

## **GRADE 8 ELA Resources at the TRC**

### **Adventure and Adventurers** (Social, Cultural, and Historical; multigenre thematic)

#### Class Sets (20+ copies)

- Adventure Stories (*King*)
- Airborn (*Oppel*)
- Spirit of adventure (*Nelson mini-anthologies*)
- Wreckers (*Lawrence*)

**See Class Sets (20+ copies) list for detailed information**

#### Individual novels

- Battle cry at Batoche (*Bayle*)  
*1 copy in the theme kit "The Metis TKT 971.004"*  
*1 copy in the theme kit "Metis People [theme kit Div. III & IV] TKT 971.004"*
- Flight of the Tiger Moth (*Woodbury*)  
*3 copies in the theme kit "The Story of flight TKT 629.13"*  
*2 copies in the theme kit "Airplanes, air pilots and stuff" TKT 629.13"*

#### Nelson Mini-anthologies:

- Mystery Maze x15
- Spirit of Adventure x23
- Where in the World? x14

#### Individual Resources (*available in Adventure and Adventurers theme kit, TKT 904 ADV*)

- Extraordinary Women Explorers (*Rooney*)
- Magellan and the First Voyage Around the World (*Levinson*)
- Pirate Meets the Queen., The (*Faulkner*)

Theme kit available:

### ***Adventure and adventurers TKT 904 ADV***

**Contents:** (3) Extraordinary women explorers. -- (3) Magellan: and the first voyage around the world. -- (3) Pirate meets the Queen, The. -- (2) Great adventurers. -- (2) Great escapes. -- (2) Mountain rescue. (1) Adventures of a Canadian Big Game guide – (1) Model Thematic (1) Danger: true stories of trouble and survival. – (1) Passport to adventure: grades seven to eight.

### **Timeless Narratives of the First Nations and Greek People**

(Imaginative and Literary; author/genre study)

#### Class Sets (>10 copies)

- Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad (*Sutcliff*)

#### Short Stories:

- Coyote Columbus Story, A (*King*) 970.015 KIN

- **Golden Fleece and the Heroes Who Lived Before Achilles (*Colum*)**  
*5 copies available in theme kit "Myths and legends. [Box 1 of 2]"*  
*TKT 291.1 MYT*
- **Iroquois Stories: Heroes and Heroines, Monsters and Magic (*Bruchac*)**  
*1 copy available in the theme kit "Indigenous Narratives. [Box 2 of 2]"*  
*TKT 810.8 IND*

Videos/DVD:

- "Greek Mythology for Student Series" DVD's
  - Constellation myths *DVD 398 CON*
  - Defying the gods *DVD 398 DEF*
  - Gods of Olympus *DVD 398 GOD*
  - Jason and the golden fleece *DVD 398 JAS*
  - Journeys of Odysseus *DVD 398 JOU*
  - Labors of Heracles *DVD 398 LAB*
  - Nature myths *DVD 398 NAT*
  - Perseus and Medusa *DVD 398 PER*
  - Theseus and the Minotaur *DVD 398 THE*
  - Trojan war *DVD 398 TRO*

Theme Kits Available:

**Mythology, Gods & Goddesses    TKT 292.1 MYT**

5 each of: Adventures of Hercules: a graphic novel, The. -- Perseus and Medusa: a graphic novel, The.  
2 each of: Children's Homer, The. -- Heroes & Monsters of Greek Myth.  
Androcles and the lion -- Beautiful stories of life, The. -- Bestiary -- Classic myths to read aloud -- Daedalus and the minotaur -- Egyptian kings and queens and classical deities -- Fabulous places of myth -- Gods and Goddesses. -- The Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt -- Goddesses, heroes and shamans (HC) -- Gods and goddesses of Olympus (HC) -- Illustrated book of myths (HC) -- Look and wonder Gods and Goddesses (HC) -- Macmillan book of Greek gods and heroes -- Mythical creatures -- Mythical horse -- Myths & legend. -- Pegasus -- Pegasus, the flying horse -- Story of Cassiopeia (HC), The. -- Story of Hercules, The (HC). -- Story of Leo the Lion, The (HC). -- Story of Pegasus, The (HC). -- Story of Perseus, The (HC). -- Story of the Great Bear, The (HC). -- Tales from silver lands -- Theseus and the minotaur -- 3 posters. -- Greek and Roman Myth task cards.

