



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

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

5th 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

5th 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

6th Grade High Interest/Fundamental Vocabulary

A Week in the Woods—Andrew Clements
Top Secret—John Gardner
Through My Eyes – Ruby Bridges (Non Fiction Selection)

6th 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 (As a play in the basal)

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

7th Grade High Interest/Fundamental Vocabulary

Refuge Cove—Lesley Choyce

Walk Two Moons—Sharon Creech

Tennessee- Kathleen Thompson (Non Fiction Selection)

7th Grade Advanced

The Hound of Baskervilles—Arthur Conan Doyle

Cyrano de Berjerac—Edmond Rostand

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

7th 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

8th Grade High Interest/Fundamental Vocabulary

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

8th 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)

8th 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 - **Basal**
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 – **Basal**
Mythology – Edith Hamilton
Speak – Laurie Anderson
Tears of a Tiger – Sharon Draper

9th 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 – Basal
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 - Basal
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

10th 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
The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald - Basal
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 - Basal
The Joy Luck Club – Amy Tan
Night – Elie Wiesel
A Raisin in the Sun – Lorraine Hansberry - Basal
Strength to Love – Martin Luther King, Jr.
The Things They Carried: A Work of Fiction - Tim O'Brien

11th 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 - **Basal**
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.

12th Grade Adapted

The Canterbury Tales
Frankenstein
Macbeth