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NEHS

NATIONAL ENGLISH
HONOR SOCIETY
for Secondary Schools

Expanding the Canon and the Common Reader

Presenters

Lindsey Ward
The Woodlands College Park
High School, TX

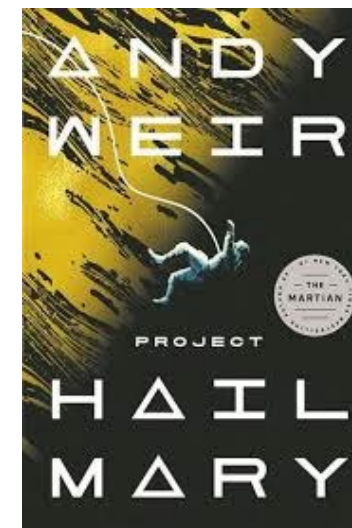
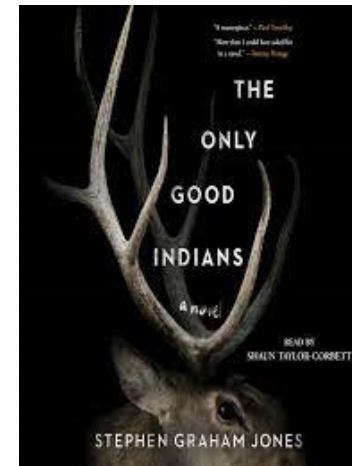
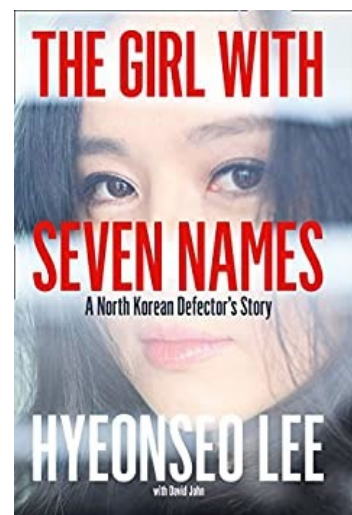
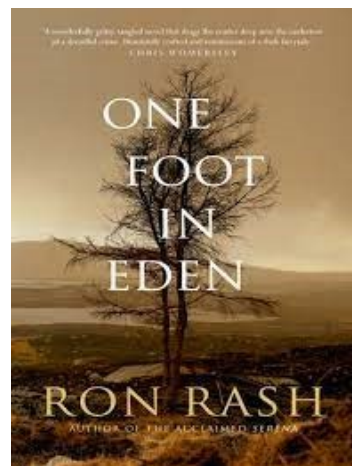
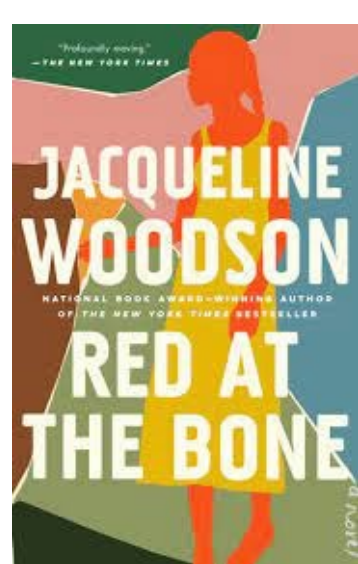