**Myths    TKT 291.1 MYT**

1 copy each: Beautiful stories of life, The. -- Myths & legends. -- Ten of the best animal myths. -- Ten of the best God and Goddess myths. -- Ten of the best mythical hero stories.  
2 copies: Children's Homer, The. -- Golden fleece, The. -- Heroes & monsters of Greek myth.  
3 copies: Mythology and you -- Retold Northern European myths  
4 copies: Beowulf -- Greek gods and heroes -- Retold world myths.  
5 copies: Adventures of Hercules: a graphic novel, The. -- Perseus and Medusa: a graphic novel. -- Retold African myths -- Retold classic myths -- Retold Native American myths.  
1 Students response journal  
1 copy: Retold African myths folder (guide + 10 strategy cards) -- Retold Native American myths folder (guide + 10 strategy cards) -- Retold Classic myths, Vol. 1 folder (guide + 10 strategy cards).  
1 each in the series "Stories in the Stars": Story of Cassiopeia, The. -- Story of Hercules, The. -- Story of Leo the Lion, The. -- Story of Pegasus, The. -- Story of Perseus, The. -- Story of the Great Bear, The.

## **Becoming Myself** (Personal and Philosophical; Communicative; multigenre thematic)

### Class Sets (20+ copies)

- Bifocal (*Aker*)
- First French kiss and other traumas (*Bagdasarian*)
- Holes (*Sachar*)
- Maestro (*Wynne-Jones*)
- Milkweed (*Spinelli*)
- Small steps (*Sachar*)

### Full-length Non-fiction:

- Oscar: the life and music of Oscar Peterson (*Marin*) 786.2 MAR

### Literature Circle Sets (<10 copies)

- Firewing (*Oppel*) LIT FIC OPP
- Throwaway Daughter (*Ye*) LIT FIC YE

### Nelson mini-anthologies:

- Let Me Tell You – 808.83 SIA (1 copy)
- Turning Points – 25 copies (see Class Sets (20+ copies) list below for detailed information)

### Novels:

- Alma (*Bell*)  
*Author study – William Bell (TKT FIC BEL)*
- *Flight of the Tiger Moth* (*Hansen*)  
*Story of flight theme kit (TKT 629.13 HAN)*
- No signature (*Bell*)  
*Author study – William Bell (TKT FIC BEL)*

## **An Eye on Our Natural and Technologic Environment**

(Environmental and Technological; multigenre thematic)

### Individual Resources:

- Albert Einstein: A Life Genius (*MacLeod*) 2 copies

### Anthologies:

- Futures, The Issues Collection– 4 copies, 2 teacher's guides

### Novels

- Speak to the earth (*Bell*)  
*Author study – William Bell (TKT FIC BEL)*

### Picture Books:

- The Elders are Watching (*Bouchard*) ( 811.54 BOU)  
*Aboriginal cultures* (TKT 970.004 ABO)  
*Author study – David Bouchard* (TKT 813.54 BOU)  
*First peoples* (TKT 971 FIR)  
*Generations* (TKT 305.8 GEN)  
*Multicultural stories* (TKT 808.8 MUL)
- Emily Carr: At the Edge of the World (*Bogart*) (759.11 BOG)

### Videos/DVDs

- Marketing game (DVD 381 MAR)

### **Burning Questions** (Communicative; multigenre inquiry)

#### Anthologies:

- Biography x20 (*The Issues collection*)

#### Class Sets (20+ copies)

- Devil's arithmetic (*Yolen*)

#### Individual Resources:

- Albert Einstein: a life of genius (*MacLeod*) (x2 530 MAC)
- Ask Me Anything!: Strange But True Answers to 99 Wacky Questions (*Meikle*) (x 2 031.02)
- You Asked for It!: Strange But True Answers to 99 Wacky Questions (*Meikle*) (x2 031.02)

### **Is It Fair? – In Search of Justice** (Social, Cultural, and Historical; multigenre thematic)

#### Class Sets (20+ copies)

- Bifocal (*Ellis*)
- Crispin: the cross of lead (*Avi*)
- First Stone (*Aker*)
- Giver., The (*Lowry*)
- Jean Val Jean (*Cleaver*)
- Nobody's child (*Skrypuch*)
- Diary of a young girl (*Frank*)
- Hana's suitcase on stage (*Levine*)
- One more border (*Kaplan*)

Literature Circle Sets (>10 copies)

