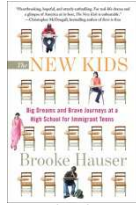


## Literature Suggestions for High School Sociology Students

### ***The New Kids: Big Dreams and Brave Journeys at a High School for Immigrant Teens***

by Brooke Hauser

Amazon.com Summary –



An inspiring work of narrative journalism, *The New Kids* chronicles a year in the lives of teenage newcomers who are at once ordinary and extraordinary in their paths to the American Dream. Hauser's unforgettable portraits include Jessica, kicked out of her father's home just days after arriving from China; Ngawang, who spent twenty-four hours folded up in a suitcase to escape Tibet; Mohamed, a diamond miner's son from Sierra Leone whose past is shrouded in mystery; and Chit Su, a Burmese refugee who is the only person to speak her language in the entire school.

The students deal with enormous obstacles: traumas and wars in their native countries that haunt them, and pressures from their cultures to marry or to drop out and go to work. They aren't just jostling for their places in the high school pecking order—they are carving out new lives for themselves in America.

### ***The Glass Castle: A Memoir***

by Jeanette Walls

Amazon.com Summary –



Book Trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW0XVno-0gM>

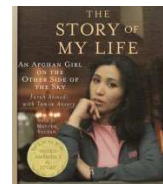
Jeanette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted and wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict."

Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town -- and the family -- Rex Walls had done everything he could to escape. He drank. He stole the grocery money and disappeared for days. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeanette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home.

### ***The Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir***

by Farah Ahmed

Amazon.com Summary –



Update on Farah from *NBC Nightly News* with Brian Williams  
<http://video.msnbc.msn.com/nghtly-news/22730965>

Farah Ahmed's "poignant tale of survival" (*Chicago Tribune*) chronicles her journey from war to peace. Equal parts tragedy and hope, determination and daring, Ahmed's memoir delivers a remarkably vivid portrait of her girlhood in Kabul, where the sound of gunfire and the sight of falling bombs shaped her life and stole her family. She herself narrowly escapes death when she steps on a land mine. Eventually the war forces her to flee, first over the mountains to refugee camps across the border, and finally to America. Ahmed proves that even in the direst circumstances, not only can the human heart endure, it can thrive.

### ***Of Beetles and Angels***

by Mawi Asgedom



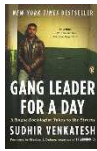
Mawi discusses a trip to Walmart with his Ethiopian family...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2SfZBw46Kk>

Amazon.com Summary – This acclaimed memoir tells the unforgettable story of a young boy's journey from a refugee camp in Sudan to Chicago, where his family survived on welfare. Mawi followed his father's advice to "treat people . . . as though they were angels sent from heaven," and realized his dream of a full-tuition scholarship to Harvard University. Updated with 14 black-and-white photos and a new epilogue.

## ***Gang Leader for a Day***

by Sudhir Venkatesh



Colbert Interview -

<http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/156631/march-13-2008/sudhir-venkatesh>

Amazon.com Summary – When first-year graduate student Sudhir Venkatesh walked into an abandoned building in one of Chicago’s most notorious housing projects, he hoped to find a few people willing to take a multiple-choice survey on urban poverty--and impress his professors with his boldness. He never imagined that as a result of this assignment he would befriend a gang leader named JT and spend the better part of a decade embedded inside the projects under JT’s protection. From a privileged position of unprecedented access, Venkatesh observed JT and the rest of his gang as they operated their crack-selling business, made peace with their neighbors, evaded the law, and rose up or fell within the ranks of the gang’s complex hierarchical structure. Examining the morally ambiguous, highly intricate, and often corrupt struggle to survive in an urban war zone, *Gang Leader for a Day* also tells the story of the complicated friendship that develops between Venkatesh and JT--2 young and ambitious men a universe apart.

## ***A Chance to Win***

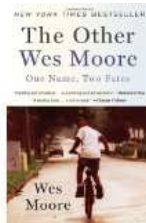
by Jonathan Schuppe



Amazon.com Summary – When Rodney Mason, an ex-con drug dealer from Newark’s rough South Ward, was shot and paralyzed, he vowed to turn his life around. A former high-school pitching ace with a 93 mph fastball, Mason decided to form a Little League team to help boys avoid the street life that had claimed his youth and mobility. Predictably, the players struggle—they endure poverty, unstable family lives with few positive male role models, failing schools, and dangerous neighborhoods—but through the fists and tears, lopsided losses and rare victories, this bunch of misfits becomes a team, and in doing so gives the community something to root for. With in-depth reporting, fascinating characters, and vivid prose, Jonathan Schuppe’s book is both a penetrating, true-to-life portrait of what’s at stake for kids growing up poor in America’s inner cities and a portrait of Newark itself, a struggling city that has recently known great hope as well as failure.

## ***The Other Wes Moore***

by Wes Moore



Book Trailer -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udQWofALwj4>

Amazon.com Summary - Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

## ***King and King***

by Linda de Haan



Amazon.com Summary – When a grouchy queen tells her layabout son that it's time for him to marry, he sighs, "Very well, Mother.... I must say, though, I've never cared much for princesses." His young page winks. Several unsatisfactory bachelorettes visit the castle before "Princess Madeleine and her brother, Prince Lee" appear in the doorway. The hero is smitten at once. "What a wonderful prince!" he and Prince Lee both exclaim, as a shower of tiny Valentine hearts flutters between them.

