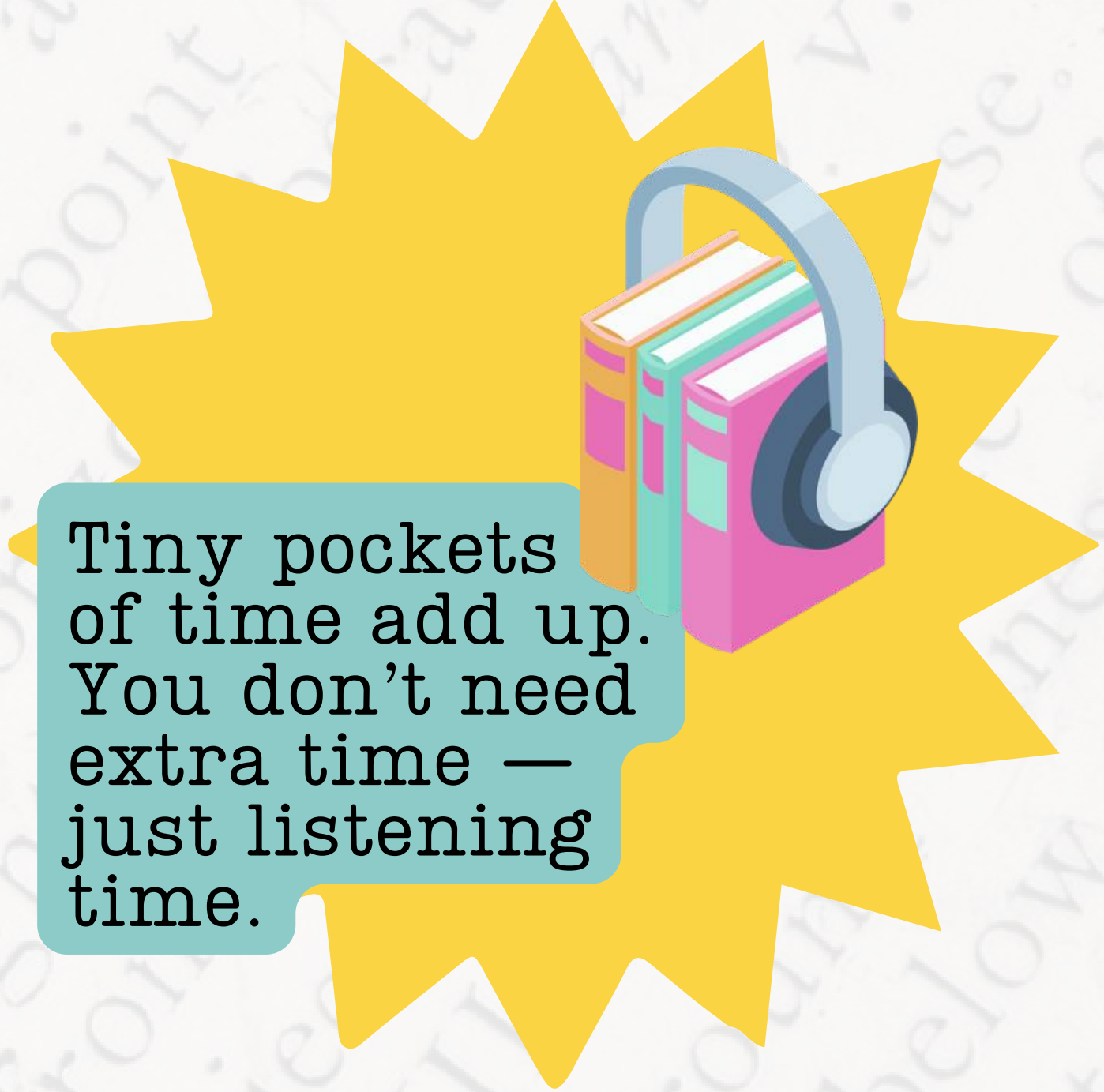
Thanks so much for spending part of your summer reading with the Word Nerd community. I hope these books help spark excitement, connection, and incredible reading conversations in your classroom next year!

— Amanda Zieba
The Word Nerd

Create Your Plan

Choose a list:

- Top 10 Books for 5th Graders
- Top 10 Books for 6th & 7th Graders
- Top 10 Books for 8th & 9th Graders
- Word Nerd's All-Time Favorites
- Hidden Gems & Unsung Heroes



Tiny pockets of time add up. You don't need extra time — just listening time.

Identify times to listen:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driving | <input type="checkbox"/> Morning Coffee Time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> During quiet crafting / hobbies | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning the house |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet walks | <input type="checkbox"/> Grocery shopping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By the Pool / Lake / Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening / weeding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exercising | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer road trips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiting for Kids (Sports/Activities) | <input type="checkbox"/> While organizing the classroom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making Dinner / Meal Prep | <input type="checkbox"/> Getting ready (hair / make up) |



WHAT IS FCF?

And Why Should I Care?

Not sure how First Chapter Friday works?

Check out this [video](#) for a full explanation and 4 implementation ideas.

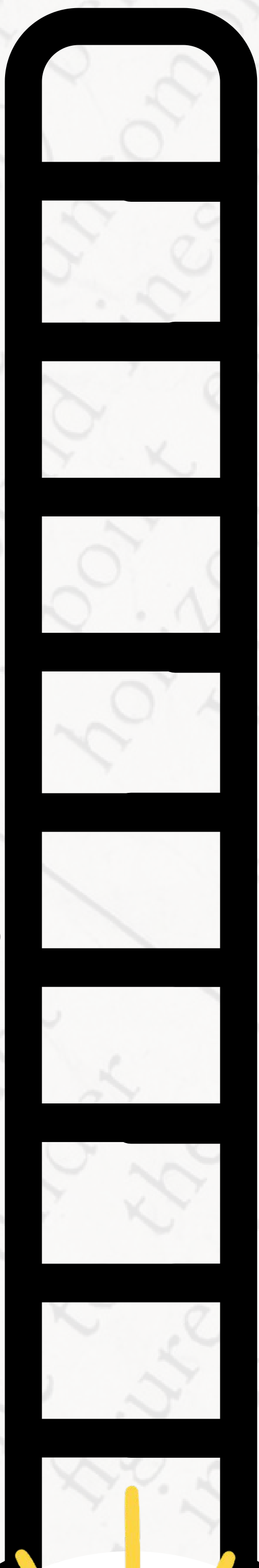


Why Participate in the Summer FCF Challenge?

- Build stronger book recommendation skills
- Discover titles for a variety of readers
- Expand your classroom library knowledge
- Increase student reading engagement
- Start the school year with fresh book excitement

You don't need to read an entire book to be able to recommend it to a student. I've vetted the BEST ones... all you need to do is familiarize yourself with them enough to match the right book to the right kid. If you've got 3 hours to listen to me read aloud this summer and you want to level up your reading recommendation skills... you're in the right place! :)

Created by the Word Nerd



BOOK 10: _____

BOOK 9: _____

BOOK 8: _____

BOOK 7: _____

BOOK 6: _____

BOOK 5: _____

BOOK 4: _____

BOOK 3: _____

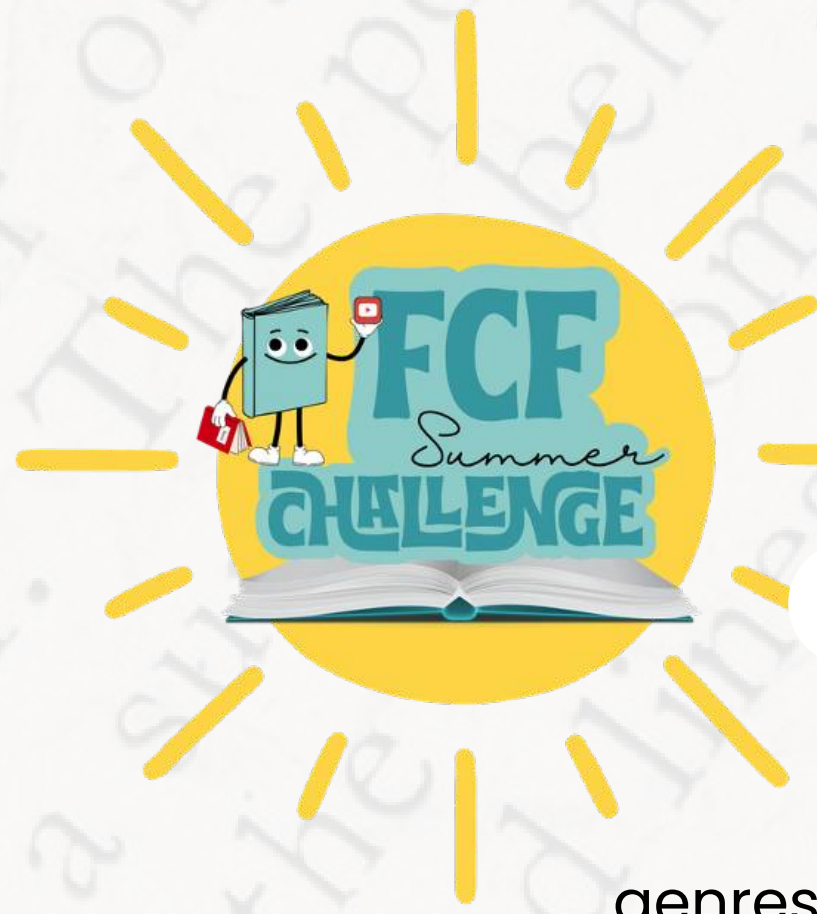
BOOK 2: _____

BOOK 1: _____

This piece is not required, but I sure do love a progress thermometer. Print this out and fill it in as you go if it helps motivate you to listen to all 10 books on the list

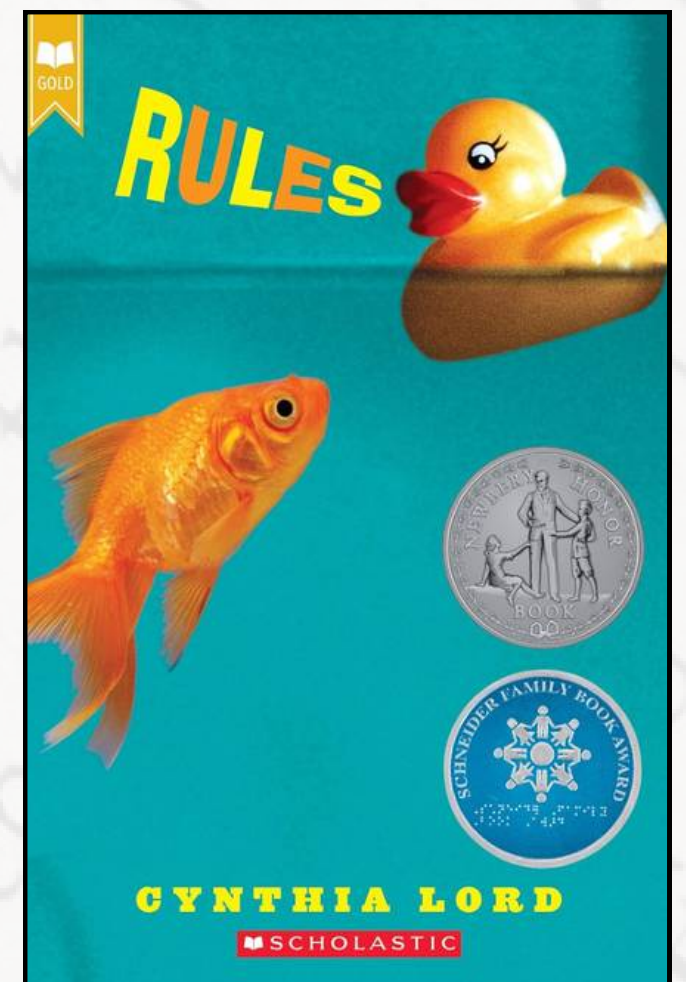
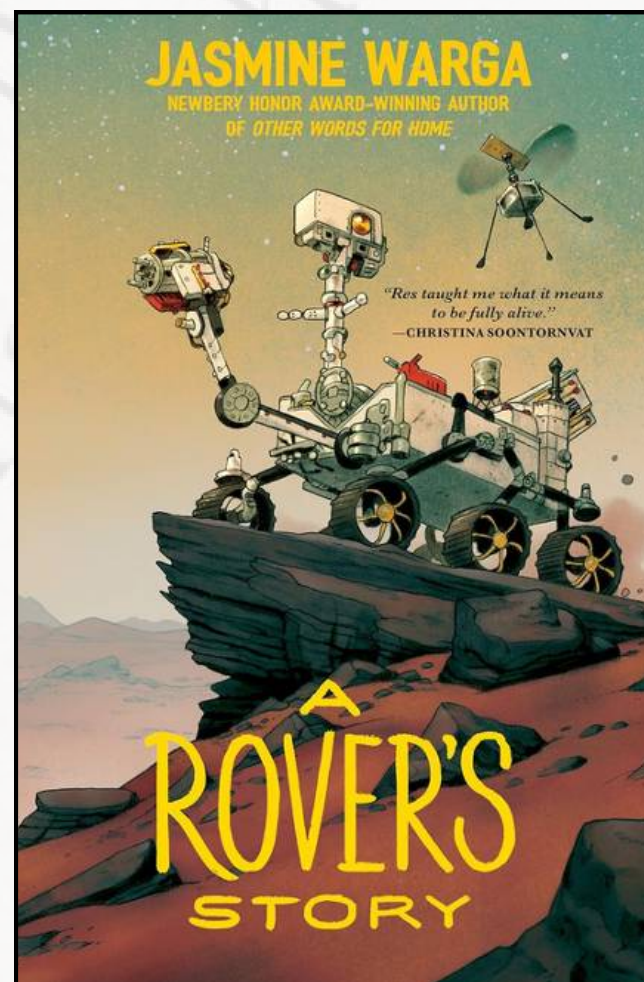
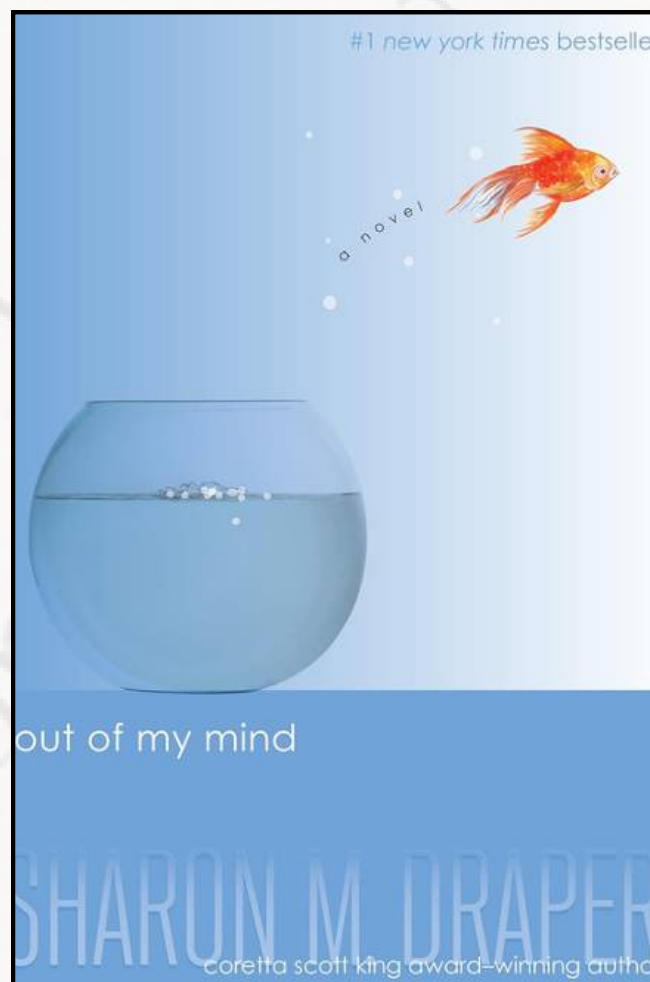
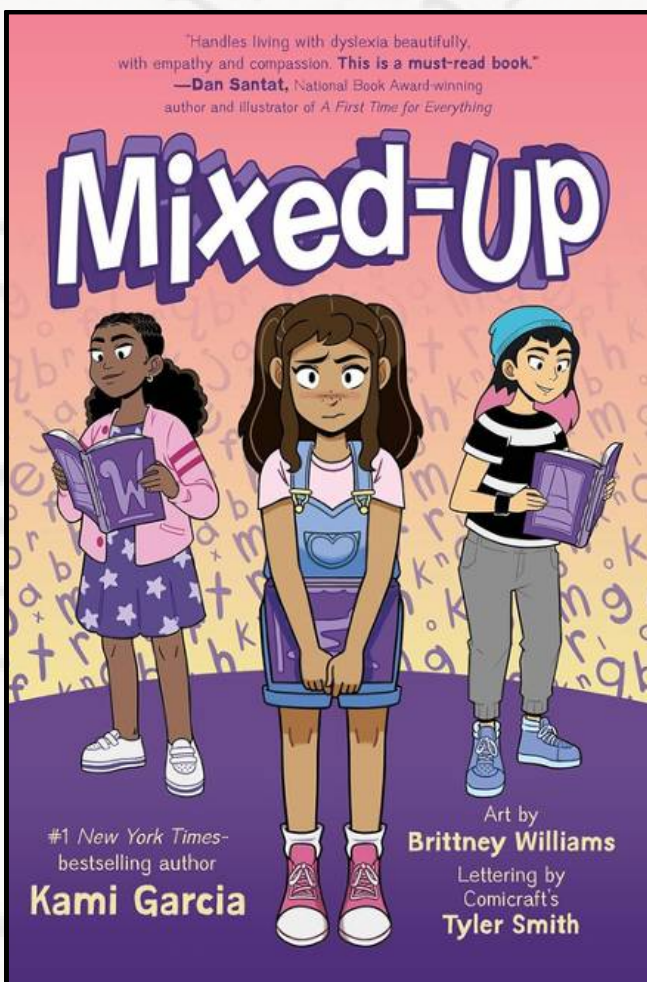
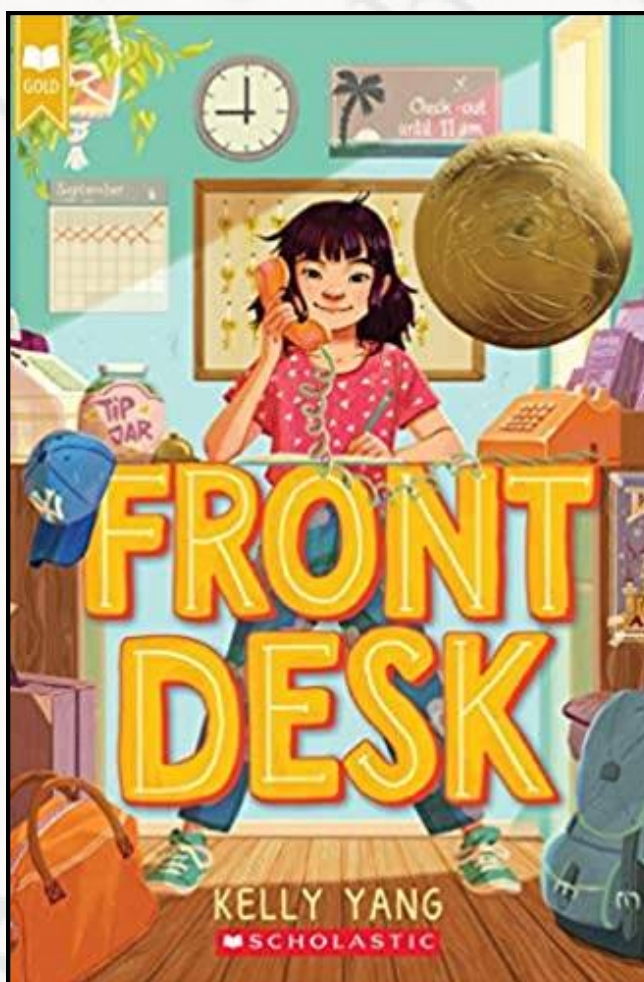
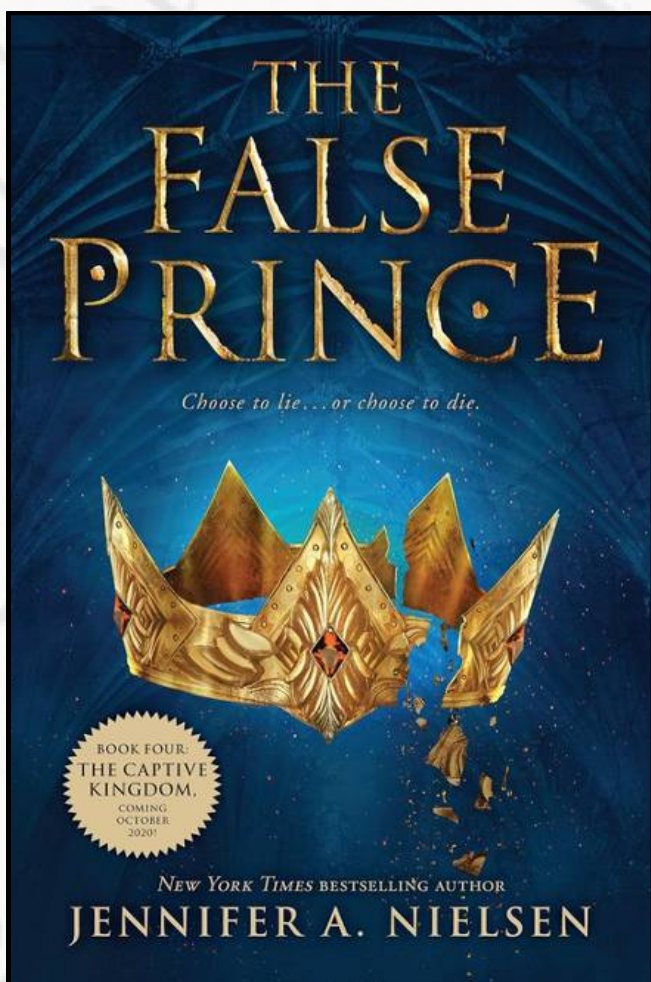
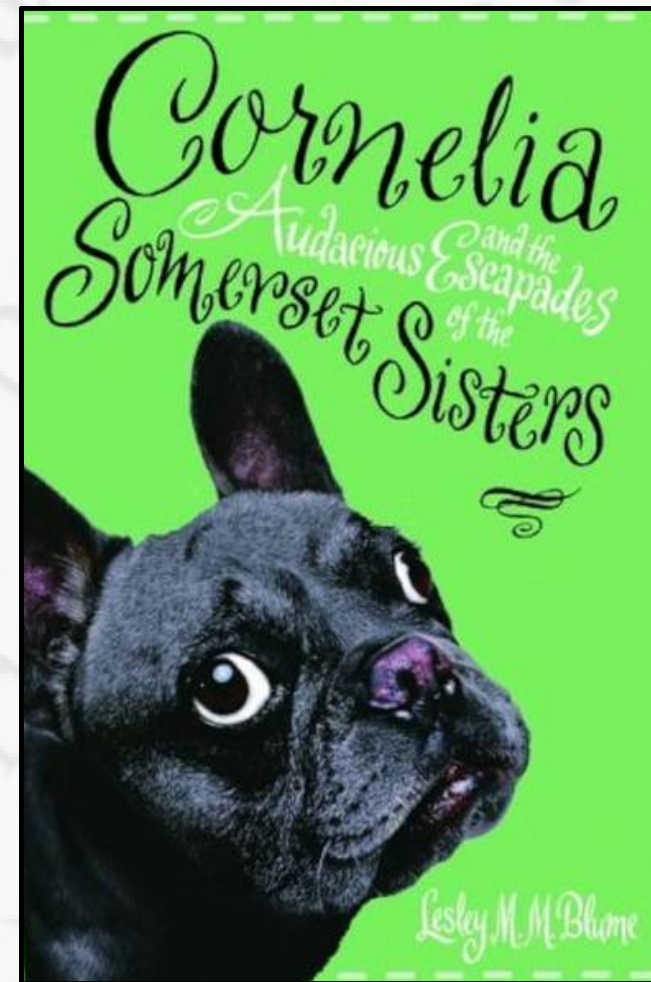
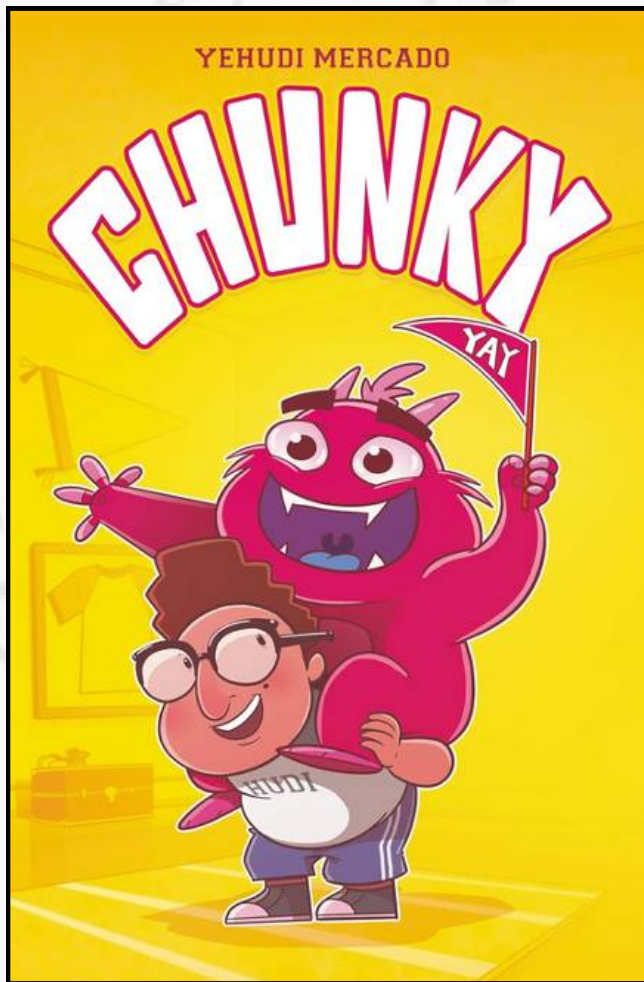
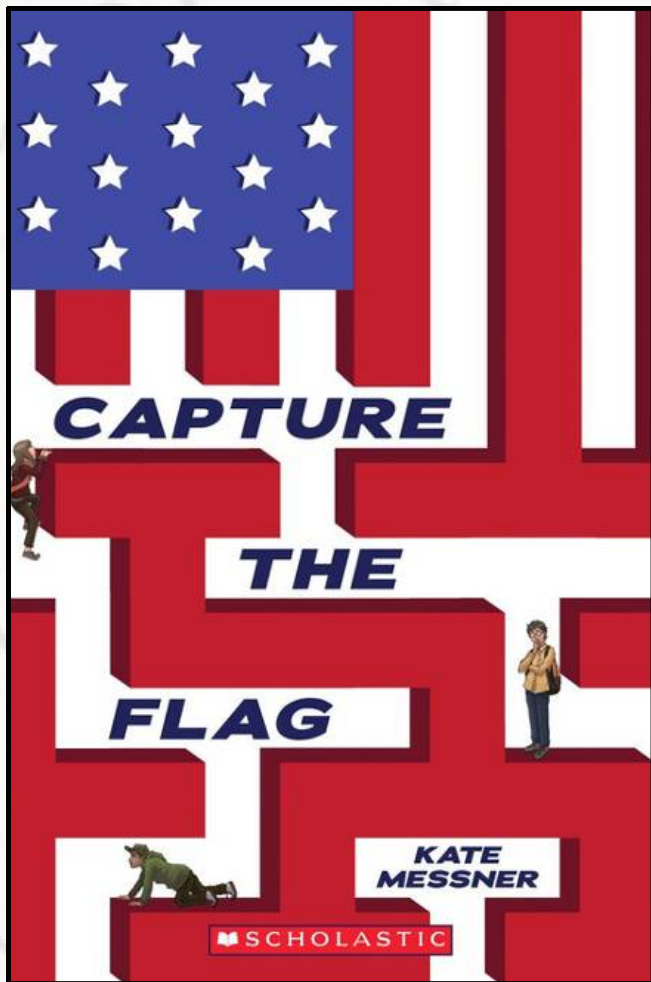


PROGRESS THERMOMETER



TOP 10 BOOKS for 5th Graders

Your challenge: Listen to these 10 First Chapter Fridays this summer!
The Word Nerd's Top 10 picks for 5th graders cover a wide variety of genres, topics, and formats. By the end of the challenge, you'll have a solid lineup of go-to recommendations ready for readers with all kinds of interests.





