



There are several components to Essential Literature:

- the required reading lists (including school choices);
- adapted texts for students with disabilities (Special Education and/or English Language Learners – ELL);
- advanced selections (grades 5-8);
- high interest/fundamental vocabulary (for students reading below grade level);
- and alternative texts for use when a book has been challenged by a parent.

**Required Reading Lists and Choice Reading Lists**

The following procedures for implementation of the Essential Literature program should be implemented at each school.

- Required reading selections are read by all students at specified grade levels throughout the district; choice selections are determined by individual schools selected from a grade-level list supplied by the district.
- Texts are supplied in sets of 25 at the elementary level and 30 at the middle and high school levels. The number of sets will be determined by enrollment and scheduling.
- Library information specialists are responsible for checking in the texts and tubs. The library information specialist is responsible for making sure each tub has a bar code. In addition, the library information specialist will number each book (in a “tub set”) on its spine. If a school received more than one tub set of the same title, letters should be assigned to each tub (A, B, C) along with numbers to identify the book (A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, C3, etc.).
- After setting up a grade level rotation schedule that has been filed with the library information specialist and the building principal, teachers can begin to check out book sets from the library information specialist. Teachers should keep a record documenting which child gets which book by using the numbers on the book spine. If they choose to do so, students may supply their own personal copies of the book. Students are **not allowed** to mark in the Essential Literature books purchased by Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS).

**Cabinet Sponsor**

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**Division of Manual**

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**Revision History**

**Review**

- Book sets **must not** be passed directly from teacher to teacher. Sets **must** be checked back in with the library information specialist, and a count **must** be taken to see if there are any lost or damaged books. When the count has been completed, the tub may be checked out to the next teacher on the rotation schedule.
- If a child loses or damages a book, the teacher should attempt to recover the cost if possible. Teachers need to use their best judgment in pursuing restitution for lost books. The charge for all lost and damaged books will be \$10.00. When money is recovered, payment should be made to the library information specialist, who will forward the money to library services. **All checks must be made out to Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, and library information specialists must provide a receipt for cash or check payments.** Library information specialists will be supplied a form on which to report all lost books and payments, so that replacements can be ordered.

### ***Guidelines for Classroom Instruction***

- Teachers are to read Essential Literature books prior to instruction and are to complete more than a cursory study of each text.
- Teachers must fulfill the requirements of the Essential Literature list, but may also include additional reading throughout the year.
- Required titles in bold and choice titles in italics are reserved for specific grade levels. **Teachers must only select titles for instruction from their grade level list.**
- Every text studied **must** include a complementary writing component and at least two other learning experiences or activities. Principals should look for these learning activities in lesson plans and in classroom instruction.
- Language arts teachers are encouraged to collaborate with their colleagues in the other content areas. Principals should facilitate this collaboration. There are excellent opportunities for social science and math teachers to develop some of the required lessons for each book.
- Students are expected to read the entire text. Some elementary students will engage entirely in shared reading. Some shared reading is appropriate at all grade levels.
- Students may buy their own books. Students may also take the Essential Literature books home.
- Books on a grade level choice list that are not utilized to fulfill the Essential Literature requirements may be selected by teachers in that grade level for additional student reading.
- Sample units have been developed for all required titles that appear in bold print on the Essential Literature list. They can be located in the principal's office, with the library information specialist, or the department chairperson.

***Adapted Texts for Students with Disabilities and ELL Students***

Whenever possible, students with disabilities and students in ELL classes should be included in the general education classroom for Essential Literature learning experiences. However, when this is not possible, MNPS is providing seventh through twelfth grade students with texts that have adapted reading levels. Three titles per grade level will be provided. All of these adapted books are identified by the original title and remain true to the original story line, but are written on a third to fourth grade reading level. The number of available adapted texts is limited due to publication limitations. Not all of the required titles in high school were available in adapted format, so some of the choice titles were substituted to provide three books per grade level. In seventh and eighth grade, only two titles were available. Books not on the Essential Literature list had to be substituted.

