

The Allen-Stevenson School Upper Division
7th and 8th Grade
Required and Recommended Books 2021-2022

May 10, 2021

Dear Students,

As the librarian for students in Grades 6-8, I would like to welcome those students who are new to Allen-Stevenson. The students who are here know that we at Allen-Stevenson love to read and talk with each other about our favorite books! Our library has a great collection that includes fiction and non-fiction titles that are selected specifically for our Upper School students.

Beginning on May 17, 2020, when our virtual Book Fair goes live, you may purchase books online that you would like to read over the summer.* Summer is a great time to relax and escape into books. Not only that, studies have shown that students who read what they enjoy do better on standardized tests and are better at reading and writing overall!

We encourage all students entering Seventh and Eighth Grade to read 5 books over the summer, including your assigned book discussion book. Read what you enjoy! Attached to this letter is a selection of our favorite books. Some are new hits; others are time-tested favorites. You will find many of these books at our virtual Book Fair. The rest can be found at public libraries. You should also go to the Allen-Stevenson Library Tech Commons website at www.ascommons.org. It has many wonderful resources, including downloadable e-books and audiobooks from Sora.

BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK DISCUSSION

All students entering Seventh and Eighth Grade must read the book that they will discuss with their book group when they get back to school. Check which book you are reading on the *Announcements* section on the home page of ascommons.org. Make sure you know it well and don't forget to prepare a few questions or comments for your book discussion!

Have a wonderful summer and happy reading!

Ms. Storch
Teacher-Librarian (Grades 6-8)

*The proportionate amount of aid will be credited where applicable.

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FICTION: ADVENTURE

Stories featuring exciting plots with plenty of action and confrontations. Characters display bravery and are often pitted against nature.



BEAST RIDER by Tony Johnston and María Elena Fontanot de Rhoads

Not everyone has the courage to ride “The Beast,” the name given to the many trains traveling north through Mexico to the border with the United States. And with good reason; it is not for the faint of heart. First, you must jump the train at just the right time to avoid being crushed by its wheels or getting arrested. Then you need to make sure you don’t fall off the top of the train or fall prey to the gangs who also ride the train. Join Manuel on his hair-raising journey as he follows his dream. Can he tame “The Beast”? Only time will tell.

CHERUB: THE RECRUIT by Robert Muchamore

“CHERUB agents are highly trained, extremely talented -- and all under the age of seventeen. For official purposes, these agents do not exist . . . [James is a] bit of a troublemaker, but he’s also brilliant. And CHERUB needs him. James has no idea what to expect, but he’s out of options. Before he can start in the field, he must survive one hundred grueling days of basic training, where even the toughest recruits don’t make it to the end.” First in an action-packed series.

CODE OF HONOR by Alan Gratz

Seventeen-year-old Kamran Smith is a high school senior whose future seems to be set. He gets great grades, is a football star, has a girlfriend, and is on track to follow in the footsteps of his older brother, Darius, to West Point. All that changes when Darius, an Army Ranger, is accused of being a terrorist who has joined al-Qaeda. In this action-packed novel, Kamran must escape from federal custody to prove that Darius is not a terrorist and save his life. If he fails, there will be a massive terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

DRY by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman

A VOYA 2018 "Perfect 10". This is the story of what happens when the taps run dry in a large part of California. A suspenseful survival story with elements of reality that seem far too close for comfort. How would you react if you were in this situation?

LITTLE BROTHER by Cory Doctorow

Talk about being in the wrong place at the wrong time! After skipping school and hanging out in San Francisco with some friends, seventeen-year-old super smart techno-geek Marcus is swept up by Homeland Security forces in the aftermath of a terrorist attack that occurred nearby. After being brutally interrogated, Marcus is released into a city he can barely recognize. San Francisco has become a police state with surveillance everywhere, where everyone is considered to be a terrorist and no one will believe his story. Marcus

figures there is only one way to get out of this mess -- use his tech skills to outwit the Department of Homeland Security. Will he succeed? SEQUEL: *Homeland*.

THE LIVING by Matt de la Peña

Shy Espinoza has landed what looks to be a dream summer job on a luxury cruise ship. Great tips, a chance to help out his mom and sister with the bills, and bikini-clad girls: what could go wrong? A lot. Disaster strikes when a massive earthquake in California causes a tsunami that wrecks the ship and leaves Shy and others in shark-infested waters trying to survive. SEQUEL: *The Hunted*.