Sarah Dangelantonio
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Dave Wendelin
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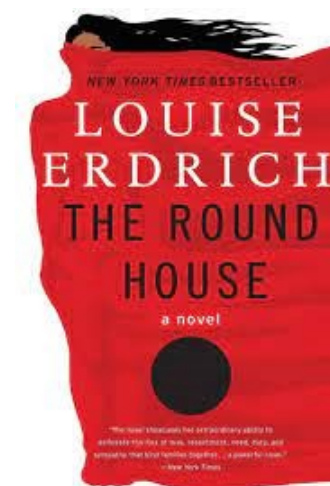
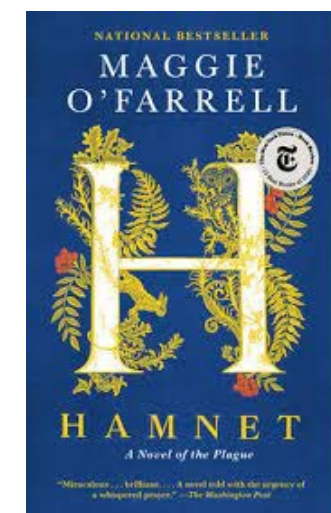
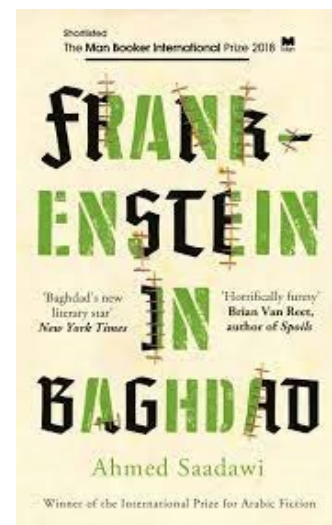
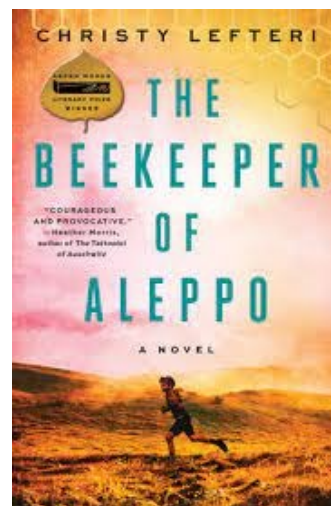
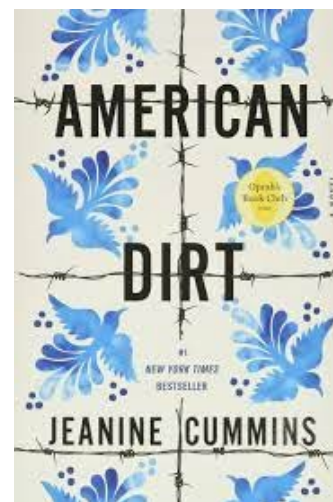
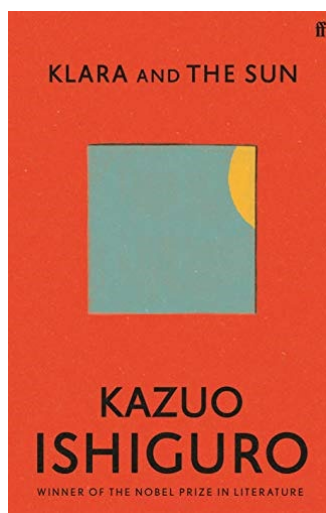
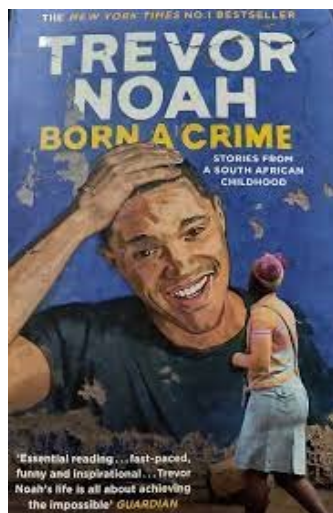


