Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We are approaching the start of our Second Book Club Unit. In this unit, students will be able to select from 5 novel choices. The novels selected are **Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins, Crossed by Ally Conley, Unwind by Neal Shusterman, Insurgent by Veronica Roth, Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry.**  The school can provide a pdf of Gathering Blue and Catching Fire. Students are encouraged to find in the public library or if you would like to purchase for your student to read that is great. If your student has read all 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 **Thursday, February 14th** as well as having the book by **Tuesday, February 19th** so we can start the journey of reading student choice novels the following week.

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

**Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins:** The second novel in the Hunger Games Series tells us the story that against all odds, Katniss has won the Hunger Games. She and fellow District 12 tribute Peeta Mellark are miraculously still alive. Katniss should be relieved, happy even. After all, she has returned to her family and her longtime friend, Gale. Yet nothing is the way Katniss wishes it to be. Gale holds her at an icy distance. Peeta has turned his back on her completely. And there are whispers of a rebellion against the Capitol - a rebellion that Katniss and Peeta may have helped create. Much to her shock, Katniss has fueled an unrest she's afraid she cannot stop. And what scares her even more is that she's not entirely convinced she should try. As time draws near for Katniss and Peeta to visit the districts on the Capitol's cruel Victory Tour, the stakes are higher than ever. If they can't prove, without a shadow of a doubt, that they are lost in their love for each other, the consequences will be horrifying.

**Crossed by Ally Conley:** The second book in the Matched Series tells us of the story that the Society chooses everything. The books you read. The music you listen to. The person you love.
Yet for Cassia the rules have changed. Ky has been taken and she will sacrifice everything to find him.
And when Cassia discovers Ky has escaped to the wild frontiers beyond the Society there is hope.
But on the edge of society nothing is as it seems... **A rebellion is rising.** And a tangled web of lies and double-crosses could destroy everything.

**Unwind by Neal Shusterman:** After the Second Civil War, the Bill of Life states that human life may not be touched from the moment of conception until a child reaches the age of thirteen. However, a loophole allows parents to retroactively get rid of a teenager through a process called “unwinding.” Three teens defy the system and run away from their unwinding: Connor, a rebel whose parents have ordered his unwinding; Risa, a ward of the state who is to be unwound due to cost-cutting; and Lev, his parents’ tenth child whose unwinding has been planned since birth as a religious tithing.

**Insurgent by Veronica Roth:** In the second novel of the Divergent series there is only one choice can transform you—or it can destroy you. But every choice has consequences, and as unrest surges in the factions all around her, Tris Prior must continue trying to save those she loves—and herself—while grappling with haunting questions of grief and forgiveness, identity and loyalty, politics and love. Tris's initiation day should have been marked by celebration and victory with her chosen faction; instead, the day ended with unspeakable horrors. War now looms as conflict between the factions and their ideologies grows. And in times of war, sides must be chosen, secrets will emerge, and choices will become even more irrevocable—and even more powerful. Transformed by her own decisions but also by haunting grief and guilt, radical new discoveries, and shifting relationships, Tris must fully embrace her Divergence, even if she does not know what she may lose by doing so.

**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**