- Bone Collector's Son (*Yee*)
- Flames of the Tiger (*Wilson*)
- Run, Boy, Run: A Novel (*Orlev*)
- Year of Impossible Goodbyes (*Choi*)

Nelson mini-anthology:

- In Search of Justice x15 copies

Novels:

- Among the Barons (*Haddix*)

7 copies in the theme kit "Author Study – Margaret Peterson Haddix TKT FIC HAD"

- Iqbal: a novel (*D'Adamo*)

7 copies in the theme kit "Extreme Survival TKT 613.69"

- Peacekeepers, The (*Linden*)

6 copies in the theme kit "Bullies [Gr. 4-6] TKT 303.6"

Issues collection:

- Justice – see *Class Sets (20+ copies) list below*

Videos/DVD:

- Hana's Suitcase (DVD 940.5318 LEV)

**Major Integrated Resources:**

Crossroads 8 x 50; Teacher's Guide x 3; audio component x 3

Identities 8 x 30; Teacher's Handbook x 2

Literacy in Action

Student Books x30 of each dual title:

Cybersense / Heroes & Idols

On the edge / Time will tell

On the move / Water wise

Teacher's Guide – 1 for each title

Resourcelines 7/8 (62 copies) accompanies Sightlines 8 (45 copies); 2 audio packs;  
4 teachers' guides.

Nelson Language & Writing 8 – student text and teacher's guide (1 copy of each)

## **Professional Resources**

### ***Core List Titles***

- Classroom Assessment: Principles and Practice for Effective Standards-Based Instruction  
371.26 McM
- Classroom Strategies for Interactive Learning  
371.3 BUE
- Content Area Reading and Literacy: Succeeding in Today's Diverse Classrooms  
428.4071
- Do I Really Have to Teach Reading?: Content Comprehension, Grades 6-12  
428.4 TOV
- Engaging Readers & Writers With Inquiry: Promoting Deep Understandings in Language Arts and Content Areas With Guiding Questions  
372.6 WIL
  
- Exploring and Teaching the English Language Arts  
428 TCH
- 50 Literacy Strategies: Step by Step (2004 Edition)  
372.6TOM
- Gage Canadian Intermediate dictionary  
423 GAG
- Grammar Plan Book: A guide to smart teaching  
428.2071 WEA
- Nelson Language & Writing 8  
428 AKE
- Science of spelling: The Explicit Specifics that Make Great Readers and Writers (and Spellers)  
428 GEN
- Strategies to Enhance Literacy and Learning in Middle School Content Area Classrooms  
428.4071 IRV
- Windows Into Literacy: Assessing Learners K-8  
372.6 RHO

### ***Additional Learning Resource Titles***

- Broken flute, A: The Native Experience in Books for Children  
970.004
- Critical Literacy: Enhancing Students' Comprehension of Text  
372.4 McL
- Guided Comprehension in Action: Lessons for Grades 3-8  
372.4 McL
- I Read It, But I Don't Get It: Comprehension Strategies for adolescent readers  
428.4 TOV
- Knowing Words: Creating Word-rich Classrooms  
428.1 SCO
- Literacy Strategies Across the Subject Areas: Process-oriented Blackline Masters for the K-12 Classroom

- 372.6 WOO
- Making Facts Come Alive: Choosing & Using Quality Non-fiction Literature K-8  
372.64 MAK
- QAR Now: Question Answer Relationships  
372.4 RAP
- Reading and Writing Non-fiction Genres  
372.62 BUS
- "Reading Don't Fix No Chevy": Literacy in the Lives of Young Men  
371.82 SMI
- Reading is Seeing: Learning to Visualize Scenes, Characters, Ideas, and Text Worlds to Improve  
Comprehension and Reflective Reading  
428.4071
- Reciprocal Teaching at Work: Strategies for Improving Reading Comprehension  
372.47 OCS
- Response Journals Revisited: Maximizing Learning Through Reading, Writing, Viewing,  
Discussing, and Thinking.  
372.6 PAR
- Shades of meaning: Comprehension and Interpretation in Middle School  
428.4 SAN
- Socratic Circles: Fostering Critical and Creative Thinking in Middle and High School  
373.1102  
COP
- Teaching Reading: A Complete Resource for Grades 4 and up  
372.4 ROB
- Vocabulary-enriched Classroom: Practices for Improving the Reading Performance of All  
Students in Grades 3 and Up  
418.0071 BLO

