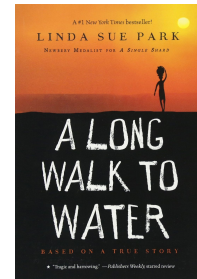


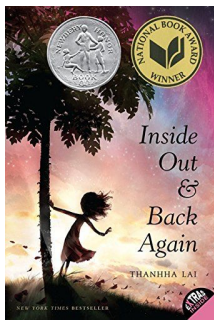
7th and 8th Grade ELA

Although it's been an unorthodox school year so far, our 7th and 8th graders have really shined throughout the first few months of the year!

In 7th grade ELA, we started the year by writing “Where I’m From” poems about ourselves. This helped us to connect with one another and practice wordsmithing through creative writing! After that, we jumped into reading our first novel—*A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. We learned and wrote about the challenges faced by the Lost Boys of Sudan, and, specifically, Salva Dut who lived in Rochester, NY, for many years of his life. We’ve just finished reading the book and are now preparing to write our first analysis essay of the year by examining the ways in which Salva used his persistence and other tools at his disposal to survive in the challenging environments he faced on his journey.



In 8th grade ELA, we started the year with a unit focusing on short stories and the way that authors use literary devices and techniques to convey meaning. We worked on character analysis and studied craft, so that we could finish our unit by writing our own, creative short stories. Each student chose one of the stories that we read to make their own by rewriting or extending the ending. Now, we are in the midst of our first novel of the year, *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai. This book is written in verse and features a young girl named Ha, living in Saigon during the Vietnam War. Students are getting to know Ha and learning about the history of her country by reading and writing often and rigorously about the text. We are using Ha's life and related informational articles to help us understand the universal refugee experience.



As we move toward Thanksgiving, and then, December, both grades are looking forward to finishing their first class novel of the year and moving on to the next!