Please choose 1 book from the list. You will complete an assignment on the book you choose.

Rating System: If you are worried about mature content (coarse language, violence, and/or sexuality), please stick with a G or PG-rated book. Books with PG-13 will contain some mature content, and books that receive an R rating will contain many instances of mature language and content.

If you would like more information on the novels, please visit the following sites: www.commonsensemedia.org and www.parentalbookreviews.com.

Flinn, Alex *Beastly*
Date published: 2007  320 pages  580 Lexile  Rated PG-13
Genre: Fantasy, Fairy Tale
Summary: This modern retelling of Beauty and the Beast from the Beast's point of view is about a vain Manhattan private-school student who is turned into a monster and must find true love before he can return to his human form.

Forester, Victoria *The Girl Who Could Fly*
Date published: 2008  336 pages  920 Lexile  Rated PG
Genre: Fantasy
Summary: Piper McCloud's ability to fly sets her apart from the other kids, so her mother sends her to an exclusive school for children with exceptional abilities, but even there she does not fit in with the other students.
Graff, Lisa *A Tangle of Knots*
Date published: 2013 240 pages 840 Lexile Rated G
Genre: Fantasy
Summary: a multiple person narrative guides this twisty and turny story of talents, mysterious suitcases, and a pie-making contest.

Green, John *Looking for Alaska*
Date Published: 2005 221 pages 930 Lexile Rated R
Genre: Realistic Fiction
Summary: Miles leaves his home in Florida for a boarding school in Alabama. He is accepted by a smart group of pranksters who teach him about friendship and love.

Grogan, John *Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog*
Date published: 2005 304 pages 1050 Lexile Rated PG-13
Genre: Memoir, Comedy
Summary: John Grogan recounts the tale of his adventurous dog.

King, Stephen *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*
Date published: 1999 224 pages 1040 Lexile Rated R
Genre: Fantasy, Horror
Summary: Nine-year-old Trisha McFarland wanders off by herself on a family hike and becomes hopelessly lost in the wilderness. Trisha has only her resourcefulness, bravery, and faith to help her survive.

Levithan, David *Every Day*
Date published: 2012 325 pages 650 Lexile Rated R
Genre: Fantasy
Summary: Every day since birth, A has woken up in a different body. Maybe a girl; maybe a boy—always interesting.
McNeal, Tom *Far Far Away*

Date published: 2013  384 pages  790 Lexile  Rated PG 13

Genre: Fantasy

Summary: The ghost of Jacob Grimm knows he must protect Jeremy Johnson but he has no idea from whom or what.

Ralston, Aron *Between A Rock and A Hard Place*

Date published: 2005  368 pages  1210 Lexile  Rated R

Genre: Adventure, Memoir

Summary: The author, Aron Ralston, recounts his harrowing experiences of being trapped for six days in Blue Canyon in Utah and having to amputate his own right arm in order to save his life.

Rowell, Rainbow *Eleanor and Park*

Date published: 2013  328 pages  580 Lexile  Rated R

Genre: Young Adult, Realistic Fiction

Summary: A story with dual narratives: two misfits living in Omaha, Nebraska in the 80’s form a connection through music and comic books.

Smith, Roland *Peak*

Date published: 2008  256 pages  760 Lexile  Rated PG-13

Genre: Adventure, Realistic Fiction

Summary: A fourteen-year-old boy, who should be in jail for vandalism, attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Stewart, Trenton Lee *The Mysterious Benedict Society*

Date published: 2009  400 pages  900 Lexile  Rated PG

Genre: Fantasy

Summary: After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where their mission is to stop the plan of the evil Ledroptha Curtain.
Tolkien, JRR *The Hobbit*

Date published: 1937  
320 pages  
1000 Lexile  
Rated PG  
Genre: Fantasy  
Summary: A mild-mannered Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who avoids adventure, is swept into a quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom from Smaug, a terrifying dragon.

Walls Jeanette *The Glass Castle*

Date published: 2005  
304 pages  
1010 Lexile  
Rated R  
Genre: Memoir  
Summary: The author recalls growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother.

Zevin, Gabrielle *Elsewhere*

Date published: 2005  
288 pages  
720 Lexile  
Rated PG-13  
Genre: Young Adult, Fantasy  
Summary: After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."

Zusak, Markus *I Am the Messenger*

Date published: 2005  
368 pages  
640 Lexile  
Rated R  
Genre: Realistic Fiction  
Summary: After thwarting a bank robbery, do-nothing, go-nowhere Ed Kennedy is challenged by an unknown benefactor to become a better person by helping those around him.