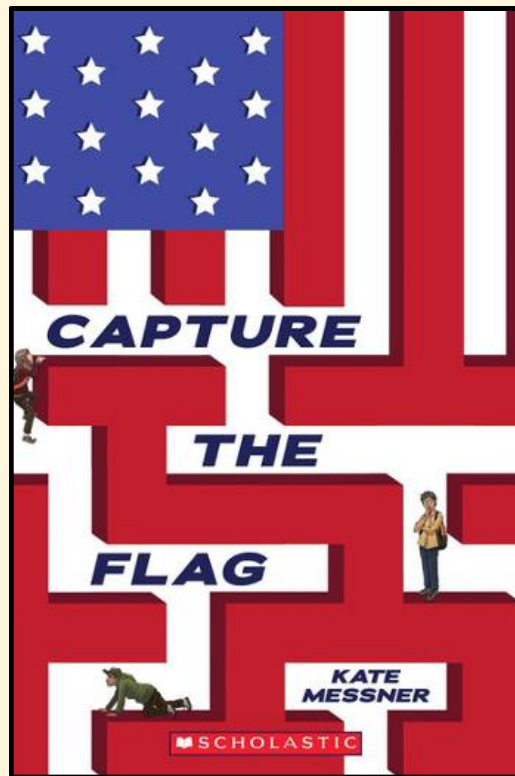
TOP 10 BOOKS for 5th Graders

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(11:22)



Video
Comment



Capture the Flag by Kate Messner

Reading Levels → AR: 4.5 / Lexile: 700L

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Mystery

Format: Prose 240 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- National Treasure (movie)
- Escape Rooms

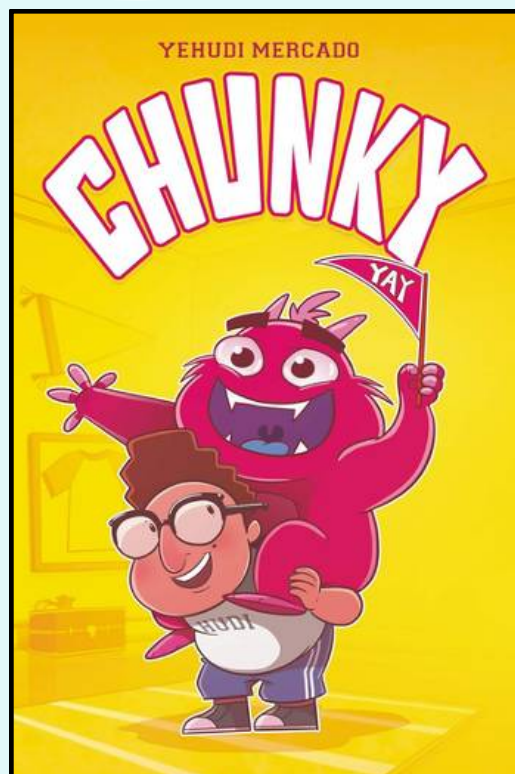
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(19:02)



Video
Comment



Chunky by Yehudi Mercado

Reading Levels → AR: 2.8 / Lexile: N/A

Genre: Magical Realism

Format: Graphic Novel 208 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Raina Telgemeier books
- Drawing & Doodling

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

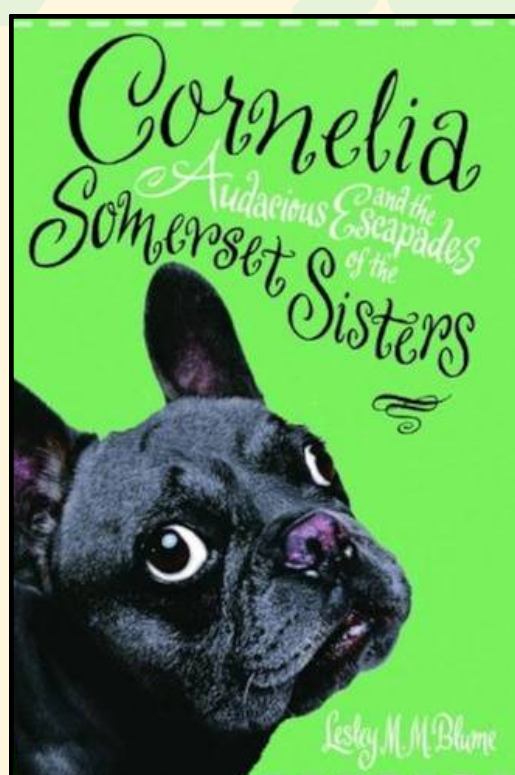
1) _____ 2) _____



Video Link
(28:00)



Video
Comment



Cornelia and the Audacious Escapes of the Somerset Sisters by Leslie M. M. Blume

Reading Levels → AR: 5.5 / Lexile: 650L

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Format: Prose 272 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Family Mysteries
- Interior Design

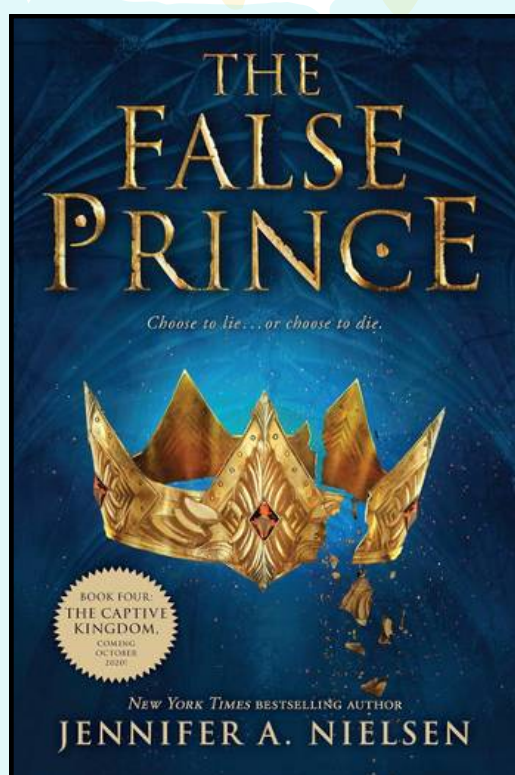
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(26:35)



Video
Comment



The False Prince by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Reading Levels → AR: 5.1 / Lexile: 710L

Genre: Low Fantasy / Action Adventure / Political Intrigue

Format: Prose 352 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Mischievous Main Characters
- Royalty + Castles

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____





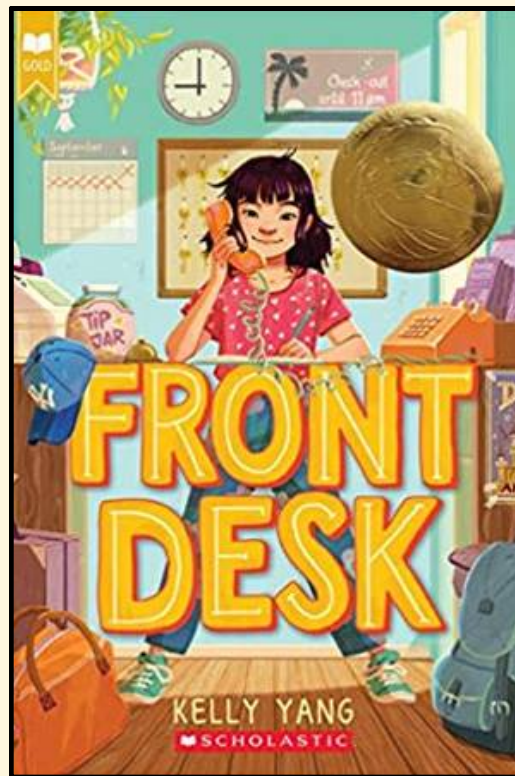
TOP 10 BOOKS for 5th Graders

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(14:02)



Video
Comment



Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Reading Levels → AR: 4.5 / Lexile: 640L

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Format: Prose 304 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Immigration & entrepreneurship stories

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(17:24)



Video
Comment



Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins

Reading Levels: → AR: 4.8 / Lexile: 690L

Genre: Fantasy

Format: Prose 336 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Percy Jackson Series
- Giant Creatures & Underground Worlds

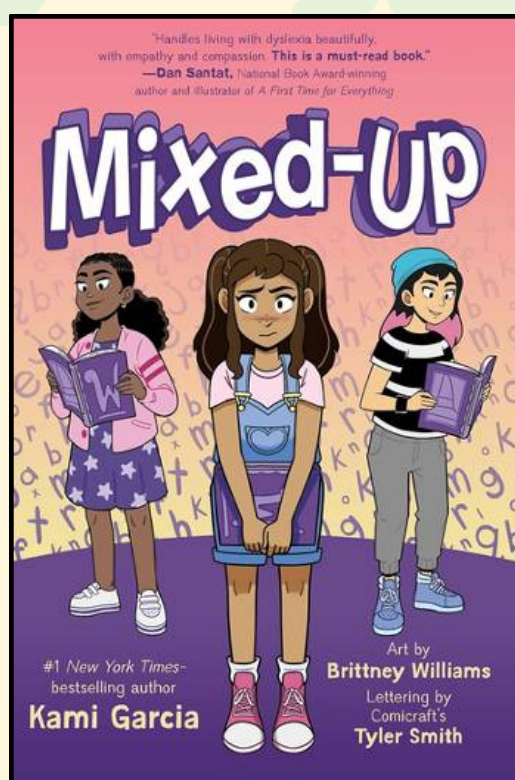
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(27:02)



Video
Comment



Mixed Up by Kami Garcia

Reading Levels → AR: 3.0 / Lexile: N/A

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Format: Graphic Novel 208 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Role Player Video Games
- Raina Telgemeier Books

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

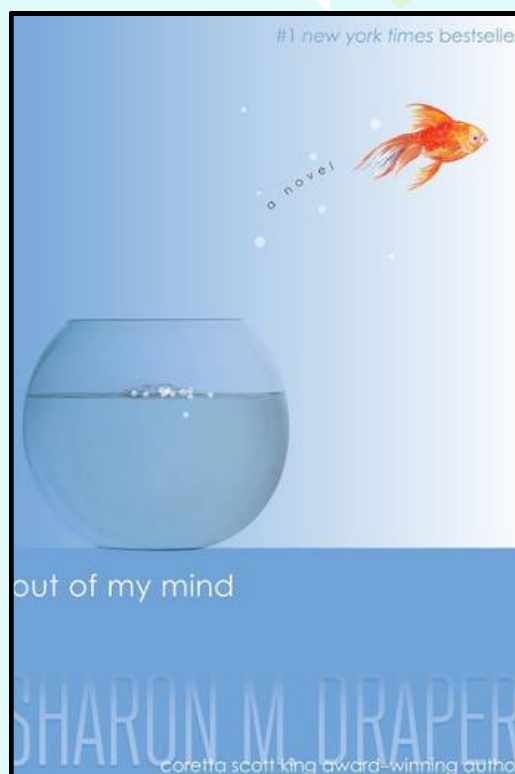
1) _____ 2) _____



Video Link
(11:25)



Video
Comment



Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Reading Levels → AR: 4.3 / Lexile: 700L

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Format: Prose 320 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Wonder by R.J. Palacio
- "Bees" - History Bee, Geo Bee, etc.

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

TOP 10 BOOKS for 5th Graders

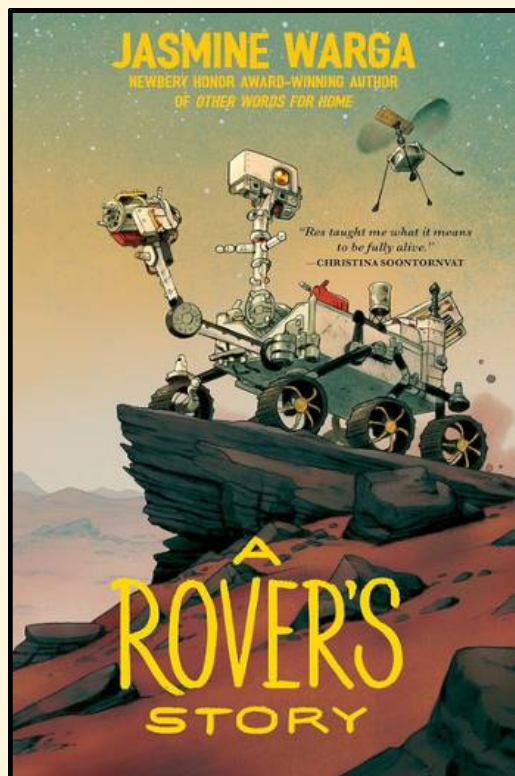
Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!



Video Link
(34:33)



Video
Comment



A Rover's Story by Jasmine Warga

Reading Levels → AR: 4.1 / Lexile: 580L
Format: Prose 320 Pages

Genre: Realistic Science Fiction

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- The Wild Robot by Peter Brown
- Space Exploration & NASA

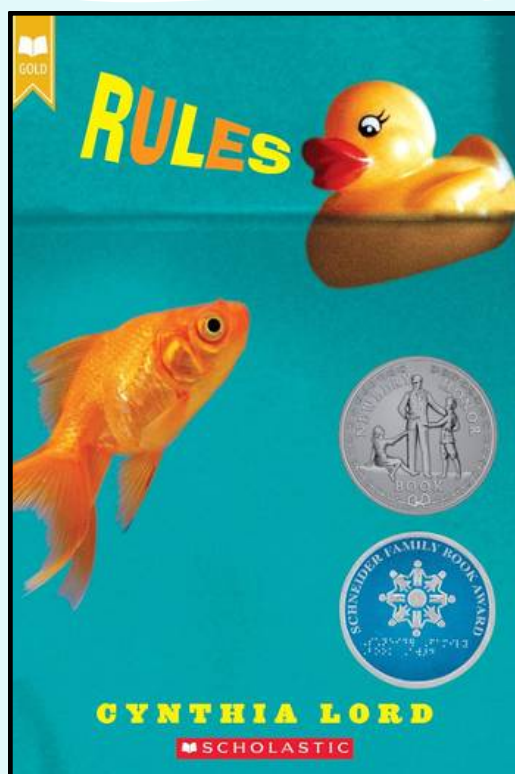
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(12:44)



Video
Comment



Rules by Cynthia Lord

Reading Levels → AR: 3.9 / Lexile: 780L
Format: Prose 208 Pages

Genre: Realistic Fiction

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Autism awareness & family stories
- Unlikely Friendship stories

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____



NEXT STEPS

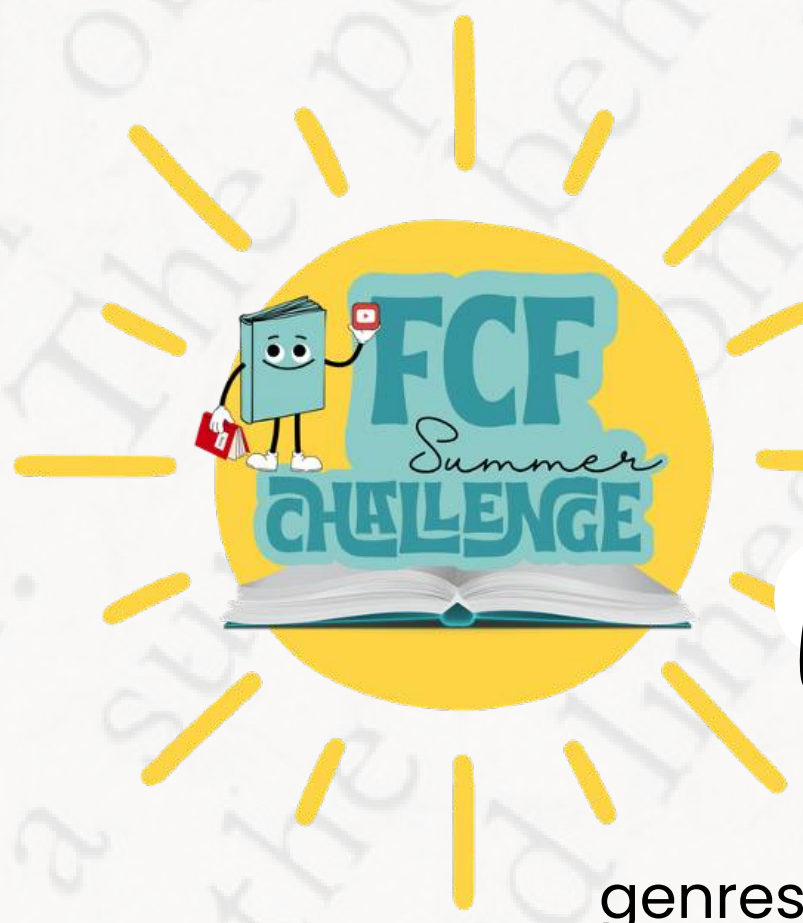
Send by August 1st! Can enter up to 6 times!

Email me a picture of your completed tracking charts (a quick pic of all 3 pages together is all I need...) along with your personal favorite from this Top 10 Collection. Please also send me your home mailing address (so I can mail you the prize if you win) and any other insights you gained from this challenge or feedback you have for me.

I hope you are having a fabulous summer and that you are enjoying the time you spent reading!

