

HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
**CAPSTONE**  
PROJECT



Hoover's Capstone Project is inspired by the Lewiston-Porter Eighth Grade Honors Project, created in 2016 at Lew-Port Middle School by then-Principal Dean Ramirez and math teacher Nina Calarco.



# The Significance of GRIT

## A Conversation with Angela Lee Duckworth

*People who can set long-term goals and stick to them  
have a leg up on success in school and life.*

**Deborah Perkins-Gough**

*For the last 11 years, Angela Lee Duckworth of the University of Pennsylvania has been conducting groundbreaking studies on grit—the quality that enables individuals to work hard and stick to their long-term passions and goals. In this interview with Educational Leadership, Duckworth describes what her research has shown about the relationship between grit and achievement, and she reflects on the importance of helping students develop grit and other noncognitive traits.*

*The theme of this issue, as you know, is “Resilience and Learning.” How are grit and resilience related? Is there a difference between the two?*

The word *resilience* is used differently by different people. And to add to the confusion, the ways people use it often

have a lot of overlap. To give you an example, Martin Seligman, my advisor and now my colleague here at Penn, has a program called the “Penn Resiliency Program.” It’s all about one specific definition of resilience, which is optimism—appraising situations without distorting them, thinking about changes that are possible to make in your life. But I’ve heard other people use *resilience* to mean bouncing back from adversity, cognitive or otherwise. And some people use *resilient* specifically to refer to kids who come from at-risk environments who thrive nevertheless.

What all those definitions of resilience have in common is the idea of a positive response to failure or adversity. Grit is related because part of what it means to be gritty is to be resilient in the face of failure or adversity. But that’s not the only trait you need to be gritty.

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Videos regarding Angela Lee Duckworth’s research on growth mindset and grit are available on the HMS website.



# Summer 2018



Complete the summer reading/book study work.



Begin the photo essay project.



Get ready for the new school year!



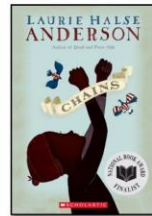


# HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL CAPSTONE PROJECT

— SUMMER READING CHOICES —

Before beginning the HMS Capstone Project next school year, you must read one of the following books over the summer. This book will also be used for projects and presentations in the first marking period of next year. Limited numbers of each title are available; please see Mr. Kleismit with your choice.

**Your Task:** You are a representative for the publisher of your selected text. You will make a presentation at the National Youth-At-Risk Convention, with a focus on helping struggling teens to develop a sense of grit. You must persuade an audience of adults working closely with struggling teens that your text will help teens to develop grit, to become determined to succeed, and to persevere despite hardships.

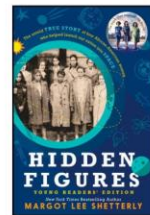
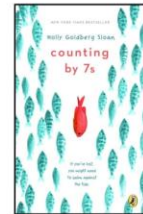


### **Chains** Laurie R. King

Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, thirteen-year-old Isabel and her sister become the property of a malicious New York City couple who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for the two sisters. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. Isabel is reluctant at first, but she realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

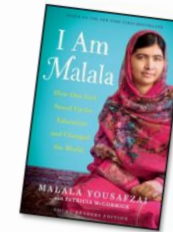
### **Counting by 7s** Holly Goldberg Sloan

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is not a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd and endearing girl manages to push through her grief.



### **Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition)** Margot Lee Shetterly

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. *Hidden Figures* is the phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space.



Even though her mother, sisters, Vonetta and Fern, seven just look after her sisters during a When they arrive on the West attend a day camp run by the sisters learn much about their