***Out of Print but Still Useful Resources***

- Through Indian eyes: The Native Experience in Books for Children  
372.64 THR

## Class Sets – Grade 8

**Adventure stories** Clive King Grade 8 c2004

**Summary:** This illustrated collection of short stories that are action-packed adventures of classical heroes and modern-day adventurers is sure to be popular with students. At times, the characters in the story are fighting against nature or unexpected enemies, and at other times, they fight against themselves. **(20 copies)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context; Multigenre Thematic.**

**Airborn** Kenneth Oppel Grade 8 c2004

**Summary:** Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface. **(40 copies + audio CD)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Environmental and Technological Context.**

**Among the hidden** Haddix, Margaret Peterson Gr. 4-8 c2000

**Summary:** In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong. **(30 copies)**

**Bifocal** Deborah Ellis Grade 8 c2007

**Summary:** When a Muslim boy is arrested at a high school on suspicion of terrorist affiliations, growing racial tensions divide the student population. **(40 copies)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Personal and Philosophical Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

### **Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Illiad**

Rosemary Sutcliff Grade 8 c1993

**Summary:** Retells the story of the Trojan War, from the quarrel for the golden apple, and the flight of Helen with Paris, to the destruction of Troy. **(47 copies)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Imaginative and Literary Context.**

**Boys' own** Tim Wynne-Jones (editor) Grade 6-9 c2001

**Summary:** Wynne-Jones has selected a collection of short stories from A.D. 1000 through the Second World War to the present time. The genres range from realistic to historical to science fiction. Many of Canada's best known and loved writers for young people are represented in this anthology. In addition to the Canadian content from all parts of Canada, students will appreciate the humour used throughout the anthology. The short stories in this collection will appeal equally to both sexes. **(21 copies)**

Middle Level teachers will welcome this collection of short stories as a suitable resource for reading aloud.

**Crispin: the cross of Lead** Avi Grade 8 c2002

**Summary:** Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret. **(40 copies)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**



**Curse of the Viking Grave** Farley Mowat Gr. 7-9 c1966

**Summary:** When Awasin, Jamie and Peetyuk stumble upon a cache of Viking relics in an ancient tomb, they also stumble onto the adventures of their lives. As they gradually learn the secrets of the tomb, they come to understand the wisdom of the ancient Indian ways, and of the powerful force of friendship. Sequel to *Lost in the Barrens / Two Against the North*. **(17 copies)**

**Devil's arithmetic** Jane Yolen Grade 8 c1988

**Summary:** Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland. **(62 copies)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

**Diary of a young girl** Anne Frank Grade 8 c1952

**Summary:** What we know of her brief life was found in her diary, abandoned on the floor of her family's hiding place in Amsterdam. For two years they lived in fear of discovery by the Nazi's. She poured into her diary her secrets, her first love, and all the growing feelings of a young girl who would never live to become a woman.

**(85 copies + DVD)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

**Dust** Slade, Arthur Gr. 7-9 c2001

**Summary:** Strange things are happening in Horshoe. Matthew, Robert's seven-year-old brother, has vanished on a walk into town. The hens are frightened and their eggs are full of blood. Robert finds a broken jar out in the grass that echoes with the sad sound of a little girl's voice. And, most frighteningly of all, his parents seem lost in a comforting dream. Can Robert figure out what is going on? **(54 copies)**

**First French kiss and other traumas** Adam Bagdasatian Grade 8 c2002

**Summary:** The author recounts humorous, sad, traumatic, romantic, and confusing episodes from his childhood. **(41 copies)**

**First Stone** Don Aker Grade 8 c2003

**Summary:** Reef is an embittered young offender, hardly able to contain his anger at the world over the death of his grandmother, the only person who had ever shown him love. Leeza is mourning the death of her older sister. A stone hurled in rage shatters both their lives and throws them together in the most unexpected way - and offers them both a chance at healing. **(40 copies)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Health (Caution: coarse language)**

**Flower** Watts, Irene N. Gr. 8 c2005

**Summary:** Thirteen-year-old Katie is an unwilling summer guest in the Victorian home of her Halifax grandparents. Disgruntled over her new stepmother's pregnancy and how a baby might affect her life, Katie takes refuge in her attic bedroom. When she sees the shadow of an old-fashioned girl holding a flower on her bedroom wall, she tries to convince herself it is caused by moonlight. But the girl reappears and shares her life with Katie, reaching across the years to a bygone time when British orphans were sent to Canada as Home Children. Is she a ghost? In this haunting journey of a young girl looking for answers and an orphan girl from the past who inadvertently provides them. **(30 copies)**

**For the children** Rita Joe Gr. 6-10 c2008

**Summary:** Down-to-earth and often humorous, these poems tell stories of Mi'kmaw life, and of the concrete and spiritual world of the determined and courageous Rita Joe. World honored Mi'kmaw elder, Order of Canada recipient, Rita Joe passes the torch to the young.