All my best,
Amanda Zieba

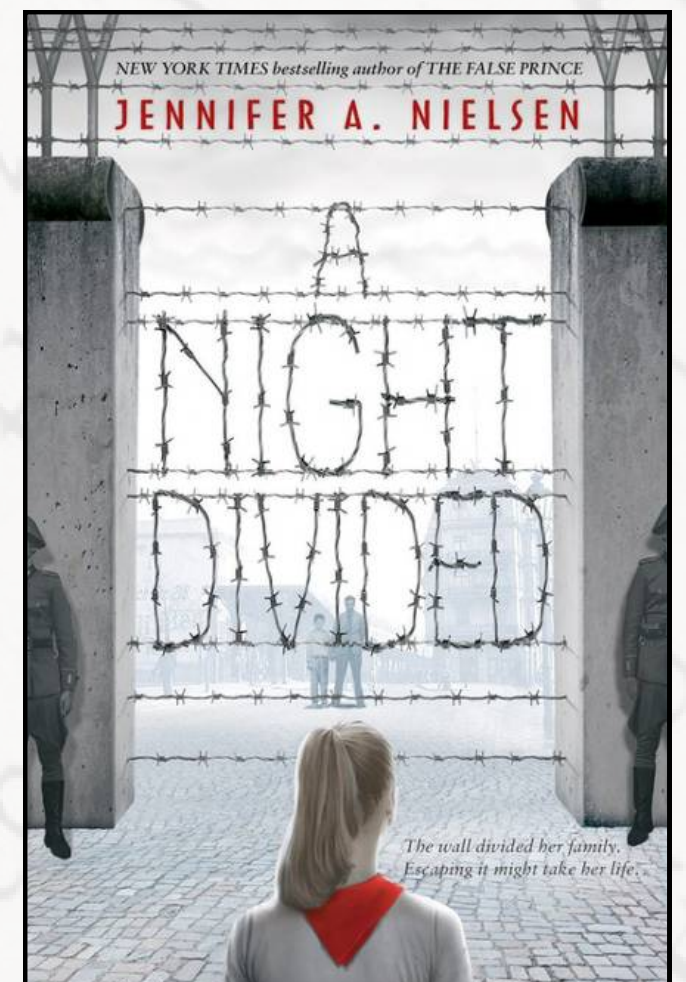
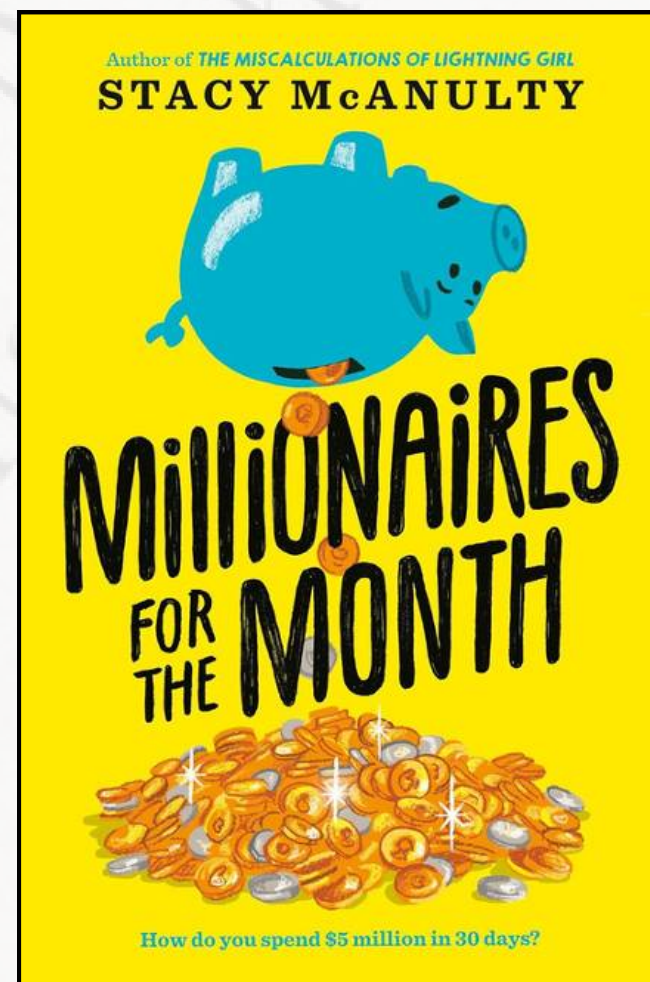
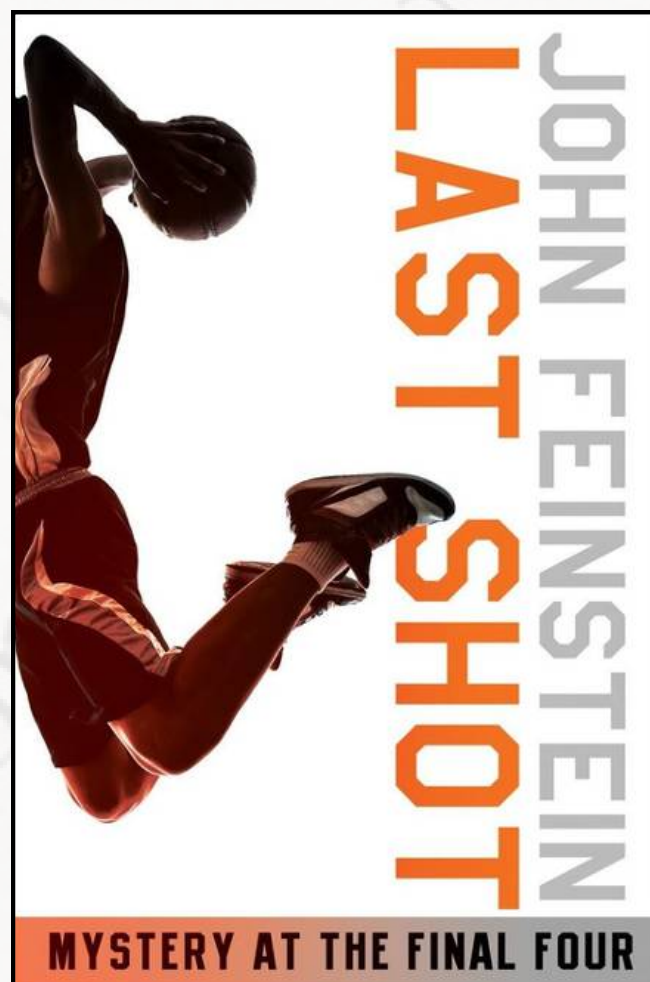
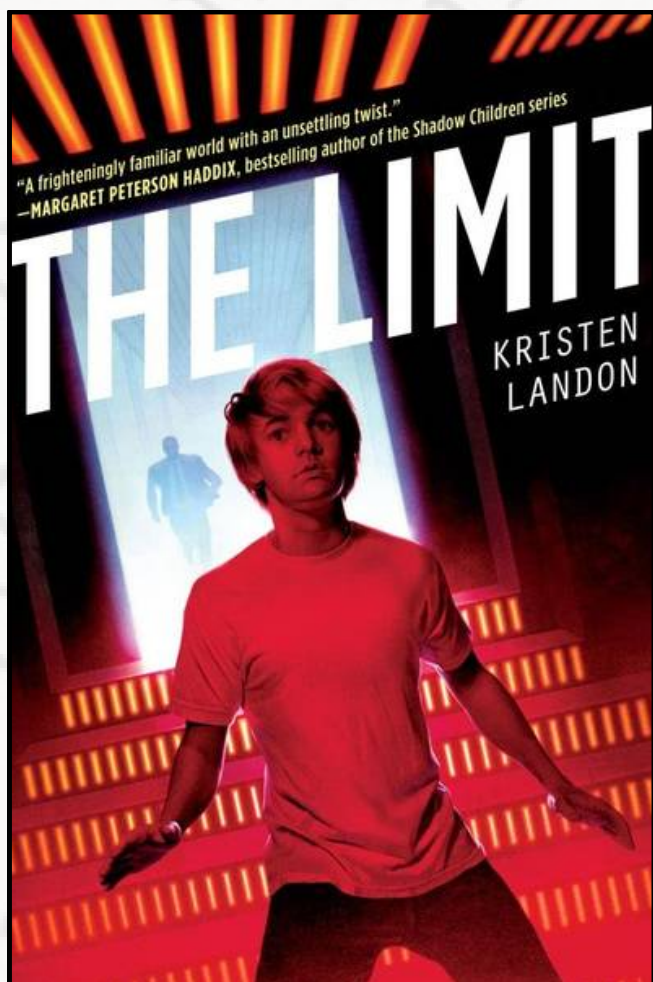
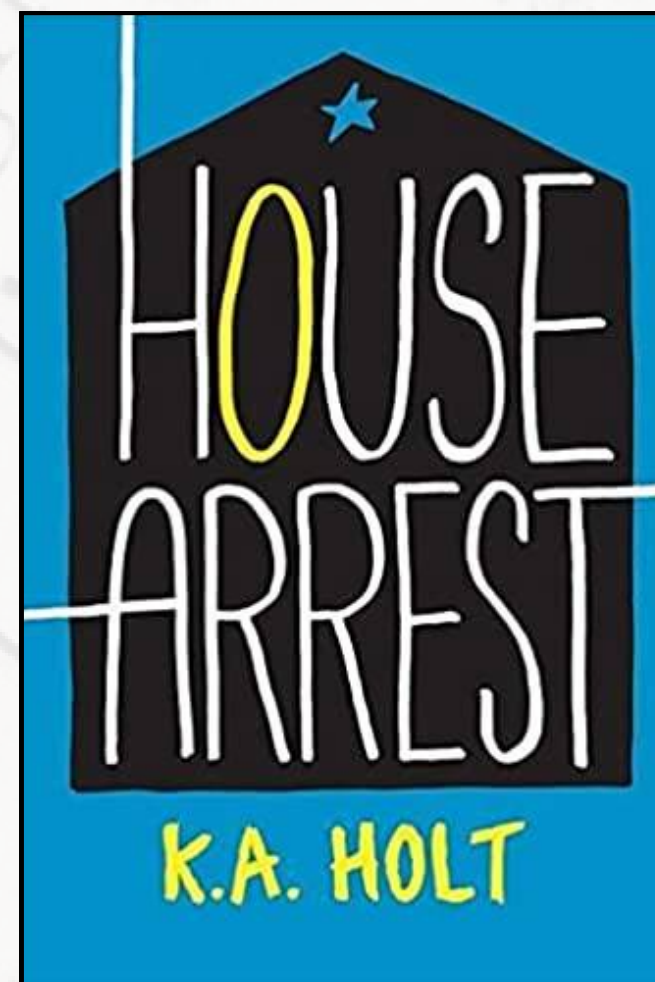
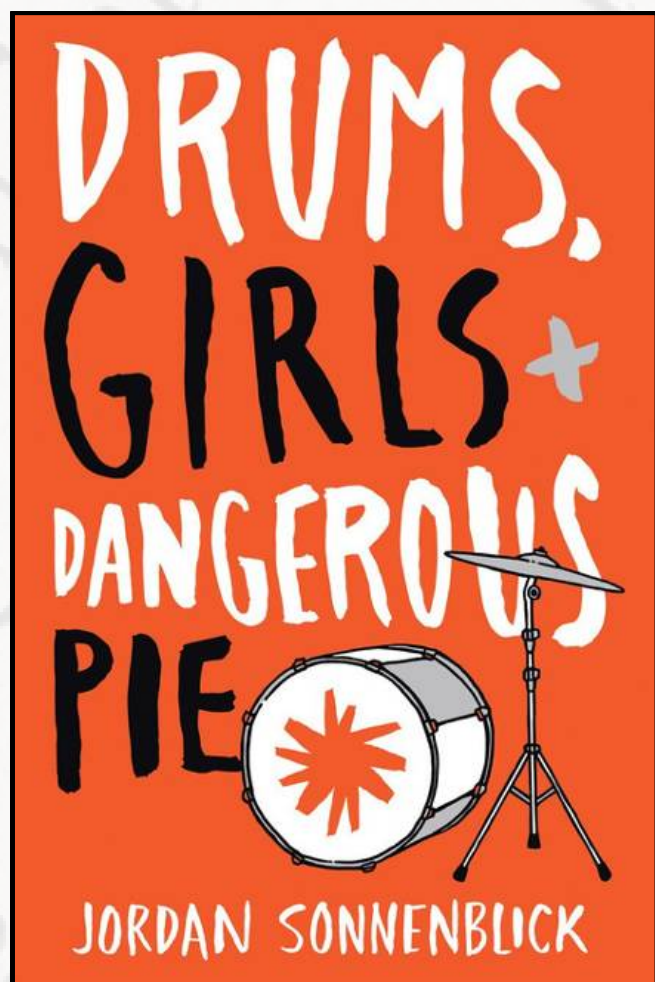
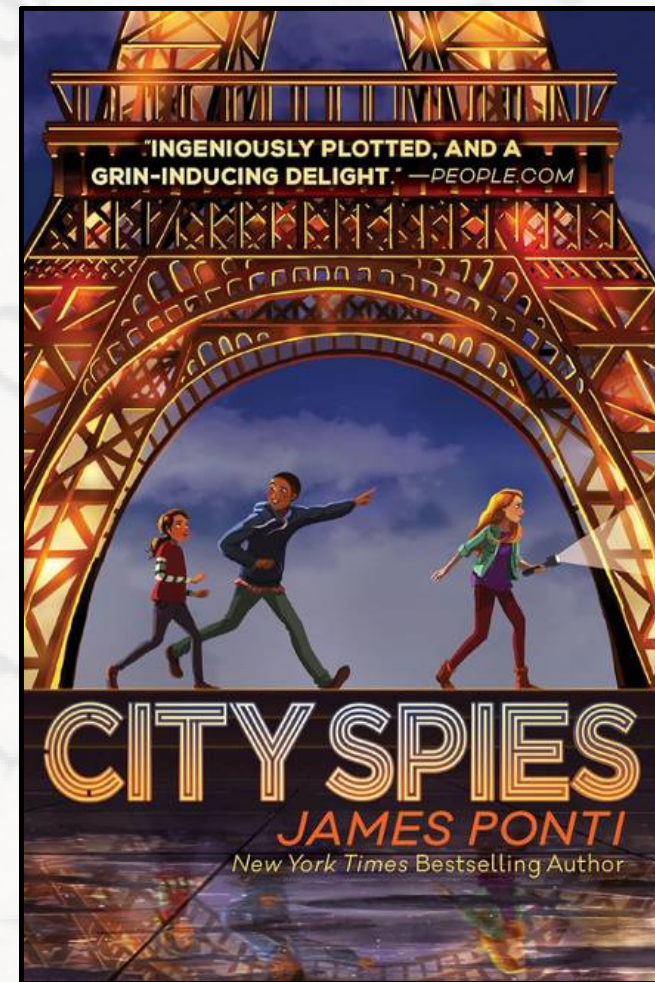
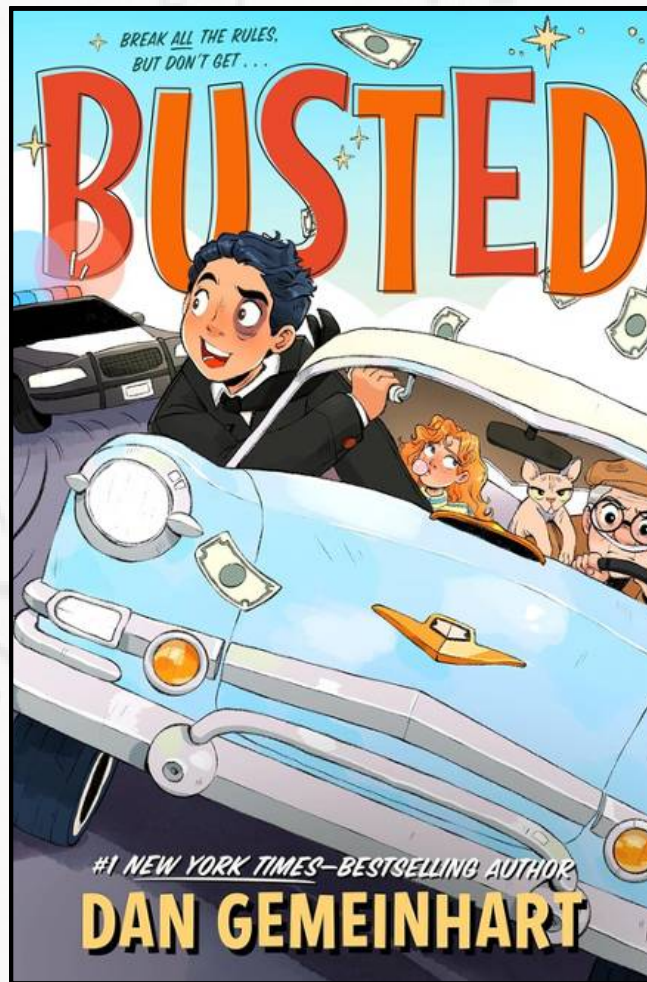
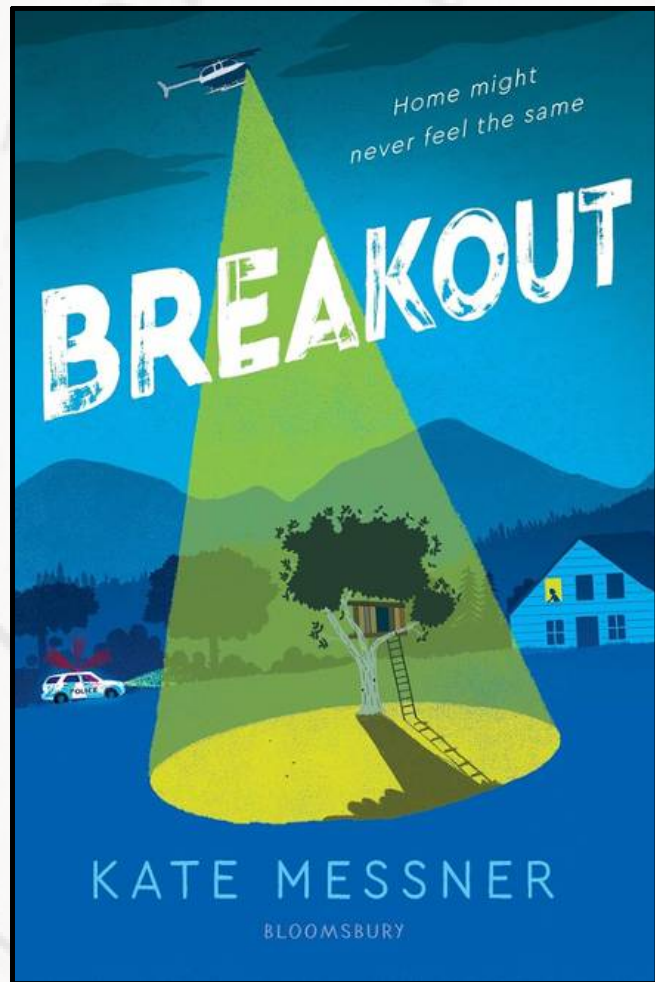
wordnerd@amandazieba.com

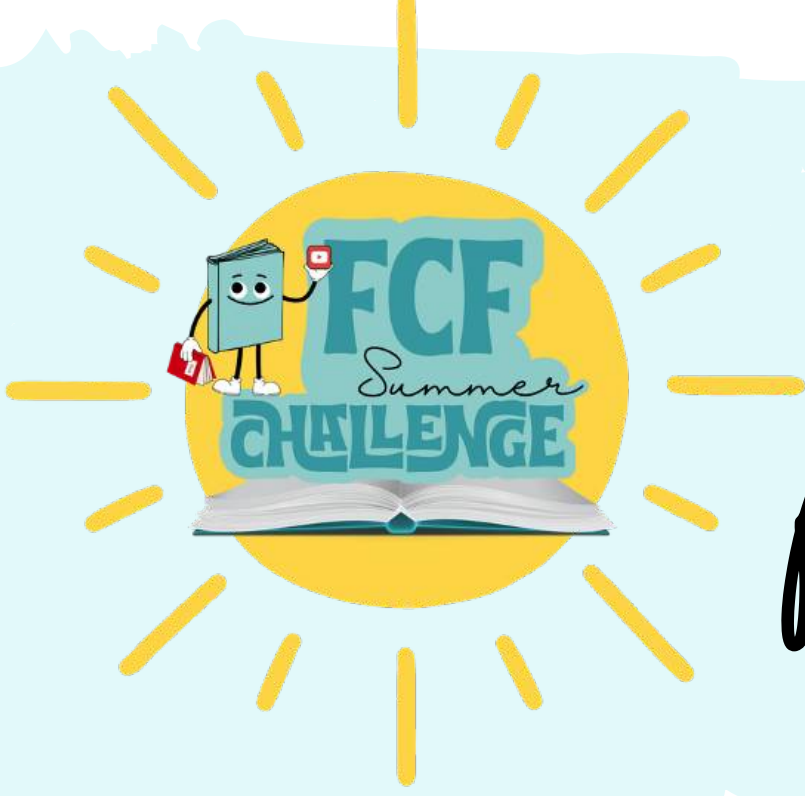


TOP 10 BOOKS

for 6th & 7th Graders

Your challenge: Listen to these 10 First Chapter Fridays this summer! The Word Nerd's Top 10 picks for 6th & 7th graders cover a wide variety of genres, topics, and formats. By the end of the challenge, you'll have a solid lineup of go-to recommendations ready for readers with all kinds of interests.





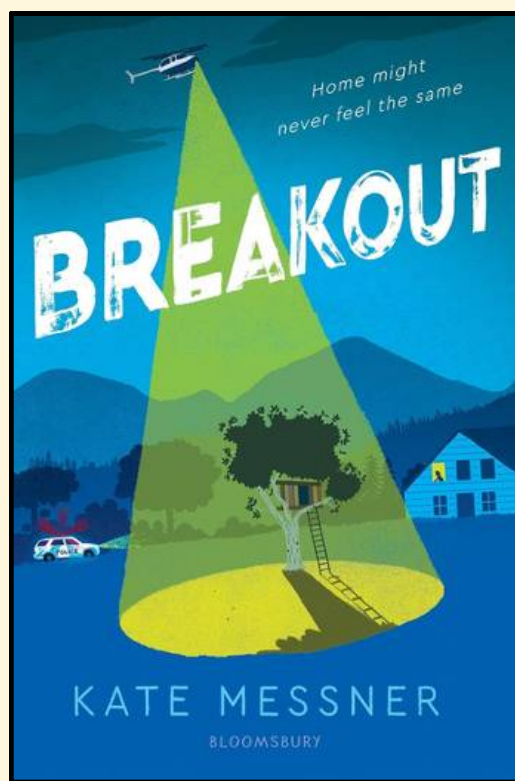
TOP 10 BOOKS for 6th & 7th Graders

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(21:32)



Video
Comment



Breakout by Kate Messner

Reading Levels → AR: 5.4 / Lexile: 740L Genre: Realistic Fiction / Mystery
Format: Primary Documents (letters, poems, articles, etc.) 448 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Multiple POV Stories
- Hamilton (The Musical)

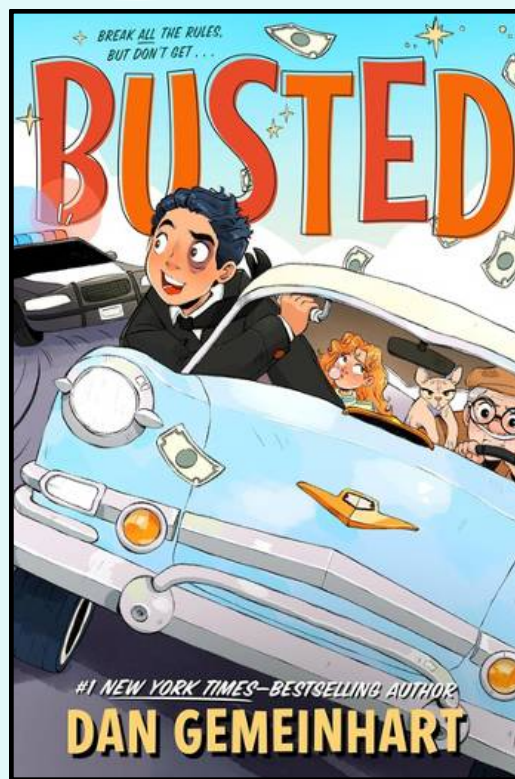
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(19:02)



Video
Comment



Busted by Dan Gemeinhart

Reading Levels → AR: 3.7 / Lexile: N/A Genre: Realistic Fiction
Format: Prose 352 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Quirky Characters
- Road Trip Stories

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

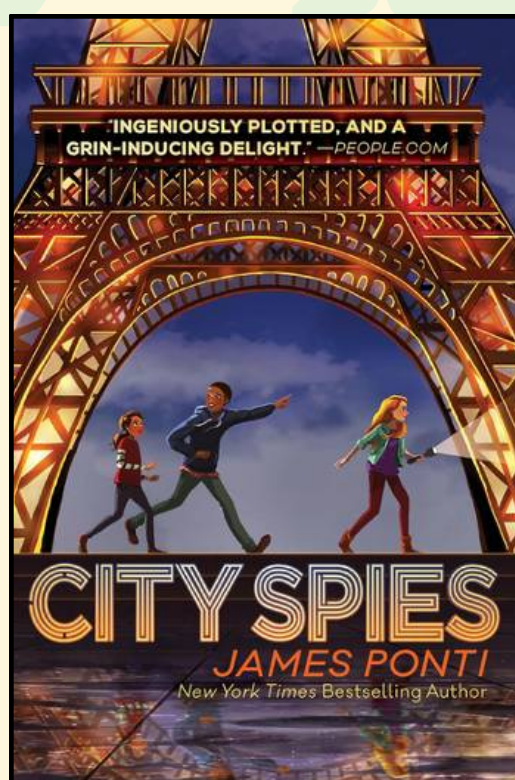
1) _____ 2) _____



Video Link
(19:51)



Video
Comment



City Spies (Book 1) by James Ponti

Reading Levels → AR: 5.5 / Lexile: 750L Genre: Realistic Fiction / Action-Adventure
Format: Prose 400 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Spy School by Stuart Gibbs
- International Adventures

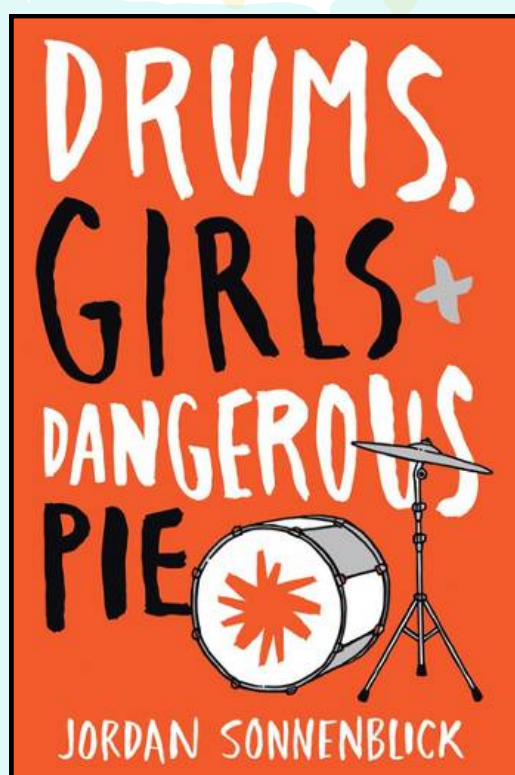
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(32:02)



Video
Comment



Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick

Reading Levels → AR: 5.9 / Lexile: 940L Genre: Realistic Fiction
Format: Prose 304 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

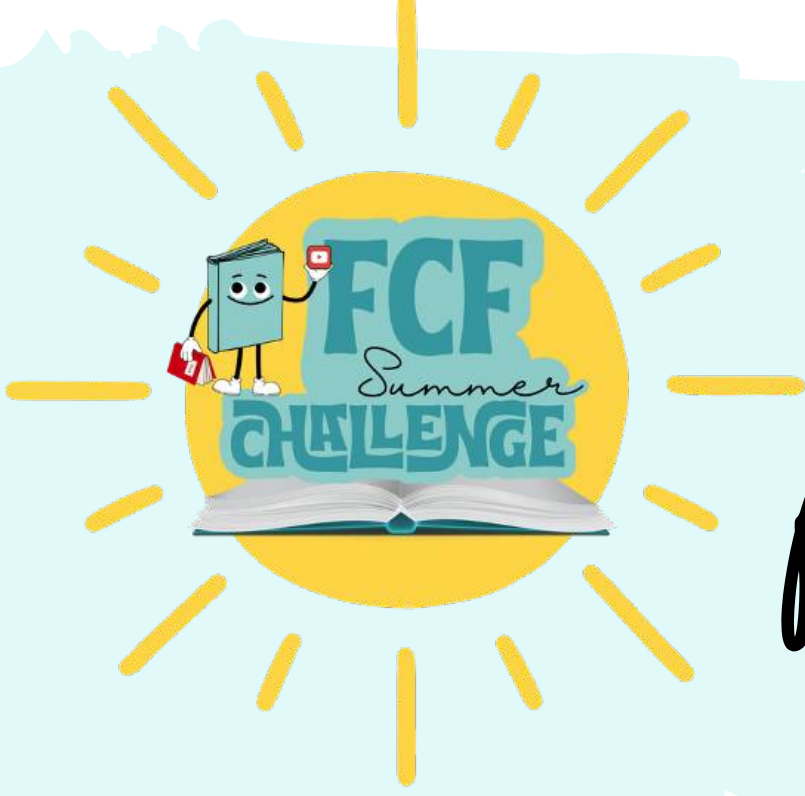
For Fans of:

- Music / Band
- Restart by Gordon Korman

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____





TOP 10 BOOKS for 6th & 7th Graders

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(8:52)



Video
Comment



Global by Eoin Colfer

Reading Levels → AR: 2.8 / Lexile: 330L
Format: Graphic Novel 144 Pages

Genre: Climate Fiction / Survival Story

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Nature Survival Shows
- Refugee by Alan Gratz

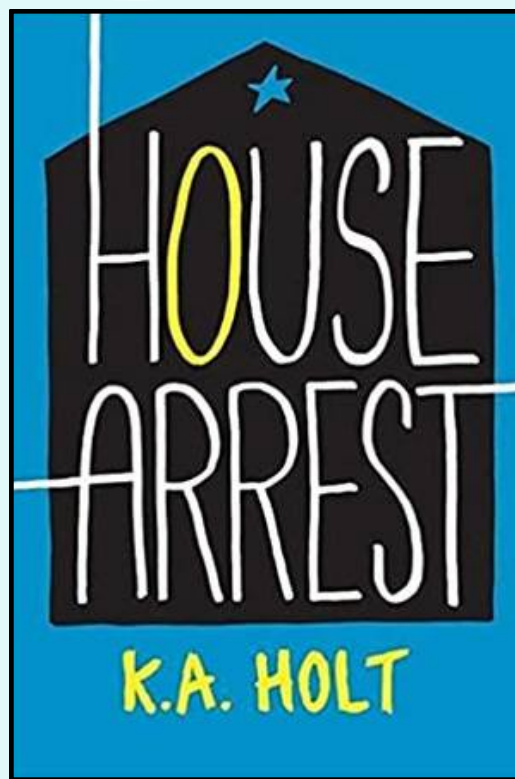
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(13:52)