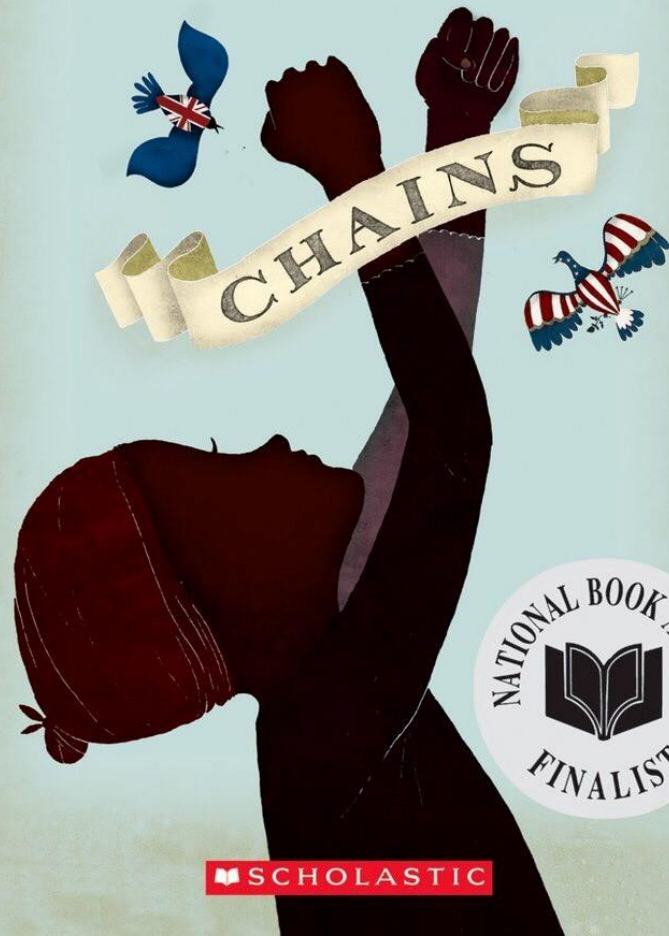
photograph inside a purse — Yuming—who made lying side by side, become entangled in this power of hope.



A PDF version of the summer reading overview is available on the HMS website.

# LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON

Author of *Speak* and *Fever 1793*



 SCHOLASTIC

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Holly Goldberg Sloan

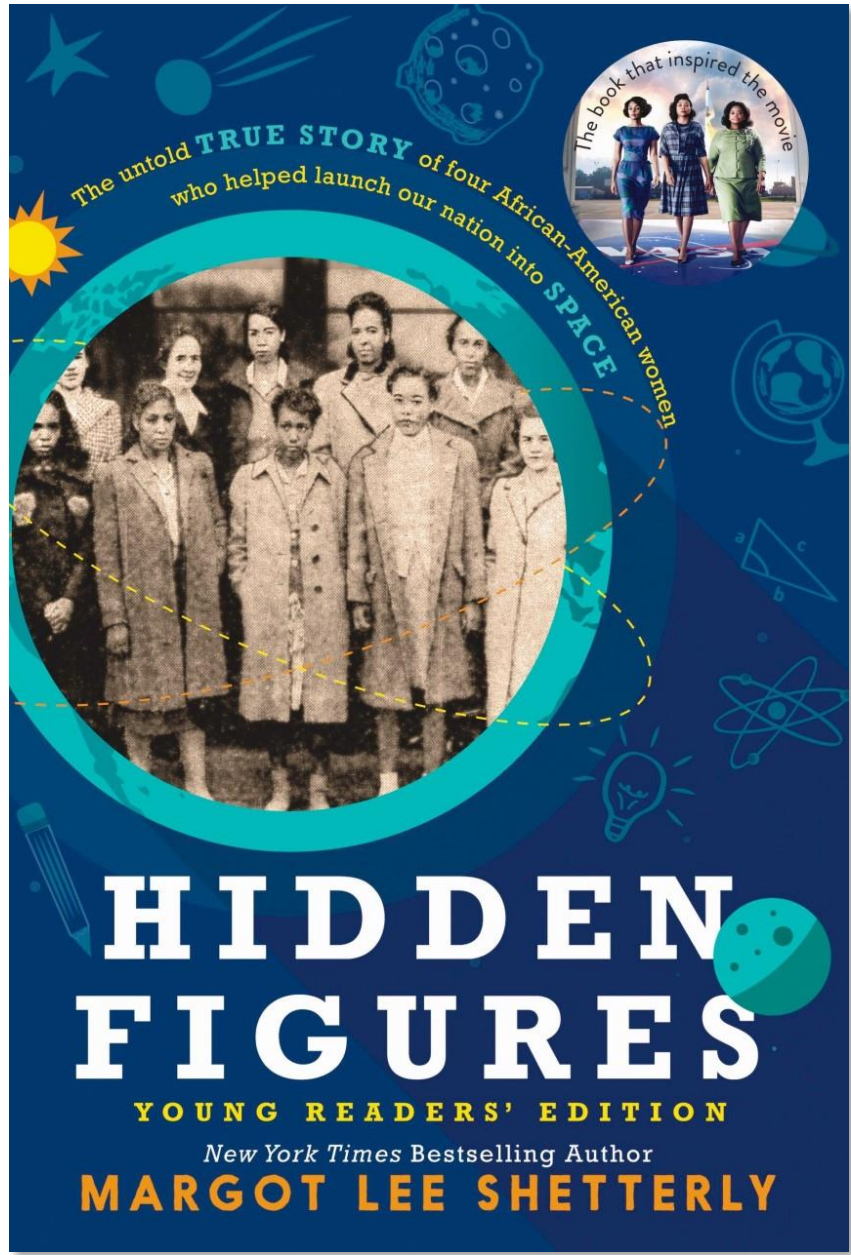
counting  
by 7s



If you're lost,  
you might need  
to swim against  
the tide.