***Advanced Texts for Students Requiring More Challenging Selections***

For middle school students whose reading levels are well above average, nine selections at each grade level have been identified. Several of these selections will provide more challenging texts that can be studied in greater depth. Students in grades 5 – 6 will read a total of eight selections; two of the three are advanced selections in addition to the three required titles and the three choice titles. Students in grades 7 – 8 will read nine selections: all three of the advanced selections plus the three required titles and the three choice titles. One of the titles at each grade level is a nonfiction selection to foster additional experiences with expository texts.

***High Interest/Fundamental Vocabulary Texts for Students Requiring Additional Support***

These titles are targeted for students who are reading below grade level as indicated by State achievement tests. These students need grade-appropriate selections that quickly capture the reader's interest and provide more manageable vocabulary to encourage increased practice with their reading. These selections are not meant to replace the three required titles and the three choice titles, but rather offer an additional source of support to instill confidence, build oral fluency, and increase comprehension so that students will experience the joys that can come from quality literature. A committee of Metro teachers has recommended these titles, and schools may choose to purchase them to support their total reading program.

***Alternative Texts for Challenged Books***

Any book may be challenged. If after a conference with the principal, a parent submits a written challenge to a required title or to one of a school's choice titles from the Essential Literature list, the challenge must be filed with the principal and the student must be provided an alternate text for his or her study. A copy of all written objections should be sent to the Coordinator of Language Arts in Learning Support Services. All objections will be reviewed to determine if titles on the Essential Literature list should be revisited.

Elementary alternative texts will be added if deemed necessary. Middle and high school alternative texts include:

Trouble River (Grades 5 and 6)

Call of the Wild - Scholastic version only - (Grades 7 and 8)

Great Expectations (Grades 9 and 10)

Old Man and the Sea or Then There Were None (Grades 11 and 12)

Implementation at the school site:

- Alternative texts will be implemented in a programmed format, allowing students to work independently. Teachers will not have to prepare two different lessons.
- Middle and high schools will receive 4 tub sets of each title. The “tub set” will include one copy of the book, directions, and student activities. Just as with regular titles, students will be expected to complete one writing assignment and at least two other in-depth activities. The amount of work will mirror what is expected of all other students in the class.
- Tub sets will be housed in the school media center and can be checked out through the library information specialist.

### ***References/Authority***

DSOP 1161-Determining Placement in Language!

DSOP 1165- Exit Criteria for Language!

**Grade K**

12 books will  
be read  
during the  
school year

**Required Reading**

*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* – Bill Martin, Jr.

*Corduroy* – Don Freeman

*The Mitten* – Jan Brett

*Rainbow Fish* – Marcus Pfister

*The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree* – Gail Gibbons

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* – Eric Carle

**Optional Reading (total of 6)**

*Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* – Bill Martin, Jr.

*Caps for Sale* – Esphyr Slobodkina

*Goodnight Moon* – Margaret Wise Brown

*Green Eggs and Ham* – Dr. Seuss

*My Five Senses* – Aliki

*My Very First Mother Goose* – Iona Opie & Rosemary Wells

*Snowy Day, The* - Ezra Jack Keats

*There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* – Simms Taback

*The Wind Blew* – Pat Hutchins

*Is Your Mama a Llama?* - Deborah Guarino

*The Jacket I Wear in the Snow* - Nancy Winslow Parker

*Peter Spier's Rain* – Peter Spier

**Grade 1**

12 books will  
be read  
during the  
school year.

**Required Reading**

*Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* –  
Judith Viorst

*Chrysanthemum* – Kevin Henkes

*George and Martha* – James Marshall

*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* – Laura Numeroff

*Leo the Late Bloomer* – Robert Kraus

*Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears* – Verna Aardema

**Optional Reading (total of 6)**

*Curious George* – H. A. Rey

*The Doorbell Rang* – Pat Hutchins

*The Great Kapok Tree* – Lynne Cherry

*Harry the Dirty Dog* – Gene Zion

*Horton Hatches the Egg* – Dr. Seuss

*Millions of Cats* – Wanda Gag

*Miss Nelson is Missing* – Harry Allard

*Petunia* – Roger Duvoisin

*Tale of Peter Rabbit* – Beatrix Potter

*Where the Wild Things Are* – Maurice Sendak

**Grade 2**

8 books will  
be read  
during the  
school year.