READY PLAYER ONE by Ernest Cline

In the year 2044, the world is a grim place. Wade Watts, like most others, takes refuge in the OASIS, a virtual reality world. Wade has spent his whole life studying the puzzles within the OASIS that were created by its founder which, if solved, will lead to great power and fortune. There's just one catch: Wade is competing against thousands of others who also want to win and some of them are willing to commit murder to do so!

SURVIVING ANTARCTICA by Andrea White

In the year 2083, five fourteen-year-olds, who were deprived by chance of the opportunity to continue their education, re-enact Robert Falcon Scott's 1910-1913 expedition to the South Pole as contestants on a reality television show. Can they survive? Scott didn't!

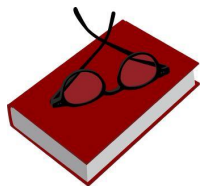
TOMORROW WHEN THE WAR BEGAN by John Marsden

Australian friends return from a camping trip in the Outback to discover that enemy forces have invaded the country and imprisoned everyone in town. They vow to survive and inflict spectacular damage on the invaders. First book in an action-packed series.

UNWIND by Neal Shusterman

"Imagine this -- maybe you're a troublemaker. Maybe you're a ward of the state. Maybe your family belongs to a certain religion. Whatever the reason, because you're between the ages of 13 and 18, your guardian has the right to have you Unwound. All of your body parts will be split up and used for transplants in other people -- people who have passed their 18th birthday. If you want to keep your body parts, you have only one choice: the same choice facing Connor, Risa and Lev. You run." -- From the publisher. SEQUELS: *UnWholly*, *UnSouled*, *UnDivided*, and *UnBound*.

BIOGRAPHY & NONFICTION



A LONG WAY GONE by Ishmael Beah

When he was 12, Beah was forced to flee his home by rebel soldiers in Sierra Leone and was eventually picked up by the government army. A first-hand, fascinating account of the life of a child-soldier.

BLACK BOY by Richard Wright

This is the well-known autobiography of a poor black boy growing up in the Jim Crow South.

BOOTS ON THE GROUND: AMERICA'S WAR IN VIETNAM by Elizabeth Partridge

This is the story of the U.S. involvement in Vietnam as seen through the eyes of the people who were there: six American soldiers, one American military nurse, and one Vietnamese refugee. A nominee for the 2019 YALSA Excellence in Non-Fiction Award.

IT'S TREVOR NOAH: BORN A CRIME: STORIES FROM A SOUTH AFRICAN CHILDHOOD by Trevor Noah

Comedian Trevor Noah was born to a white father and black mother in South Africa during apartheid, a time when it was illegal for blacks and whites to date let alone marry. This is Trevor Noah's insightful and amusing coming of age memoir.

BOY ON THE WOODEN BOX: HOW THE IMPOSSIBLE BECAME POSSIBLE . . . ON SCHINDLER'S LIST: A MEMOIR by Leon Leyson

Lieb Leyson was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and he and his family, who were Jewish, were forced to move to the Krakow ghetto. Oskar Schindler was a German industrialist and Nazi who owned enamelware and ammunition factories in Poland and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia who saved 1,200 Jews from World War II concentration camps. This memoir tells the harrowing and ultimately uplifting story of how Lieb Leyson managed to survive and become one of the youngest boys on Oskar Schindler's list of Jews who would be saved.

CHASING KING'S KILLER: THE HUNT FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S KILLER by James L. Swanson

This is a well-researched and extremely readable account of Martin Luther King Jr.'s rise as a civil rights leader and the man behind his assassination: James Earl Ray.

THE FAITHFUL SPY: DIETRICH BONHOEFFER AND THE PLOT AGAINST HITLER by John Hendrix

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian and pastor in the German church, stayed true to his morals and dared to speak out publicly against Hitler. He joined the German Resistance and eventually participated in a plot to assassinate Hitler. Told in text and bold illustrations that will

appeal to graphic novel fans. Winner of the YALSA award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults.