The untold **TRUE STORY** of four African-American women who helped launch our nation into **SPACE**

The book that inspired the movie



# HIDDEN FIGURES

YOUNG READERS' EDITION

New York Times Bestselling Author

**MARGOT LEE SHETTERLY**



BASED ON THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER

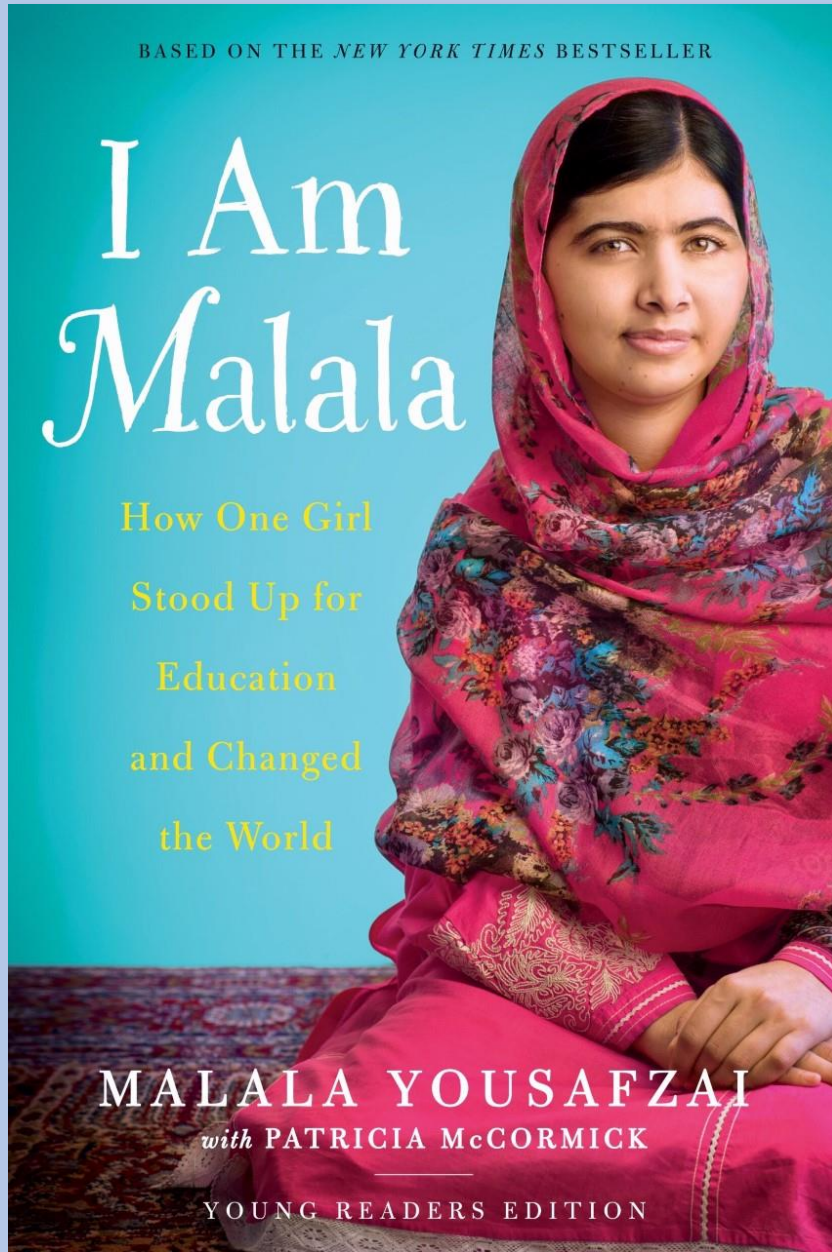
# I Am Malala

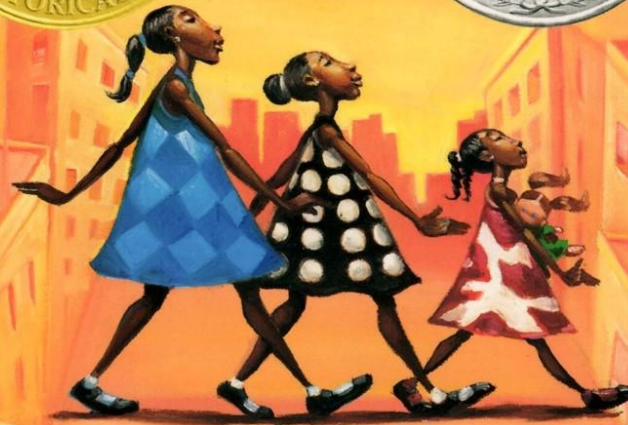
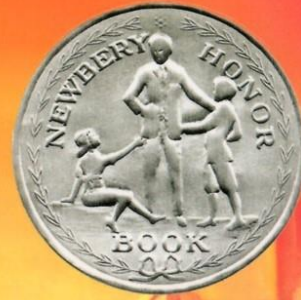
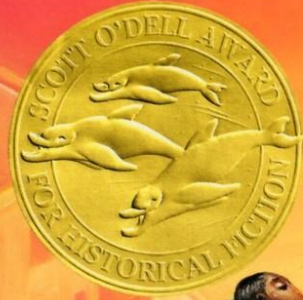
How One Girl  
Stood Up for  
Education  
and Changed  
the World

