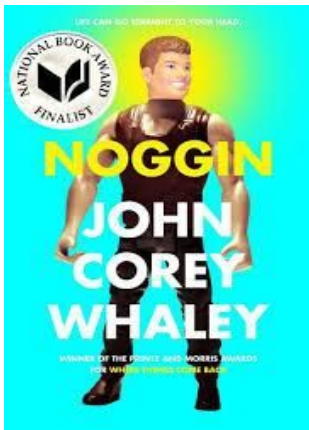


English 9 Honors - Looking for a good book?

***Noggin* by John Corey Whaley**



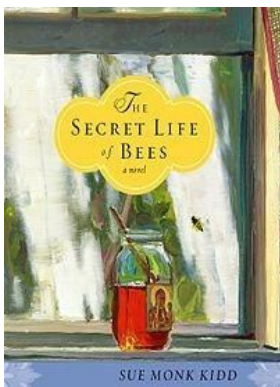
Listen—Travis Coates was alive once and then he wasn't. ...Now he's alive again.

The in between part is still a little fuzzy, but Travis can tell you that, at some point or another, his head got chopped off and shoved into a freezer in Denver, Colorado. Five years later, it was reattached to some other guy's body, and well, here he is. Despite all logic, he's still sixteen, but everything and everyone around him has changed. That includes his bedroom, his parents, his best friend, and his girlfriend. Or maybe she's not his girlfriend anymore? That's a bit fuzzy too.

After dying at age sixteen, Travis Coates' head was removed and frozen for five years before being attached to another body, and now the old Travis and the new must find a way to coexist while figuring out changes in his relationships.

**Contains some language*

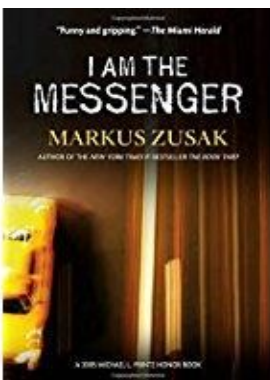
***The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd**



Lily Owens, 14 years old and neglected by her father and isolated on their South Carolina peach farm, spends hours imagining a blissful infancy when she was loved and nurtured by her mother, Deborah, whom she barely remembers. These consoling fantasies are her heart's answer to a family tragedy. All Lily has left of Deborah is a strange image of a Black Madonna, with the words "Tiburon, South Carolina" scrawled on the back. The search for a mother, and the need to mother oneself, are crucial elements in this well-written coming-of-age story set in the early 1960s against a background of racial violence and unrest. When Lily's beloved nanny has to skip town, Lily takes the opportunity to go with her, fleeing to the only place she can think of--Tiburon, South Carolina. Lily's journey of painful secrets and shattering betrayals ultimately helps her find the thing her heart longs for most.

**Contains some mild language*

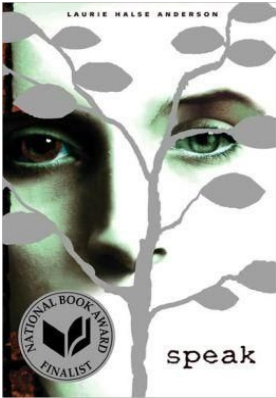
***I am the Messenger* by Markus Zusak**



Ed Kennedy is an underage cabdriver without much of a future. He's pathetic at playing cards, hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey, and utterly devoted to his coffee-drinking dog, the Doorman. His life is one of peaceful routine and incompetence until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when the first ace arrives in the mail. That's when Ed becomes the messenger. Chosen to care, he makes his way through town helping and hurting (when necessary) until only one question remains: Who's behind Ed's mission?

**Contains violence, language, references to sex, alcohol*

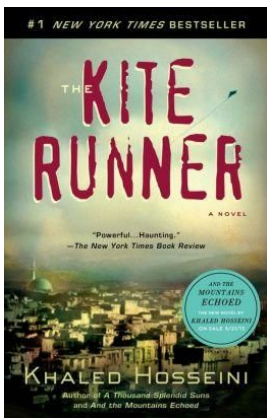
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson



From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda is friendless, an outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back, refuses to be silent, and thereby achieves a measure of vindication. In Laurie Halse Anderson's powerful novel, an utterly believable heroine with a bitterly ironic voice delivers a blow to the hypocritical world of high school. She speaks for many a disenfranchised teenager while demonstrating the importance of speaking up for oneself.

**Contains some language, violence, reference to sex and rape*

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini



Spanning Afghan history from the final days of the monarchy to the present, *The Kite Runner* tells the story of a friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul. Though raised in the same household and sharing the same wet nurse, Amir and Hassan grow up in different worlds: Amir is the son of a prominent and wealthy man, while Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant, is a Hazara. Their intertwined lives, and their fates, reflect the eventual tragedy of the world around them. When the Soviets invade and Amir and his father flee the country for a new life in California, Amir thinks that he has escaped his past. And yet he cannot leave the memory of Hassan behind him.

**Contains violence*

Synopses from *Amazon.com* & *BarnesandNoble.com*

*We want to ensure that your student is reading a text that is appropriate as determined by your standards as well as our own. For this reason, we have provided choice in the novel selections. These novels are often literary award winners and many are also on the AP Literature list of recommended readings. If you have concerns, we encourage you to look over the materials to make sure that it is appropriate for your student to read his or her selected book. Consider visiting <http://www.common sense media.org> to see thoughts from both parents and students for many of the novels.