*Amelia Bedelia* – Peggy Parrish  
*Follow the Drinking Gourd* – Jeanette Winter  
*Henry and Mudge, the First Book* – Cynthia Rylant  
*The One in the Middle is a Green Kangaroo* – Judy Blume

**Optional Reading (total of 4)**

*A Chair for My Mother* – Vera Williams  
*Amazing Grace* - Mary Hoffman  
*The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash* – Trinka Hakes Noble  
*Flossie and the Fox* – Patricia McKissack  
*Frog and Toad* – Arnold Lobel  
*Ira Sleeps Over* - Bernard Waber  
*Stellaluna* – Janell Cannon  
*The Story About Ping* – Marjorie Flack  
*Strega Nona* – Tomie dePaola  
*Tikki Tikki Tembo* – Arlene Mosel

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**Grade 3**

6 books will  
be read  
during the  
school year.

*The Hundred Dresses* – Eleanor Estes  
*Muggie Maggie* – Beverly Cleary  
*Stone Fox* – John Gardiner

**Optional Reading (total of 3)**

*Freckle Juice* – Judy Blume  
*How to be Cool in the Third Grade* – Betsy Duffey  
*How to Eat Fried Worms* – Thomas Rockwell  
*Miss Rumphius* – Barbara Cooney  
*Molly's Pilgrim* – Barbara Cohen  
*The Patchwork Quilt* – Valerie Flournoy  
*The Rough-Face Girl*- Rafe Martin  
*Sarah, Plain and Tall* – Patricia MacLachlan  
*The Stories Julian Tells* – Ann Cameron  
*V is for Volunteer* – Michael Shoulders

**Grade 4**

6 books will be read during the school year.

*Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* – John Steptoe  
*Shiloh* – Phyllis Reynolds Naylor  
*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* – Judy Blume

**Optional Reading (total of 3)**

*Because of Winn Dixie* – Kate DiCamillo  
*Charlotte's Web* – E. B. White  
*Dear Mr. Henshaw* – Beverly Cleary  
*Henry Huggins* – Beverly Cleary  
*The Indian in the Cupboard* – Lynne Reid Banks  
*Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher* - Bruce Coville  
*Mr. Popper's Penguins* – Richard Atwater  
*Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* – Eleanor Coerr  
*Shoeshine Girl* – Clyde Robert Bulla  
*The Sign of the Beaver* – Elizabeth George Speare

**Grade 5**

6 books will be read during the school year.

*Frindle* – Andrew Clements  
*Sound the Jubilee* – Sandra Forrester  
*Tuck Everlasting* – Natalie Babbitt

**Optional Reading (total of 3)**

*Bridge to Terabithia* – Katherine Paterson  
*Bud, Not Buddy* – Christopher Paul Curtis  
*Esperanza Rising* – Pam Munoz Ryan  
*Hatchet* – Gary Paulsen  
*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* – C. S. Lewis  
*Maniac Magee* – Jerry Spinelli  
*The Missing 'Gator of Gumbo Limbo* – Jean Craighead George  
*Number the Stars* – Lois Lowry  
*Poppy* – Avi  
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* – Mildred Taylor  
*Running Out of Time* – Margaret Peterson Haddix  
*Where the Red Fern Grows* – Wilson Rawls

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade High Interest/Fundamental Vocabulary**

*The Chocolate Touch*—Patrick Skene Catling  
*Meet Martin Luther King, Jr.*,--James T. DeKay (Non Fiction Selection)  
*Winners Take All*—Fred Bowen

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced**

*The Thief Lord*—Cornelia Funke  
*Lyddie* - Katherine Paterson  
*My Dog Skip*—Willie Morris (Non Fiction Selection)

**Grade 6**

6 books will  
be read  
during the  
school year.

