



Mendham Township Middle School

Core Reading List – Thematic



All Mendham Township Middle School students will participate in reading six core novels per grade level in language arts class as indicated below. There are also four fundamental themes (Tolerance, Courage, Maturation, and Adventure) that spiral through our reading selections. As it is our school community’s Mission to lead our students to becoming life-long learners and to lead responsible productive lives, these themes are fundamentally essential to in-class discussions, writing prompts, homework assignments, and assessments.

Grade Level	Title	Author	Theme
Fifth	<i>Sign of The Beaver</i>	Elizabeth Speare	Maturation 1. Responsibility 2. Confronting challenges 3. Coping 4. Courage
	<i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>	Scott O’Dell	Courage 1. Friendship 2. Values 3. Decisions
	<i>Number The Stars</i>	Lois Lowry	Tolerance 1. Courage / bravery 2. Learning from history 3. Values (pride/human decency) 4. Prejudice
	<i>My Side of the Mountain</i>	Jean Craighead George	Courage / Adventure 1. Survival 2. Responsibility 3. Values 4. Decisions
	<i>American Tall Tales</i>	Adrien Stoutenberg	Adventure 1. Decisions 2. Courage 3. Values 4. Learning from History
	<i>Holes</i>	Louis Sachar	Tolerance/Courage/Maturation/Adventure 1. Diversity 2. Friendship 3. Perseverance 4. Values
Sixth	<i>The Cay</i>	Theodore Taylor	Maturation 1 Confronting challenge 2. Coping 3. Responsibility 4. Identity
	<i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham</i>	Christopher Paul Curtis	Tolerance 1. Prejudice 2. Learning from History 3. Values 4. Coping
	<i>Touching Spirit Bear</i>	Ben Mikaelson	Courage 1 Decisions / responsibility 2. Survival 3. Values 4. Identity
	<i>The Adventures of Ulysses</i>	Bernard Evsli	Adventure 1. Hero 2. Courage 3. Decisions
	<i>The Lightning Thief</i>	Rick Riordan	Courage/Adventure 1. Decisions 2. Identity 3. Perseverance 4. Friendship
	<i>The View From Saturday</i>	E.L. Konigsburg	Tolerance/Maturation 1. Values 2. Confronting challenge 3. Identity 4. Cooperation

Educational Experience Of The Highest Quality

Seventh	<i>Farewell to Manzanar</i>	Houston & Houston	Tolerance 1. Prejudice 2. Courage 3. Values
	<i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i>	Elizabeth Speare	Courage 1. Identity 2. Decisions 3. Values 4. Responsibility
	<i>The Giver</i>	Lois Lowry	Maturation 1. Confronting challenge 2. Values 3. Responsibility
	<i>Treasure Island</i>	R. Stevenson	Adventure 1. Courage 2. Decisions 3. Values
	<i>Stargirl</i>	Jerry Spinelli	Tolerance 1. Diversity 2. Courage 3. Values 4. Prejudice and identity
	<i>Out of Dust</i>	Karen Hesse	Maturation 1. Coping 2. Confronting Challenge 3. Responsibility 4. Identity
Eighth	<i>Lord of The Flies</i>	William Golding	Courage 1. Integrity 2. Values 3. Responsibility 4. Decisions
	<i>Call of the Wild</i>	Jack London	Adventure 1. Courage 2. Loyalty 3. Friendship 4. Survival
	<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>	Mildred Taylor	Tolerance 1. Responsibility 2. Prejudice 3. Values 4. Learning from history
	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Shakespeare	Maturation 1. Decisions/consequences 2. Confronting challenge 3. Self-determination 4. Identity
	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Ray Bradbury	Courage 1. Decisions 2. Responsibility 3. Values 4. Learning from History
	<i>I am the Cheese</i>	Robert Cormier	Maturation 1. Identity 2. Individuality 3. Courage 4. Coping