FREE LUNCH by Rex Ogle

In this compelling memoir, Rex Ogle tells the story of his first semester in sixth grade in which he and his family face poverty and other challenges. Told in an authentic sixth grade voice, the author brings to light the biases against those who live in poverty and delivers the important message that we are all more than what we might appear to be at first glance. Winner of the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction.

THE GRAND ESCAPE: THE GREATEST PRISON BREAKOUT OF THE 20TH CENTURY by Neal Bascomb

This is the story of the Allied prisoners who staged a daring escape from the notorious Holzminden prison camp during World War I. As one reviewer put it, “Altogether, the book is a marvel of research and an example of narrative nonfiction at its finest. It’s a grand adventure.” You will not believe what the prisoners went through and what they did to pull off one of the greatest escapes of all time.

HITLER YOUTH: GROWING UP IN HITLER’S SHADOW by Susan Bartoletti Campbell

Using captivating photos, diaries, letters, oral histories, and her own interviews with former Hitler Youth, bystanders, and resisters, Campbell provides a detailed history of Hitler’s influence on the youth of Germany and the choices individual young people made while living in his shadow. Winner of a Newbery Honor Medal and the Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor Award.

THE HOT ZONE by Richard Preston

The dramatic story of U.S. Army scientists and soldiers who worked to stop the spread of a deadly and extremely contagious virus in 1989. A favorite of Mr. Herschenhous.

THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS by Rebecca Skloot

Henrietta Lacks was a 31-year-old black mother of five living in Baltimore who died of cervical cancer in 1951. Without her knowledge, doctors from John Hopkins University harvested cells from her cervix and kept them alive for research purposes. These cells, known as HeLa cells, have been used for research in labs throughout the world to make numerous discoveries that have helped humankind, including the polio vaccine, and have created profits for the numerous companies that have used them. Henrietta’s family, however, received no benefit. Skloot relates this story, which reads like a novel, and outlines the bioethical issues raised by the doctors’ actions.

MOST DANGEROUS: DANIEL ELLSBERG AND THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR by Steve Sheinkin

Truth is stranger than fiction. In a tense narrative, *Most Dangerous* tells us “how whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg transformed from obscure government analyst into ‘the most dangerous man in America,’ and risked everything to expose years of government lies during the Nixon/Cold War era.” Winner of the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults.

THE RISE AND FALL OF CHARLES LINDBERGH by Candace Fleming

“In riveting detail and frequently quoting from Lindbergh’s diaries and his wife’s, Fleming relates [Lindbergh’s] planning and execution of the solo transatlantic flight that made him the most famous man in the world, his marriage and the tragic kidnapping of his firstborn child, his obsession with engineering humankind’s immortality, and the existence of his multiple secret families. Fleming finely hones the stark contrast between Lindbergh’s rise and his fall from grace after he became fascinated with eugenics, sympathized with Hitler and the Nazis, and involved himself in America-first isolationist politics. A compelling biography of a flawed, larger-than-life man.” -- From *Publishers Weekly*. Winner of the YALSA award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults.

STAMPED: RACISM, ANTIRACISM AND YOU by Jason Reynolds

Right from the start, award-winning author Jason Reynolds states, “This is not a history book.” He calls his young adult adaptation of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi’s National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning*, a remix. According to the publisher it “takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. . . . Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative, . . . this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas--and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.”

THE UNWANTED: STORIES OF SYRIAN REFUGEES by Don Brown

The title says it all. There are over five million Syrian refugees scattered throughout the world today as a result of the Syrian Civil War. This nonfiction book in graphic novel format tells the individual stories of some of those refugees. Winner of the YALSA award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults.

UNBROKEN: A WORLD WAR II STORY OF SURVIVAL, RESILIENCE, AND REDEMPTION by Lauren Hillenbrand (Young Adult Adaptation)

Louis Zamperini was an American Olympic runner in the 1930s. He subsequently became a B-24 crewman in World War II, had his plane shot down by the Japanese, drifted with fellow crewmen on a rubber raft in the Pacific for a horribly long time, and ultimately became a Japanese prisoner of war in a notoriously brutal prisoner of war camp. This is the compelling survival story of his trip to hell and back again.

UNDEFEATED: JIM THORPE AND THE CARLISLE INDIAN SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM by Steve Sheinkin

This is both the story of the birth of modern-day football and the biography of Native American Jim Thorpe, who was an outstanding football player in addition to being a track and field phenomenon.

