

**THE KALEIDOSCOPE SYSTEM**

**The titles we’ve chosen to include in our combined book list were all drawn from award lists and library lists of recommended books as well as a few of our own personal favorites. Every book we refer to is listed alphabetically with a brief description in the handout you’ll find online at the conclusion of this event.**

**We’ve attempted, insofar as it is possible, to eliminate the prep work and give you what you need to begin. But the lists we are providing are absolutely adaptable to your preferences as, over time, new titles are published and others prove less meaningful. This is a only a starting point you will refine over time according to your needs.**

**The slide of 2 columns of 6 books each is to demonstrate how Kaleeidoscope works in its primary form.**

**You might wish to offer more or fewer titles to your students but the premise would be the same—to choose booka to read and compare.**

**\* Note: You would include the brief summaries of each novel that we provide in our downloadable lists. These are available in 4 formats, with one for Historical; one for Contemporary; and one for Futuristic titles. PLUS a combined list of all the titles in alphabetical order—a master list, if you will. All to make it easier for you.**

**We realize that reading 2 entire novels might be too much to ask of your students, so you might prefer to ask them to compare just the first chapter or chapters and then (possibly) read the book they prefer. This program is *completely customizable* to your preferences and your students’ needs.**

**You might also predetermine which books should be paired up and let them choose one of the pairings.**

**FOR EXAMPLE: *Lifeboat 12* and *Ground Zero* Both are stories about youngsters caught up in a war and fearing for their survival.**

**Or *Two Roads* and *While I WasAway* Both are stories of discovering one’s cultural identity.**

**Again, this is up to you.**

**The next slide is a sample worksheet for students which is self-explanatory and completely customizable to your preferences.**

**The next slide has a Future column added, and this is where the Kaleidoscope system really begins to get exciting!**

**Now students can choose from 3 columns/time periods.**

**OR, as before, you might want to suggest pairings using our booklists as guides.**

**For example, you might ask students to compare *Before the Ever After* and *The Giver* Both are stories about memory.**

**Or you might allow them to choose any two books from any two of the three lists and they might choose two seemingly unrelated books that sound interesting to them.**

**They might, for example, choose *Stowaway* and *Roll With It!*  On the surface they might seem very different—but both are about strong youngsters determined to do all they can to take control of their lives.**

**These examples come from looking at just 3 columns of six books each. The complete lists you’ll have available to you include more than 90 titles!**

**And this is *still* just the beginning!**

**Our booklists focus on only these three categories. But what if we add sub-categories for all of these time periods?**



**For example, you might want to add a sub category within each time period that adds graphic novels; or novels in verse? (We’ve included a few but you can add more.)**

**And what about non-fiction?**

**At the high school level this could be elevated to include divisions of non-fiction such as biographies; memoirs; autobiographies. Newspaper articles vs. magazines articles vs political non-fiction and even political cartoons. Anthologies of short stories could be contrasted to novels and/or plays.**

**The possibilities truly are almost endless.**

**Just as turning the kaleidoscope shifts what we see, you can shift the lens through which you want your students to view any of these works. Themes is one major lens.**

**Some common themes we might find in books for this age group include**

**“Who Am I?” Others are Preservation of the planet; Ethnicity; Gender identity; Physical or emotional special needs; Fitting in at home or at school; Overcoming fear; Overcoming loss.**

**Compare, for example how phyiscal impairments were viewed in the past, as in *The War* *that Saved My Life* vs. today, as in *Roll With It*.**

**Emotional problems/mental illness and learning difficulties are still more lenses to look through and raise awareness of in students.**

**In addition to theme, another lens might be genre: adventure; humor; mystery; fantasy**

**Voice might be another-- first person; third person; omniscient; limited?**

**Using the Kaleidoscope system, it’s easy to zoom in on whatever element you want your students to focus on. You can shift the lenses while also curating your book lists to suit your particular goals in a given class. Kaleidoscope provides you with a ready-to-use system with unlimited possibilites.**

