

QUARTER 4



CHARACTER BASED LITERACY

Quarter 4 theme and annotations

Justice Requires Restraint

There are things I can not say or do to myself, any other person, or the planet because justice demands it. The actions I take and the decisions I make must respect the rights of all.

High School

Cycle II 2017-2018

The Good Earth

Pearl S. Buck

The Good Earth follows the life of Wang Lung, a Chinese man who rises from a peasant farmer, struggling for a living, to become the head of the powerful House of Wang. Pearl Buck's life in rural China gave her vast insight into the minds of Chinese peasants. Buck's writing can also be viewed as depicting not just a Chinese farmer, but a "universal farmer," one who knows that his riches and security come from the good earth.

A Raisin in the Sun

Lorraine Hansberry

This play tells the story of the Younger family; and touches on issues they face in their lives: generational clashes, the civil rights, and the women's movement. The setting is a one bed room apartment where five Youngers live and have occupied for generation. Are they destined to remain in this apartment for more generations to come or will they one day have a piece of land to call home?

Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963

Christopher Paul Curtis

This story follows the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, as they travel south to visit their grandmother in Alabama. There they are confronted with the 1963 bombing of black churches. The book combines humorous characterization with important history. This selection is useful for fifth- and eighth-grade history studies.

Middle School

Cycle I 2017-2018

HUSH

Jacqueline Woodson

This intriguing story tells of a devastating situation. A middle-class African American family is forced to enter the federal witness protection program after the father decides to testify against two policemen who killed an innocent boy. The family must leave a comfortable and familiar life. Just as Evie learns to cope with her new name and all new names and biographical details, she must also learn that her parents aren't as capable of readjusting as circumstances require. Useful in units on family life, social problems, and moral responsibility.



Shadow Spinner

Susan Fletcher

Marjan, thirteen years old, tells how she gets enmeshed in the dangerous intrigue of the Sultan's harem while she serves Queen Shaharazad. Marjan is called upon to secure information outside the palace walls to please the master, husband of the queen. Danger, however, awaits her inside the palace walls as well.

Framed in Fire

David Patneaude

Peter Larson has an increasingly hostile relationship with his verbally abusive stepfather, Buck, and some scuffles at school, but is basically a good kid. While he deals with his ambivalent feelings toward his parents, his younger half-brother, Lincoln, reports having visions of events in their lives.