

# Uplift North Hills Preparatory 8<sup>th</sup> ELA

## 2025 Summer Assignment

First, welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade! As hard as it is to believe, you will start your last year of middle school this coming August, and I am looking forward to the journey we will have together in English. During the upcoming school year, we will be focusing on how a person's story can create impact and change, and you will see these things reflected in the text choices for this summer. For the summer reading, you will be reading two selections along with an assignment for each text. Feel free to reach out to me at [ebarnhart@uplifteducation.org](mailto:ebarnhart@uplifteducation.org) or by messenger on Schoology if you have questions.

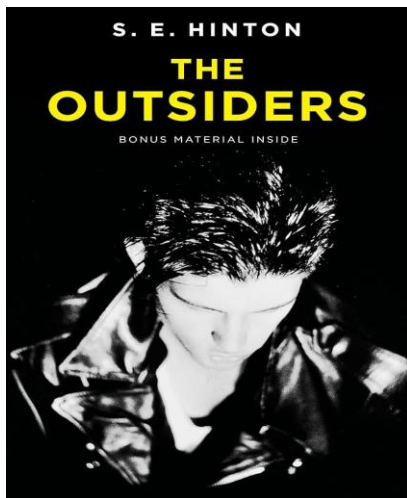
### ★ Join the Summer English Course on Schoology.

To join a new course on Schoology, follow the simple steps below. You will be able to find information about the Learner Profiles along with examples of past projects and the project rubric. There will also be supplemental materials like videos, articles, and glossaries for the reading selections.

1. Log into your school Schoology account. If you are new to UNHP, you will need to create an account since your school one will not be ready until closer to the start of school. Please contact me for information about doing this.
2. Click courses at the top
3. Click **My Courses** in the **Top Right Corner** of the drop-down menu
4. Click **Join a Course** on the right-hand side
5. Enter the code 985T-2RW6-2DSTN into the box that pops up

### ★ Primary Text Information:

Our primary text for this summer reading is *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton.



- We will be using this novel as our anchor text for the first unit, and **students will need to remember to bring the text with them during the first part of the year.**

- The picture to the left is the most recent book cover in publishing, but any edition will work. Copies that belonged to someone else such as a sibling, friend, family member, etc are fine to use, and the book can be purchased from used bookstore as well. Be mindful that the task for this book will require annotations. If you do not want to or cannot write in your book, then I would recommend making use of sticky notes or a spiral.

### ● **The Outsiders Assignment**

- Before reading, review descriptions of the characters. This will be available for you on the Schoology course.
- Pick 3 characters that you connect to based on descriptions. These will be the characters you will pay close attention to while reading. It is okay to switch while reading, but you must focus on at least 3 characters.
- While you are reading, you want to make note in your book where you find parts about the character that give insight into their journey.

- Once you have finished reading, you are going to select 3 quotes per character that you feel help make a reader understand the character more. Your selections should illustrate the beginning, middle, and end of the character's journey.
- Quotes can be said by the character, said about the character, or non-dialogue parts that tell you about their journey.
- After you have picked the quotes, you are going to connect each quote to a song that you know personally that fits with each one. You will need the title, artist, and a specific lyric.
- Songs should be ones that you are familiar with
- On Schoology, you will find a graphic organizer for you to use for your quote and song picks, and you will submit this to the assignment on the schoology page **by the first day of classes**. It will be one of the first grades you receive for the first quarter.
- Here is an example:

Character's Name	Quote from the Text	Song Selection
Katniss	"When I was younger, I scared my mother to death, the things I would blurt out about District 12, about the people who rule our country, Panem, from the far-off city called the Capitol. Eventually I understood this would only lead us to more trouble. So I learned to hold my tongue and to turn my features into an indifferent mask so that no one could ever read my thoughts."	"I Can Hear It in the Air Tonight" by Phil Collins  But I know the reason why you keep your silence up No, you don't fool me Well, the hurt doesn't show, but the pain still grows
	"Rue's death has forced me to confront my own fury against the cruelty, the injustice they inflict upon us. But here, even more strongly than at home, I feel my impotence. There's no way to take revenge on the Capitol. Is there?"	"Killing in the Name of" by Rage Against the Machine  "Those who died are justified, for wearing the badge, they're the chosen whites/And now you do what they told ya, now you're under control/I won't do what you tell me"
	"We had to save you because you're the mockingjay, Katniss," says Plutarch. "While you live, the revolution lives."	"She's a Rebel" by Green Day  She's a rebel, she's a saint She's the salt of the earth, and she's dangerous She's a rebel, vigilante/She's a symbol of resistance

### ★ Selected Text Information:

The second text is one that you will select based on the list below, and you will create your Learner Profile Poster on a character you connect to from the text. I have put brief descriptions below, but you can find more information on schoology as well. If you have any questions about the selections, you can find information on schoology, or you may also email me at [ebarnhart@uplifteducation.org](mailto:ebarnhart@uplifteducation.org).