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED:**

**Suggested use: English Language Arts grade 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; Personal and Philosophical Context English Language Arts grade 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; Social, Cultural, and Historical Context (30 copies)**

**Freak the mighty** Philbrick, Rodman Gr. 8 c1993

**Summary:** "I never had a brain until Freak came along..." That's what Max thought. All his life he'd been called stupid. Dumb. Slow. It didn't help that his body seemed to be growing faster than his mind. It didn't help that people were afraid of him. So Max learned how to be alone. At least until Freak came along. Freak was weird, too. He had a little body--and a really big brain. Together, they were Freak the Mighty. **(48 copies + audio CD)**

**Ghost of Spirit Bear** Mikaelson, Ben Grade 6-9 c2008

**Summary:** The sequel to Touching Spirit Bear.

After a year in exile on an Alaskan island as punishment for severely beating a fellow student, Cole Matthews returns to school in Minneapolis having made peace with himself and his victim - but he finds that surviving the violence and hatred of high school is even harder than surviving in the wilderness. **(43 copies)**

**Girls' own** Sarah Ellis (editor) Grade 6-9 c2001

**Summary:** This collection of short stories contains a variety of themes and genres that will appeal to both genders. Many of the 13 short stories are from novels such as The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis, The Belonging Place by Jean Little, and Julie by Cora Taylor. Ellis has included other notable Canadian writers such as Joan Clark, Julie Johnson, and Jan Hudson. This book would be interesting to read aloud to foster students' listening skills. **(20 copies)**

**Giver., The** Lois Lowry Grade 8 c1993

**Summary:** Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

**(126 copies + DVD, audio CD)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

**Grind** Eric Walter Grade 8 c2004

**Summary:** Phillip lives for skateboarding. School is merely the break between trying to land a difficult jump and outrunning the security guards. When he and his best friend Wally meet a professional skateboarder who videotapes himself for his website, Phillip thinks they can do it too - and make money at the same time. When they start getting hits on their website - and making money - they start to feel the pressure to do increasingly dangerous stunts.

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED:**

**Suggested Use: English Language Arts Grade 8- Personal and Philosophical Context. (40 copies)**

**Hana's suitcase on stage** Karen Levine Grade 8-12 c1998  
**Summary:** In March 2000, a suitcase arrived at a children's Holocaust education center in Tokyo, Japan. On the outside, in white paint, were these words: Hana Brady, May 16, 1931, and Waisenkind - the German word for orphan. Children who saw the suitcase on display were full of questions. Follow this suspenseful journey as the mystery of the suitcase takes us back through seventy years, to a young Hana and her family, whose happy life in a small Czech town was turned upside down by the invasion of the Nazis. **(44 copies + audio CD)**  
**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

**Holes** Louis Sachar Grade 8 c1998  
**Summary:** As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, treasure, and a new sense of himself. **(78 copies + DVD, audio CD)**  
**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Personal and Philosophical Context.**

**I am David** Holm, Anne Gr. 8 c1972  
**Summary:** Silent and watchful, David, the boy from the camp, tramps across Europe, knowing that at any moment they may catch up with him. He seems as strange to other people as they to him. As soon as anybody shows interest in him, he knows he must move on. He learns his own identity. Gradually, despite himself, he begins to hope and lose a little of his mistrust. But it is only after many set-backs that David's long and lonely journey ends in unimagined happiness. **(92 copies + DVD)**

**Jean Val Jean** Soloman Cleaver Grade 8 c1989  
**Summary:** This is a powerful story which grabs the reader's emotions. A man goes to prison for nineteen years just for stealing a loaf of bread for hungry children. But that's only the beginning; there comes a satisfying conversion from evil to good by the main character, followed by a lifetime of self-sacrifice and virtuous deeds. **(67 copies)**  
**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

