



PRINCIPAL CORNER for February 29th
Annotated Book List – 5th/6th Grade

Last week I observed 5th/6th graders engaging in class discussion about the book A Single Shard. I was so impressed by the students' knowledge and understanding of the novel along with their capacity to build on one another's responses during class discussion. Our students are in the habit of discussing novels. I observed the following:

Student talk reflects discipline-specific knowledge and ways of thinking. Students provide evidence to support their thinking. Students press on thinking to expand ideas for themselves and others (5D+ Rubric for Instructional Growth and Teacher Evaluation, U. of WA).

Below is the annotated book list compiled by our Teacher Mrs. Alexis Anjomshoaa-Brown. These books are the foundation of our 2019-2020 Language Arts curriculum in 5th/6th grade.

The Golden Goblet

by: Eloise Jarvis McGraw

Ranofer struggles to thwart the plotting of his evil brother, Gebu, so he can become master goldsmith like their father in this exciting tale of Ancient Egyptian mystery and intrigue.

Tirzah

by: Lucille Travis

Tirzah's people, the Israelites, have been in slavery to the Egyptians for many years. She observes the suffering of her people and injustices that are done to them by the Egyptians. Then Moses begs Pharaoh to let them go.

Number the Stars

by: Lois Lowry

This book is an historical fiction about the escape of a Jewish family from Copenhagen, Denmark during World War II.

A Single Shard

by: Linda Sue Park

An orphan boy lives in a Korean potters' village famed for delicate celadon ware becomes fascinated with the potter's craft and dreams of learning the craft.

The Secret of the Andes

by: Ann Nolan Clark

An Indigenous boy who tends llamas in a hidden valley in Peru learns the traditions and secrets of his Inca ancestors.

Esperanza Rising

by: Pam Munoz Ryan

The story follows Esperanza Ortega who at the beginning of the novel is a wealthy girl living in a mansion in Mexico with her loving family. Sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and her mom to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

by: William Kamkwamba

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all the season's crop, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill.

With awe,
Susan Kilbane