WARRIOR DOG by Will Chesney

I’m guessing that you have heard about SEAL Team Six and it’s successful mission to eliminate Osama bin Laden. But did you know that a military working dog named Cairo was an essential part of that mission? This memoir tells the fascinating story of Cairo and his Navy SEAL handler, Will Chesney, how they trained together, went on missions together (including the bin Laden mission), and even saved each others’ lives. For dog lovers everywhere, this is a story that will grab your heart and not let go.

CLASSICS



1984 by George Orwell

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT by Erich Maria Remarque

THE CALL OF THE WILD AND WHITE FANG by Jack London

THE CATCHER IN THE RYE by J. D. Salinger

FAHRENHEIT 451 by Ray Bradbury

GREAT EXPECTATIONS by Charles Dickens

THE ILLUSTRATED MAN by Ray Bradbury

THE LORD OF THE FLIES by William Golding

NIGHT by Elie Wiesel

THE ODYSSEY by Homer

THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA by Ernest Hemingway

RASHOMON AND 17 OTHER STORIES by Ryunosuke Akutagawa

THINGS FALL APART by Chinua Achebe

THE THINGS THEY CARRIED by Tim O'Brien

THE THREE MUSKETEERS by Alexandre Dumas

FICTION: FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION

Fantasy stories are deliberately freed from reality. High fantasies take place in another world (e.g., Harry Potter). Low fantasies feature magical events in this world (e.g., Gone). Science fiction is based on imagined future scientific or technological advances and frequently portrays space or time travel and life on other planets.



AKATA WITCH by Nnendi Okorafor

“Sunny is a ‘free agent’ for the Leopard People, just learning about her untapped magical powers while living in Western Africa. She and her friends, Orlu, Chichi, and Sasha, must use their innate magical power and natural talents to work together to destroy an evil serial killer whose actions, and use of black magic, will lead to the destruction of the Earth. This unique novel has the feel of a modern fairy tale and will appeal to teens looking for more than the typical fantasy filled with vampires and wizards.” -- From *Library Media Connection*

CHILDREN OF BLOOD AND BONE by Tomi Adeyemi

At one time, magic flowed in the blood of the diviners of Orisha (a West African nation), including the blood of Zélie Adebola’s mother, a reaper who could summon the dead. Then King Saran’s troops destroyed magic in a brutal attack that left many maji dead (including Zélie’s mother) and left all maji with few, if any, rights. Now Zélie has one last chance to bring magic back and destroy the monarchy. Filled with page-turning suspense, exciting battles, and a cliffhanger ending, this fantasy shouldn’t be missed.

They killed my mother./They took our magic./They tried to bury us./Now we rise.

DIVERGENT by Veronica Roth

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five factions to define her identity for the rest of her life. This decision is 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. SEQUELS: *Insurgent* and *Allegiant*. PREQUEL: *Four: A Divergent Story Collection*.

5TH WAVE by Rick Yancey

After waves of alien invasions have left barely any humans alive on Earth, sixteen-year-old Cassie carries one rule with her along with her Bowie knife, Luger, M-16, and ammo -- stay alone to stay alive. When Cassie meets Evan Walker, perhaps her only hope for rescuing her brother, she faces a difficult choice: stick to her rule (which has kept her alive so far) or trust him. SEQUELS: *The Infinite Sea* and *The Last Star*.

GONE by Michael Grant

In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over the age of fourteen suddenly disappears and a mysterious wall 20 miles in diameter surrounds the town, cutting it off from the rest of the country. Some of those left behind develop "The Power" and are able to perform supernatural feats. A life-threatening, suspenseful battle for control breaks out between the remaining town residents and the students from a local private school. SEQUELS: *Hunger, Lies, Plague, Fear, Light, and Monster*.

GRACELING by Kristin Cashore

In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace of killing. Katsa teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king. RELATED TITLES: *Fire and Bitterblue*.

THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION by Nancy Farmer

In a future where humans loathe clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States. SEQUEL: *Lord of Opium*. Winner of the Newbery, Printz, and National Book Awards.