***Must read at least one of the below, but you are welcome to read more if you are having trouble picking a book. You have two assignments to complete for your selected text below:***

### ★ Google Form Assignment

Once you have picked and finished reading, there will be a google form to complete on Schoology to let me know that you have completed the reading. Make sure that you are for sure about the novel and character you want to do because you are only allowed to complete the form once.

### ★ Character Learner Profile Poster:

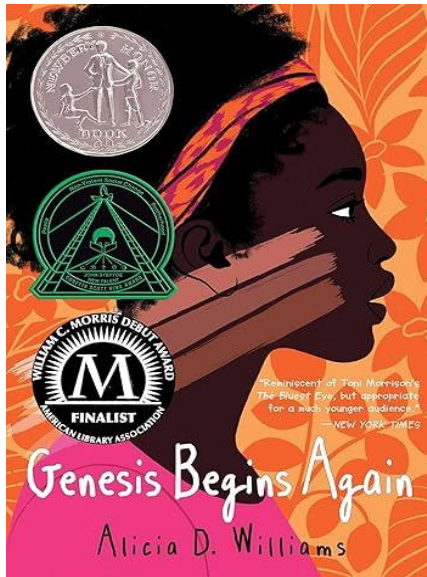
After you finish reading your selected book, you will create an IB Learner Profile Poster for the character you connect to in the text. The purpose of this is to help you get a strong grasp on the IB Learner Profiles while also showcasing the connection to your character. Below are the parameters:

- Your pick of character should be one you connect with. **It does not have to be the main character.**
  - Review what the IB Learner Profiles are. You will find specific documents on the schoology summer course that I have picked that are easy to read with accurate information.
  - Create a poster using the parameters on the next page:
- **Your poster should be size 11x14.**
    - Please use **the correct size poster board or heavy card stock.**
    - Do **NOT** use thicker materials like **canvas or foam board.**
    - There is a link to the correct poster board on schoology
    - Larger poster boards can be cut down, but make sure the edges are neat.
  - **The Learner Profile-** should be **readable from a distance**
  - **The character's name and piece of literature-** character name should be smaller than the learner profile but still readable. The title of the piece may be smaller.
  - **Five different reasons** that the character meets the learner profile. They should show the character's whole journey rather than just a section of it.
  - **A quote from the character that epitomizes the learner profile-** ie the quote shows how the character is the learner profile
  - **3-5 images** that symbolize the character's learner profile. These should be things that are related to the character as that learner profile rather than the learner profile itself, and they should connect to your written content to give it visual support. These may be **either drawn or printed out**, but they should be done in **some kind of color that has a purpose.**
  - The poster should be **neat and easy to read and understand**

- The poster should be **eye-catching and visually pleasing**- ie people will want to look at it.
- The poster may be done digitally, but you still **need to follow the poster size parameter (11x14)** and **print it out on heavy cardstock**.

★ Selections to pick from:

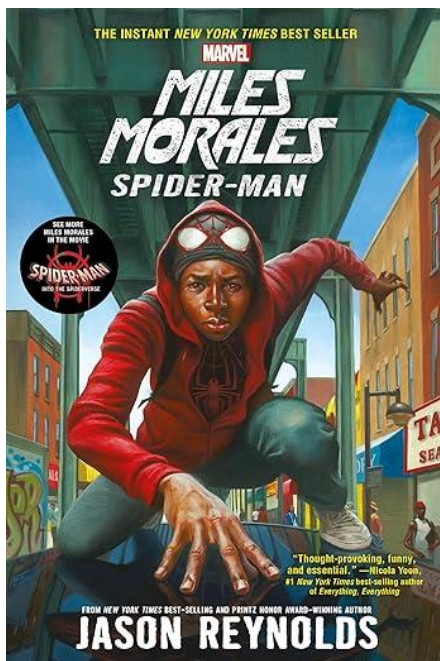
### *Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia D. Williams



There are ninety-six reasons why thirteen-year-old Genesis dislikes herself. She knows the exact number because she keeps a list:

- Because her family is always being put out of their house.
- Because her dad has a gambling problem. And maybe a drinking problem too.
- Because Genesis knows this is all her fault.
- Because she wasn't born looking like Mama.
- Because she is too black.

