



**PRINCIPAL CORNER for March 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Book List**

Our 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders read for a variety of purposes in Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Math. Their teacher Mrs. Lee-Despard kicks off the school year by reading a Shakespeare play with her students. Each student chooses a monologue to memorize and present to the class. To culminate the in-depth study, students travel to Seattle to watch a Shakespeare play.

Mrs. Lee-Despard's, now in her 11<sup>th</sup> year at SCCS, has an amazing annotated book list for the entire 2019-2020 school year. The books our 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders will read this year include:

***Macbeth***, by William Shakespeare, is a classic play about the corrupting power of ambition unchecked, good versus evil, and the contrast between appearance and reality, loyalty and guilt.

***The Outsiders***, by S.E. Hinton, is a classic coming of age story about the gap between rich and poor, the cycle of violence, sacrifice, and family.

***The Pearl***, by John Steinbeck, is an allegory about greed as a destructive force, the role of fate and agency in shaping human life, and the oppression of colonialism.

***Animal Farm***, by George Orwell, is a political satire about the use of language as an instrument to abuse power, the danger of a naive and unquestioning society, and the failure of Socialism in Russia.

***Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet***, by Jaime Ford, is a novel set in Seattle and deals with the impact of the Japanese Internment during World War II. It covers themes of patriotism versus nationalism, the presence of cultural barriers, and coming of age.

Mrs. Lee-Despard guides students to expand vocabulary, deepen comprehension, and reference the novels in class discussion and in their written essays.

With awe,

Susan Kilbane