HUNGER GAMES by Suzanne Collins

Katniss has provided for her family since her father died, but is she strong enough to win the Hunger Games, a deadly competition that can have only one winner? SEQUELS: *Catching Fire* and *Mockingjay*.

I AM NUMBER FOUR by Pittacus Lore

"We may be walking past you right now. We are watching as you read this. We may be in your city, your town. We are living anonymously. We are waiting for the day when we will find each other. We will make our last stand together -- if we win, we are saved, and you are saved as well. If we lose, all is lost." -- From the publisher. SEQUELS: *The Power of Six, The Rise of Nine, The Fall of Five, The Revenge of Seven, The Fate of Ten* and *United as One*.

INSIGNIA by S. J. Kincaid

Tom is a short fourteen-year-old with bad skin and a gambling-addicted father. He only has one thing going for him; he is a genius at virtual reality games. When Tom is recruited by the Intrastellar Forces to begin training at the Pentagon Spire as a Combatant in World War III, he has a chance to make something of his life. Will it come at a cost that is too high to pay? SEQUELS: *Vortex* and *Catalyst*.

LAST DAY ON MARS by Kevin Emerson

It is the year 2213. Liam and his best friend, Phoebe, are scheduled to be on the last starliner to leave Mars before the planet is destroyed by the heat of the expanding sun. While waiting for their parents to put the finishing touches on technology that will help the human race survive, they decide to take one last exploratory trip on Mars. Along the way, sabotage jeopardizes their escape from the planet, overturns their notions of time and space, and locks them in a struggle with other beings for the survival of humankind. SEQUEL: *The Oceans Between Stars* and *The Shores Beyond Time*.

LEGEND by Marie Lu

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, Day, a famous criminal, and June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy. SEQUELS: *Prodigy* and *Champion*.

LIFEL1K3 by Jay Kristoff

Filled with interesting characters, both human and "lifelike," this is an action filled adventure that raises fascinating questions about artificial intelligence and what it means to be human.

NUM8ERS by Rachel Ward

Fifteen-year-old Jem has a secret. When she looks into someone's eyes, she immediately knows the exact date that person will die. Jem keeps to herself until she meets a boy named Spider. When they spend a day in London, Jem makes a chilling discovery; all of the people waiting to ride the London Eye have the same date of death -- that very day! SEQUELS: *The Chaos* and *Infinity*.

THE PALADIN PROPHECY by Mark Frost

Will West is a fifteen-year-old boy who has been trained by his parents to keep a low profile. When he forgets his parents' advice and accidentally scores extraordinarily well on a national exam, bad things start to happen. His parents disappear and he is simultaneously recruited by an exclusive prep school only to be followed by sinister agents. Without knowing why, Will finds he is capable of extraordinary mental and physical feats that land him at the center of an ancient struggle between titanic forces. SEQUELS: *Alliance* and *Rogue*.

PET by Akwaeke Emezi

"There are no monsters anymore, or so the children in the city of Lucille are taught. Jam and her best friend, Redemption, have grown up with this lesson all their life. But when Jam meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colors and claws, who emerges from one of her mother's paintings and a drop of Jam's blood, she must reconsider what she's been told. Pet has come to hunt a monster, and the shadow of something grim lurks in Redemption's house. Jam must fight not only to protect her best friend, but also to uncover the truth, and the answer to the question--How do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist?" -- From the publisher. A Stonewall Honor Book and National Book Award Finalist.

PROPHECY by Ellen Oh

Kira is the greatest warrior in all of the Seven Kingdoms. She's the only female in the king's army, and she's also the prince's bodyguard. A demon slayer and an outcast, she's hated by nearly everyone in her home city of Hansong. And she's their only hope.

SEQUELS: *Warrior* and *King*.

RAYBEARER by Jordan Ifueko

As noted in a starred review in *Booklist*, “Ifueko’s mesmerizing debut stuns as it weaves a tale of loyalty, fate, destiny, family, and revenge. Moreover, it places a dark skinned heroine front and center, who is beautiful and powerful, deadly and compassionate, and vulnerable and tough Sixteen-year-old Tarisai was born to serve the wrath of The Lady (her mother), a purpose ensured by a magical wish and having a powerful ehru (djinn) for a father. When Tarisai comes of age, The Lady sends her to Aritsar to win a position on the Crown Prince’s Council of 11, earn the prince’s trust, and slay him. Bound by her mother’s wish, she must obey the command, though she desperately wants to choose her own path. To earn liberation, Tarisai embarks on a journey through the realms of Aritsar to unearth the details of its treacherous, sordid history.” The plot is intricate, takes many twists and turns, and ultimately will leave you clamoring for the next book in the series.