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

with PATRICIA McCORMICK

YOUNG READERS EDITION

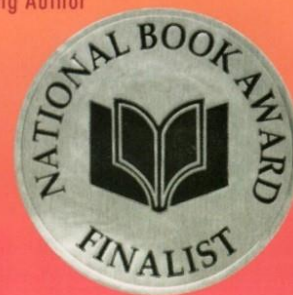


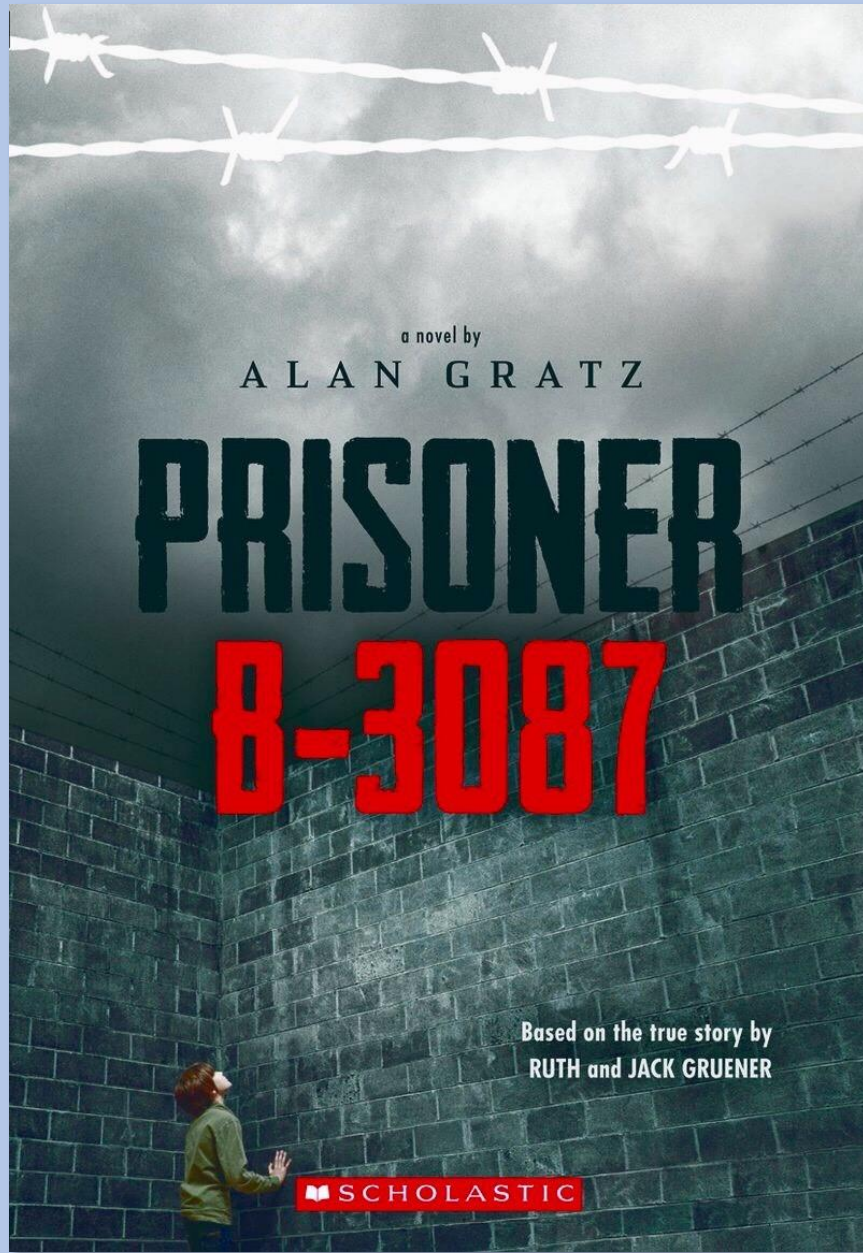


# ONE CRAZY SUMMER

RITA WILLIAMS-GARCIA

*New York Times* Bestselling Author





a novel by  
ALAN GRATZ

# PRISONER B-3087

Based on the true story by  
RUTH and JACK GRUENER

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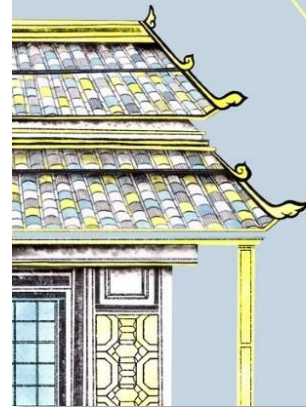


Two lives tied by one brave act



# Threads

a novel by  
Ami Polonsky



A BEAUTIFUL TRUE STORY ABOUT COURAGE,  
EMPATHY, AND ONE VERY UGLY KID.

# UGLY



A MEMOIR BY  
**ROBERT HOGE**



# Marking Period 1



Participate in  
baseline  
presentations of  
summer work.



Explore potential  
research topics.



Enjoy team-building  
activities with peers.





“What we’re seeing now is a swing back toward a recognition that these standardized tests, although they serve an important function, are limited in their ability to pick up things like **grit** and **self-control** [. . .] **gratitude, honesty, generosity, empathy for the suffering of others, social intelligence, tact, charisma.** These are the qualities I want my daughters, who are 10 and 11, to have. Another important quality is being proactive—when a kid thinks, ‘I care about the whales, and I’m going to start an organization,’ and then actually goes out and does that.”

During the first marking period, students will complete heart maps, identifying things which “fill” their hearts as well as things which “break” their hearts. These maps will guide the students’ selection of long-term research topics/questions. The following heart maps are examples from other school districts.







# ~Our Heartbreaks~







# Marking Period 2



Continue research with teacher, library media specialist, and tech coach.



Think outside the box to solve Breakout EDU “escape room” scenarios. A short video of the Breakout EDU in action is available on the HMS website.



Learn about new tools through technology mini-lessons.