Video
Comment



House Arrest by K.A. Holt

Reading Levels: → AR: 4.0 / Lexile: 610L
Format: Novel in Verse 312 Pages

Genre: Realistic Fiction

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Underdog Characters
- Justice-Involved Situations

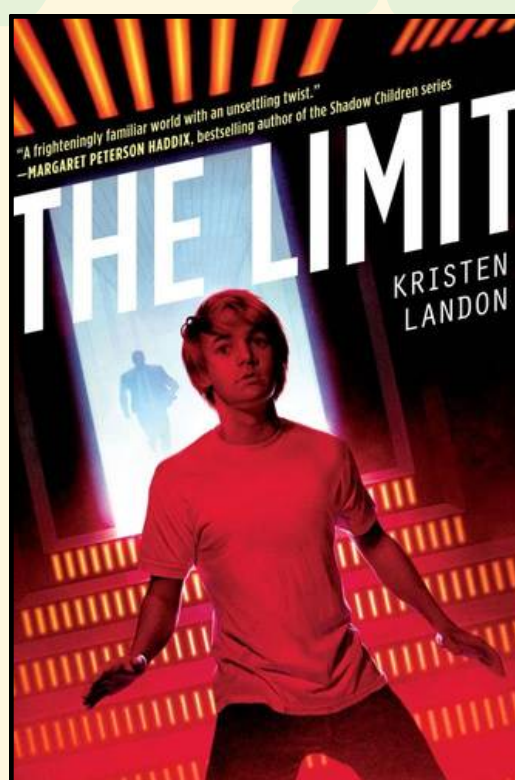
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(16:48)



Video
Comment



The Limit by Kristen Landon

Reading Levels → AR: 4.4 / Lexile: 690L
Format: Prose 304 Pages

Genre: Dystopian Fiction / Suspense

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Books about smart kids
- Lavish Lifestyles

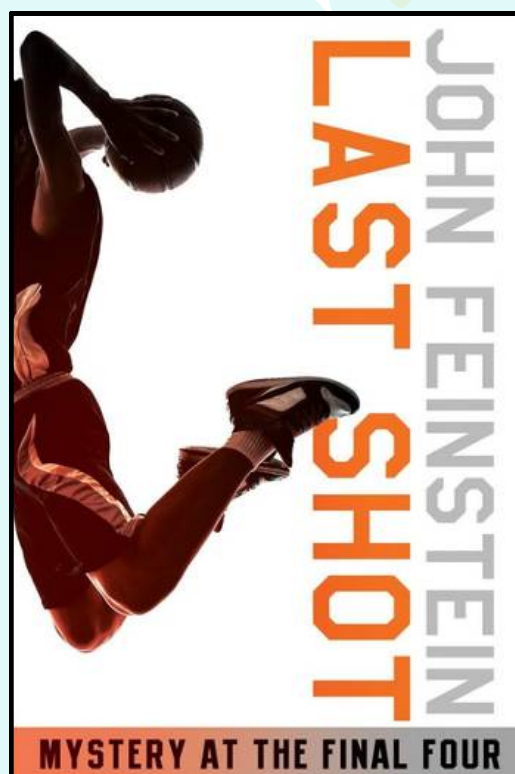
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(11:41)



Video
Comment



The Last Shot: Mystery at the Final Four (Sports Beat Book 1) by John Feinstein

Reading Levels → AR: 4.8 / Lexile: 760L
Format: Prose 272 Pages

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Sports Mystery

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- ESPN / Sports Center
- Mike Lupica & Tim Green Books

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

TOP 10 BOOKS

for 6th & 7th Graders

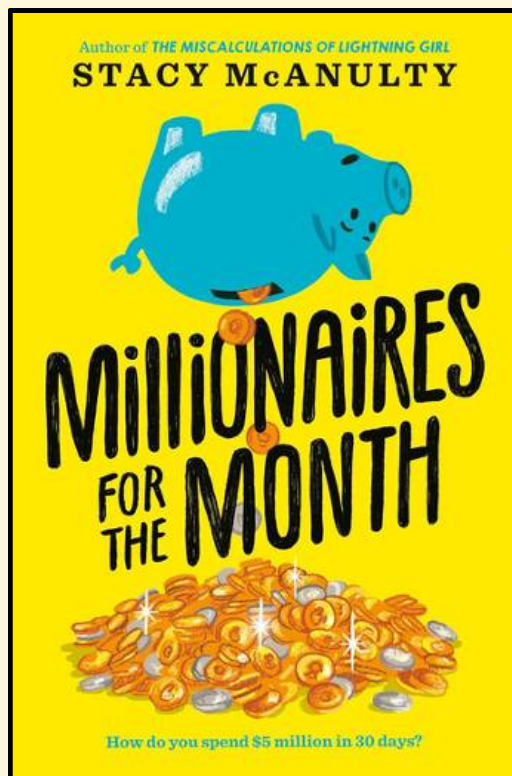
Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!



Video Link
(27:56)



Video
Comment



Millionaires for the Month by Stacy McAnulty

Reading Levels → AR: 4.1 / Lexile: 570L Genre: Realistic Fiction
Format: Prose 336 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Lottery Winner Stories
- Tough to be a middle-schooler stories

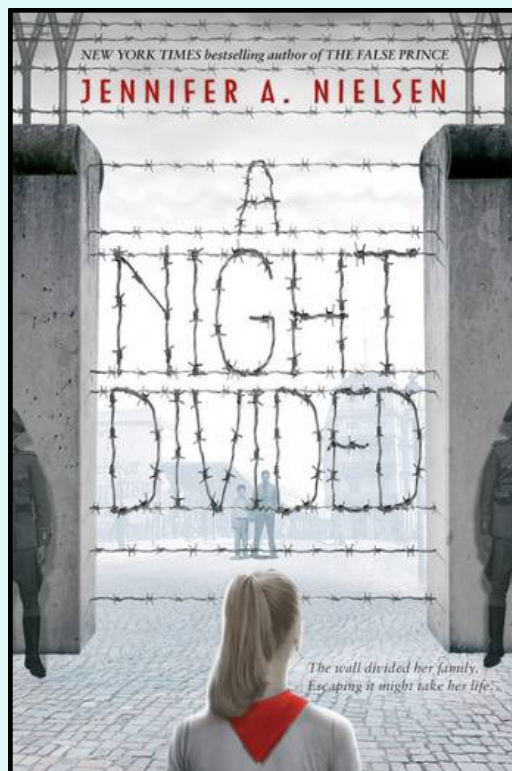
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(8:22)



Video
Comment



A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Reading Levels → AR: 5.4 / Lexile: 810L Genre: Historical Fiction (Berlin Wall)
Format: Prose 352 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
- Escape Stories

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____



NEXT STEPS

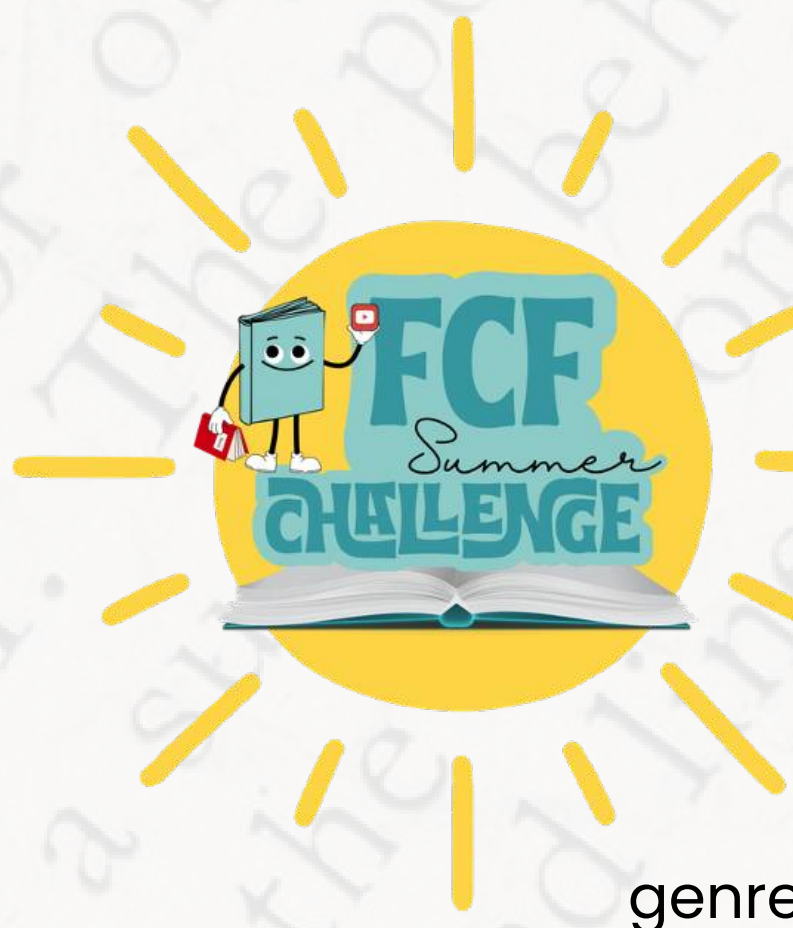
Send by August 1st! Can enter up to 6 times!

Email me a picture of your completed tracking charts (a quick pic of all 3 pages together is all I need...) along with your personal favorite from this Top 10 Collection. Please also send me your home mailing address (so I can mail you the prize if you win) and any other insights you gained from this challenge or feedback you have for me.

I hope you are having a fabulous summer and that you are enjoying the time you spent reading!

All my best,
Amanda Zieba

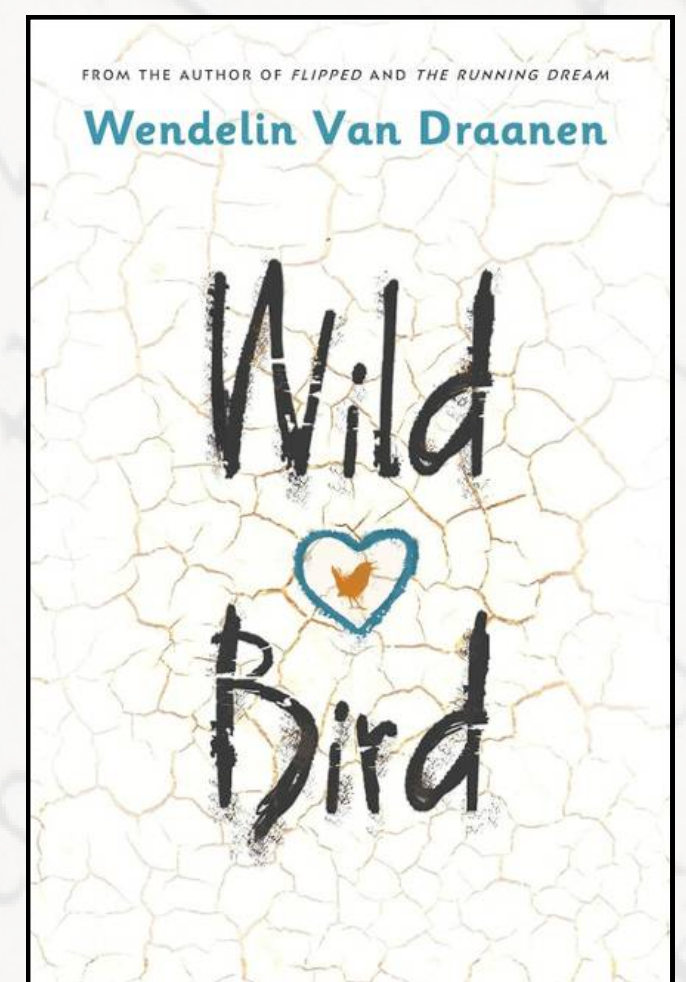
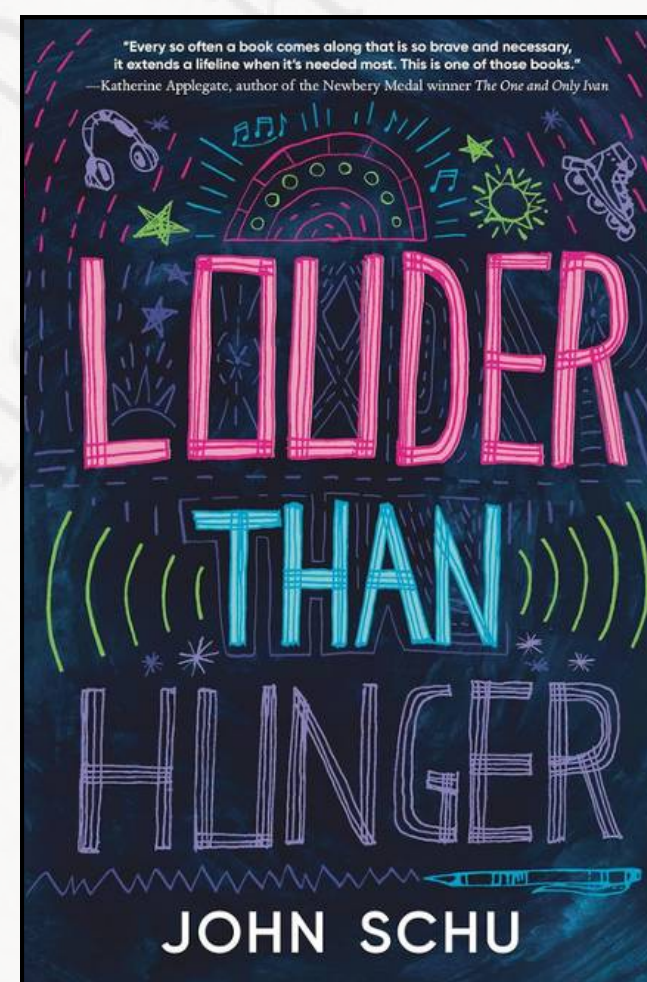
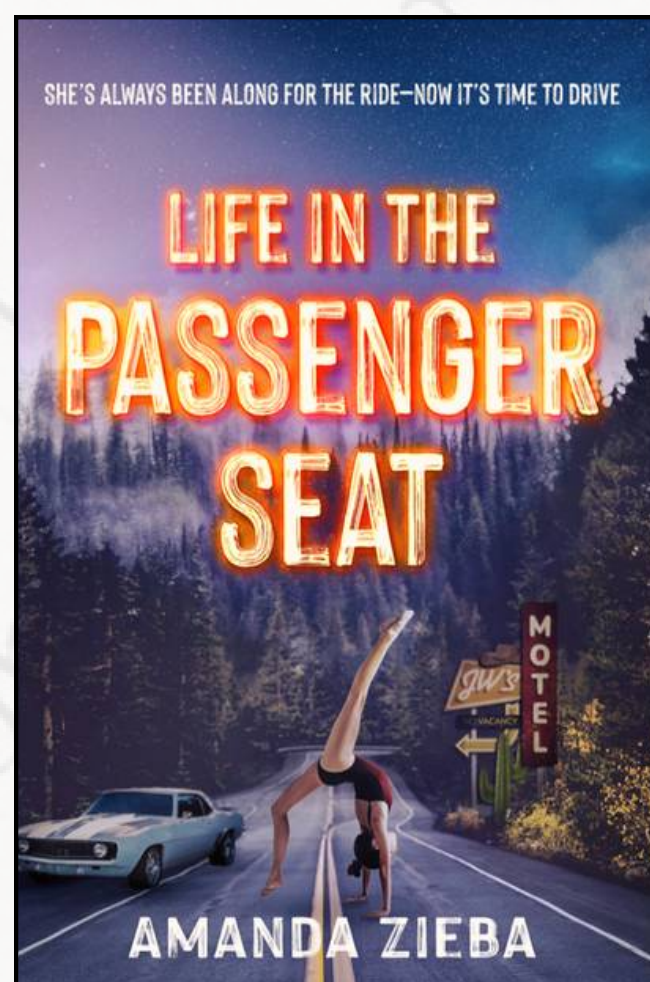
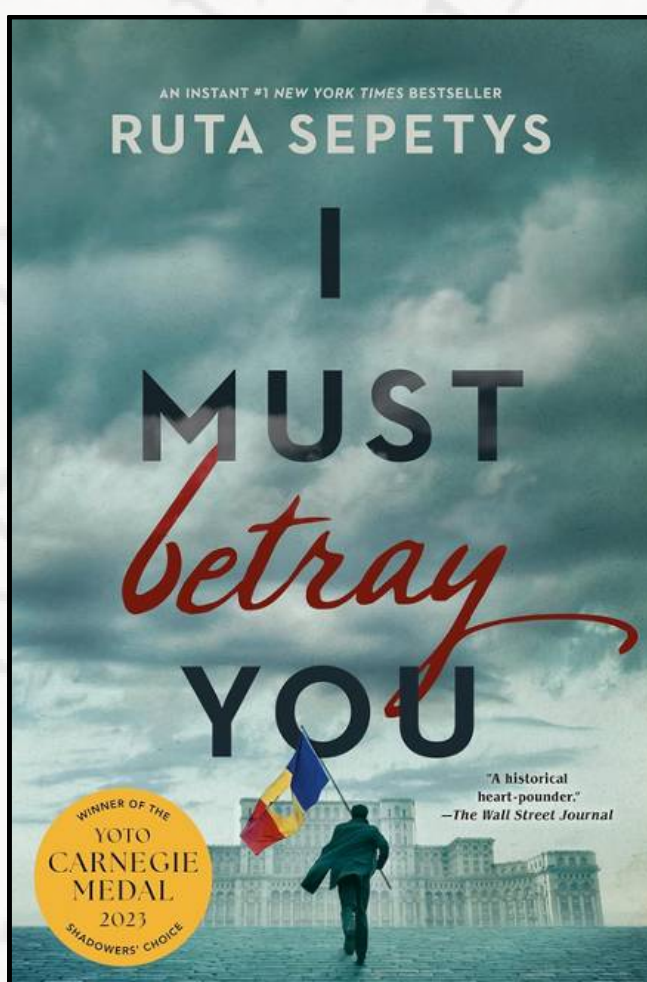
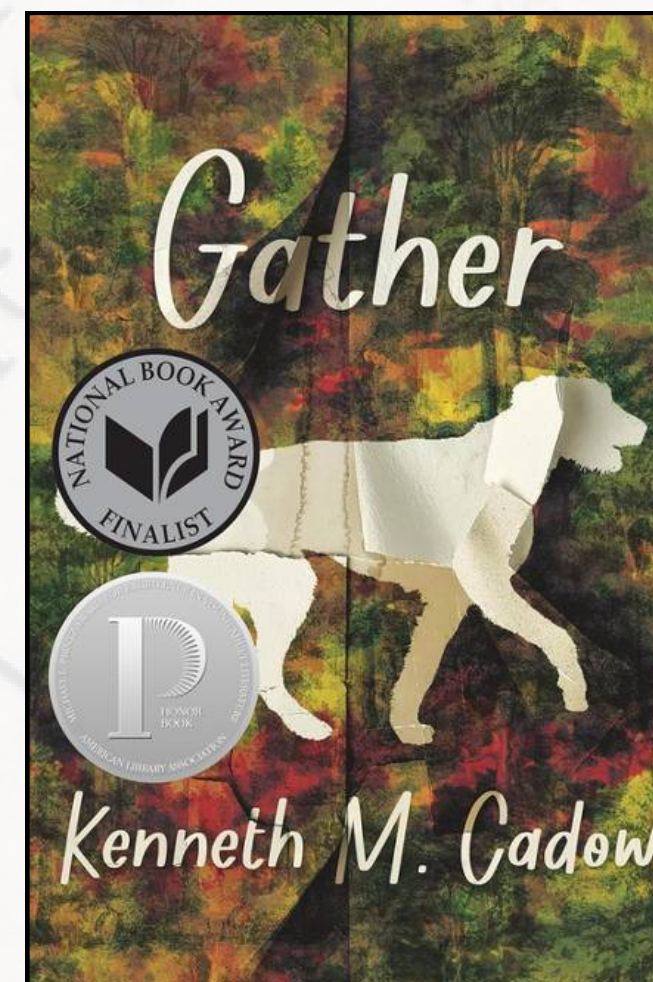
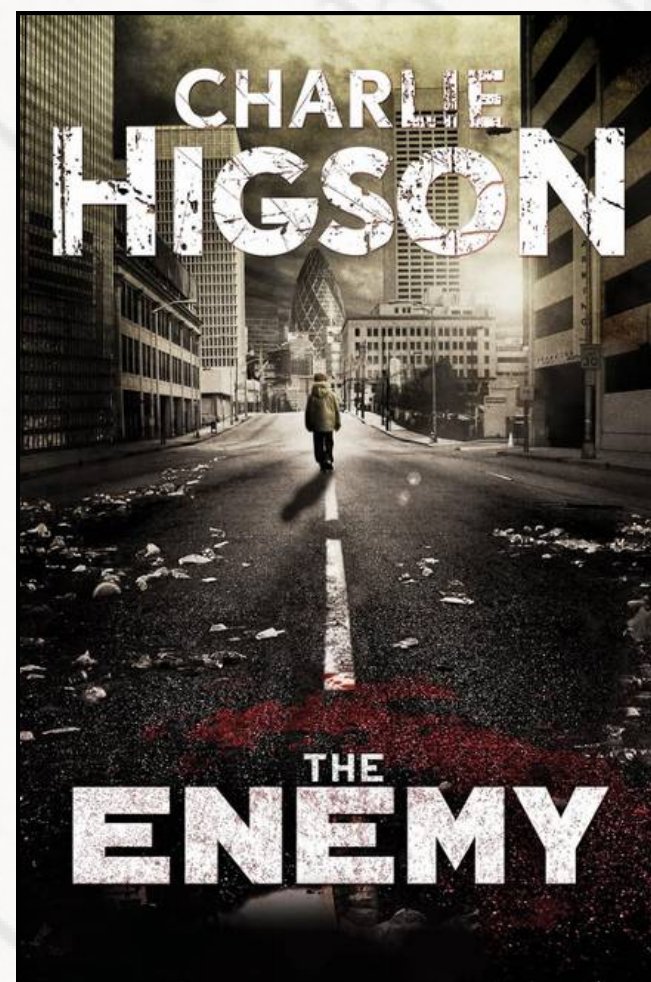
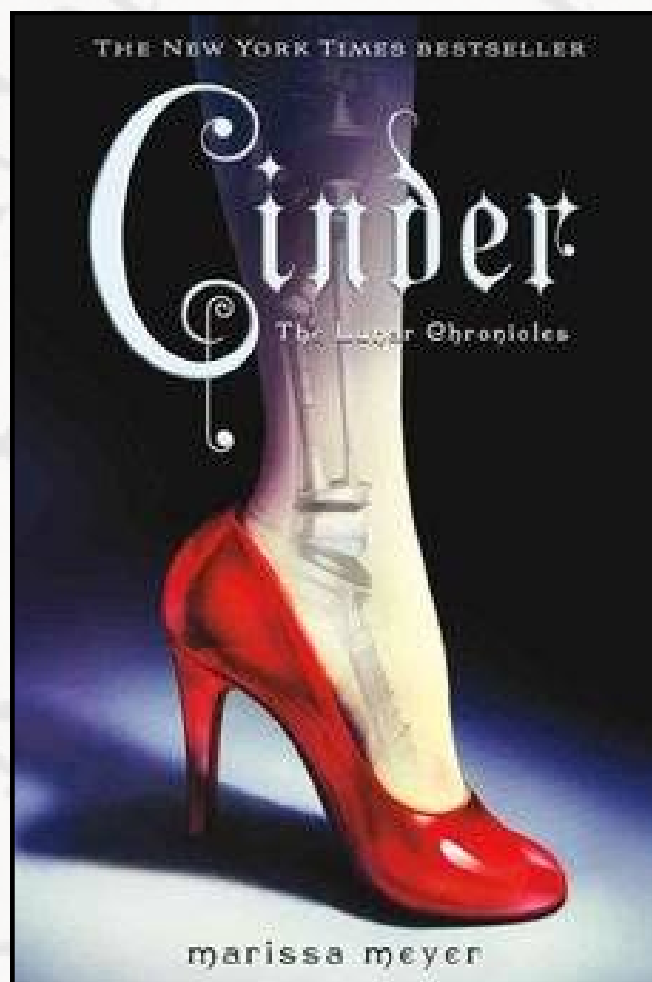
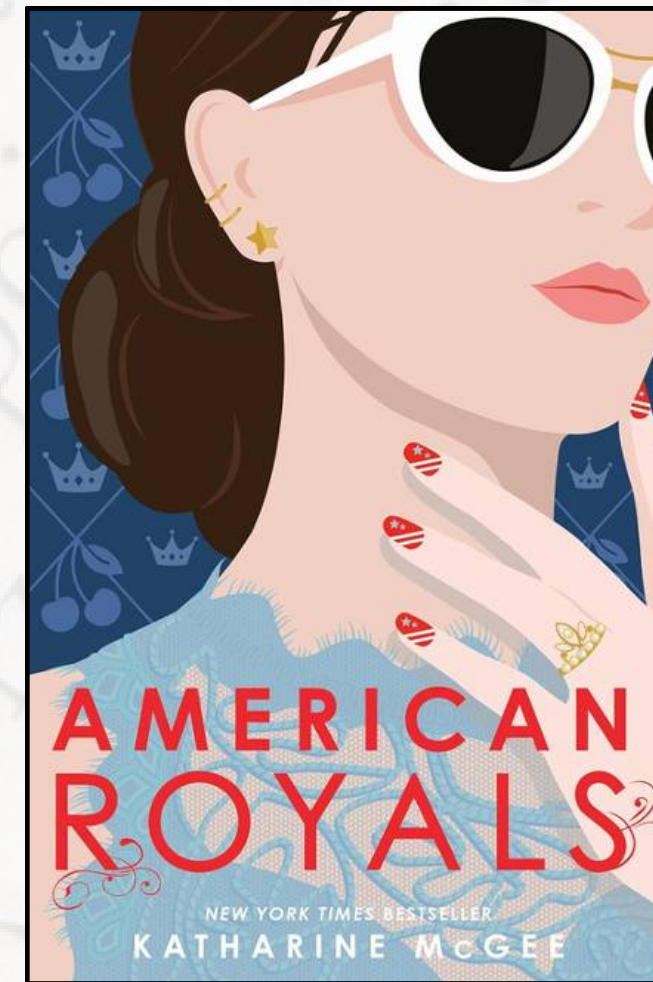
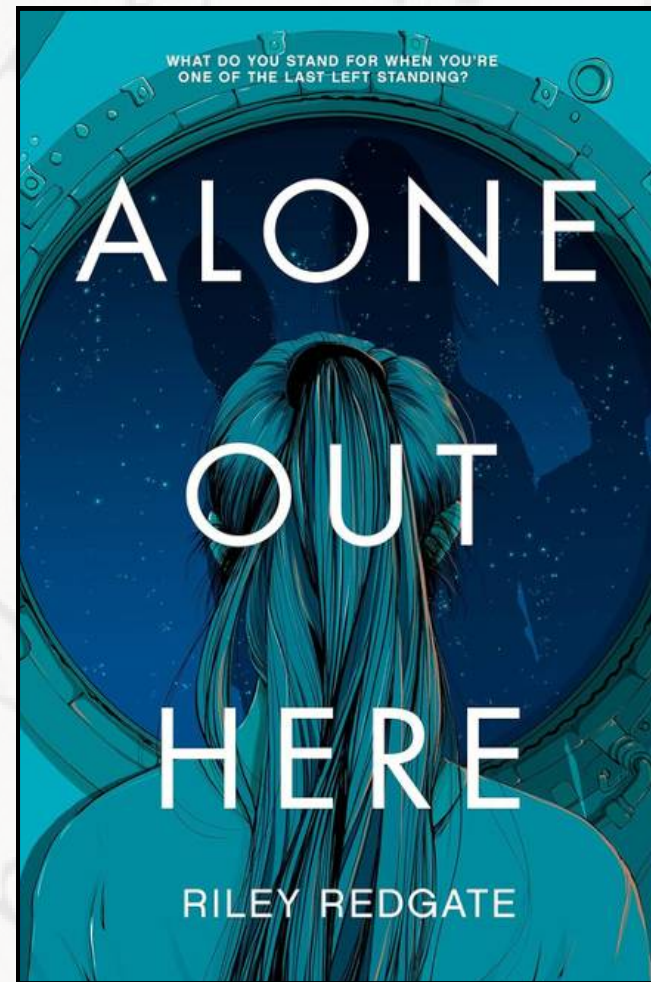
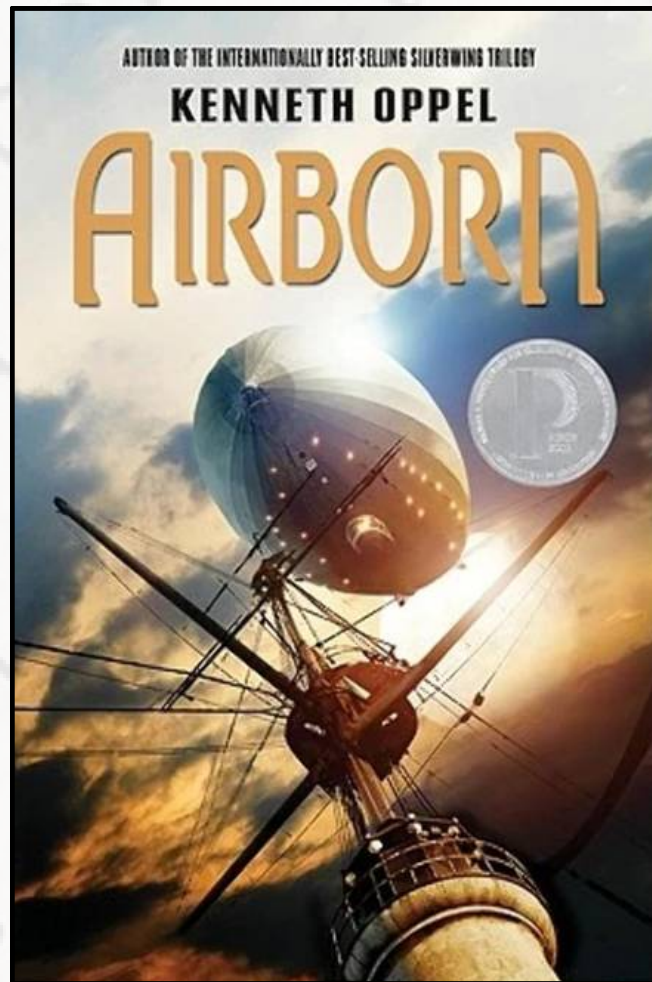
wordnerd@amandazieba.com

