

San Diego Hebrew Day Novel Studies

At Hebrew Day School, we believe reading is an integral part of education as it allows children to develop vital skills they can use throughout their lives. By reading stories, readers can interact with the characters and better understand the story and its moral values. Reading materials can also help with spelling, grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary building – all areas necessary for effective communication. Most importantly, reading increases knowledge and imagination; exploring new ideas can help young minds grow in new ways. Furthermore, children can apply critical thinking to analyze prose or literature when reading. In short, reading builds language proficiency and provides numerous personal benefits that will help children excel in school and beyond.

Below are the possible selection of novel studies supported by Hebrew Day and part of ELA curriculum standards. Novel choice varies by grade level based on teacher preference and general appropriateness for each class year to year.

Third Grade: Three novels per school year, one each trimester

(First trimester novel - students read over the summer prior to start of school year)

- Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
- The BFG by Roald Dahl
- Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
- Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
- The Wild Robot by Peter Brown
- The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, by Roald Dahl

Fourth Grade: Three novels per year, one each trimester

(First trimester novel students read over the summer prior to start of school year)

- Frindle by Andrew Clements
- Danny, Champion of the World by Roald Dahl
- Wonder by R.J. Palacio
- The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies
- The Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling
- Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
- The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks

Fifth Grade: Four novels per year, one each trimester

(First novel is read over the summer prior to start of school year)

- Running Out of Time by Margeret Peterson Haddox
- Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech
- Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
- Holes by Louis Sachar
- The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
- The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan - SUMMER READ
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

- Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

Sixth Grade: Six novels per year, two each trimester

(First novel of trimester one is read over the summer prior to start of school year)

- Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis
- The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
- Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
- The Giver by Louis Lowry
- REFUGEE by Alan Gratz
- Restart by Gordon Korman
- Crash by Jerry Spinelli
- The Maze Runner by James Dashner

Seventh Grade: Six novels per year, two each trimester

(First novel of trimester one is read over the summer prior to start of school year)

- The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
- Star Girl by Jerry Spinelli
- Inquisitor's Tale by Adam Gidwitz
- Red Scarf Girl by Ji-li Jiang
- And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie
- The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
- The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Eighth Grade: Six novels per year, two each trimester

(First novel of trimester one is read over the summer prior to start of school year)

- Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson
- Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
- Nothing But the Truth by Avi
- Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
- Turn About by Margeret Peterson Haddox
- Night by Elie Wiesel
- The Call of the Wild by Jack London
- Lord of the Flies by William Golding