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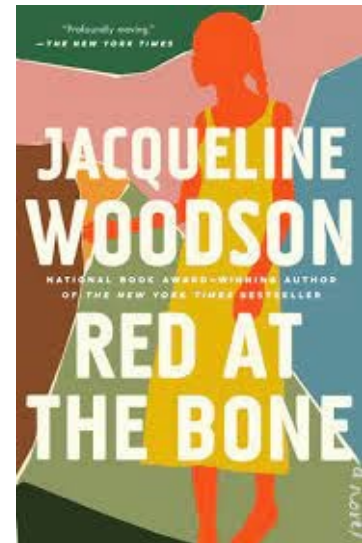


Expanding the Canon and the Common Reader



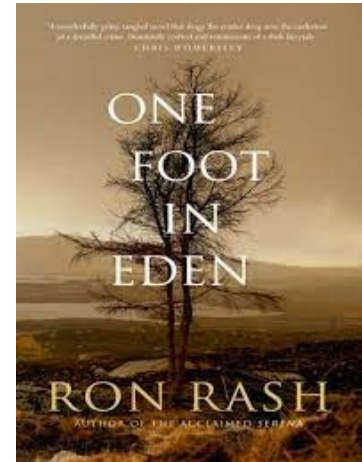
Red at the Bone, Jacqueline Woodson

- ❖ Genre: Fiction
- ❖ **Precis:** For those who have read her middle-grade and adolescent fiction, this novel is a move to her adult fiction; following the stories of two different urban BIPOC (Black, Indigenous People of Color) families, it encompasses issues of class, education, ambition, racial prejudice, sexual desire and orientation, identity, mother-daughter relationships, parenthood and loss.
- ❖ **Recommended Use:** Upper-level or AP Classroom 'book club' OR Independent Reading



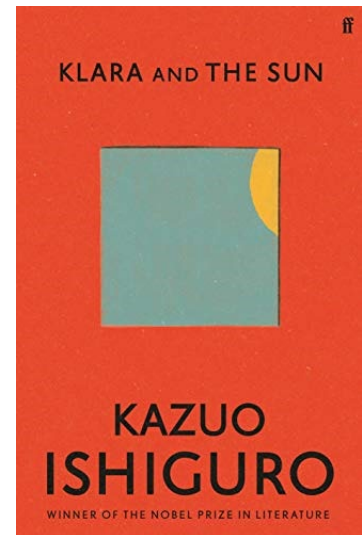
One Foot in Eden, Ron Rash

- ❖ Genre: Southern Gothic Fiction
- ❖ Precis: Using a braided narrative in which the story is revealed through the accretion of details from each narrative, this novel tells of murder in a small Appalachian town with its revelations of infidelity, jealousy, betrayal and a search for identity. Sharply drawn characters and masterful narrations are hallmarks of Ron Rash's craft.
- ❖ Recommended Use: Classroom 'book club' OR Independent Reading



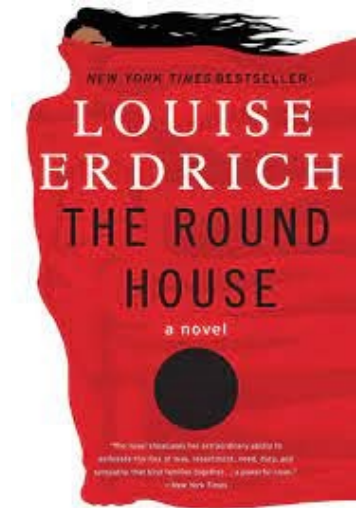
Klara and the Sun, Kazuo Ishiguro

- ❖ Genre: Fiction
- ❖ Precis: In a United States of the near future, our first-person narrator, Klara, is AI. We learn of this new world: post-employment, caste system, children being lifted, all from Klara's perhaps narrow, yet devoted and compelling point of view. It will leave you contemplating life, mortality, and the power of love—and all of their heart-breaking possibilities.
- ❖ Recommended Use: Classroom 'book club' OR Independent Reading



The Round House, Louise Erdrich

- ❖ Genre: Fiction
- ❖ **Precis:** Joe Coutts narrates the story of his 13th summer following a vicious attack on his mother, a tribal records clerk. The plot follows young Joe playing amateur detective with his reservation friends as they work to uncover the whole story and, in this novel, all of the stories matter. Joe tells the story from a distance, as the adult tribal judge he becomes, which provides emotional distancing as well a clarity of thought. It's a coming-of-age story and so much more, exploring moral and judicial failure as well as community, traditions, and faith.
- ❖ **Recommended Use:** Classroom book club OR Independent Reading