Genesis is determined to fix her family, and she's willing to try anything to do so...even if it means harming herself in the process. But when Genesis starts to find a thing or two she actually *likes* about herself, she discovers that changing her own attitude is the first step in helping change others.



### *Miles Morales: Spider-Man* by Jason Reynolds

***"Everyone gets mad at hustlers, especially if you're on the victim side of the hustle. And Miles knew hustling was in his veins."***

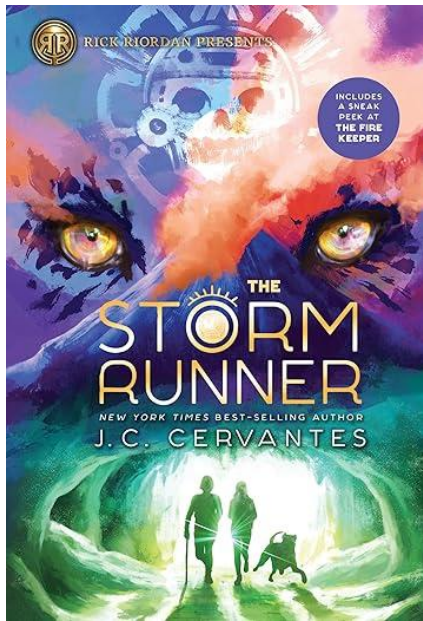
Miles Morales is just your average teenager. Dinner every Sunday with his parents, chilling out playing old-school video games with his best friend, Ganke, crushing on brainy, beautiful poet Alicia. He's even got a scholarship spot at the prestigious Brooklyn Visions Academy. Oh yeah, and he's Spider Man.

But lately, Miles's spidey-sense has been on the fritz. When a misunderstanding leads to his suspension from school, Miles begins to question his abilities. After all, his dad and uncle were Brooklyn jack-boys with criminal records. Maybe kids like Miles aren't meant to be superheroes. Maybe Miles should take his dad's advice and focus on saving himself.

As Miles tries to get his school life back on track, he can't shake the vivid nightmares that continue to haunt him. Nor can he avoid the relentless buzz of his spidey-sense every day in history class, amidst his teacher's lectures on the historical benefits of slavery and the modern-day prison system. But after his scholarship is threatened, Miles uncovers a chilling plot, one that puts his friends, his neighborhood, and himself at risk.

**It's time for Miles to suit up.**



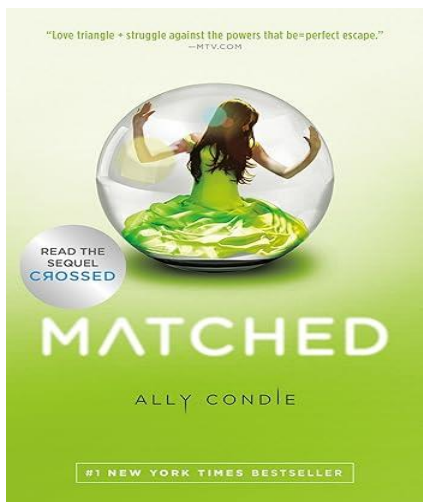


### ***Stormrunner* by JC Cervantes**

Zane has always enjoyed exploring the dormant volcano near his home in New Mexico, even though hiking it is challenging. He'd much rather hang out there with his dog, Rosie, than go to middle school, where kids call him Sir Limpers a Lot, McGimpster, or Uno--for his one good leg. What Zane doesn't know is that the volcano is a gateway to another world and he is at the center of a powerful prophecy.

A new girl at school, Brooks, informs him that he's destined to release an evil god from the ancient Maya relic he is imprisoned in--unless she can find and remove it first. Together they return to the volcano, where all kinds of crazy happens. Brooks turns into a hawk, a demon attacks them in a cave, and Rosie gives her all while trying to protect Zane.