**Justice (Issues collection)** Grade 8 c1994  
**Summary:** Broadly explores the kinds of meaning that justice has. Reading the stories, poems, non-fiction selections, and dramatic selections will allow you to check out the way that other individuals react and respond to personal instances of wrongful action. Ideas of fairness, right conduct, guilty feelings, revenge, and forgiveness are played out by the characters and the events in these selections. **(43 copies)**  
**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context; Multigenre thematic.**

**Kalifax** Duncan Thornton Grade 8 c1999  
**Summary:** Come with Tom, the brave captain, and the fearless crew of the Volantix as they sail for the roof of the world, fighting snow-goblins and ice trolls. Will Grandfather Frost come to their rescue? Will the legend of the astounding Kalifax see them through? This glittering, beautifully illustrated fantasy tells the tale of a trip through the Northwest Passage, a voyage like you've never imagined. **(32 copies)**  
**Use: Imaginative and Literary Context; Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

**Legends of lake on the mountain, The** Roderick Bennis Grade 8 c2011

**Summary:** When a grizzled man shoves a decades-old, treasure map into thirteen-year-old, John A. Macdonald's hands, he's certain this will be the best summer ever. But that was before a humpback lake serpent is seen at twilight by the people of Stone Mills in the mysterious Lake on the Mountain. As people flee in panic, John knows his family might be next unless he can figure out what dwells in the lake in time. But does he have what it takes to confront something he can't see clearly? Or will the serpent in the darkness win?

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED:**

**Suggested Use: English Language Arts Grade 8- Social, Cultural and Historical Context. (40 copies)**

**Maestro** Tim Wynne-Jones Grade 8 c1995, 2004

**Summary:** The wilderness of northwest Ontario is a fitting setting for this tantalizing coming-of-age story about an abused boy, Burl, whose pervasive sense of isolation is cracked by an encounter with a famous pianist. **(52 copies) CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Personal and Philosophical Context.**

**Making bombs for Hitler** Skrypuch, Marsha Forchuk Grade 7-9 c2012

**Summary:** In *Stolen Child*, Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch introduced readers to Larissa, a victim of Hitler's largely unknown Lebensborn program. In this companion novel to the award-winning *Stolen Child*, readers will learn the fate of Lida, her sister, who was also kidnapped by the Germans and forced into slave labour — an Ostarbeiter. **(30 copies)**

**Milkweed** Jerry Spinelli Grade 8 c2003

**Summary:** He's a boy called Jew. Gypsy. Stopthief. Runt. Happy. Fast. Filthy son of Abraham. He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who steals food for himself and the other orphans. He's a boy who believes in bread, and mothers, and angels. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi some day, with tall shiny jackboots and a gleaming Eagle hat of his own. Until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind. And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he's a boy who realizes it's safest of all to be nobody. Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli takes us to one of the most devastating settings imaginable—Nazi-occupied Warsaw of World War II—and tells a tale of heartbreak, hope, and survival through the bright eyes of a young orphan. **(45 copies)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Communicative; Personal and Philosophical Context.**

**My name is Seepeetza** Sterling, Shirley Gr. 8 c1992

**Summary:** Seepeetza, Tootie, or McSpot - those were the names Martha Stone was called at home on her ranch. But now that she is living and studying at an Indian residential school, her name and everything else about her life have changed. Strict and unhappy nuns, arbitrary and unfair rules and, worst of all, a complete denial of all that being an Indian means to her are just a few of the issues she faces. Based on her own experiences, this powerful first novel by Shirley Sterling, a member of the Interior Salish Nations of British Columbia, is a moving account of one of the most blatant expressions of racism in the history of Canada. **(42 copies)**

**Mystery Maze (Nelson mini-anthology)** Barry James Grade 8 c1993

**Summary:** Something strange is going on - a boy appears out of nowhere, an inheritance is missing, and a leg of lamb is the only clue to a serious crime. See if you can solve these and other mysteries. **(15 copies)**  
**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Multigenre Use.**

**Nobody's child** Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch Grade 8 c2003

**Summary:** When the Armenians of Turkey are marched into the desert to die in 1915, Mariam is rescued by her Turkish friend Rustem, and lives with mixed acceptance as a guest in his father's harem. Kevork is shot and left for dead in a mass grave in the desert, but is rescued by nomadic Arabs and nurtured back to health. Both teens must choose between the security of an adopted home or the risk of death in search of family. A sequel to the highly successful *The Hunger*, *Nobody's Child* is a stirring and engaging account of one of the twentieth century's most significant events. **(39 copies) CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