SAL AND GABI BREAK THE UNIVERSE by Carlos Hernandez

“Salvador Vidón is the new kid at Miami’s magnet school Culeco Academy of the Arts, but being at a special school doesn’t protect Sal from trouble. Bullies are everywhere, but seventh-grader Sal knows just how to handle a difficult kid like Yasmany Robles.

Obviously, you deal with a bully by opening a portal into another universe, taking a raw chicken from it, and planting it in the bully’s locker. But you cannot just go opening portals into other universes without some consequences. . . . This book, drenched in Cuban Spanish and personality, is a breath of fresh air.” -- *Kirkus Reviews* Winner of the Pura Belpre Author Award. SEQUEL: *Sal and Gabi Fix the Universe*.

SCYTHE by Neal Shusterman

Imagine a world where hunger, disease, and even death have been conquered, where you can “turn the corner” and make yourself young again. This is a world in which Scythes (and no one else) must “glean” lives in order to prevent overpopulation. Two teens, Citra and Rowan, have been chosen to apprentice to a scythe, a position neither of them wants. Now they must learn the “art” of taking lives knowing that failing to do so may cost them their own. A 2017 Printz Award Honor Book. SEQUELS: *Thunderhead* and *The Toll*.

STEELHEART by Brandon Sanderson

Epics are humans with superpowers they use for evil. When David was eight, an extraordinarily powerful Epic, Steelheart, killed David's dad. Will the Reckoners, the only group that dares to fight Epics, allow eighteen-year-old David to join their super-secret ranks so he can avenge his father’s death? SEQUELS: *Mitosis*, *Firefight*, and *Calamity*.

THE TESTING by Joelle Charbonneau

Sixteen-year-old Malencia (Cia) Vale is chosen to participate in the Testing to attend the University. If she passes, she can become a leader and help the United Commonwealth recover from the devastating Seven Stages War. The Testing turns out to be far more dangerous than Cia ever could have imagined -- those who do not pass The Testing are disappearing! Perfect for fans of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent*. SEQUELS: *Independent Study* and *Graduation Day*.

THEY BOTH DIE AT THE END by Adam Silvera

Imagine a world very similar to ours, but with one crucial difference. There is an organization that gets in touch with you in the very early morning on the day you are going to die to inform you of that fact. How would you spend your last day? Well, there's an app for that. This is the captivating story of two teens who meet through the app and spend their last day together.

TRISTAN STRONG PUNCHES A HOLE IN THE SKY by Kwame Mbalia

Best-selling author Rick Riordan now has his own publishing imprint so he can bring books to students that he thinks they will want to read. Here's what he has to say about the Coretta Scott King award winning book, *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*, "When Tristan accidentally punches a hole into the sky of the MidPass, the world of African American legends, he starts on the most epic of quests. Awaiting him are a malicious haint, relentless iron monsters, creepy bone ships, flying rafts, burning seas, talking animals, ancient gods, and more. But for all its great fantasy elements, what I love most about this book is its human side. . . . Tristan is tough but tender, smart but cautious, courageous but insecure. He is someone every kid will relate to, and you will immediately want to be his friend." It's hard to find a better recommendation than that!

UGLIES by Scott Westerfeld

In three months, Tally will become pretty. In her world, everyone is an "ugly" until they turn 16 and are officially transformed into a "pretty" through surgery. It's supposed to be the best time of Tally's life, but things change when she meets Shay. When her new friend decides to risk life outside of New Pretty Town, and Tally learns there is a side to the pretty world that she never knew about, she is faced with a difficult choice. First in a series of five and there's a spin-off series, *Imposters*.

WARCROSS by Marie Lu

When teenage coder Emika Chen hacks her way into the opening tournament of the Warcross Championships (a phenomenally popular virtual reality game), she discovers a sinister plot with major consequences for the entire Warcross empire. Action, thrills, plot twists, a dash of romance, and a cliffhanger ending, this book has it all. SEQUEL: *Wildcard*.