## ***The Skin You Live In***

By Michael Tyler



Amazon.com Summary –

With the ease and simplicity of a nursery rhyme, this lively story delivers an important message of social acceptance to young readers. Themes associated with child development and social harmony, such as friendship, acceptance, self-esteem, and diversity are promoted in simple and straightforward prose.

# READING IN THE SOCIOLOGY CLASSROOM

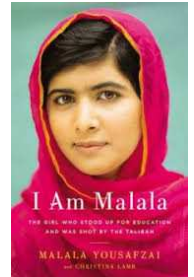
## ***Juvenile in Justice* – Richard Ross**

Notes from Follett: A collection of photographs of young people in juvenile detention, accompanied by the life stories that those in custody shared with the photographer.



## ***I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* – Malala Yousafzai**

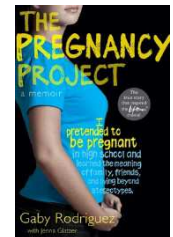
Summary from Amazon: I AM MALALA is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. I AM MALALA will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.



Diane Sawyer interviews Malala -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ev-jPT5M9cU>

## ***The Pregnancy Project* – Gaby Rodriguez**

Summary from Amazon: When Gaby faked a pregnancy to challenge stereotypes, she changed her life. A compelling memoir from an inspirational teenage activist.

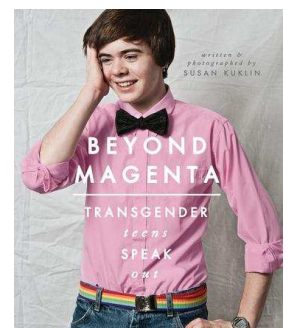


also

Publisher Book Trailer -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dlg9KHrKw0>

## ***Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out* – Susan Kuklin**

Summary from Amazon: A groundbreaking work of LGBT literature takes an honest look at the life, love, and struggles of transgender teens. Author and photographer Susan Kuklin met and interviewed six transgender or gender-neutral young adults and used her considerable skills to represent them thoughtfully and respectfully before, during, and after their personal acknowledgment of gender preference.



## ***Divergent* – Veronica Roth**

Summary from Follett: In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.



## Why book talk?

- Kids love suggestions from their teachers – they love to know what you love (and they quickly scurry to the library to check it out)
- Contemporary narrative non-fiction and young adult fiction is awesome – there are SO MANY great books to read
- Literacy, Common Core, College and Career Readiness

## Tips for book talking

- Avoid a full summary (be brief – try for 1-2 minutes per title)
- Never give away the ending
- Who are the key players? What is their issue? Why should readers care?
- Connect to what they love – your unit, something local, another book or film, etc.
- Show the cover and the pictures; offer intriguing and powerful passages
- Make sure your library has copies of the book
- Make sure they can find your lists of titles again later  
(on Pinterest, in the library catalog, etc.)
- Ask your librarian to do the book talks for you! ☺

### Student Created Book Trailers - Try:

- Animoto
- Prezi
- Glogster
- Lumify
- MovieMaker
- iMovie

## Book trailers

- Like commercials for books!
- Publishers often create trailers
- Fans (your students!) love to make trailers
- Search YouTube, TeacherTube, Pinterest, author webpages, and publisher sites

## Book Talks and the C3 Framework

The C3 Framework calls upon students to “read, write and think deeply.” (p5)

Dimension 3 (p53) “Students should use various technologies and skills to in find information and to express their responses to compelling and supporting questions...The specific skills described in Dimension 3 support the examination of content using concepts and tools from the social studies disciplines.” (p53)

“Sociology helps students to understand their own and others’ social problems.” (Appendix, p74)

**BOOK TRAILERS AND THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS**  
See how many real world skills and standards are met with this one digital media project.

The COMMON CORE are national educational standards designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, preparing students for success in college and their careers.

**1. Read the Book** Theme - S.RL.2  
Determine central ideas or THEMES of a text and analyze their developments; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.  
www.corestandards.org

**2. Write the Script** Narrative - S.W.3  
Write a NARRATIVE to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear event sequences.

**3. Storyboard the Script** Analyze - S.RL.7  
ANALYZE how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone or beauty of a text.  
Use TECHNOLOGY, including the internet to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

**4. Create the Trailer** Presentation - S.SL.5  
Include MULTIMEDIA components and visual displays in PRESENTATIONS to enhance the development of main idea or theme.

**5. Share Globally** Collaboration - S.SL.1  
New Technologies have broadened and expanded the role that speaking and listening play in SHARING knowledge and have tightened their link to other forms of communication.  
[See Notes on Range for this standard]

Students use digital media strategically and capably.

setting, theme, text details, voice, main character, audience, mood, POV, Narrative language

Does the music, narration, images and graphics enhance the story? REVISE?

by Teacher Librarian M. Harclerode BOOK TRAILERS FOR READERS booktrailersforreaders.com 2012