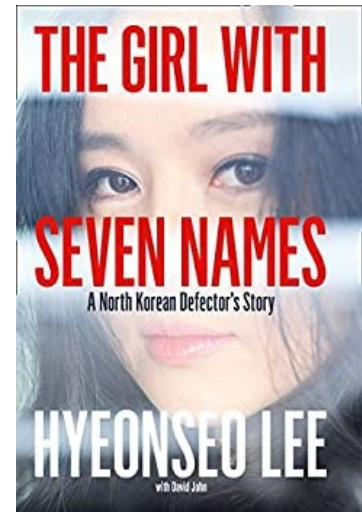
American Dirt, Jeanine Cummins

- ❖ Genre: Fiction
- ❖ Precis: Lydia and her son Luca are the only survivors of a drug cartel's attack on a family reunion. Now they must make their way to the United States.
- ❖ Recommended Use: Independent Reading



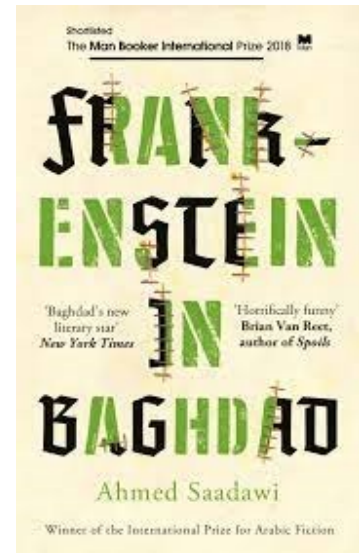
The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story, Hyeonseo Lee

- ❖ Genre: Memoir
- ❖ Precis: Hyeonseo Lee grew up in North Korea, next to the border with China. When she was seventeen, she decided to cross the border as an act of rebellion and was never able to return home.
- ❖ Recommended Use: Classroom book club OR Independent Reading



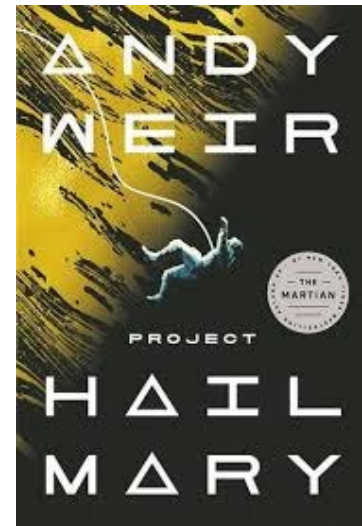
Frankenstein in Baghdad, Ahmed Saadawi

- ❖ Genre: Horror Fiction
- ❖ **Precis:** Hadi creates a corpse by sewing together human body parts he collects in the aftermath of bomb detonations in U.S. occupied Baghdad, but before he can finish his plan, the corpse disappears and murders begin.
- ❖ **Recommended Use:** Classroom ‘book club’ OR Independent Reading



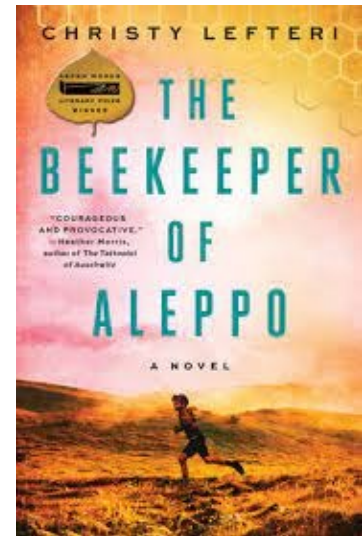
Project Hail Mary, Andy Weir

- ❖ Genre: Science Fiction
- ❖ Precis: Ryland Grace is the last survivor of an important mission sent into space to save humanity from an extinction level threat, but he has amnesia.
- ❖ Recommended Use: Independent Reading



