

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

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- *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

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- *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 _____

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?