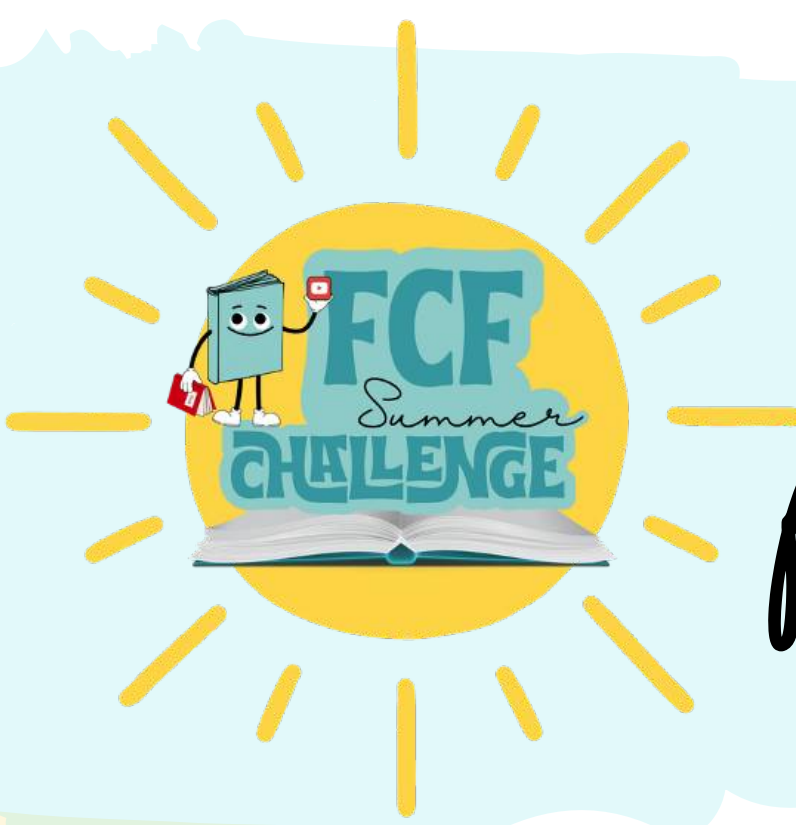


TOP 10 BOOKS

for 8th & 9th Graders

Your challenge: Listen to these 10 First Chapter Fridays this summer! The Word Nerd's Top 10 picks for 8th & 9th graders cover a wide variety of genres, topics, and formats. By the end of the challenge, you'll have a solid lineup of go-to recommendations ready for readers with all kinds of interests.





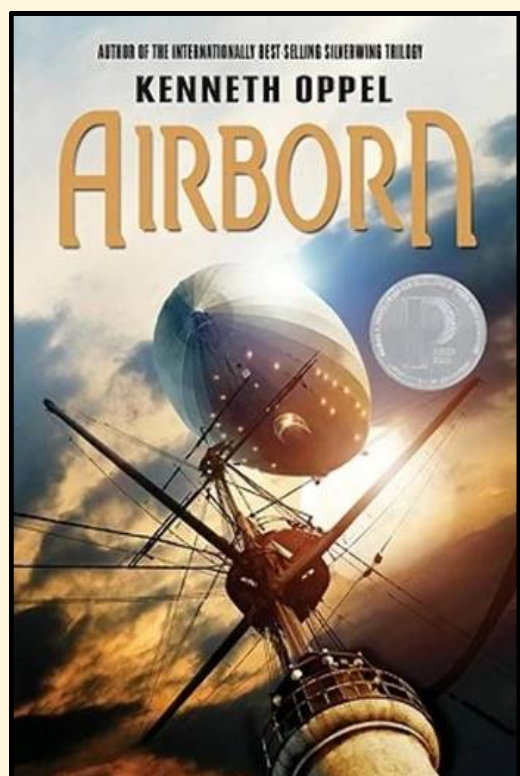
TOP 10 BOOKS for 8th & 9th Graders

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(20:56)



Video
Comment



Airborn by Kenneth Oppel

Reading Levels → AR: 5.1 / Lexile: 760L
Format: Prose 431 Pages

Genre: Steam Punk / Action-Adventure

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Treasure Planet (movie)
- Up (movie)

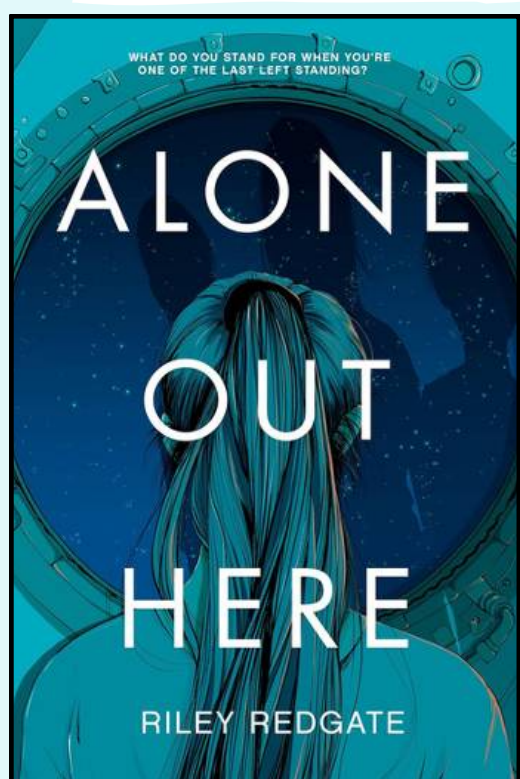
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(32:42)



Video
Comment



Alone Out Here by Riley Redgate

Reading Levels → AR: N/A / Lexile: N/A
Format: Prose 400 Pages

Genre: Science Fiction / Suspense

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- End of the World Survival
- The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

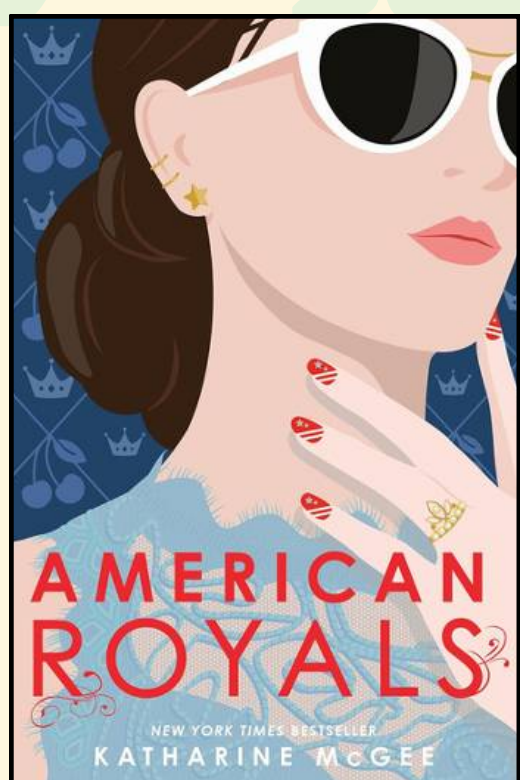
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(37:31)



Video
Comment



American Royals (Book 1) by Katharine McGee

Reading Levels → AR: 6.2 / Lexile: 820L
Format: Prose 464 Pages

Genre: Romance / History-Bender



One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- The Selection Series (by Kierra Cass)
- Royalty

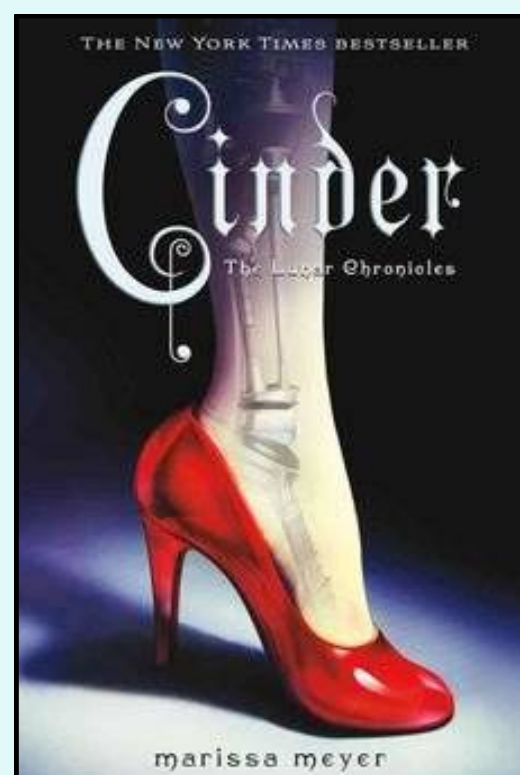
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(24:39)



Video
Comment



Cinder (Book 1) by Marissa Meyer

Reading Levels → AR: 5.8 / Lexile: 790L
Format: Prose 448 Pages

Genre: Fairy Tale Retelling / Science Fiction

One Sentence Summary: _____

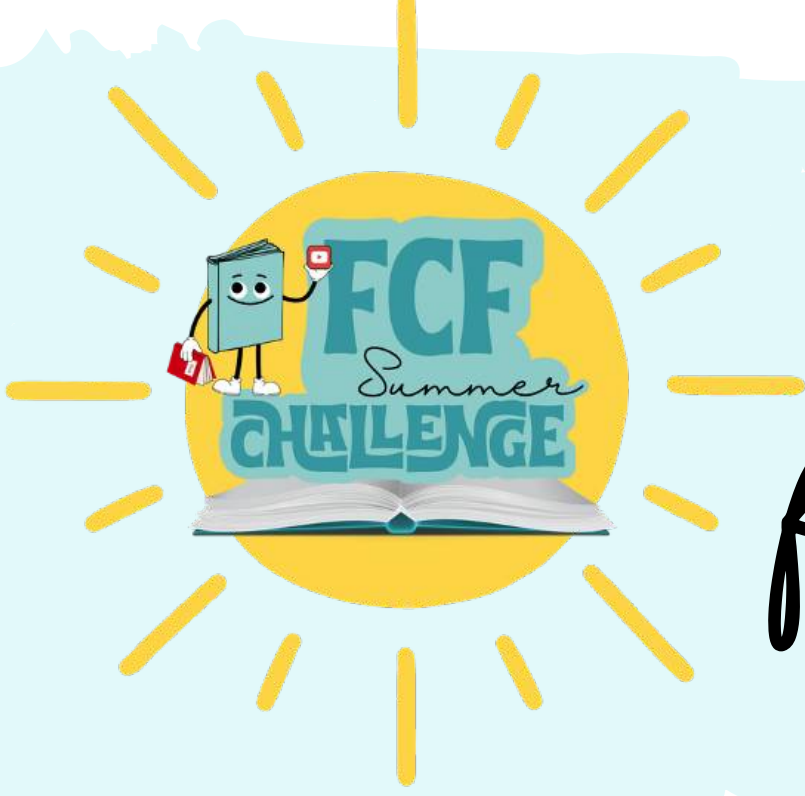
Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Fairy Tale Retellings
- Androids & futuristic worlds

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____



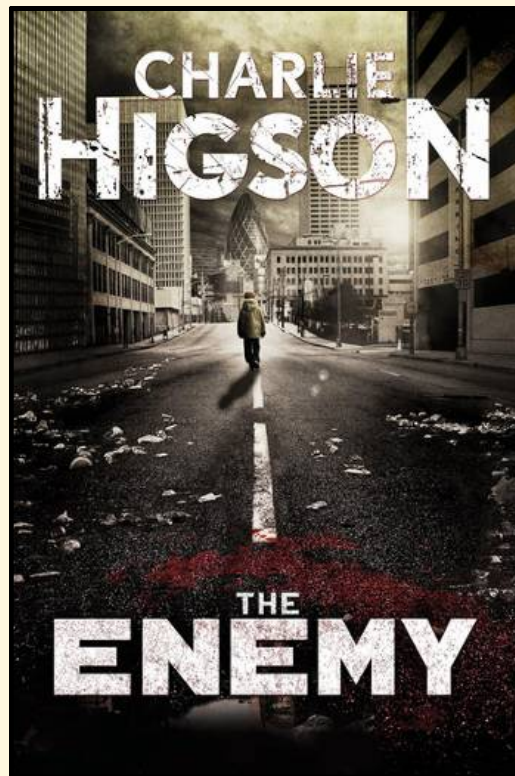
TOP 10 BOOKS for 8th & 9th Graders

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(24:43)



Video
Comment



The Enemy (Book 1) by Charlie Higson

Reading Levels → AR: 4.1 / Lexile: 590L

Genre: Dystopian / Horror / Survival Story

Format: Prose 448 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- The Walking Dead (show)
- Pandemic / Apocalypse Stories

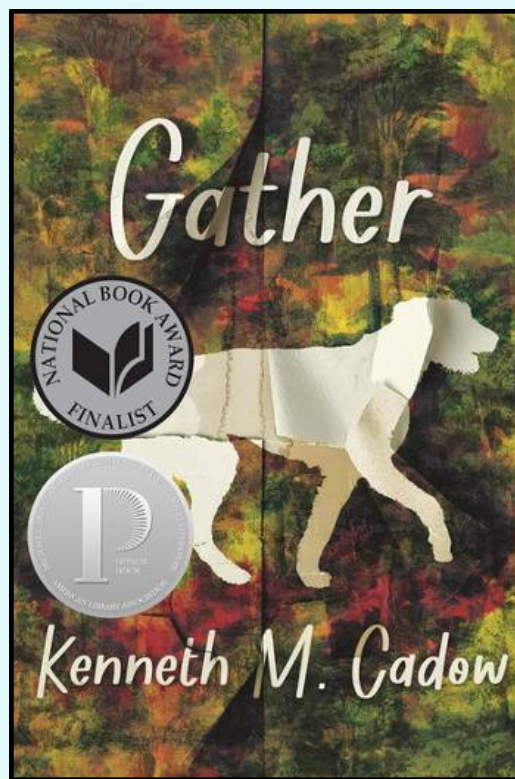
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(9:38)



Video
Comment



Gather by Kenneth M. Cadow

Reading Levels: → AR: 5.4 / Lexile: 970L

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Format: Prose 336 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Rural survival & resilience
- Kids on the fringe

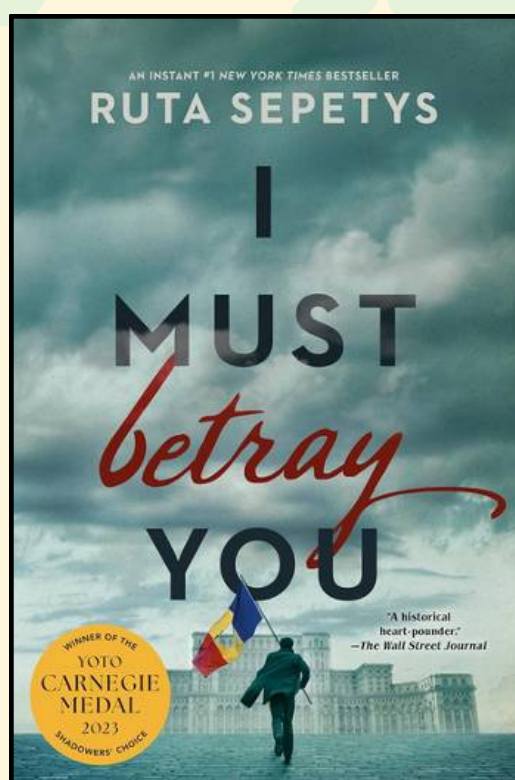
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(11:46)



Video
Comment



I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys

Reading Levels → AR: 4.3 / Lexile: 500L

Format: Prose 304 Pages

Genre: Historical Fiction / Survival Story / Political Intrigue

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Resistance / Uprising Stories
- Love in a Difficult Time

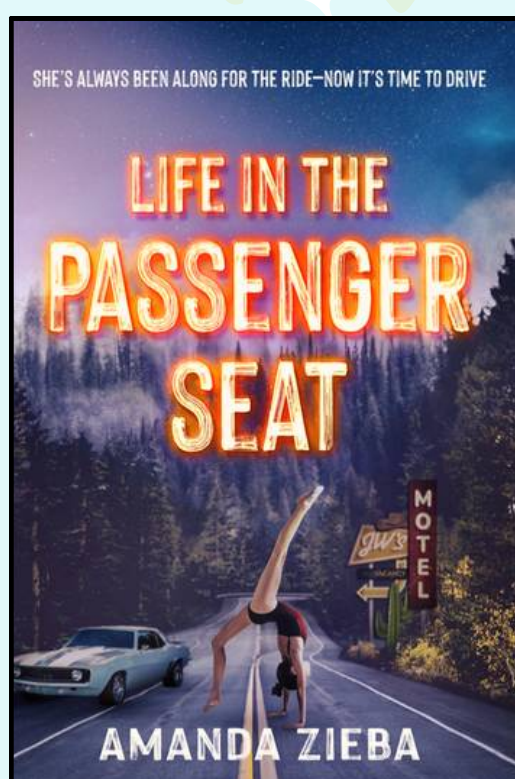
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(31:07)



Video
Comment



Life in the Passenger Seat by Amanda Zieba

Reading Levels → AR: 4.7 / Lexile: N/A

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Sports Drama

Format: Prose 336 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Friday Night Lights (show)
- Foster Care & Adoption Stories

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____



TOP 10 BOOKS

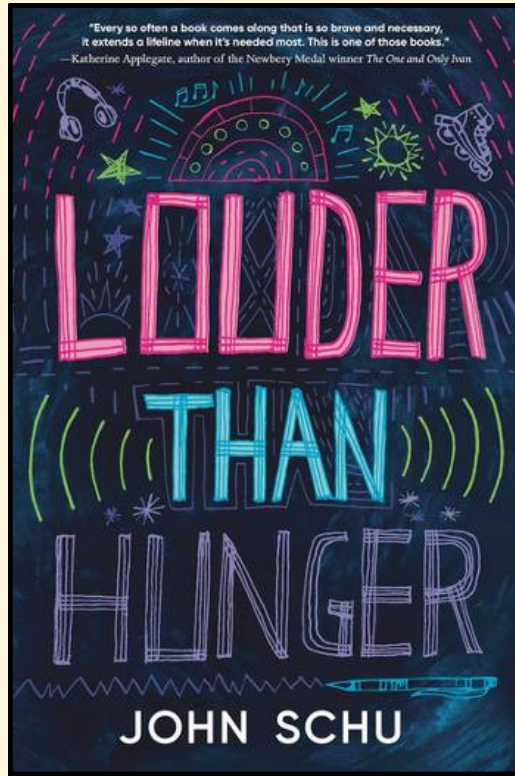
for 8th & 9th Graders

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(11:05)



Video
Comment



Louder Than Hunger by John Schu

Reading Levels → AR: 3.6 / Lexile: N/A
Format: Novel in Verse 528 Pages

Genre: Realistic Fiction

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Ellen Hopkins novels
- Mental health conversations

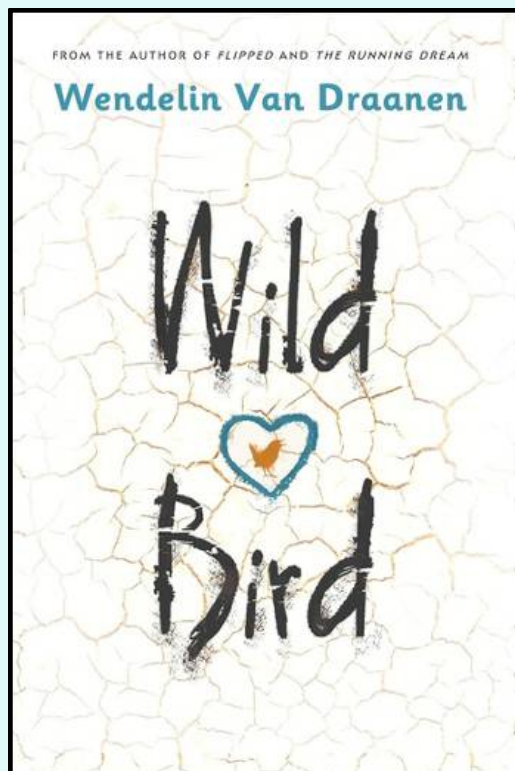
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(29:47)



Video
Comment



Wild Bird by Wendelin Van Draanen

Reading Levels → AR: 4.4 / Lexile: 680L
Format: Prose 336 Pages

Genre: Realistic Fiction



One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Tough-Kid Reinvention Stories
- Surviving in the Wilderness Stories

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____



NEXT STEPS

Send by August 1st! Can enter up to 6 times!