*Crispin, The Cross of Lead* – Avi

*Dragonwings* – Lawrence Yep

*Holes* – Louis Sachar

**Optional Reading (total of 3)**

*A Long Way From Chicago* – Richard Peck

*A Single Shard* – Linda Park

*A Wrinkle in Time* – Madeline L’Engle

*Among the Hidden* – Margaret Peterson Haddix

*Ella Enchanted* – Gail Carson Levine

*Freak the Mighty* – Rodman Philbrick

*Island of the Blue Dolphins* – Scott O’Dell

*The Janitor’s Boy* – Andrew Clements

*The Landry News* – Andrew Clements

*Mummy* – Caroline B. Cooney

*No More Dead Dogs* – Gordon Korman

*Transall Saga* – Gary Paulsen

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade High Interest/Fundamental Vocabulary**

*A Week in the Woods*—Andrew Clements

*Top Secret*—John Gardner

*Through My Eyes* – Ruby Bridges (Non Fiction Selection)

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced**

*Anna of Byzantium*—Tracy Barrett

*Eragon*—Christopher Paolini

*Chinese Cinderella*—Adeline Yen Mah (Non Fiction Selection)

**Grade 7**

6 books will be read during the school year.

*A Christmas Carol* – Charles Dickens

*Hoot* – Carl Hiaasen

*Stargirl* – Jerry Spinelli

**Optional Reading (total of 3)**

*A Corner of the Universe* – Ann Martin

*Bat 6* – Virginia E. Wolff

*Belle Prater's Boy* – Ruth White

*The Contender* – Robert Lipsyte

*My Own Story* – Ryan White

*Nothing but the Truth* – Avi

*Rules of the Road* – Joan Bauer

*Summer of My German Soldier* – Bette Greene

*The Westing Game* – Ellen Raskin

*When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* – Kimberly Willis Holt

*Where the Lilies Bloom* – Bill and Vera Cleaver

*Wolf Rider* – Avi

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade High Interest/Fundamental Vocabulary**

*Refuge Cove*—Lesley Choyce

*Walk Two Moons*—Sharon Creech

*Tennessee*- Kathleen Thompson (Non Fiction Selection)

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced**

*The Hound of Baskervilles*—Arthur Conan Doyle

*Cyrano de Berjerac*—Edmond Rostand

*It Happened In Tennessee* – Susan Sawyer (Non Fiction Selection)

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Adapted**

*A Christmas Carol*

*The Moonstone*

*The Time Machine*

**Grade 8**

6 books will be read during the school year.

*A Break with Charity: Story of the Salem Witch Trials* - Anne Rinaldi  
*Diary of a Young Girl* – Anne Frank (as a play in the basal)  
*Gathering Blue* – Lois Lowry

**Optional Reading (total of 3)**

*A Day No Pigs Would Die* – Robert Newton Peck  
*A Gathering of Days* – Joan Bloss  
*As You Like It* – William Shakespeare  
*Driver’s Ed* - Caroline B. Cooney  
*Fever, 1793* – Laurie Halse Anderson  
*The Glory Field* – Walter Dean Myers  
*Hope Was Here* – Joan Bauer  
*House of Dies Drear* – Virginia Hamilton  
*Jade Green: A Ghost Story* – Phyllis Reynolds Naylor  
*The Lottery Rose* – Irene Hunt  
*Pearl* – John Steinbeck  
*Slam* – Walter Dean Myers

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade High Interest/Fundamental Vocabulary**

*The Circuit*—Francisco Jimenez –  
*The Outsiders*—S.E. Hinton  
*The Witchcraft of Salem Village*—Shirley Jackson (Non Fiction Selection)

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced**

*The House of Scorpion* – Nancy Farmer  
*The Count of Monte Cristo*—Alexandre Dumas  
*An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793* – Jim Murphy- (Non-Fiction Selection)

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Adapted**

*Diary of a Young Girl*  
*Tales of Edgar Allen Poe*  
*The Count of Monte Cristo*

**Grade 9**

English I-  
6 books will  
be read  
during the  
school year  
(three can be  
selected from  
the choice list)

*A Gathering of Old Men*— Ernest Gaines (Not required for Pre-IB)  
*The Odyssey* – Homer (Translated by Robert Fitzgerald)  
*Romeo and Juliet* – William Shakespeare - Basal  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* – Harper Lee (H)