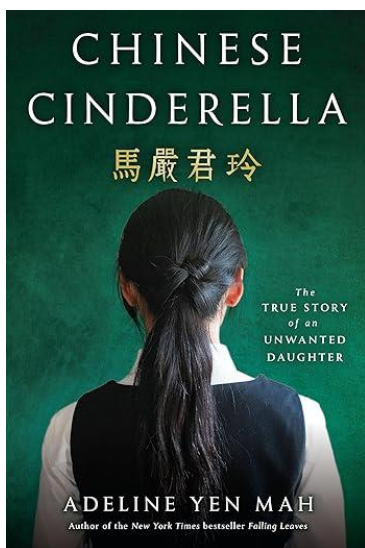
When Zane decides to save his dog no matter the cost, he is thrust into an adventure full of surprising discoveries, dangerous secrets, and an all-out war between the gods, one of whom happens to be his father. To survive, Zane will have to become the Storm Runner. But how can he run when he can't even walk well without a cane?



### ***Matched* by Allie Conde**

*In the Society, Officials decide. Who you love. Where you work. When you die.*

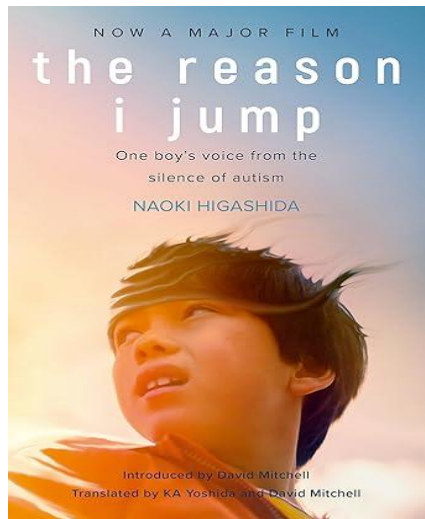
Cassia has always trusted the Society's choices. And when her best friend appears on the Matching screen, she is certain he's the one--until she sees another face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. Now she is faced with impossible choices: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's ever known and a path no has dared to follow . . . between perfection and the truth.



### ***Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah**

A Chinese proverb says, "Falling leaves return to their roots." In her own courageous voice, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph in the face of despair.

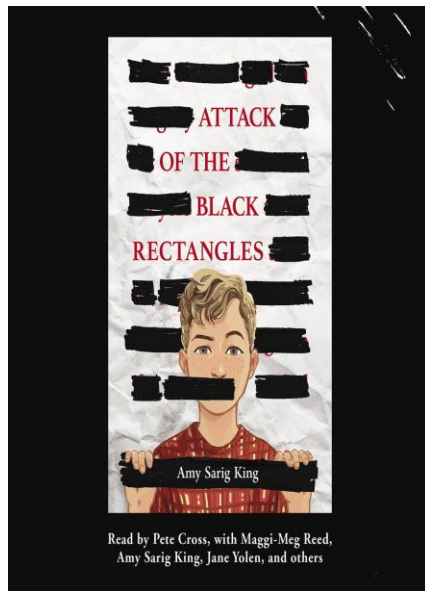
Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her, and life does not get any easier when her father remarries. Adeline and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled with gifts and attention. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family. Like the classic Cinderella story, this powerful memoir is a moving story of resilience and hope.



### ***The Reason I Jump* by Naoki Higashida**

*What is it like to have autism? How can we know what a person - especially a child - with autism is thinking and feeling?*

This groundbreaking book, written by Naoki Higashida when he was only thirteen, provides some answers. Severely autistic and non-verbal, Naoki learnt to communicate by using a "cardboard keyboard" - and what he has to say gives a rare insight into an autistically-wired mind. He explains behaviour he's aware can be baffling such as why he likes to jump and why some people with autism dislike being touched; he describes how he perceives and navigates the world, sharing his thoughts and feelings about time, life, beauty and nature; and he offers an unforgettable short story. Proving that people with autism do not lack imagination, humour or empathy, *The Reason I Jump* made a major impact on its publication.



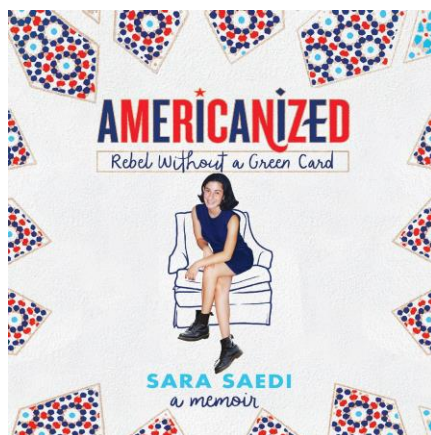
### ***The Attack of the Black Rectangles* by Amy Sarig King**

Award-winning author Amy Sarig King takes on censorship and intolerance in a novel she was born to write.

