

In the book of your choice, do you consider the main character a hero? Explain yes or no by citing two examples from the book as evidence and explaining how that evidence supports your answer.

Hold your thinking here and bring your ideas to English class this fall. For your convenience, this brochure is also posted on your school's website under Parent/Student Resources—Library.

Answer: _____

Cite Evidence from the Book: _____

Explain How Evidence Supports Your Answer: _____

Cite Evidence from the Book: _____

Explain How This Evidence Supports Your Answer: _____



**ELMHURST CUSD #205
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

8TH GRADE

**SUMMER 2011
READING LIST**

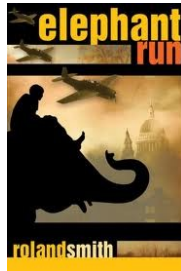
Elmhurst CUSD 205 8th Grade

Summer Reading List 2011

8th Grade Theme: Challenges / Hero

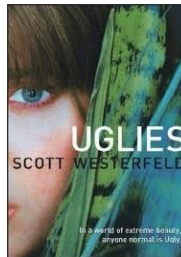
Elephant Run by Roland Smith

Nick endures servitude and more after his British father's plantation in Burma is invaded by the Japanese in 1941. When his father and others are taken prisoner, Nick and his friend Mya plan a daring escape on elephants, risking their lives to save them from a Japanese prisoner of war camp.



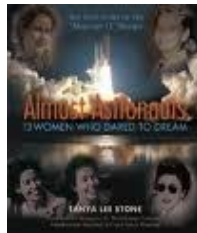
Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Tally Youngblood lives in a futuristic society that requires all sixteen year olds to undergo an operation to change them into a standard of "pretty." Tally yearns to be pretty but is troubled by her best friend who has run away. Authorities give Tally an impossible choice: lead them to her friend or remain forever ugly. This is the first book of a fast-moving story that you'll want to talk about.



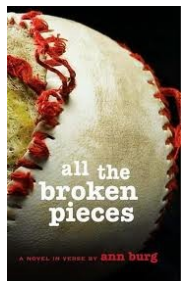
13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone

"Space gals. Astronettes. Astro-dolls . . . Who do these women think they are?" Nearly 20 years before the U.S. officially admitted women into the astronaut program, 13 women, known as the Mercury 13, fought for the right to soar into space. This photo essay covers their stories.



All the Broken Pieces by Ann E. Burg

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and how, in a loving adoptive home in the U.S., a series of events force him to confront his past. Has a nice baseball subplot also!



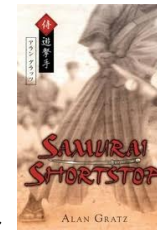
Airborn by Kenneth Oppel

Matt Cruse is a cabin boy aboard a luxury passenger airship when the ship encounters a battered hot air balloon with an unconscious man aboard. Before dying, the man claims to have seen beautiful creatures swarming in the air over an uncharted island. A fierce storm grounds the airship on the very island that proves to be a secret hideaway for pirates!



Samurai Shortstop by Alan Gratz

While obtaining a Western education at a prestigious Japanese boarding school in 1890, 16 year old Toyo also receives traditional samurai training which has profound effects on both his baseball game and his relationship with his father.



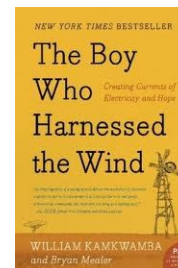
The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky by Farah Ahmedi

Farad recounts an epic journey that deftly interweaves a childhood in Afghanistan, where she stepped on a land mine, with an adolescence in the western suburbs of Chicago, where teenagers struggle to decide whether to try out for school plays and where to go to college.



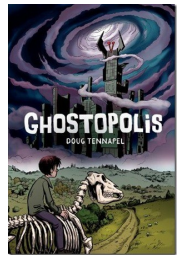
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

With nothing more than a fistful of cornmeal in his stomach, a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks, and an armory of curiosity and determination, William embarks on a daring plan to bring his family a set of luxuries that only two percent of Malawians could afford — electricity and running water.



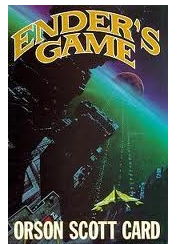
Ghostopolis by Doug Tennapel

Garth Hale is about to receive the fifth diagnosis that his disease is incurable. How fitting, then, that a boy who thinks about death should be accidentally zapped into the afterlife.



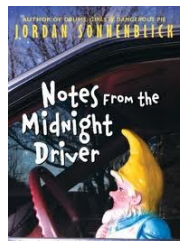
Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Aliens have attacked Earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses. Is Ender Wiggin smart enough to save the planet?



Notes from the Midnight Driver by Jordan Sonnenblick

This is a story of Alex Gregory, his jazz guitar, best friend Laurie, an angry judge, and a feisty old man dying of emphysema, and how the combination changes all of them.



The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Henrietta Lacks, a mother of five, died of cancer at age 30 in 1951. A sample of her cancerous tissue, taken without her knowledge, turned out to provide one of the holy grails of mid-century biology: human cells that could survive and grow in a lab.

