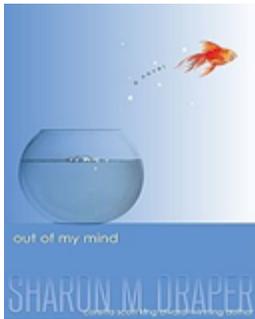


Hasbrouck Heights Middle School Grade 8 Summer Reading 2021

7th into 8th: Students will choose ONE (1) of the novels to read and complete the assigned activity. However, feel free to read all three! These are excellent novels!

IMPORTANT: All students will be required to secure their own copy of the selected novel for summer reading; copies will not be available through the school district.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper



Ok, so if you want to fall in love with ANOTHER character, this is the book for you! In this novel, you will meet an extraordinary girl named Melody. Melody has cerebral palsy and is unable to speak. Though she is an extremely bright student, people think she's intellectually impaired because she is unable to verbally express herself. Eventually, Melody finds a way to 'speak' and people get to see more of who Melody truly is. This book will send you on an emotional rollercoaster and you'll love every second of it!

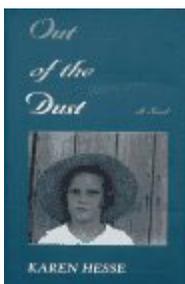
The Cage by Ruth Minsky Sender
“As long as there is life, there is hope.”



After Mama is taken away by the Nazis, Riva and her younger brothers cling to their mother's brave words to help them endure life in the Lodz ghetto. Then the family is rounded up, deported to Auschwitz, and separated. Now Riva is alone.

At Auschwitz, and later in the work camps at Mittlesteine and Grafenort, Riva vows to live, and to hope - for Mama, for her brothers, for the millions of other victims of the nightmare of the Holocaust. And through determination and courage, and unexpected small acts of kindness, she does live - to write the unforgettable memoir that is a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse



This gripping story, written in sparse first-person, free-verse poems, is the compelling tale of Billie Jo's struggle to survive during the dust bowl years of the Depression. With stoic courage, she learns to cope with the loss of her mother and her grieving father's slow deterioration. There is hope at the end when Billie Jo's badly burned hands are healed, and she is able to play her beloved piano again. The 1998 Newbery Medal winner.

Assignment:

Students will design three (3) discussion questions that will be used for classroom discussion, writing activities and presentations that will connect students to the novel they have read.

The discussion questions should ask the students to

- Critically think about and analyze the themes of the novel.
- Critically think about and analyze the importance of the actions of main characters in the novel.
- Critically think about and analyze how they connect to the themes and characters.

(Links to websites that will help students formulate these questions are included.)

Requirements:

- The questions can be neatly handwritten on loose leaf paper, index cards or can be word processed and printed out **OR** can be submitted through the Google Classroom page for 8th grade Summer Reading.
- Students should include their name and the title of the novel that was read along with their questions.
- The discussion questions will be due upon return to school in September.

Discussion Question Links: These websites will offer samples and models of the types of discussion questions that you can design.

<http://minds-in-bloom.com/20-literature-response-questions-for/>

<http://www.bookbundlz.com/BBArticle.aspx?articleId=25>