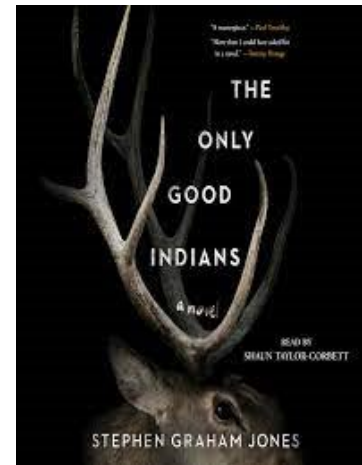
The Beekeeper of Aleppo, Christy Lefteri

- ❖ Common Reader for 2021-2022 and basis of the Scholarship Competition for graduating seniors of NEHS
- ❖ Prompts will be posted November 1, 2021
- ❖ Scholarship application “window” opens December 6, 2021 and closes January 10, 2022
- ❖ All applications are submitted through the AwardSpring platform
- ❖ Details are available on the NEHS website, www.nehs.us



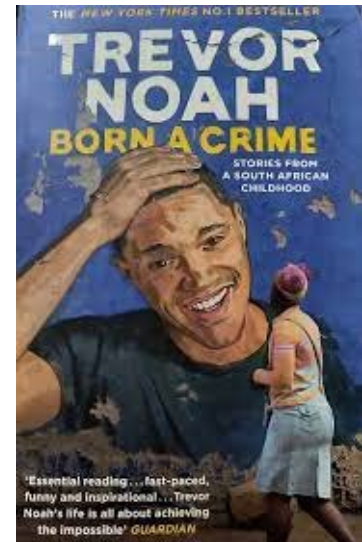
The Only Good Indians, Stephen Graham Jones

- ❖ Genre: Horror Novel
- ❖ Precis: Four friends, one night of hunting on forbidden land, a decade of retribution. Unsettling atmospheres and images along with explicit violence, this story of revenge and sorrow is also about identity and tradition.
- ❖ Recommended Use: Independent Reading



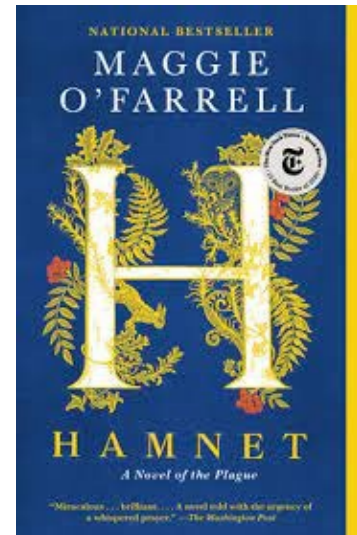
Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood, Trevor Noah

- ❖ Genre: Memoir
- ❖ Precis: Trevor Noah details his path from apartheid South Africa to celebrity recognition as the host of *The Daily Show*.
- ❖ Recommended Use: Classroom book club OR Independent Reading



Hamnet, Maggie O'Farrell

- ❖ Genre: Historical Fiction
- ❖ **Precis:** While the novel explores the heartbreak of the death of a child, it also provides a speculative backstory on the personal, domestic life of Anne Hathaway, her husband and their children. Using dual timelines, it presents Hamnet and his death due to the plague, but the novel's central character is his mother and the focus is on the domestic life of this family. The book is about grief and how people find their way through it.
- ❖ **Recommended Use:** Classroom book club OR Independent Reading



Mexican Gothic, Silvia Moreno-Garcia

- ❖ Genre: Gothic/Horror Fiction
- ❖ Precis: Clearly working from classic models, *Mexican Gothic* features a clever female narrator called to aid her recently-married cousin at an isolated country manor in the Mexican mountains. It's not long before the supernatural rears its head and Naomi, our unlikely debutante turned sleuth, is dealing with hidden family secrets, violence, madness and eugenics. There are enough gothic tropes to satisfy any fan of the genre along with some fun new takes.
- ❖ Recommended Use: Independent Reading