Email me a picture of your completed tracking charts (a quick pic of all 3 pages together is all I need...) along with your personal favorite from this Top 10 Collection. Please also send me your home mailing address (so I can mail you the prize if you win) and any other insights you gained from this challenge or feedback you have for me.

I hope you are having a fabulous summer and that you are enjoying the time you spent reading!

All my best,
Amanda Zieba

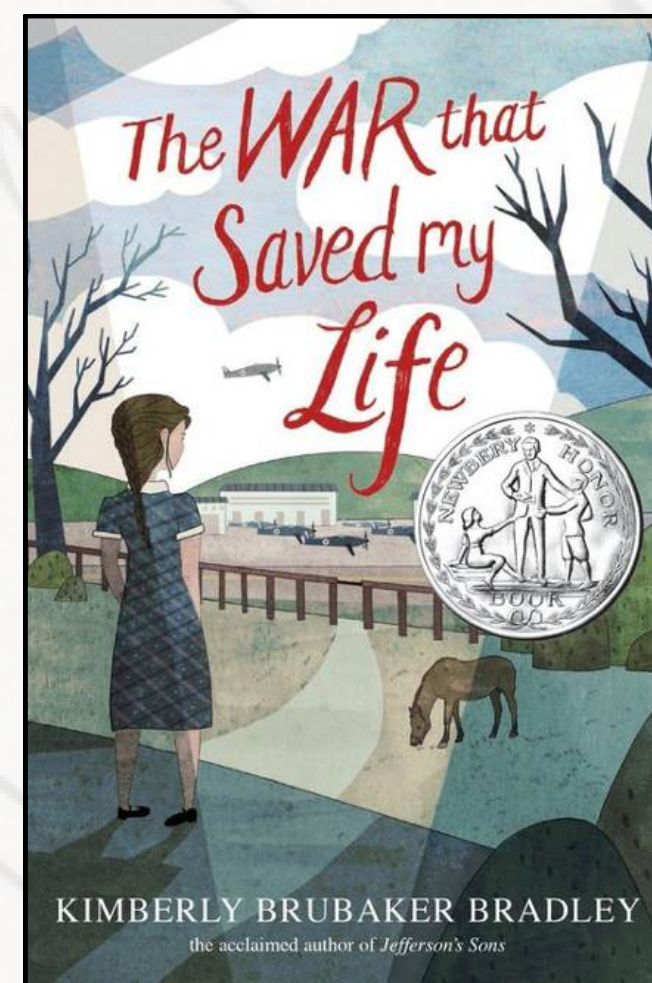
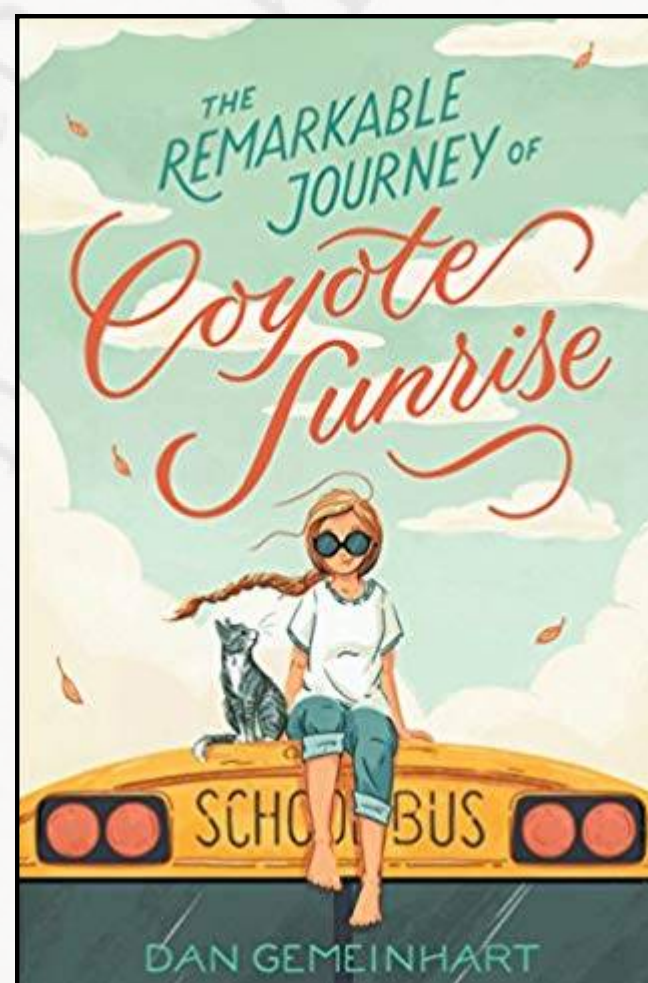
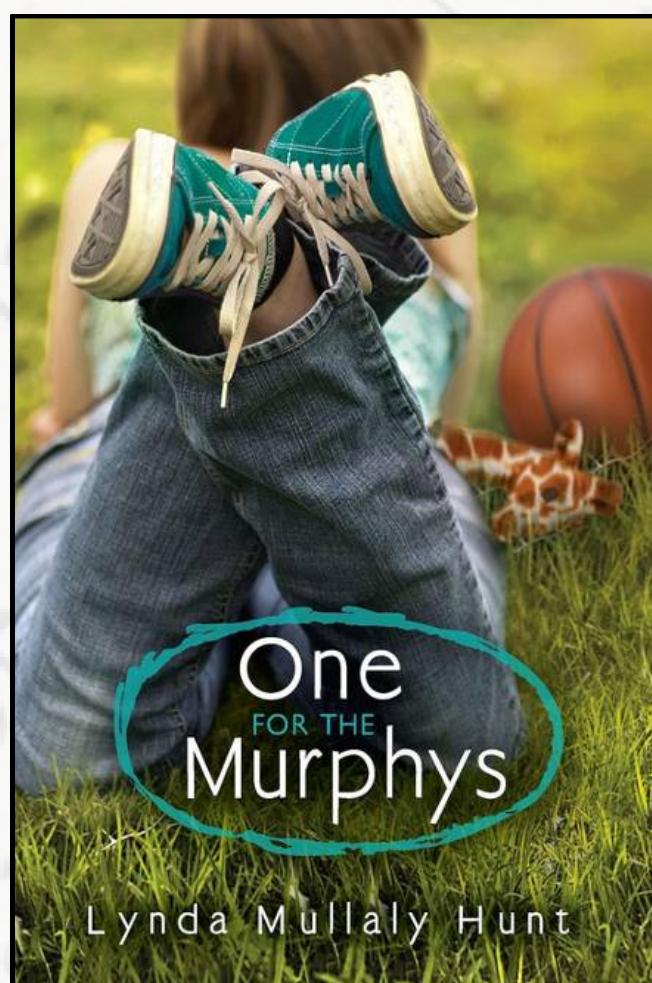
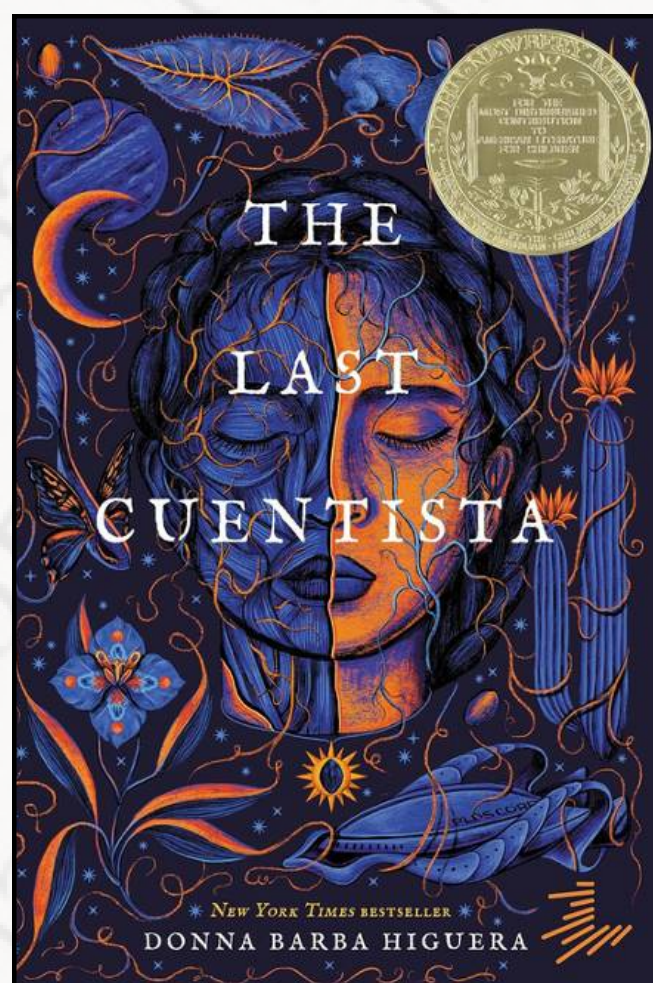
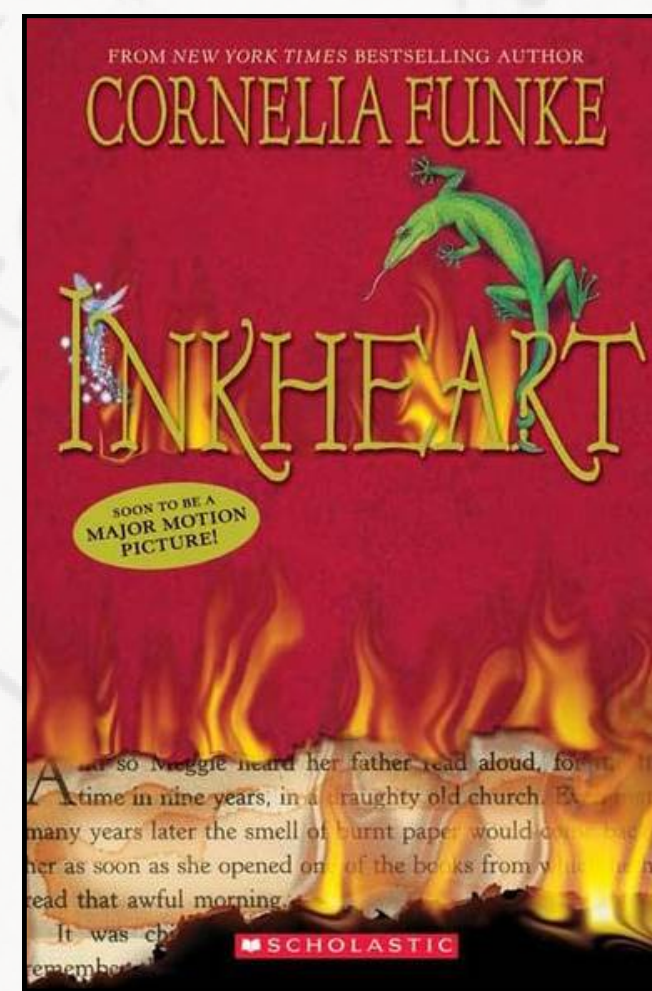
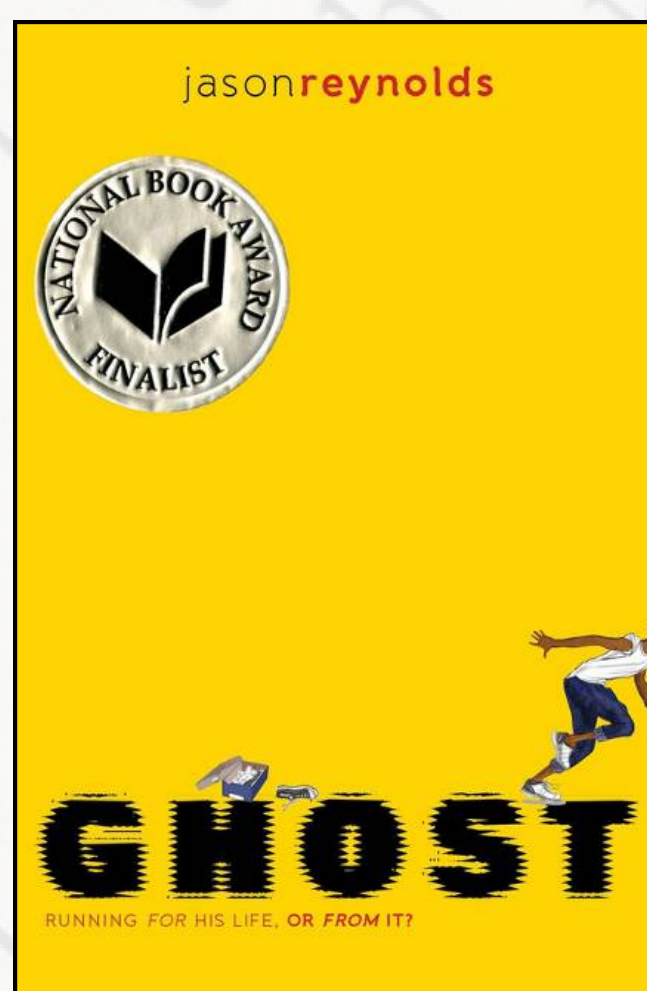
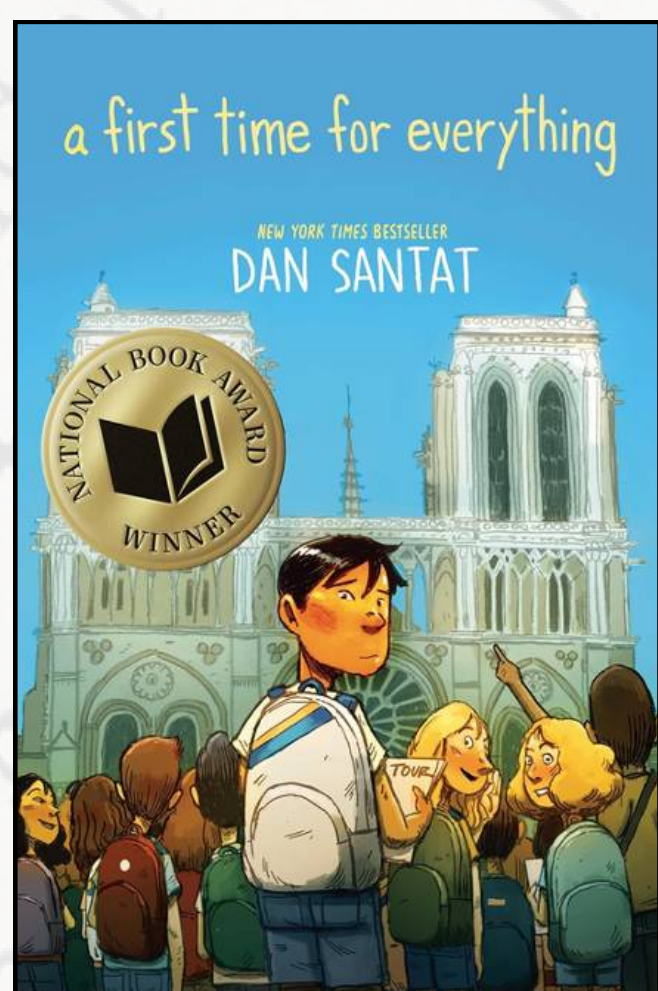
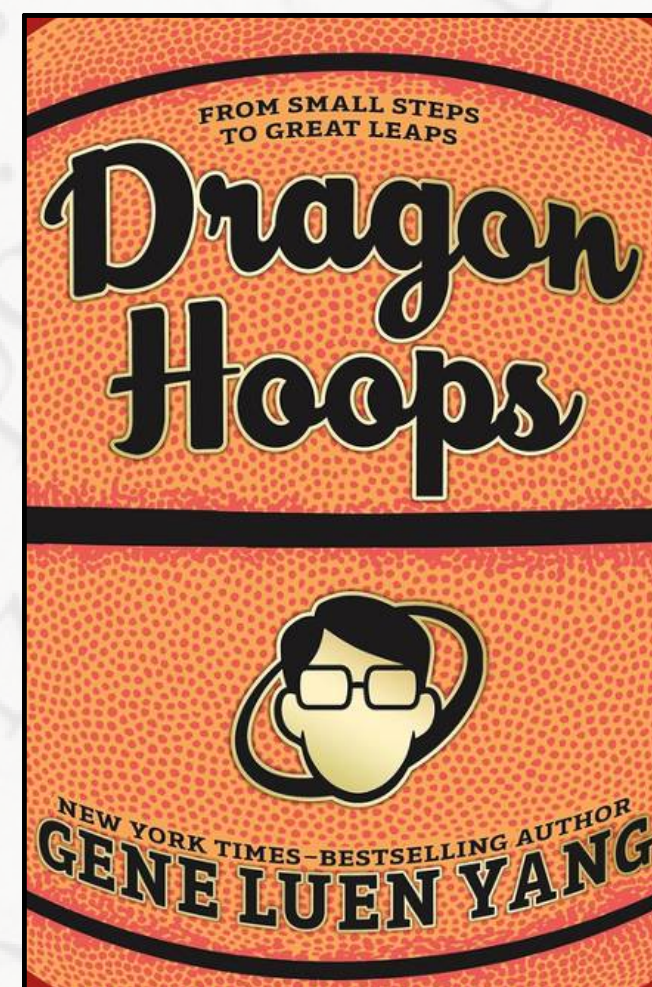
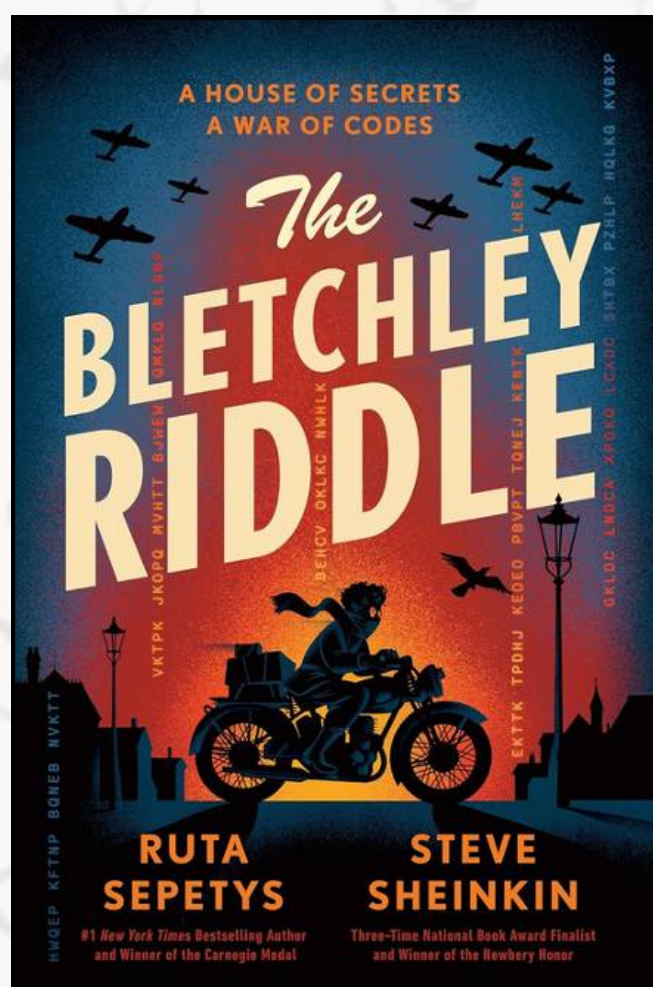
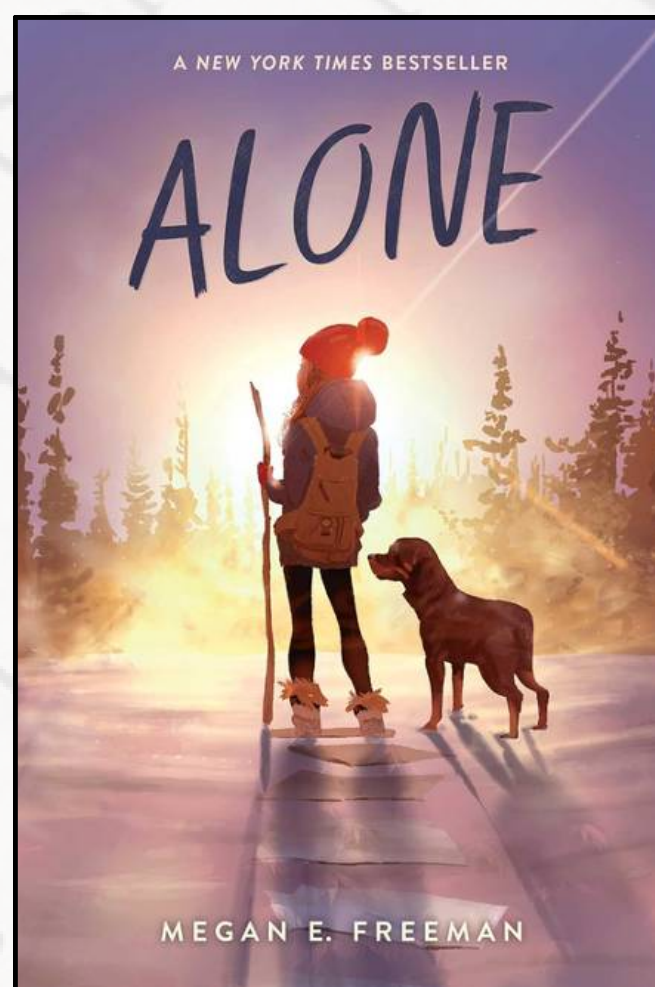
wordnerd@amandazieba.com



TOP 10 BOOKS

Word Nerd's All Time Faves

Your challenge: Listen to these 10 First Chapter Fridays this summer!
The Word Nerd's All Time Top 10 Favorites cover a wide variety of genres, topics, and formats. By the end of the challenge, you'll have a solid lineup of go-to recommendations ready for readers with all kinds of interests.





TOP 10 BOOKS

Word Nerd's All Time Faves

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(11:22)



Video
Comment



Alone by Megan E. Freeman

Reading Levels → AR: 4.7 / Lexile: 690L
Format: Novel in Verse 432 Pages

Genre: Dystopian / Survival Story

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Reality TV Survival Shows
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

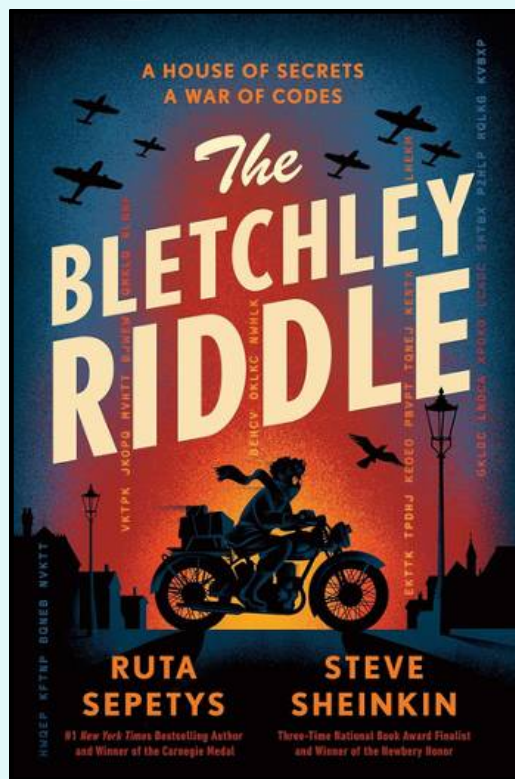
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(12:31)



Video
Comment



The Bletchley Riddle by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin

Reading Levels → AR: 4.1 / Lexile: 540L
Format: Prose 400 Pages

Genre: Historical Fiction (WWII)

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- WWII codebreaking
- Kid Hero Stories

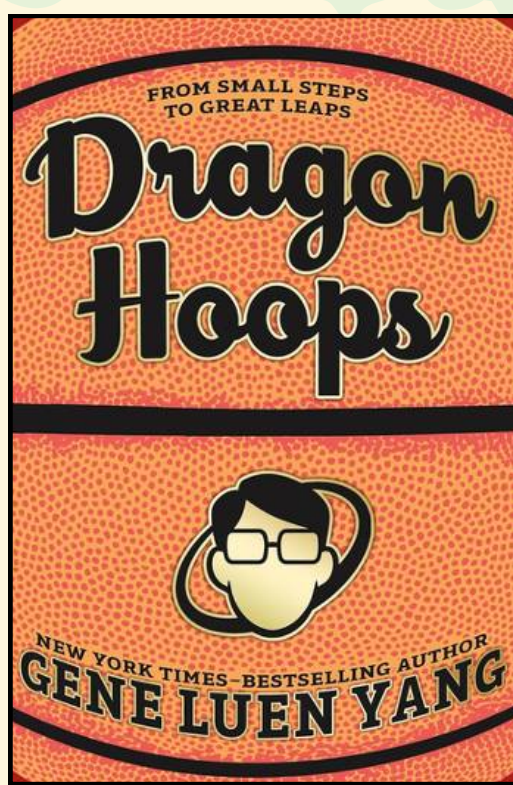
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(6:04)



Video
Comment



Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang

Reading Levels → AR: 3.9 / Lexile: 550L
Format: Graphic Novel 448 Pages

Genre: Sports Memoir

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Behind the scenes sports stories
- Championship Seasons/Runs