**Optional Reading**

Honors English  
will read  
6 books during  
the school year  
(2 will be  
selected from  
the choice list)

*Animal Farm* – George Orwell  
*Ender’s Game* – Orson Scott Card  
*Fahrenheit 451* – Ray Bradbury  
*Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* – Ben Carson  
*The House on Mango Street* – Sandra Cisneros  
*Inherit the Wind* – Jerome Lawrence & Robert E. Lee  
*Lord of the Flies* – William Golding  
*The Miracle Worker* – William Gibson  
*Mythology* – Edith Hamilton  
*Speak* – Laurie Anderson  
*Tears of a Tiger* – Sharon Draper

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Adapted**

*The Odyssey*  
*Romeo and Juliet*  
*The Story of My Life: Helen Keller*

**Grade 10**

English II-  
6 books will  
be read  
during the  
school year  
(three can be  
selected from  
the choice list)

Honors English  
6 books will be  
read during the  
school year.  
(2 can be  
selected from  
the choice list)

*A Separate Peace* - John Knowles  
*Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley (H)  
*Julius Caesar* – William Shakespeare - Basal  
*Things Fall Apart* – Chinua Achebe

**Optional Reading**

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* – William Shakespeare  
*A Tale of Two Cities* – Charles Dickens  
*The Acts of King Arthur and His Noble Knights* – John Steinbeck  
*Antigone* – Sophocles  
*As I Lay Dying* – William Faulkner  
*The Chosen* – Chaim Potok  
*Ellen Foster* – Kaye Gibbons  
*In the Time of the Butterflies* – Julia Alvarez  
*Of Mice and Men* – John Steinbeck  
*Siddhartha* – Herman Hesse

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Adapted**

*Julius Caesar*  
*Beowulf*  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

**Grade 11**

English III-  
6 books will  
be read  
during the  
school year  
(three can be  
selected from  
the choice list)

Honors English  
6 books will be  
read during  
the school year  
(2 can be  
selected from  
the choice list)

*The Crucible* – Arthur Miller - Basal  
*The Great Gatsby* – F. Scott Fitzgerald  
*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* –  
**Frederick Douglass (H)**  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* – Zora Neale Hurston

**Optional Reading**

*A Farewell to Arms* – Ernest Hemingway  
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* – Mark Twain  
*Death of a Salesman* – Arthur Miller  
*Fences* – August Wilson  
*The Glass Menagerie* – Tennessee Williams  
*The Joy Luck Club* – Amy Tan  
*Night* – Elie Wiesel  
*A Raisin in the Sun* – Lorraine Hansberry  
*Strength to Love* – Martin Luther King, Jr.  
*The Things They Carried: A Work of Fiction* - Tim O'Brien

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade Adapted**

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*  
*A Raisin in the Sun*  
*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*

**Grade 12**

English IV-6 books will be read during the school year (three can be selected from the choice list)

*The Canterbury Tales* – Geoffrey Chaucer/*Beowulf* - Basal  
 (count as one selection)  
*Frankenstein* – Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley  
*Macbeth* – William Shakespeare - Basal  
*Native Son* – Richard Wright (AP)  
*The Remains of the Day* – Kazuo Ishiguro (H)  
*Wuthering Heights* – Emily Bronte (AP)

Honors English 6 books will be read during the school year (2 can be selected from the choice list)

**Optional Reading**

*A Doll’s House* – Henrik Ibsen – **AP Basal**  
*A Lesson before Dying* – Ernest Gaines  
*Grendel* – John Gardner  
*Hamlet* – William Shakespeare – **AP Basal**  
*Heart of Darkness* – Joseph Conrad  
*The Importance of Being Earnest* – Oscar Wilde  
*1984* – George Orwell  
*Oedipus Rex* – Sophocles  
*The Stranger* – Camus  
*Tuesdays with Morrie* – Mitch Albom

AP English will read the 6 required books plus others as assigned.

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade Adapted**

*The Canterbury Tales*  
*Frankenstein*  
*Macbeth*