WE'RE NOT FROM HERE by Geoff Rodkey

Set in 2030, humans have destroyed the earth and need a place to live. They space travel to a planet (Choom) that said it would take them but by the time they get there a new government is in place which rejects them as too violent. Finally, one "human reproductive unit" (a/k/a a family) is allowed to come to the planet to be studied. Funny encounters ensue. As one A-S student said, "I need this place to exist. I have to try Ororo food (cubes)!"

ZEROES by Scott Westerfeld, Margo Lanagan, and Debbie Biancotti

Six teens living in California have powers that range from crowd control, the ability to crash computer systems, and a voice that can talk anyone into anything. But don't call them superheroes. Their powers come at a price. Take Scam. Yes, he has a voice inside him that will say whatever the person he is speaking to wants to hear, whether it is true or not. Useful at some times, but not so much at others, such as during a bank robbery when "the voice" lands Scam in a mess. Only the Zeroes can save him, but will they want to? SEQUELS: *Swarm* and *Nexus*.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

These books tell stories or convey information using panels containing both pictures and words. In the words of award-winning graphic novelist Gene Luen Yang, "Certain stories can be best expressed via the duality of text and images."



AMERICAN BORN CHINESE by Gene Luen Yang

In this graphic novel classic, Yang focuses on three unrelated characters: Jin who is the only Chinese-American in his new high school, the Monkey King, a powerful figure in Chinese mythology who is training to be a god but feels he doesn't get enough respect, and Danny who cringes with embarrassment every year when his cousin Chin-Kee comes to visit. Look and read as their lives come together in exciting and unexpected ways. Winner of the Printz Award.

DRAGON HOOPS by Gene Yuen Lang

What do basketball, math, and graphic novels have in common? Nothing, unless you are Gene Yuen Lang. In this vividly drawn graphic novel, which is also a memoir, Lang relates the story of how as a math teacher at a Catholic high school who was much more interested in superheroes than sports, he became fascinated with the school's varsity basketball team and their pursuit of the State championship. Using his trademark skills as a graphic novelist, Lang weaves his own story together with exciting and moving scenes both on and off the court. *Winner of the Printz Honor Award.*

HEY, KIDDO by Jarrett Krosoczka

In this moving and revealing graphic memoir, the author and illustrator of *Lunch Lady* and other graphic novel series weaves his childhood art into his description of what his life was like growing up with a drug addicted mother, a missing father, and two grandparents with very strong opinions. Ultimately, it is a story about the power of art and love. A nominee for the 2019 YALSA Excellence in Non-Fiction Award.

ILLEGAL by Eoin Colfer; illustrated by Giovanni Rigano

"Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared, and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life, the same journey their sister set out on months ago. But Ebo refuses to be left behind in Ghana. Ebo's epic quest takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his family." -- From the publisher

MARCH (Books 1-3) by John Lewis; illustrated by Nate Powell

Using a graphic novel format, Georgia congressman John Lewis relates the story of his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. Winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature and a Coretta Scott King Honor Book.

MAUS: A SURVIVOR'S TALE by Art Spiegelman

A memoir about Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself.

SEQUEL: *Maus II*.

NEW KID by Jerry Craft

Jordan Banks is in seventh grade, and his favorite thing to do is draw cartoons about his life. Rather than send him to art school, which Jared would love, his parents enroll him in Riverdale Academy Day School where he is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. "An engrossing, humorous, and vitally important graphic novel" -- *Kirkus Reviews* A Coretta Scott King Award Winner. SEQUEL: *Class Act*.

THE ODYSSEY by Gareth Hinds

Retells, in graphic novel format, Homer's epic tale of Odysseus, the ancient Greek hero who encounters witches and other obstacles on his journey home after fighting in the Trojan War.

THEY CALLED US ENEMY by George Takei

"A beautifully heart-wrenching graphic-novel adaptation of actor and activist Takei's (Lions and Tigers and Bears, 2013, etc.) childhood experience of incarceration in a World War II camp for Japanese Americans. . . . Delicate grayscale illustrations effectively convey the intense emotions and the stark living conditions. A powerful reminder of a history that is all too timely today." -- *Kirkus Reviews* Winner of the Asian/Pacific American Young Adult Award

STEVE JOBS: GENIUS BY DESIGN by Jason Quinn

Drawings and words are used to tell the story of Steve Jobs' life.