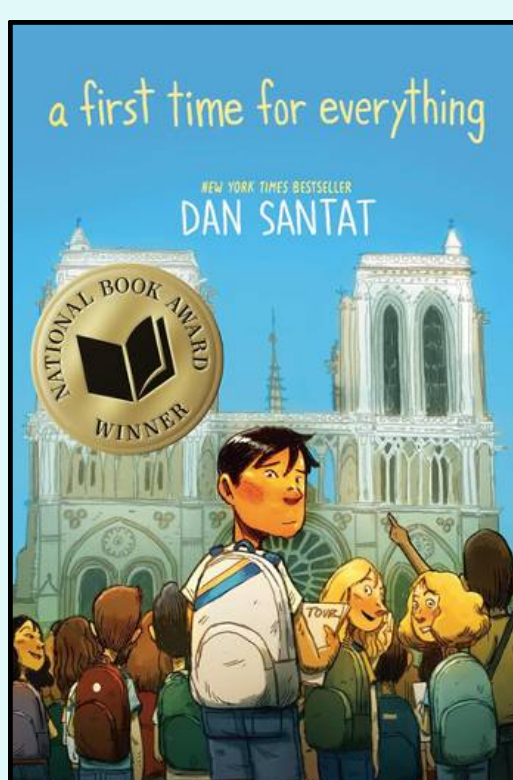
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(8:43)



Video
Comment



A First Time for Everything by Dan Santat

Reading Levels → AR: 2.6 / Lexile: N/A
Format: Graphic Novel 320 Pages

Genre: Travel Memoir

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Smile by Raina Telgemeier
- World Wide Traveling

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____



TOP 10 BOOKS

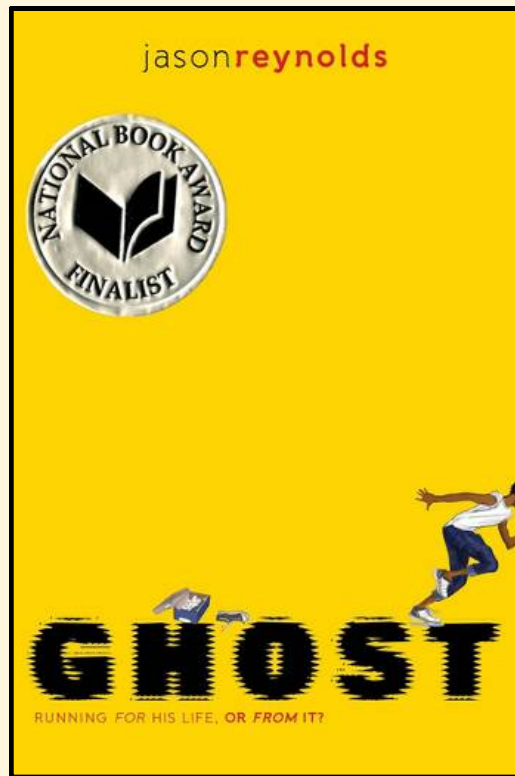
Word Nerd's All Time Faves

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(8:52)



Video
Comment



Ghost (Book 1) by Jason Reynolds

Reading Levels → AR: 4.6 / Lexile: 730L

Genre: Realistic Fiction / Sports (Track) Story

Format: Prose 208 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Track & field
- Underdog athletes

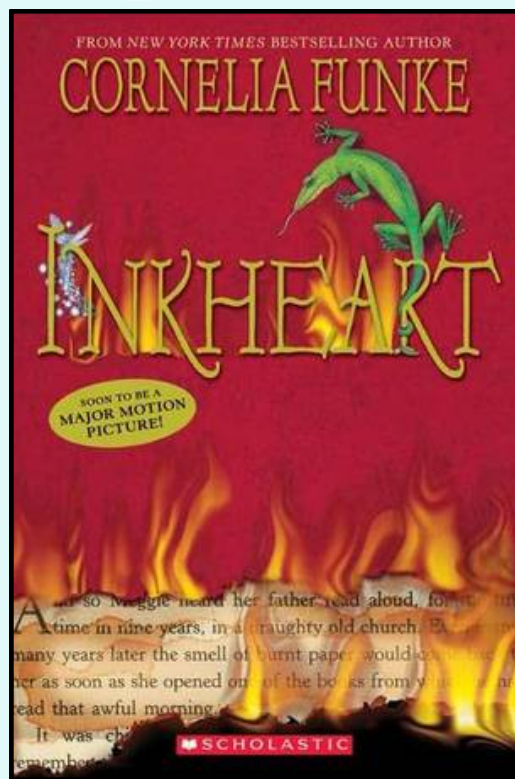
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(20:40)



Video
Comment



Inkheart (Book 1) by Cornelia Funke

Reading Levels: → AR: 5.4 / Lexile: 780L

Genre: Fantasy

Format: Prose 576 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- The NeverEnding Story (movie)
- Books about books

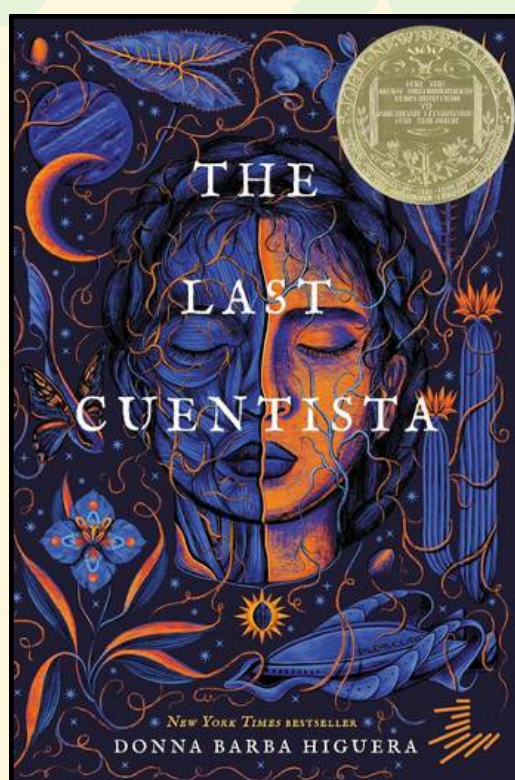
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(10:52)



Video
Comment



The Last Cuentista by Dona Barba Higuera

Reading Levels → AR: 5.0 / Lexile: 730L

Genre: Science Fiction

Format: Prose 336 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Books about stories/storytelling
- New Civilization Creation

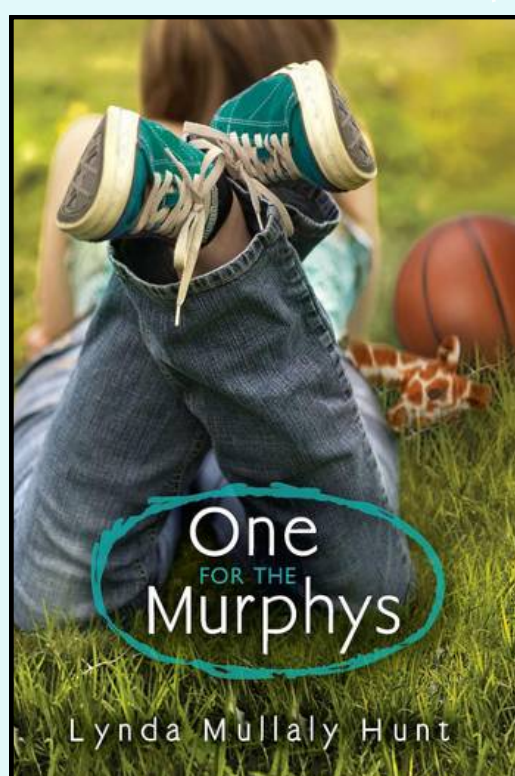
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(8:01)



Video
Comment



One for the Murphys by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Reading Levels → AR: 3.4 / Lexile: 520L

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Format: Prose 256 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Foster Care & Adoption Stories
- Complicated Family Dynamics

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

TOP 10 BOOKS

Word Nerd's All Time Faves

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(20:34)



Video
Comment



The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise by Dan Geminhart

Reading Levels → AR: 4.7 / Lexile: 730L Genre: Realistic Fiction

Format: Prose 352 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Road Trip Stories
- Found Family Stories

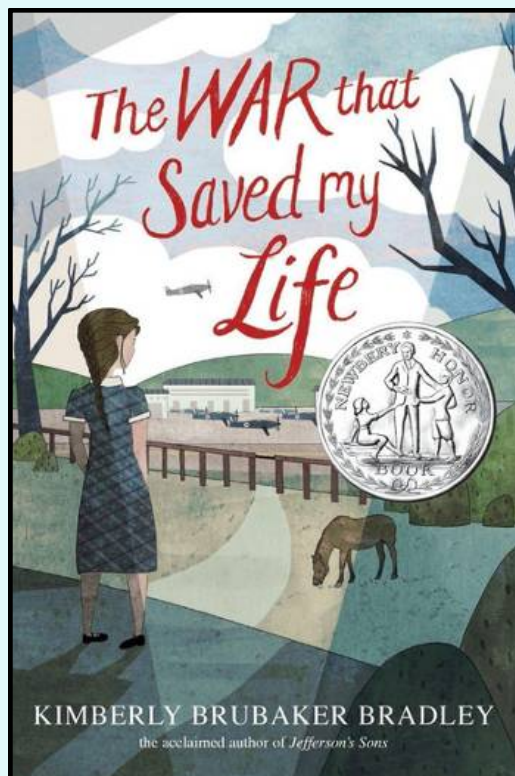
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(10:55)



Video
Comment



The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Reading Levels → AR: 4.1 / Lexile: 580L Genre: Historical Fiction (WWII)

Format: Prose 352 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Courage under pressure
- Historical survival stories

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____



NEXT STEPS

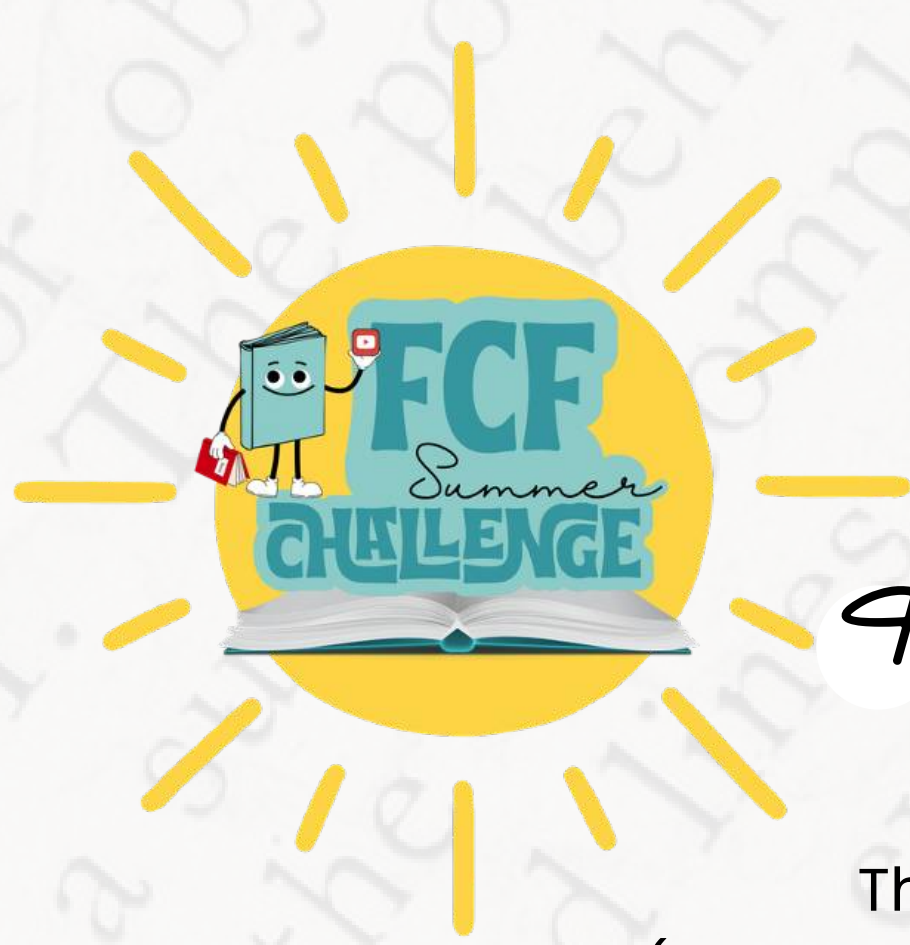
Send by August 1st! Can enter up to 6 times!

Email me a picture of your completed tracking charts (a quick pic of all 3 pages together is all I need...) along with your personal favorite from this Top 10 Collection. Please also send me your home mailing address (so I can mail you the prize if you win) and any other insights you gained from this challenge or feedback you have for me.

I hope you are having a fabulous summer and that you are enjoying the time you spent reading!

All my best,
Amanda Zieba

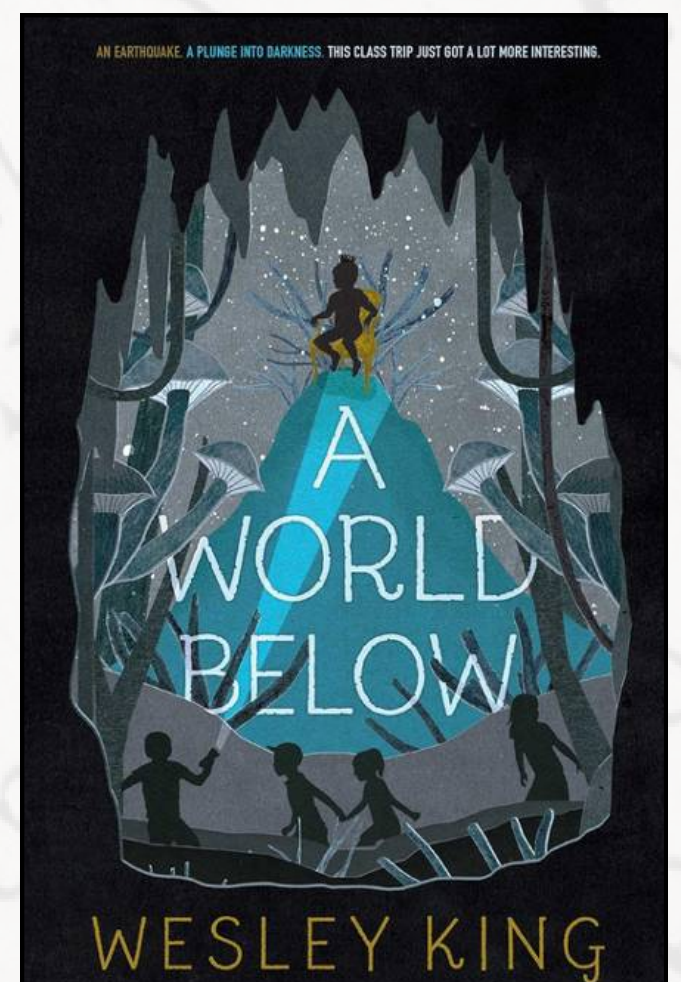
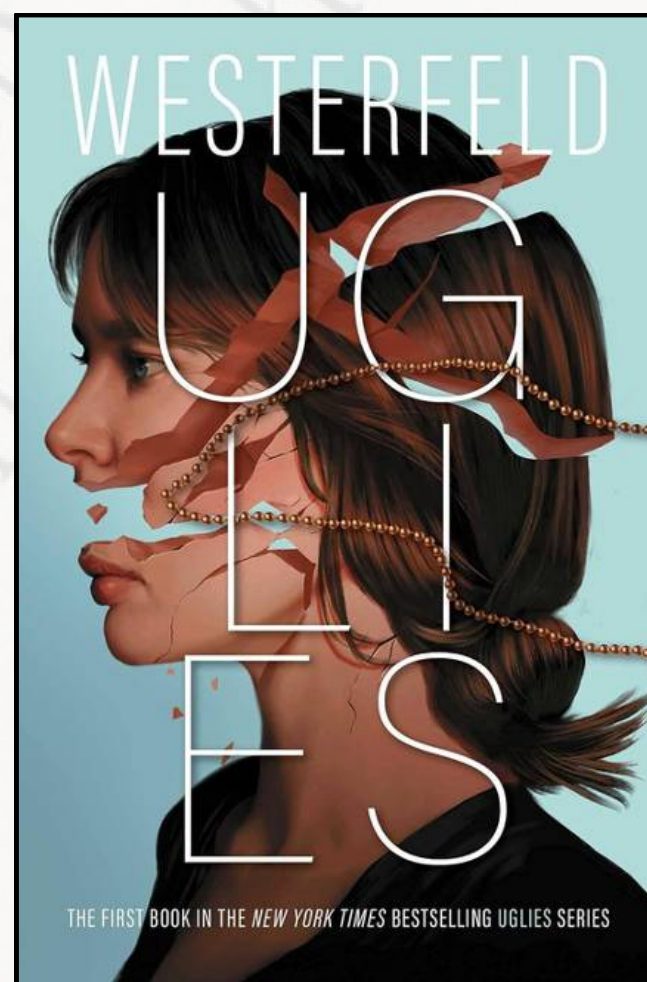
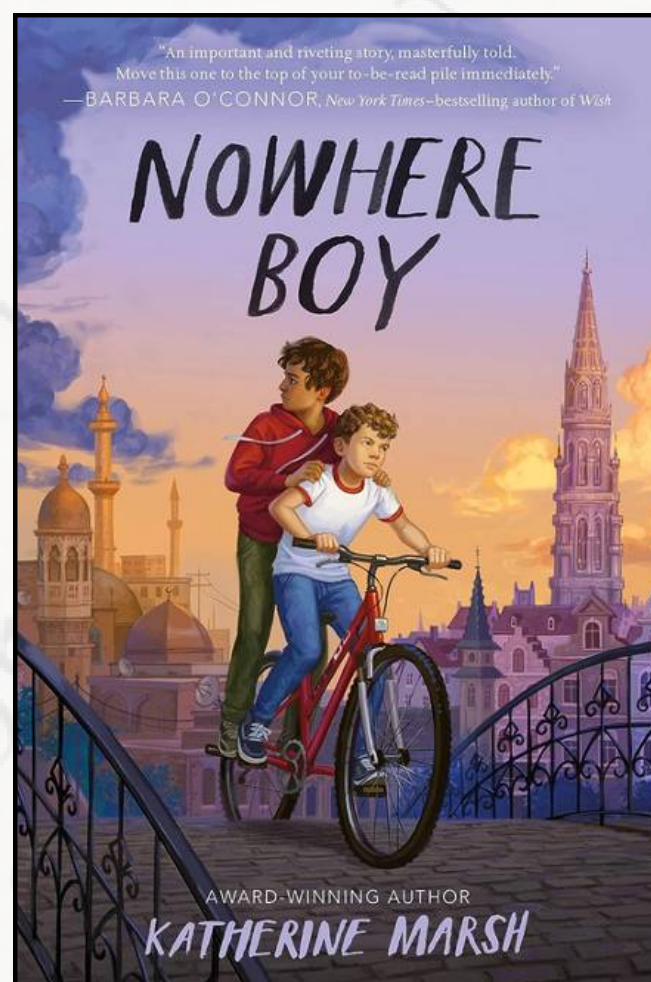
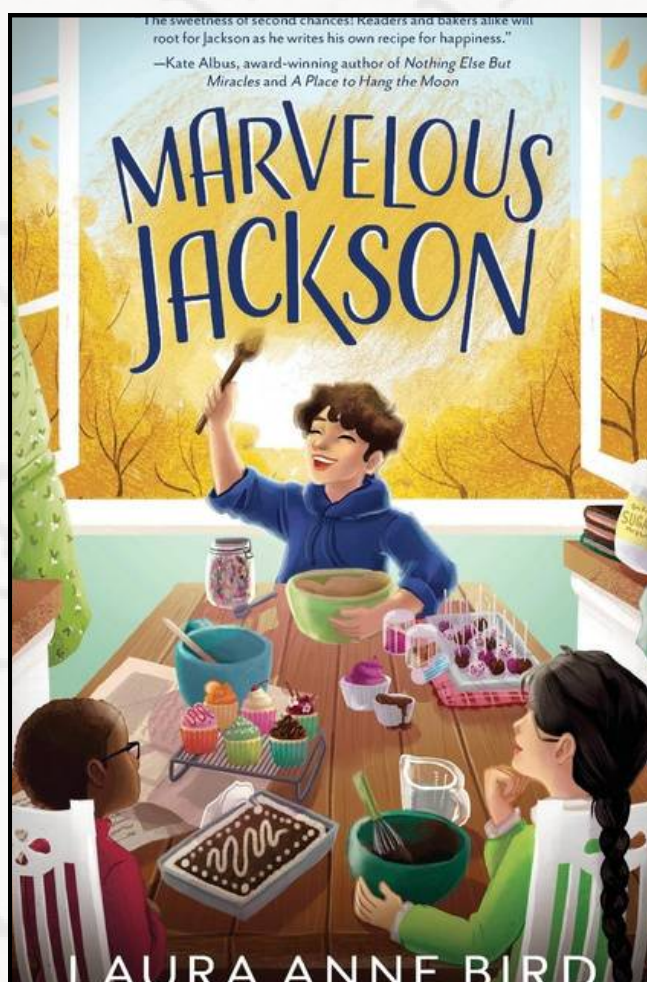
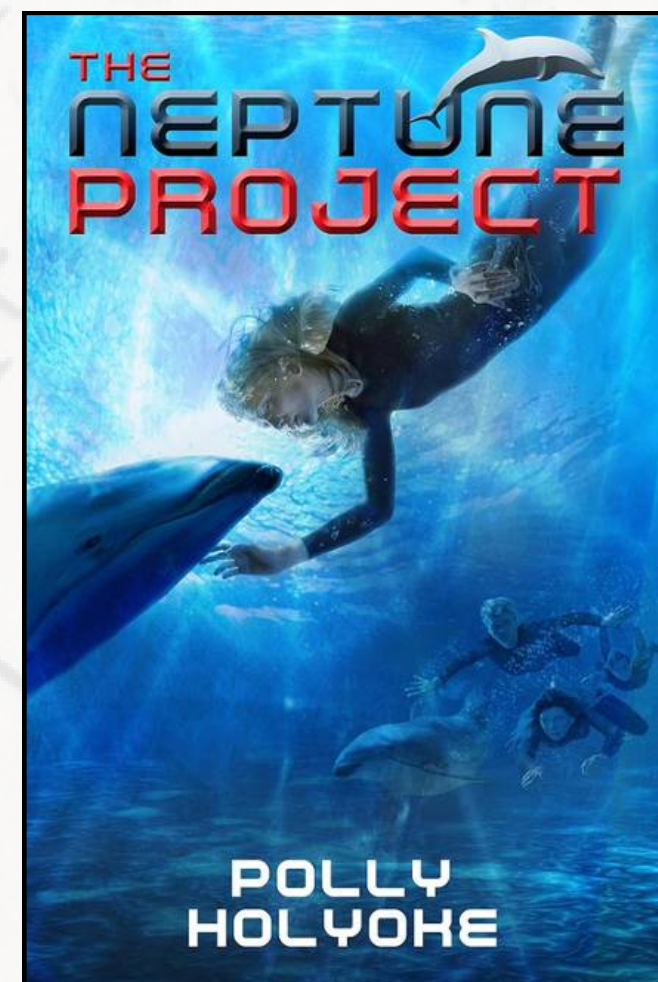
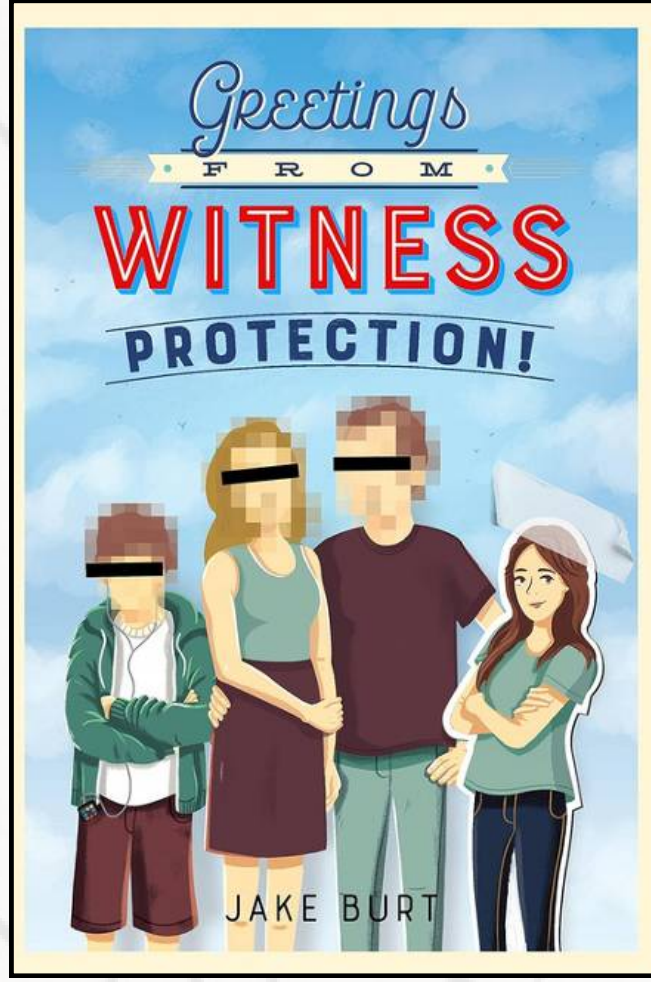
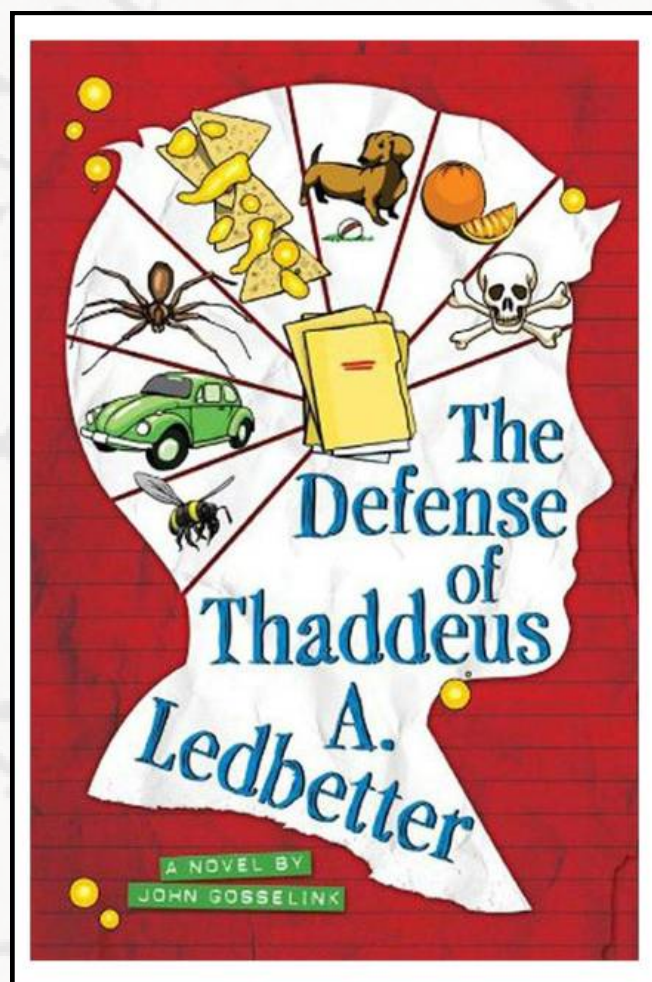
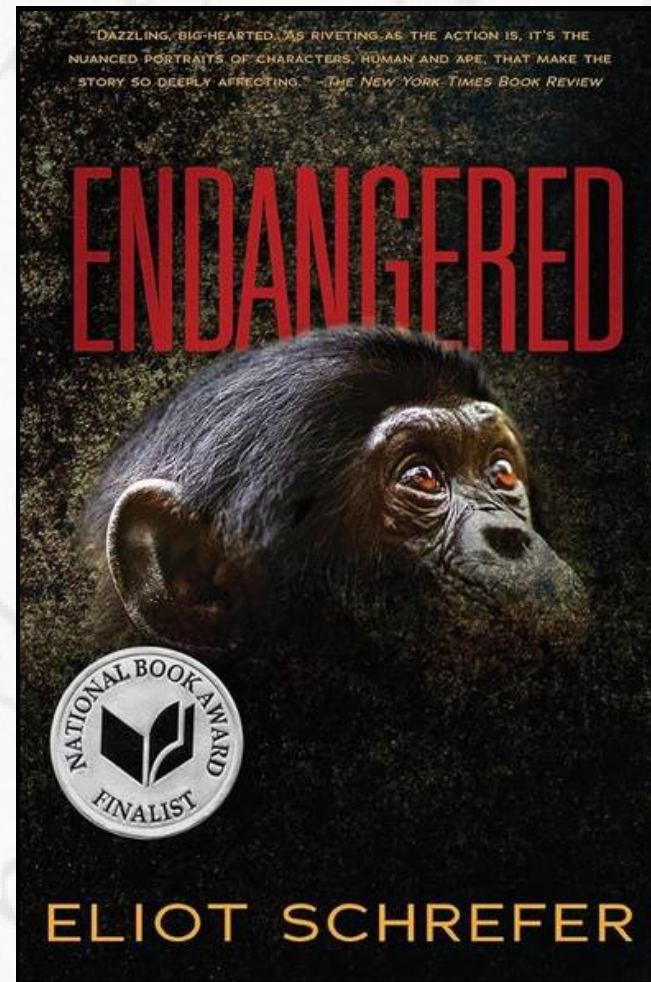
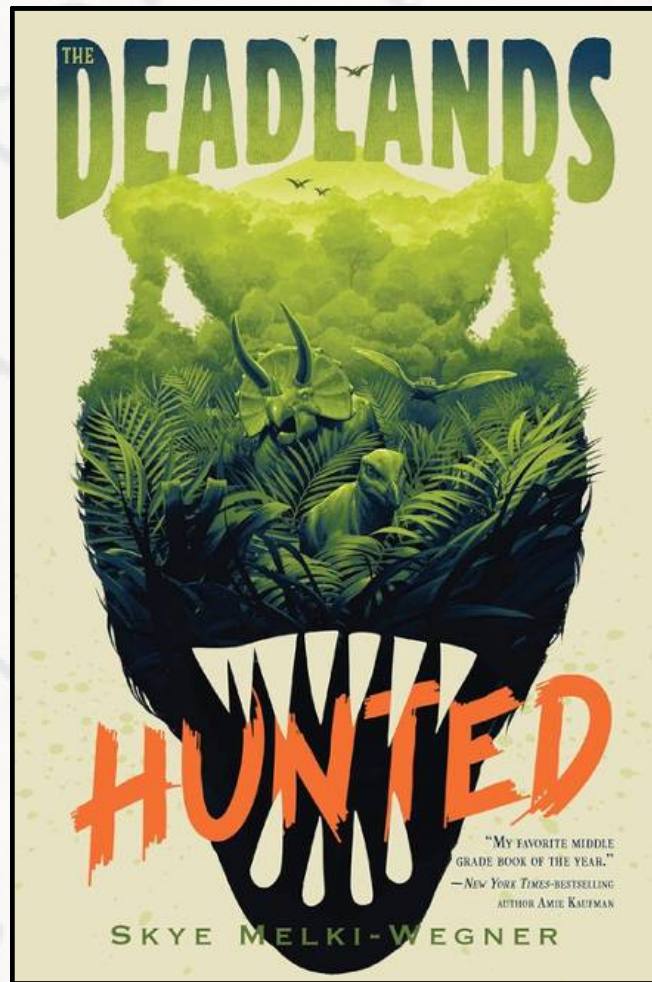
wordnerd@amandazieba.com

