Mrs. Zaker’s 2016 Reads:Titles, authors, and some essential questions

We Were Here-Matt de La Pena (Does “juvi”rehabilitate?)

Period 8-Chris Crutcher (What is the dark side of student leadership?)

For Whom the Bell Tolls-Ernest Hemingway (How do soldiers prepare themselves for war?)

Let it Snow-Maureen Johnson, John Green, and Lauren Myracle (How are our lives intertwined?)

Mexican White Boy-Matt de la Pena (Are we that different from our parents?)

Fist Stick Knife Gun: A personal History of Violence-Geoffrey Canada (How has violence progressed in America?)

Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town-Warren St. John (How can we play as a team when we are so different?)

Wuthering Heights-Emily Bronte (Is redemption possible?)

And the Mountains Echoed-Khaled Hosseini (What sacrifices do we make for others?)

Brian’s Winter-Gary Paulsen (If pushed to our limits, do we have what it takes to survive?)

Station Eleven-Emily St. John Mandel (What makes some leaders gravitate towards evil?)

Mao’s Last Dancer-Li Cunxin (How do our families sacrifice to help us have better futures?)

Ball Don’t Lie-Matt de la Pena (How does a teenage boy survive poverty and being an outcast?)

Fallen Angels-Walter Dean Myers (What was it like to be a young serviceman in Vietnam?)

Never Fall Down-Patricia McCormick (What is the real meaning behind “killing fields”?)

Uglies-Scott Westerfield (How do I define beauty?)

The Sledding Hill-Chris Crutcher (Can death stop a friendship?)

Ties that Bind: Stories of Love and Gratitude from the First 10 Years of Storycorps (How does love bring out the best in us as humans?)

The Wounded Spirit-Frank E. Peretti (How deep is the damage that bullies inflict?)

Raise the Roof-Pat Summitt (What is it like to be coached by the winningest coach in women’s basketball?)

Orphan Train-Christina Baker Kline (How do inter-generational relationships heal the past?)

Escape from Camp 14: One Man’s Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom in the West-Blaine Harden (What allows some people to survive amidst hell-like conditions?)

The Forest of Hands and Teeth-Carrie Ryan (How do we conquer our own fears?)

Blizzard’s Wake: Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (In the face of tragedy, how would we react?)