

FIRST CHAPTER

Friday for middle school

40 DIFFERENT NOVELS PICKED SPECIFICALLY FOR EACH GRADE LEVEL

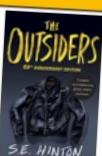


SIXTH GRADE

TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	BOOK
	Rodman Philbrick	Realistic Fiction	
	Laurie Halse	Historical Fiction	
			
			
			

SEVENTH GRADE

TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	BOOK
Ungifted	G. K.		
Refugee	A.		
Maze Runner			
Paperboy			
Booked			

EIGHTH GRADE

TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	BOOK
The Outsiders	S.E. Hinton	Realistic Fiction	
Salt to the Sea	Ruta Sepetys	Historical Fiction	
Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins	Dystopian/ Science Fiction	
Eragon	Christopher Paolini	Fantasy	
The Crossover	Kwame Alexander	Realistic Fiction (Verse)	

SEPARATE grade-level CURATED NOVEL LISTS (120 book options)



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IMPLEMENTATION AND PURPOSE

What is *First Chapter Friday*?

First Chapter Friday is simply a way to introduce students to books that they may not otherwise pick. You simply read the first chapter of a novel every Friday (or whatever day of the week you want). Then display the book or have a sign-up list or whatever you choose, so kids can read the books.

Implementation ideas:

Every school, classroom, and book is going to be different. It may not be possible to read an entire chapter each time. Also, some books like *The Maze Runner* or the *Holes* have really short chapters and you might be able to read three or four of those chapters. In my class I just allot eight to ten minutes each time to read as far as I can get in that amount of time.

Just create a system that works. Whether it's the first chapter, or just a set amount of time you will read the beginnings of books to them, the goal is to just continually try to expose them to a book they might want to read.

I find that students will look at the covers and decide it's not for them. Or sometimes they will even read the synopsis of the books and determine prematurely it's not for them. However, when they actually read or listen to someone read the beginning of books, they are much more likely to be hooked. That is the point of this method. Don't get hung up on the amount of pages, chapters, or time. Just read the start of the books to them!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How were the books selected for each grade level?

I taught sixth grade ELA for one year, and have now taught seventh and eighth grade ELA for four years. I also have taught a sixth grade books and movies elective for the last four years.

Because of this I know there is a HUGE difference in these grade levels, especially when it comes to the novels they read. The lists are based on interests and content (level was not considered for any of the lists, because that's not the purpose of this method).

How were the genres decided? Why not more fantasy or dystopian?

The whole point of *First Chapter Friday* is to get kids interested in books that they might not otherwise read. I did try to vary the genres (realistic fiction, historical fiction, dystopian/science fiction, or fantasy) while also including some format variation (verse novels). Certain genres do have some limitations and I didn't want to include different genres for the sake of it. I wanted to read the first chapters of these books to get my kids reading. This influenced the genres highlighted for each grade.

Dystopian novels tend to be most appropriate for eighth grade in terms of content, so more middle school dystopian novels are recommended in the eighth grade lists. Again, I didn't try to force dystopian novels in the other grades, but there are some recommendations when it made sense.

Fantasy novels present the opposite issue. Trying to get an eighth grader interested in the fantasy genre, who isn't already interested in fantasy books, is honestly pretty difficult. In general, my eighth graders who will read middle grade fantasy will read just about anything. Plus, fantasy doesn't usually even hook fantasy readers right away, so many first chapters don't do fantasy books justice. Again, I included some of these titles when it made sense, and to vary the genres, but I didn't force it so as to stay true to the purpose of this method.

What else should I know about the different grade level lists?

I was pretty good about not putting young adult titles in the sixth and seventh grade lists. In eighth grade, I do treat them much more like high schoolers, and there are young adult titles. Most of these eighth grade recommendations are considered young adult because of violence, but some do have references to and/or imply sexual content. I worked hard to stay away from young adult novels that have actual sex scenes in them. However, you could easily replace any of those titles with a sixth or seventh grade recommendation.

FIRST CHAPTER

CHAPTER

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FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY BOOK LOG

TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	RATING	WANT TO READ?
			1 2 3 4 5	YES NO
			1 2	YES NO
			1	YES NO

Name: _____ Date: _____

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	RATING	WANT TO READ?
			1 2 3 4 5	YES NO

while you're teacher is reading you

Answer one or both of the questions below.
What do you like about this novel?

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	RATING	WANT TO READ?
			1 2 3 4 5	YES NO

Based on this first chapter or first section of the book, what message do you think the author is trying to convey?

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	RATING	WANT TO READ?
			1 2 3 4 5	YES NO

Look at the cover of the book. Were your judgements of the book's cover accurate or did the beginning surprise you? Explain.

student reflection forms




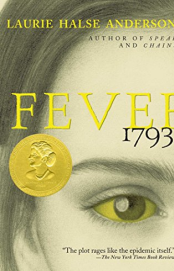
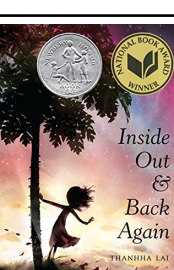
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SIXTH GRADE

	TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	BOOK
PTER FRIDAY	<i>Freak the Mighty</i>	Rodman Philbrick	Realistic Fiction	
	<i>Fever 1793</i>	Laurie Halse Anderson	Historical Fiction	
	<i>Space Case</i>	Stuart Gibbs	Dystopian/ Science Fiction	
FIRST	<i>Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i>	J.K. Rowling	Fantasy	
	<i>Inside and Out and Back Again</i>	Thanhha Lai	Historical Fiction (Verse)	

forty different and varied book recommendations for each grade level



SEVENTH GRADE

	TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	BOOK
PTER FRIDAY	<i>Ungifted</i>	Gordon Korman	Realistic Fiction	
	<i>Refugee</i>	Alan Gratz	Historical Fiction	
	<i>Maze Runner</i>	James Dashner	Dystopian/ Science Fiction	
FIRST				
	<i>Booked</i>	Kwame Alexander	Realistic Fiction (Verse)	

forty different and varied book recommendations for each grade level



EIGHTH GRADE

	TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	BOOK
PTER FRIDAY	<i>The Outsiders</i>	S.E. Hinton	Realistic Fiction	
	<i>Salt to the Sea</i>	Ruta Sepetys	Historical Fiction	
	<i>Hunger Games</i>	Suzanne Collins	Dystopian/ Science Fiction	
FIRST				
	<i>The Crossover</i>	Kwame Alexander	Realistic Fiction (Verse)	

forty different and varied book recommendations for each grade level



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