When Mac first opens his classroom copy of Jane Yolen's *The Devil's Arithmetic* and finds some words blacked out, he thinks it must be a mistake. But then when he and his friends discover what the missing words are, he's outraged. Someone in his school is trying to prevent kids from reading the full story. But who?

Even though his unreliable dad tells him to not get so emotional about a book (or anything else), Mac has been raised by his mom and grandad to call out things that are wrong. He and his friends head to the principal's office to protest the censorship... but her response doesn't take them seriously.

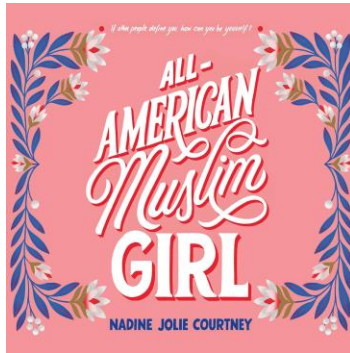
So many adults want Mac to keep his words to himself. Mac's about to see the power of letting them out.



### ***Americanized: Rebel Without Green Card* by Sara Saedi**

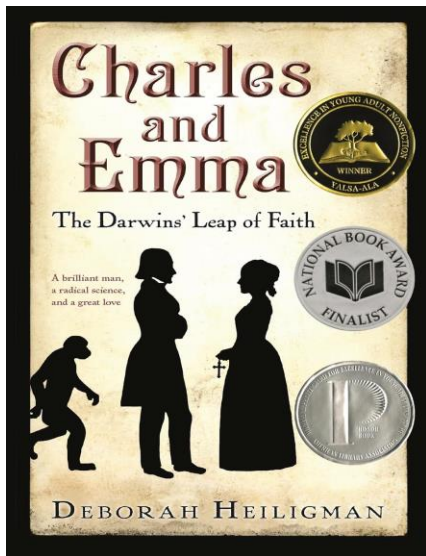
At 13, bright-eyed straight-A student Sara Saedi uncovered a terrible family secret: She was breaking the law simply by living in the United States. Only two years old when her parents fled Iran, she didn't learn of her undocumented status until her older sister wanted to apply for an after-school job but couldn't because she didn't have a Social Security number. Fear of deportation kept Sara up at night, but it didn't keep her from being a teenager. She desperately wanted a green card, along with clear skin, her own car, and a boyfriend. *Americanized* follows Sara's progress toward getting her green card, but that's only a portion of her experiences as an Iranian "American" teenager. From

discovering that her parents secretly divorced to facilitate her mother's green card application to learning how to tame her unibrow, Sara pivots gracefully from the terrifying prospect that she might be kicked out of the country at any time to the almost as terrifying possibility that she might be the only one of her friends without a date to the prom. This moving, often hilarious story is for anyone who has ever shared either fear.



### ***All-American Muslim Girl* by Nadine Jolie Courtney**

Allie Abraham has it all going for her - she's a straight-A student with good friends and a close-knit family, and she's dating popular, sweet Wells Henderson. There's only one problem: Wells' father is Jack Henderson, America's most famous conservative shock jock, and Allie hasn't told Wells that her family is Muslim. It's not like Allie's religion is a secret. It's just that her parents don't practice and raised her to keep it to herself. But as Allie witnesses Islamophobia in her small town and across the nation, she decides to embrace her faith - study it, practice it, and even face misunderstanding for it. But who is Allie if she sheds the façade of the "perfect" all-American girl?



### ***Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith* by Deborah Heiligman**

Charles Darwin published *The Origin of Species*, his revolutionary tract on evolution and the fundamental ideas involved, in 1859. Nearly 150 years later, the theory of evolution continues to create tension between the scientific and religious communities. Challenges about teaching the theory of evolution in schools occur annually all over the country. This same debate raged within Darwin himself, and played an important part in his marriage: his wife, Emma, was quite religious, and her faith gave Charles a lot to think about as he worked on a theory that continues to spark intense debates.

Deborah Heiligman's new biography of Charles Darwin is a thought-provoking account of the man behind evolutionary theory: how his personal life affected his work and vice versa. The end result is an engaging exploration of history, science, and religion for young readers.