

## **Summer Novel Reading Guidelines:**

Students promoted to 7th and 8th grade are required to purchase and read a novel over the summer break.

### **7th Grade**

#### ***Stand Tall (Fiction)***

**By Joan Bauer**

Summary: Tree, a six-foot-three-inch twelve-year-old, copes with his parents' divorce and his failure as an athlete by helping his grandfather, a Vietnam vet and recent amputee, and the new girl Sophie. By helping others, he makes a place to belong.

### **8th Grade**

#### ***The House on Mango Street***

**By Sandra Cisneros**

Summary: "The House on Mango Street" is a novella about a young Mexican American female, Esperanza. As told through a series of vignettes, Esperanza shares her experiences living in a modest house that fails to meet her dreams of a better life. As she navigates her environment, she grapples with themes of identity, belonging, and the complexities of her cultural heritage

## **Novel Assessment**

The first week of school, the 7th and 8th grade students will be given a Literary Elements and Literary Device novel choice board. Students will then decide which element or device they want to focus on in order to demonstrate their knowledge of the novel. They will answer specific questions and use detailed evidence from the novel to support their answers. They will design and display their work on posters. The students will each present their work to the class. A very detailed rubric will be given out to make sure that all the requirements are met the first week of school.

**Note:** As the students read the novel, the students can make notes in their novel. They can highlight or underline important lines that help them understand the story. For example, if the main character, or protagonist, is undergoing some kind of struggle, the student can highlight paragraphs on that page and annotate next to it which type of conflict the character is going through. The student can also annotate on post-its and place them in the book on important pages. The students will be allowed to use their novel during the class assignment for help.