**One more border** William Kaplan Grade 8 c1998

**Summary:** During World War II, as Nazi troops took over Europe, hundreds of thousands of Jews tried to flee Hitler's advance. Most did not escape the Holocaust. The Kaplans were one of the lucky families. As the war progressed, borders shut down and the rest of the world became less and less willing to accept refugees. The Kaplans found themselves trying to make their way to safety by the only route available -- three-quarters of the way around the world by train and ship, across Russia and Japan and finally to North America. This is the story of the family's brave and harrowing journey. **\*\*Note: Teachers will appreciate the book's applicability not only to the Holocaust, but also to the plight of refugees today\*\* (20 copies)**  
**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

**Refugee** Gratz, Alan Grade 8 c2017

**Summary:** Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together. **(30 copies + Audio CD)**

**Skits & Scenes (Nelson mini-anthology)** Sharon Siamon Grade 8 c1994

**Summary:** Get into the act with a fascinating mix of monologues, dialogues, skits, and short plays. **(14 copies) CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Multigenre Use.**

**Small steps** Louis Sachar Grade 8 c2006

**Summary:** Includes a reader's guide at the end.

Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track. **(37 copies)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED:**

**Suggested Use: Personal and Philosophical Context.**

**Spirit of adventure (Nelson mini-anthology)** James Barry Grade 8 c1993

**Summary:** This collection of prose and poetry contains short, varied accounts of fictional and real adventures. The book contains a table of contents and an eight-page photography insert. **(25 copies)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Multigenre Use.**

**That was then, this is now** Hinton, S.E. Gr. 8 c1971

**Summary:** Sixteen-year-old Mark and Bryon have been like brothers since childhood, but now, as their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to gradually disintegrate. **(53 copies + DVD)**

**Tilly: A story of Hope and Resilience** Smith, Monique Gray Grade 7-12 c2014

**Summary:** Tilly has always known she's part Lakota on her dad's side. She's grown up with the traditional teachings of her grandma, relishing the life lessons of her beloved mentor. But it isn't until an angry man shouts something on the street that Tilly realizes her mom is Aboriginal too a Cree woman taken from her own parents as a baby. Tilly feels her mother's pain deeply. She's always had trouble fitting in at school, and when her grandma dies unexpectedly, her anchor is gone. Then Abby, a grade-seven classmate, invites her home for lunch and offers her something special to drink. Nothing has prepared Tilly for the tingling in her legs, the buzz in her head and the awesome feeling that she can do anything. From then on, partying seems to offer an escape from her insecurities. But after one dangerously drunken evening, Tilly knows she has to change. Summoning her courage, she begins the long journey to finding pride in herself and her heritage. Just when she needs it most, a mysterious stranger offers some wise counsel: Never question who you are or who your people are. It's in your eyes. I know it's in your heart. **(30 copies)**

**Touching Spirit Bear** Mikaelson, Ben Gr. 6-9 c2001

**Summary:** After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear. **(81 copies + audio CD)**

**Trail, The** Hashimoto, Meika Grade 7-9 c2017

**Summary:** Toby has to finish the final thing on The List.

It's a list of brave, daring, totally awesome things that he and his best friend, Lucas, planned to do together, and the only item left is to hike the Appalachian Trail. But now Lucas isn't there to do it with him.

Toby's determined to hike the trail alone and fulfill their pact, which means dealing with the little things -- the blisters, the heat, the hunger -- and the big things -- the bears, the loneliness, and the memories. to give?

The Trail is a remarkable story of physical survival and true friendship, about a boy who's determined to forge his own path -- and to survive.

**Suggested Use: English Language Arts: Grade 7 Finding the Courage; Grade 9 Surviving and Conquering.**

**Turning points (Nelson mini-anthology)** James Barry Grade 8 c1993

**Summary:** Funny moments, painful moments. Sometimes they are more important than you think. They might even be turning points on the road to growing up. **(25 copies)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Multigenre Use.**

**Walk two moons** Creech, Sharon Gr. 8 c1994

**Summary:** After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left. **(40 copies + audio CD)**

**Wenjack**

Boyden, Joseph

Gr. 8-12

c2016

**Summary:** An Ojibwe boy runs away from a North Ontario Indian School, not realizing just how far away home is. Along the way he's followed by Manitous, spirits of the forest who comment on his plight, cajoling, taunting, and ultimately offering him a type of comfort on his difficult journey back to the place he was so brutally removed from. **(15 copies)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: History- History 30; Native Studies- 10, 20 & 30; Social Studies Grade 8, 9 & 30.**

**Wonder**

Palacio, R. J.

