Dear Parents/ Guardians,

I hope you are having a wonderful Friday! We are approaching the start of our Book Club Unit. In this unit, students will be able to select from 6 novel choices. The novels selected are **The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, The Book Thief by Markus Zusak, Game Seven by Paul Volponi, Divergent by Veronica Roth, The Selection by Kiera Cass or Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry.**  The school can provide a copy of The Book Thief from our book room. The Hunger Games and Game Seven have a limited number of copies that can be provided. But I do have pdfs of The Hunger Games, The Selection, Divergent, and Gathering Blue that the kids may read on any device that can pull up PDFs. Students are welcome to purchase their own copy of any of the titles, so they can read at home and in class. If your student has read all of the options, please let me know and I will help them find a different book to read.

Please look at a summary below of each option. Some of the books are considered to be Young Adult (YA) books in our library. These books contain mature themes and content. If you are ok with your student reading these novels, please sign the form below. This document, for all students, needs to be turned back in by next **Wednesday, March** **21st** as well as having the book so we can start the journey of reading student choice novels.

**Here is a brief description of each novel:**

**The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins:** The book no one can stop talking about . . . In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the Games. But Katniss has been close to dead and survival, for her, is second nature. Without really meaning to, she becomes a contender. But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weigh survival against humanity and life against love. New York Times bestselling author Suzanne Collins delivers equal parts suspense and philosophy, adventure and romance, in this searing novel set in a future with unsettling parallels to our present.

**The Book Thief by Markus Zusak:** Winner of the 2007 Book Browse Ruby Award.  It’s just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery ... Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak’s groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can’t resist – books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.

**Game Seven by Paul Volponi: My name is Julio Ramirez Jr. and baseball is my whole life.** Since he was ten, Julio has lived in the shadow of his famous father.  Not just because Julio Senior is a pitcher for the Miami Marlins, but because he fled Cuba to play professional baseball, leaving his Julio and his mother and sister branded as the family of a traitor. Now sixteen, Julio dreams of playing for Cuba’s national team—until he finds out his father's defection may destroy his chances.  When he’s given the opportunity to flee Cuba, he has to make the toughest choice of his life.  Can he abandon his family, just like his Papi did?  Will freedom be worth the perilous journey and risking prison if he’s caught?  Will his Papi be waiting for him on the other shore—or, with the Marlins in the World Series against the Yankees, has Julio Senior forgotten about his son?  Set against the backdrop of the Series on which everything depends, *Game Seven*is a suspenseful story of loyalty, survival, and baseball.

**Divergent (YA) by Veronica Roth:** In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is—she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself. During the highly competitive initiation that follows, Beatrice renames herself Tris and struggles alongside her fellow initiates to live out the choice they have made. Together they must undergo extreme physical tests of endurance and intense psychological simulations, some with devastating consequences. As initiation transforms them all, Tris must determine who her friends really are—and where, exactly, a romance with a sometimes fascinating, sometimes exasperating boy fits into the life she's chosen. But Tris also has a secret, one she's kept hidden from everyone because she's been warned it can mean death. And as she discovers unrest and growing conflict that threaten to unravel her seemingly perfect society, she also learns that her secret might help her save those she loves . . . or it might destroy her.

**The Selection (YA) by Kiera Cass:** For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape the life laid out for them since birth. To be swept up in a world of glittering gowns and priceless jewels. To live in a palace and compete for the heart of gorgeous Prince Maxon. But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare. It means turning her back on her secret love with Aspen, who is a caste below her. Leaving her home to enter a fierce competition for a crown she doesn't want. Living in a palace that is constantly threatened by violent rebel attacks. Then America meets Prince Maxon. Gradually, she starts to question all the plans she's made for herself—and realizes that the life she's always dreamed of may not compare to a future she never imagined.

**Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry:** In her strongest work to date, Lois Lowry once again creates a mysterious but plausible future world. It is a society ruled by savagery and deceit that shuns and discards the weak. Left orphaned and physically flawed, young Kira faces a frightening, uncertain future. Blessed with an almost magical talent that keeps her alive, she struggles with ever broadening responsibilities in her quest for truth, discovering things that will change her life forever. As she did in *The Giver*, Lowry challenges readers to imagine what our world could become, and what will be considered valuable. Every reader will be taken by Kira's plight and will long ponder her haunting world and the hope for the future.

**Here are the standards we will be addressing throughout this unit:**

**ELAGSE7RL1**: Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

**ELAGSE7RI5**: Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.

**ELAGSE7RL10**: By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

Thank you so much for your support,

Kristyne Wood

**Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Book Choice: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Circle if one is needed:**

**PDF I will be providing the book for my student Book room if available**