Responsibility Requires Action
Responsibility is the active side of morality: doing what I should do, doing what I said I would do, what is best for everybody; especially doing the one thing I should be doing right now.

High School

Cycle III 2014-2015

Buried Onions
Gary Soto
See the barrio life seen through the eyes of a young man desperately seeking a way out. All Eddie wants is to get by, hold down a job, and walk a straight line into the future. But trapped in a city sweltering in grip of poverty, crime, and unfulfilled dreams, Eddie finds his life-day by day, moment by moment-spiraling slowly out of control.

Kindred
Octavia Butler
A contemporary Los Angeles woman travels back in time to an Antebellum plantation, where she is assumed to be a slave and discovers the identity of her ancestors. Violent confrontations and emotional intensity are aspects of this novel depicting the political, ethical, and social influences of slavery on both black and white Americans. Fantasy, Fiction, Historical Fiction 9-12

Low School

Cycle I 2014-2015

Tuck Everlasting
Natalie Babbitt
The Tuck family have become ageless by drinking from a magic spring. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster and a greedy evil stranger discover their secret, the Tucks are determined to prevent a disaster. This selection is excellent for use in literature circles and theme study.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Jack Gantos
Joey Pigza is out of control because he has attention deficit disorder (ADD). After injuring another student, Joey finally gets the right professional help and starts to regain control of his actions. The story is told from Joey's point of view and is useful to introduce a discussion about ADD or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The Breadwinner
Deborah Ellis
Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, 11-year-old Parvana has rarely been outdoors. Barred from attending school, shopping at the market, or even playing in the streets of Kabul, the heroine of The Breadwinner is trapped inside her family's one-room home. That is, until the Taliban hauls away her father and Parvana realizes that it's up to her to become the "breadwinner" and disguise herself as a boy to support her mother, two sisters, and baby brother.

The Pigman
Paul Zindel
When sophomores John and Lorraine played a practical joke a few months ago on a stranger named Angelo Pignati they had no idea that they were starting. Virtually overnight, almost against their will, the two befriended the lonely old man. But now Mr. Pignati is dead.