Courage Requires Fortitude
Courage is risk for a reason, not risk for a thrill; courage requires I moderate my impulses and emotions. Courage leads me to consider the heroic journey in which people live for purposes bigger than themselves and their wants and needs.

Middle School

Cycle I 2014-2015

Bridge to Terabithia
Katherine Paterson
Jess and Leslie become special friends as they create a magical secret world that they call Terabithia. But when a tragic accident causes Leslie's death, Jess is forced to face life alone. This junior novel confronts many of the issues teens face and is great for literature circles. This selection depicts emotional intensity.

Parvana's Journey
Deborah Ellis
This sequel to The Breadwinner easily stands alone. After her father's death, 13-year-old Parvana, disguised as a boy, wanders alone through war-torn Afghanistan looking for her mother and siblings who had disappeared in the tumult of the Taliban takeover of Mazar-e-Sharif. Early in her journey, Parvana comes across a baby, the only survivor in a bombed village. She takes him along, as both a burden and comforting company.

High School

Cycle III 2014-2015

Children of the River
Linda Crew
At thirteen, Sundara fled Cambodia with her aunt's family to escape the Khmer Rouge army, leaving her parents, two siblings and the boy she had loved since childhood behind. Now at seventeen she is trying to fit in at her Oregon high school and be "a good Cambodian girl" at home. A good Cambodian girl never dates; she waits for her family to arrange her marriage to a Cambodian boy. But what about Jonathan, an extraordinary American boy that she is drawn to?

Whirligig
Paul Fleischman
Brent Bishop discovers the meaning of accountability when his drunken action causes the death of Lea Zamora. As a part of his retribution, Lea's mother asks him to construct, in four geographic corners of the country, four whirligigs resembling Lea. During the process Brent experiences a cleansing transformation. This book addresses controversial issues of interest to many adolescents and includes scenes and language that reflect mature content. Before handing the text to a child, educators and parents should read the book and know the child. California author.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
C.S. Lewis
The adventurous journey of four English children is traced as they discover the magical land of Narnia behind an old wardrobe. They join the good and powerful lion, Aslan, in a battle against the reign of the evil witch and restore peace. The novel is engaging and imaginative. Further adventures in Narnia may be found in the other six books of The Chronicles of Narnia series.

Fantasy 6-8

English-Language Arts/Writing 6-8, 9-12