Gr. 5-8

c2012

**Summary:** Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student. **(30 copies)**

**Wreckers**

Iain Lawrence

Grade 8

c1999

**Summary:** There was once a village bred by evil. On the barren coast of Cornwall, England, lived a community who prayed for shipwrecks, a community who lured storm-tossed ships to crash upon the sharp rocks of their shore. They fed and clothed themselves with the loot salvaged from the wreckage; dead sailors' tools and trinkets became decorations for their homes. Most never questioned their murderous way of life. Then, upon that pirates' shore crashed the ship The Isle of Skye. And the youngest of its crew members, 14-year-old John Spencer, survived the wreck. But would he escape the wreckers? This is his harrowing tale. **(42 copies)**

**CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Personal and Philosophical Context.**

**Yellow Dog**

Korner, Miriam

Gr. 5-8

c2017

**Summary:** Jeremy lives in a small community where winters are long and stray dogs roam the streets. When peer pressure leads Jeremy into a bad prank, he is immediately struck with guilt - and that's when Jeremy's life changes forever. Trying to make amends Jeremy befriends Yellow Dog - and in the process meets a curious old man who introduces him to the adventures of dog sledding. Soon Jeremy is forming his own old-time dog team with Yellow Dog at lead - and in the process discovers more about himself - and the old man - than he ever thought possible. **(30 copies)**

## Literature Circle Sets (<10 copies) – Grade 8

### **Bone Collector's Son**

Paul Yee

c2003

**Summary:** This ghost story is set in the year 1907 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Fourteen-year-old Bing-wing Chan resents his father, not only because the man gambles away all their money, but also because he now forces Bing to help him in his gruesome job. Ba is the bone collector, the one who digs up skeletons of deceased Chinese so that they can be sent home to China for permanent burial. Sinister things start happening soon after Bing accompanies his father to the graveyard. **CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Personal and Philosophical Context; Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

### **Firewing**

Kenneth Oppel

c2002

**Summary:** The forest heaves and splits in a terrible quake, and Griffin, a Silverwing newborn, is sucked down a fissure deep into the earth. Shade, Griffin's father, soon realizes that his son has been drawn into the Underworld and embarks on the most dangerous of journeys to rescue him. But something else is hunting Griffin--a deadly foe Shade hoped he would never see again. Who will find Griffin first? And who will survive to make the perilous journey back to the land of the living? In this riveting sequel to the acclaimed novels Silverwing and Sunwing, Kenneth Oppel creates a story that will resonate with readers of all ages--a glorious fantasy adventure in which the living and the dead struggle for the sake of eternity. **CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Imaginative and Literary Context.**

### **Flames of the Tiger**

John Wilson

c2003

**Summary:** Dieter has grown up in Germany during Hitler's rise to power, believing everything that he has been told, but as his involvement in the war increases, he finds himself questioning these beliefs as he fights for survival. **CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

### **Roll of thunder, hear my cry**

Mildred Taylor

c1976, 1991

**Summary:** Young Cassie Logan endures humiliation and witnesses the racism of the KKK as they embark on a cross-burning rampage, before she fully understands the importance her family attributes to having land of their own. **CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

### **Run, Boy, Run**

Uri Orlev

c2001

**Summary:** Based on the true story of a nine-year-old boy who escapes the Warsaw Ghetto and must survive throughout the war in the Nazi-occupied Polish countryside. **CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**

### **Throwaway daughter**

Ting-Xing Ye

c2004

**Summary:** Dong-Mei, an abandoned Chinese orphan, is adopted as an infant by a Canadian couple and becomes known as Grace Parker. The Chinese government has a very strict one-child policy, and there is a cultural preference for male children to carry on the family name. The book follows Grace's quest to learn more about her birth, culture, and family. Grace's adoptive mother, Jane, is sensitive to her adopted daughter's culture, but she has difficulty when Grace wants to go back to China to explore her Chinese heritage. **CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context**

### **Year of Impossible Goodbyes**

Sook Nyul Choi

c1991

**Summary:** A young Korean girl survives the oppressive Japanese and Russian occupation of North Korea during the 1940s, to later escape to freedom in South Korea. **CURRICULUM RECOMMENDED: Suggested Use: Social, Cultural, and Historical Context.**