

7B Summer Reading

Objective: Continue to explore the novel-in-verse by comparing and contrasting two different novels-in-verse in terms of content and style as well as comparing the novel-in-verse to a traditional novel written in prose.

Procedure:

1) Read two novels-in-verse:

- A) The Crossover by Kwame Alexander
- B) Another novel-in-verse of your choice (see attached list for suggestions)

2) Write an essay that compares the two novels-in-verse that you read. Your essay should be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12 point font, and have a heading going down the left side at the top: Name; Date; 7B Language Arts; Novel-in-Verse Comparison Essay

A) **Introduction:** Be sure to include the purpose of your essay and the titles and authors of the books that you read.

B) **Paragraph 2:** Give a brief (2-3 sentence) summary of each book you read; highlight the similarities of the two books.

C) **Paragraph 3:** Highlight the differences between the two books. These differences could be in terms of plot, setting, characters, themes, style, tone, mood, etc.

D) **Paragraph 4:** Discuss the differences you personally experience between reading a traditional novel in prose and a novel-in-verse. Do you prefer one over the other? If so, why? (Try to go deeper than the fact that it is faster to read a novel-in-verse.)

E) **Conclusion:** Restate your purpose for the essay as well as your findings regarding both books and the differences between prose and novels-in-verse.

Here are some suggestions for your second novel-in-verse choice. There are many, many more out there to be explored. These are all middle-grade novel-in-verse suggestions, but I haven't read them all. Parents, please use your discretion and assist your child in choosing one that matches his/her interests and reading level. You may choose one not on this list.

Booked - Kwame Alexander 2016

Twelve-year-old soccer player Nick deals with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.

Home of the Brave - Katherine Applegate 2008

Kek, a Sudanese refugee, has moved to Minnesota to live with his aunt and cousin. Laugh and cry with Kek as he learns English and new ways of doing things.

Borrowed Names: Poems About Laura Ingalls Wilder, Madam C.J. Walker, Marie Curie, and Their Daughters – *Jeannine Atkins, 2012*

HISTORICAL - The stories of three extraordinary women and their daughters.

Little Dog, Lost - *Marion Dane Bauer 2012*

Mark is a boy who needs a dog. Buddy is a dog that needs a boy. Mr. LaRue is a neighbor who needs a community.

Serafina's Promise - *Ann Burg, 2013*

Serafina wants to go to school and become a doctor, but life in Haiti is plagued by natural disasters.

Eva of the Farm - *Dia Calhoun and illustrated by Kate Slater, 2012*

Twelve-year-old Eva DeHart knows her family's farm is the most magical place in the whole world, but when blight strikes the orchard and the bank forecloses on the farm, Eva must save it.

Sweetgrass Basket - *Marlene Carvell 2005*

HISTORICAL - Two Mohawk sisters, Mattie and Sarah, are sent away to the Carlisle Indian School near the turn of the 20th century.

Etched in Clay: The Life of Dave, Enslaved Potter and Poet - *Andrea Cheng 2013*

HISTORICAL, BIOGRAPHY - In South Carolina in the 1800's, Dave created jugs and jars on the potter's wheel. He also learned to read and write, even though laws prohibited it. Dave began to sign his work and carve short poems into his jars.

Where the Steps Were - *written and illustrated by Andrea Cheng 2008*

The third-graders in Mrs. D's class record their year at Pleasant Hill school—their last because the school will be torn down.

Love That Dog - *Sharon Creech 2004*

Jack discovers poetry, a pastime for girls, and grieves his beloved dog. (For readers ages 8 to 12.)

Hate That Cat - *Sharon Creech 2008*

More poems by Jack. (For readers ages 8 to 12.)

Moo - *Sharon Creech 2016*

Twelve-year-old Reena moves to rural Maine and meets Zora, a stubborn cow.

The Weight of Water - *Sarah Crossan 2012*

Twelve-year-old Kasienka immigrates from Poland to London and finds her estranged father.

Somewhere Among - *Annie Donwerth-Chikamatsu 2016*

Eleven-year-old Emma has always summered in California for as long as she can remember, but this year she and her mother are staying with her grandparents in Japan as they await the arrival of Emma's baby sibling. (Grades 4 -7)