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, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone by J.K. Rowling, Game Seven by Paul Volponi, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling, The Selection by Kiera Cass or The Giver by Lois Lowry.**  The school can provide a copy of The Giver 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, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, and The Giver 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.

**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone:** Harry Potter's life is miserable. His parents are dead and he's stuck with his heartless relatives, who force him to live in a tiny closet under the stairs. But his fortune changes when he receives a letter that tells him the truth about himself: he's a wizard. A mysterious visitor rescues him from his relatives and takes him to his new home, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. After a lifetime of bottling up his magical powers, Harry finally feels like a normal kid. But even within the Wizarding community, he is special. He is the boy who lived: the only person to have ever survived a killing curse inflicted by the evil Lord Voldemort, who launched a brutal takeover of the Wizarding world, only to vanish after failing to kill Harry. Though Harry's first year at Hogwarts is the best of his life, not everything is perfect. There is a dangerous secret object hidden within the castle walls, and Harry believes it's his responsibility to prevent it from falling into evil hands. But doing so will bring him into contact with forces more terrifying than he ever could have imagined. Full of sympathetic characters, wildly imaginative situations, and countless exciting details, the first installment in the series assembles an unforgettable magical world and sets the stage for many high-stakes adventures to come.

**Game Seven (YA) 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.

**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling:** The Dursleys were so mean and hideous that summer that all Harry Potter wanted was to get back to the Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. But just as he's packing his bags, Harry receives a warning from a strange, impish creature named Dobby who says that if Harry Potter returns to Hogwarts, disaster will strike. And strike it does. For in Harry's second year at Hogwarts, fresh torments and horrors arise, including an outrageously stuck-up new professor, Gilderoy Lockhart, a spirit named Moaning Myrtle who haunts the girls' bathroom, and the unwanted attentions of Ron Weasley's younger sister, Ginny. But each of these seem minor annoyances when the real trouble begins, and someone -- or something -- starts turning Hogwarts students to stone. Could it be Draco Malfoy, a more poisonous rival than ever? Could it possibly be Hagrid, whose mysterious past is finally told? Or could it be the one everyone at Hogwarts most suspects . . . Harry Potter himself?

**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.

**The Giver by Lois Lowry:** Twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver does he begin to understand the dark secrets behind this fragile community.

**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**