# Marking Period 3



Continue research with teacher, library media specialist, and tech coach.



Select technology to creatively present research to an audience.



Plan final presentation.

# Marking Period 4



Finish research.



Present findings at  
end-of-year  
showcase.



Receive recognition  
and honors cords at  
Moving Up Day  
ceremony.



## **2018 Research Topics from Lew-Port Students:**



- **Why is racism still relevant in the US today?**
- **Does social media benefit society?**
- **What are the necessary action steps in starting a bakery?**
- **How does music therapy affect a person's well being?**
- **How can emergency room wait times be minimized?**
- **How does sleep deprivation affect an individual physically and mentally?**
- **How does one create and publish an IOS app?**
- **What is the most effective way to tell if someone is lying?**
- **Can we make a soccer ball that behaves on a gym floor like it would outdoors on turf?**

# WHAT ARE 21ST CENTURY SKILLS? THESE 4 C'S:

C

COMMUNICATION

Sharing thoughts,  
questions, ideas &  
solutions

C

COLLABORATION

Working together to  
reach a goal. Putting  
talent, expertise,  
and smarts to work

C

CRITICAL  
THINKING

Looking at problems in  
a new way and linking  
learning across  
subjects & disciplines

C

CREATIVITY

Trying new approaches  
to get things done equals  
innovation & invention

<b>Period</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>
<b>Homeroom</b>	8:15-8:20
1	8:20-9:01
2	9:04-9:45
3	9:48-10:29 AM SPECIALS
4	10:32-11:02 LUNCH
5	11:05-11:46
6	11:49-12:30
7a	12:33-12:55
7b	12:58-1:20
8	1:23-2:04
9	2:07-2:50 PM SPECIALS

← **Band/Chorus/Orchestra**

← **CAP/RTI/Academic Support**

← **Band/Chorus/Orchestra**





Questions about the Capstone Project may be directed to:

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Jeffery Kleismit, *ELA Teacher* ([jkleismit@ktufsd.org](mailto:jkleismit@ktufsd.org))

Rebecca LaRoach, *Guidance Counselor* ([rlaroach@ktufsd.org](mailto:rlaroach@ktufsd.org))