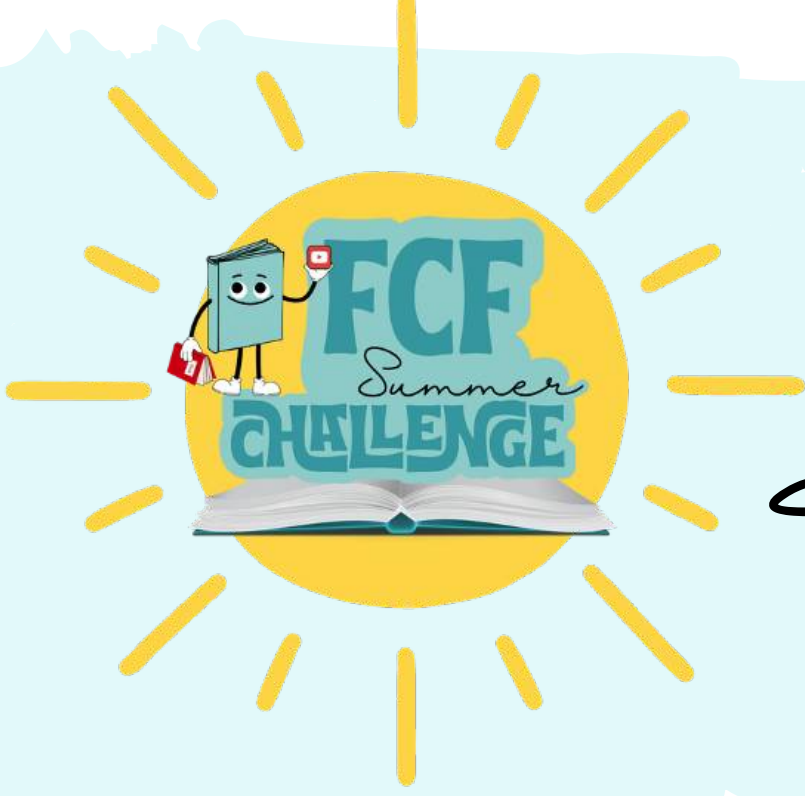


TOP 10 BOOKS

Hidden Gems - Unsung Heroes

Your challenge: Listen to these 10 First Chapter Fridays this summer! This list covers a wide variety of genres, topics, and formats of books that (in the Word Nerd's opinion) don't get enough praise. If you're well-read but looking for something you may have overlooked, THIS is YOUR list! 😊





TOP 10 BOOKS

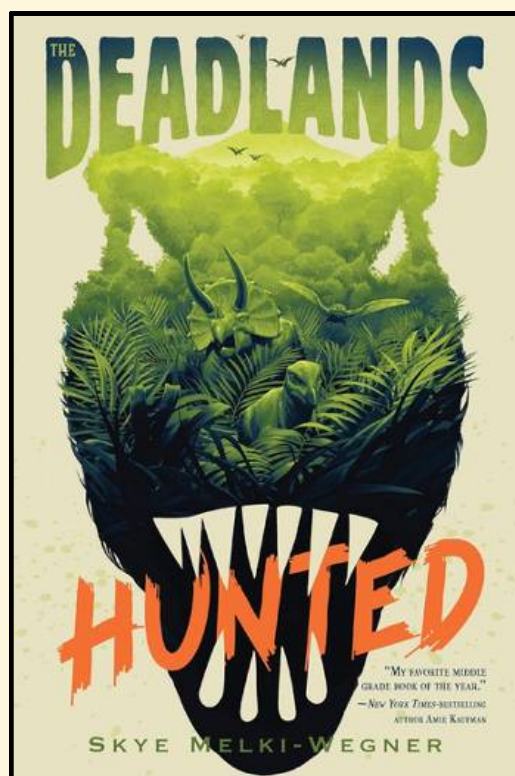
Hidden Gems - Unsung Heroes

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(19:25)



Video
Comment



Deadlands: Hunted by Skye Melki-Wegner

Reading Levels → AR: 5.1 / Lexile: 680L

Format: Prose 304 Pages Genre: Fantasy / Survival

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Wings of Fire
- Tribes in Competition

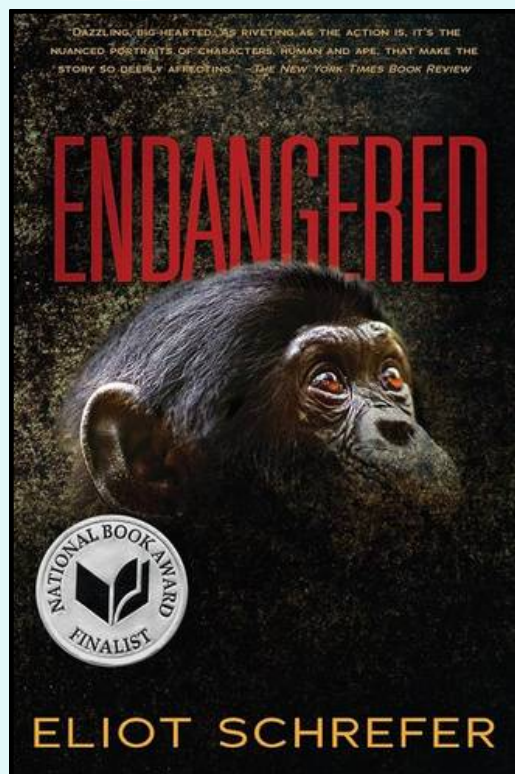
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(15:25)



Video
Comment



Endangered (Book 1) by Eliot Schrefer

Reading Levels → AR: 6.2 / Lexile: 900L

Format: Prose 288 Pages Genre: Realistic Fiction / Survival Story

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Animal Conservation
- Jane Goodall

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(7:44)



Video
Comment



The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

Reading Levels → AR: 4.5 / Lexile: 600L

Format: Prose 352 Pages Genre: Historical Fiction / Survival Story

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- The Jungle Cruise (movie)

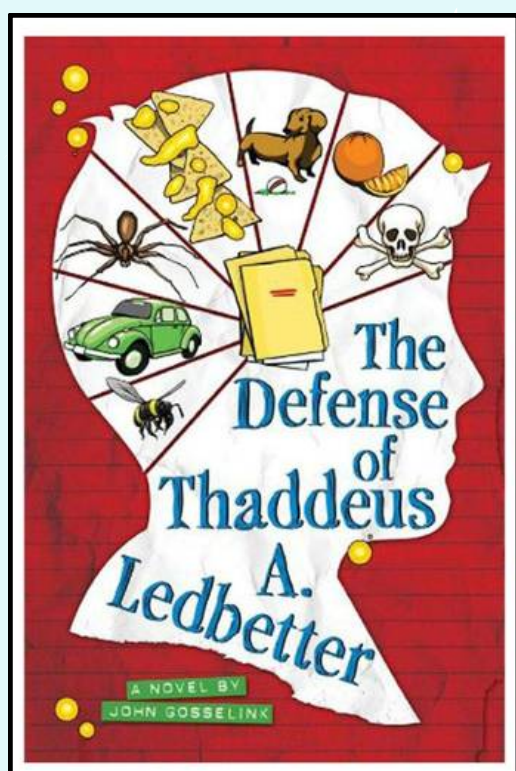
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(14:08)



Video
Comment



The Defense of Thaddeus A. Ledbetter by John Gosselink

Reading Levels → AR: N/A / Lexile: 790 Genre: Realistic Fiction

Format: Prose + Journal Styled Pages + Letters 240 Pages

One Sentence Summary: _____

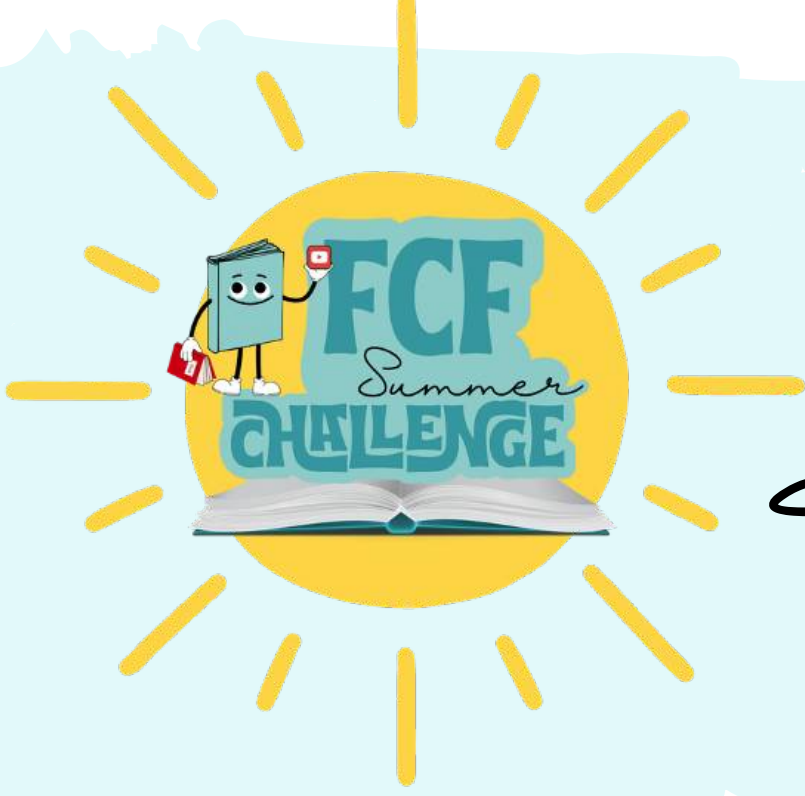
Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Lawyers and Court Rooms

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____



TOP 10 BOOKS

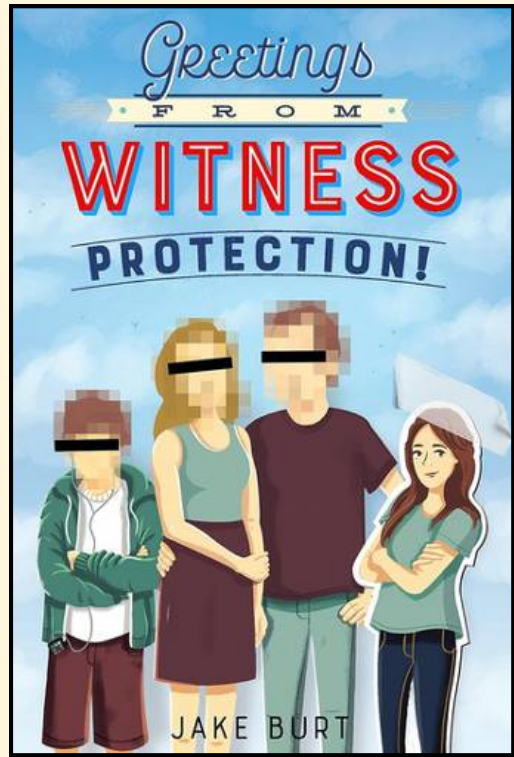
Hidden Gems - Unsung Heroes

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(33:49)



Video
Comment



Greetings from Witness Protection by Jake Burt

Reading Levels → AR: 5.1 / Lexile: 750

Format: Prose 384 Pages Genre: Realistic Fiction / Suspense

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

For Fans of:

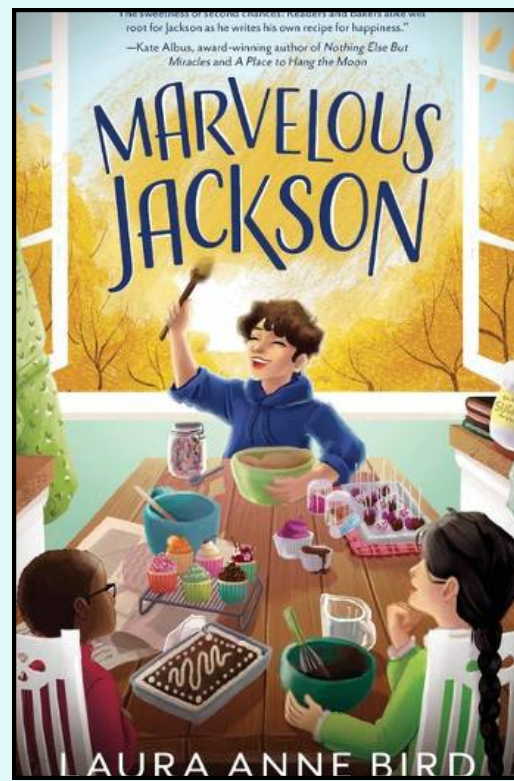
- City Spies by James Ponti
- Fake identities & secrets



Video Link
(27:36)



Video
Comment



Marvelous Jackson by Laura Anne Bird

Reading Levels → AR: 5.1 / Lexile: N/A

Format: Prose 270 Pages Genre: Realistic Fiction

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

For Fans of:

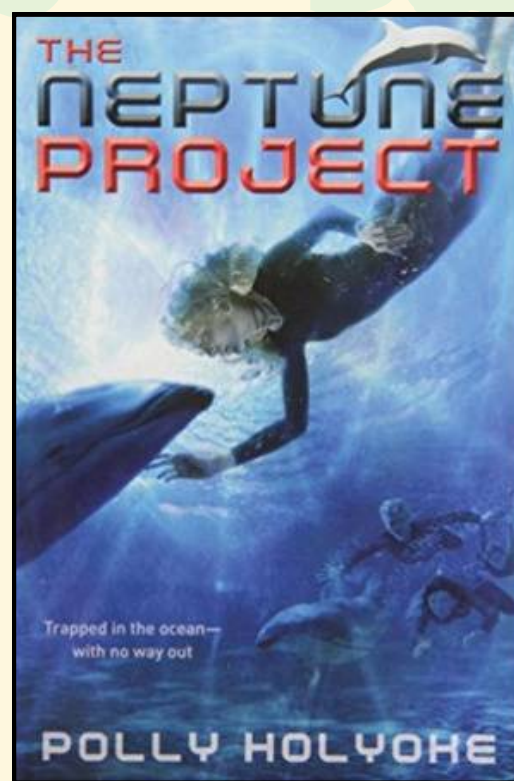
- Competitive Cooking Shows
- Neighborhood Adventures



Video Link
(29:36)



Video
Comment



The Neptune Project (Book 1) by Polly Holyoke

Reading Levels: → AR: 5.9 / Lexile: 810L

Format: Prose 352 Pages Genre: Dystopian / Science Fiction

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

For Fans of:

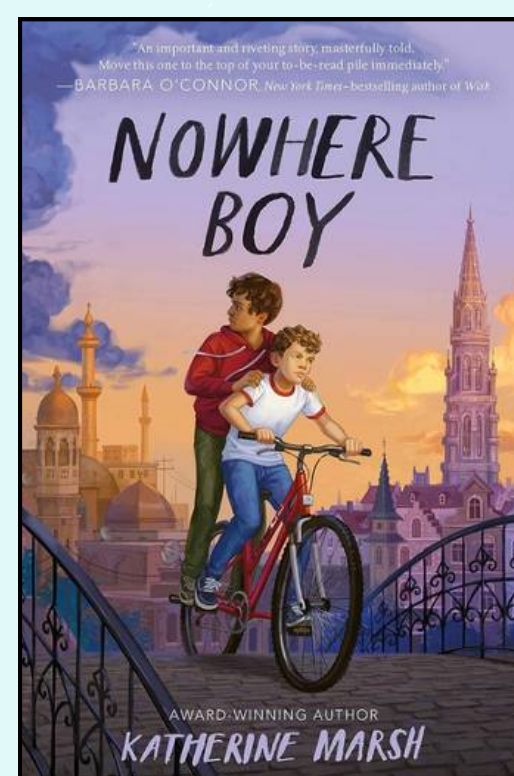
- Marine Animals
- Underwater Dystopian Worlds



Video Link
(12:00)



Video
Comment



Nowhere Boy by Katherine Marsh

Reading Levels → AR: 5.4 / Lexile: 810L

Format: Prose 368 Pages Genre: Realistic Fiction

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

For Fans of:

- Refugee by Alan Gratz
- The Diary of Anne Frank

TOP 10 BOOKS

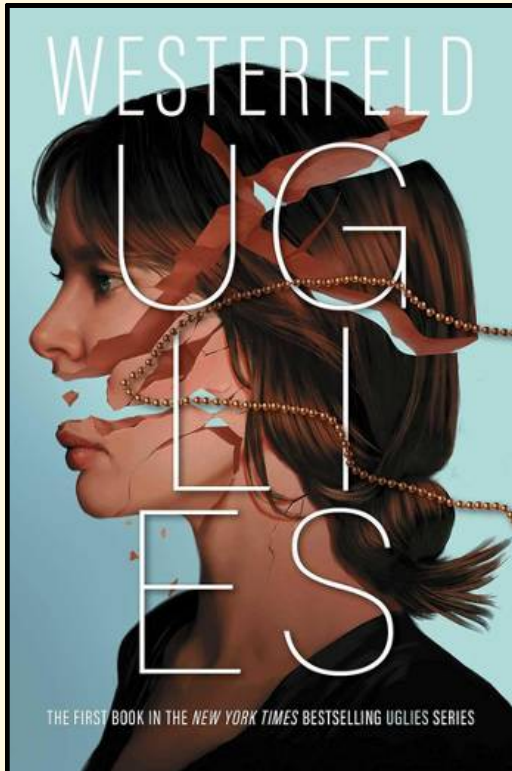
Hidden Gems - Unsung Heroes

Listen to each of the First Chapter Friday videos for the books below. Then record your thoughts so you know EXACTLY who to recommend these books to next year!

Video Link
(13:14)



Video
Comment



Uglies (Book 1) by Scott Westerfeld

Reading Levels → AR: 5.2 / Lexile: 770L

Format: Prose 448 Pages Genre: Dystopian

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- Social Media & Beauty Culture
- Divergent by Veronica Roth

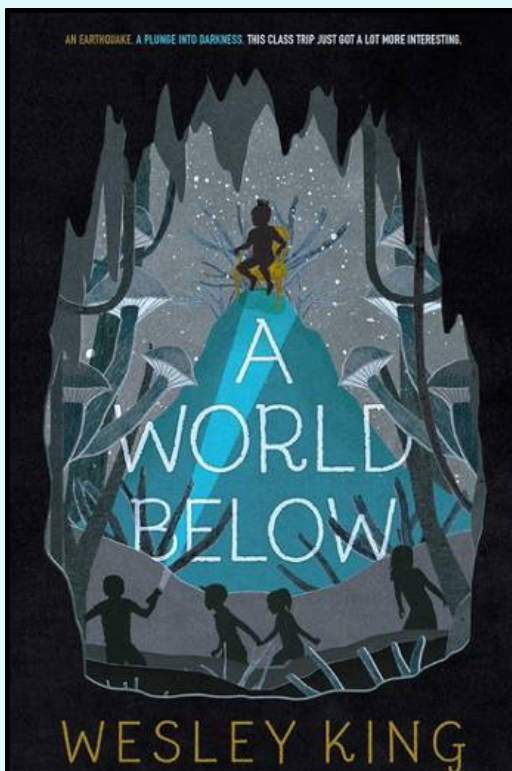
2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____

Video Link
(19:01)



Video
Comment



A World Below by Wesley King

Reading Levels → AR: 4.7 / Lexile: 670L

Format: Prose 352 Pages Genre: Survival Story / Light Fantasy / Action Adventure

One Sentence Summary: _____

Would I Recommend This Book? ★★★★★

For Fans of:

- All 13 by C. Soontornvat
- Journey to the Center of the Earth

2 Students Who Would Enjoy This Book

1) _____ 2) _____



NEXT STEPS

Send by August 1st! Can enter up to 6 times!

Email me a picture of your completed tracking charts (a quick pic of all 3 pages together is all I need...) along with your personal favorite from this Top 10 Collection. Please also send me your home mailing address (so I can mail you the prize if you win) and any other insights you gained from this challenge or feedback you have for me.

I hope you are having a fabulous summer and that you are enjoying the time you spent reading!

All my best,
Amanda Zieba

wordnerd@amandazieba.com