THE TWENTY-FIVE MOST COMMONLY TAUGHT NOVELS, GRADES 4-8

THE TWENTY-FIVE MOST COMMONLY TAUGHT NOVELS, GRADES 4-8

- Among the Hidden
- Because of Winn Dixie
- Bridge to Terabithia
- Bud, Not Buddy
- The Cay
- A Christmas Carol
- The Diary of Anne Frank
- Esperanza Rising
- Freak, the Mighty
- The Giver
- Hatchet
- Holes
- Maniac Magee

- Night
- Number the Stars
- The Outsiders
- Riding Freedom
- Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
- Stargirl
- Tears of a Tiger
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- Touching Spirit Bear
- Tuck Everlasting
- Walk Two Moons
- The Watsons Go to Birmingham— 1963

As you look at this list, some of you will think, yes, we read that book in seventh grade, while others will consider the same book and say that book is read in eighth grade or sixth or fifth or fourth. In other words, while many respondents to our study mentioned *Esperanza Rising*, it was just as likely to be mentioned at fifth grade as it was at seventh. You can read more about this survey on page 4.

Books from this list I teach:				
Books I teach NOT on this list:				

THE TWENTY-FIVE MOST COMMONLY TAUGHT NOVELS, GRADES 9–10

THE TWENTY-FIVE MOST COMMONLY TAUGHT NOVELS, GRADES 9-10

- 1984
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
- Animal Farm
- Brave New World
- The Crucible
- Fahrenheit 451
- Frankenstein
- Great Expectations
- The Great Gatsby
- Heart of Darkness
- Jane Eyre
- The Kite Runner
- Lord of the Flies

- Monster
- Night
- Of Mice and Men
- Othello
- Pride and Prejudice
- Romeo and Juliet
- The Scarlett Letter
- A Separate Peace
- Their Eyes Were Watching God
- Things Fall Apart
- The Things They Carried
- To Kill a Mockingbird

We weren't too surprised at this top twenty-five. It should be noted, though, that many teachers mentioned *Tears of a Tiger, Hunger Games, The House on Mango Street, The Book Thief, Al Capone Does My Shirts, Miracle's Boys, The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian,* and Bluford series books. Teachers noted that these books were read in "regular" or "non-academic" or "non pre-AP" classes or were for "struggling readers." We say more about this survey on page 48.

Books from this list I teach:				
Books I teach NOT on this list:				

Name	Date

READING HABITS SURVEY

Directions: Take a few minutes to answer these questions about your reading habits.

1. How often do you read each day at school? At home?

2. Do you mostly read books (novels and textbooks)? Do you mostly read on an e-reader such as a Nook, Kindle, or iPad? Mostly on a computer or a smart phone?

3. How is reading with an e-reader different from reading printed books?

4. What sort of material do you read online or on an e-reader or mobile device? Is this different from what you choose to read in print?

5. Do you read any blogs or websites on a regular basis? If your answer is yes, how large a part of your reading life are they?

READING HABITS SURVEY page 2

6.	How do you share with others what you are reading about? Through conversations? Comments on Facebook? By texting? By using a site such as Goodreads? Through a blog?
7.	When do graphics (pictures, charts, video clips that might be a part of digital texts) help you understand what you are reading? And when are they a distraction?
8.	Do you listen to audio books? Do you consider this reading?
9.	Do you think that when you are reading something online or on an e-reader you are reading the same way as when you read something in a book?
10	. Sometimes you choose what you want to read. Other times you are told what to read. How does choice or the lack of choice make a difference in how you read?

Name	Date	
1 101110	Date	

STUDENT SURVEY ON CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS

Directions: Take a few minutes to answer these questions about classroom discussions.

1. What do you enjoy about classroom discussions? What do you not enjoy?

2. Do your classmates seem willing to listen to one another as each of you talk? If yes, what makes you say that? If no, why do you think that is?

3. What do most teachers do during classroom discussions? (Stand at the front of the room asking questions? Pull up a chair and act more like a participant? Offer some beginning comments and then let you and your classmates run the discussion?)

4. Do you think teachers already have a set of questions or topics to be discussed, or do they let you and your classmates come up with the questions and topics? Why do you think this?

5. How do discussions help you learn more about the other students in the classroom during a typical classroom discussion?

STUDENT SURVEY ON CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS page 2

6.	How does participating in a discussion change—or not change—your understanding of the topic?
7.	Why do you think teachers encourage classroom discussions? Is it to check on what you're learning or to let you explore new ideas?
8.	What would you like to see changed about your classroom discussions? (Here are some ideas: Have more of them? Fewer? Better ways for more people to contribute? Smaller groups of students in discussions instead of large groups? Larger groups instead of smaller groups? Students choosing the topics instead of the teacher? Sitting in a circle?)
9.	Do you like having conversations online (through IM, blogging, or texting) more than discussions in a classroom? Why or why not?
10	. What should you do to make discussions better?