FICTION: HISTORICAL

Realistic fiction in which the setting is very important and which portrays significant historical time periods.



THE ASTONISHING LIFE OF OCTAVIAN NOTHING, TRAITOR TO THE NATION: THE POX PARTY by M.T.

Anderson

Various diaries, letters, and other manuscripts reveal the experiences of Octavian, a young African-American, from birth to age sixteen, as he is brought up as part of a science experiment in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War. Winner of the National Book Award.

THE BOOK THIEF by Marcus Zusak

“Death himself narrates the story of Liesel, a German girl left with foster parents just before the outbreak of World War II. Along the way to her new home with her younger brother, he dies, and after the funeral Liesel steals *The Gravedigger's Handbook*, though she cannot yet read. It is only the first of what will become a series of book thefts. As she settles in with her harsh but caring foster mother, Rosa, and kind foster father, Hans, she gets to know her poor neighborhood and learns to read. Her obsession with books grows as the war closes in, rationing is put in place, air raids begin, and Hans takes in a Jewish man to hide in the basement. And through it all, Death travels the Earth, taking in more and more souls every day. This is a tale of Germans and Jews under unfathomable duress and the ripple effect such circumstances have on their lives.”

CODE TALKER: A NOVEL ABOUT THE NAVAJO MARINES OF WORLD WAR II by Joseph Bruchac

A fictionalized account of the little known, heroic role Navajo Marines played in World War II. They alone could communicate war plans and positions by radio in an unbreakable code based on their native language. A historically accurate, compelling story of some of the toughest Marine landings in the Pacific.

DREAMLAND BURNING by Jennifer Latham

Seventeen-year-old Rowan Chase thinks she is going to have an uneventful summer working at an internship and hanging out with her best friend. All that changes when contractors on her parents' property discover a skeleton of a person who appears to have been brutally murdered. As Rowan investigates, she uncovers painful truths about the Tulsa “race riot” of 1921 that resonate in her present-day life. “Mystery fans will enjoy this cleverly plotted, suspenseful work, while the broader social issues will draw a wide audience.” -- *School Library Journal*

GRENADE by Alan Gratz

Another gripping novel by the author of *Refugee* and *Projekt 1065*. Set during World War II and related (in alternating chapters) from the perspective of a young American Marine about to enter battle for the first time and a thirteen-year-old Okinawan islander who has been given two grenades and told by the Japanese that he must use them to kill the Americans who are invading his island. An absorbing and realistic depiction of war and the difficult decisions that combatants and civilians must make.

THE LIBRARIAN OF AUSCHWITZ by Antonio Iturbe

Based in fact, this is the remarkable story of fourteen-year-old prisoner Dita Kraus who was charged with taking care of and hiding a forbidden collection of eight books at Auschwitz. Seen through the eyes of Dita, we learn about the people whose lives connected with hers, see what life was like for a teen in Auschwitz, and are ultimately uplifted by Dita's courage and determination to bring the magic of books to as many people as she can in an inhumane and dangerous place.

MAKING BOMBS FOR HITLER by Marsha Skyrpuch

Nine-year-old Lida is Ukrainian. Although she is not a Jew, this doesn't stop the Nazis from tearing her away from her sister and sending her to a slave labor camp. When she is assigned to make bombs for the German army, she and some of her fellow prisoners decide to sabotage the bombs. Can they do so without being found out? Discovery means instant death.

PROJEKT 1065 by Alan Gratz

In 1943, Michael O'Shaunessy lives in Berlin with his parents because his father is the Irish ambassador to Germany. Michael speaks fluent German, is a member of the Hitler Youth, and attends a German school . . . but that is just his cover. In fact, he is a spy who must find out more about Projekt 1065, a secret Nazi mission, at the risk of his own life and those of his parents. This historical thriller will keep you on the edge of your seat.

REFUGEE by Alan Gratz

Another suspenseful read from Alan Gratz, *Refugee* tells the captivating stories of refugee children from three different times and places: Josef, a Jewish boy living in Nazi Germany, Isabel, a Cuban girl in 1994, and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015.

SALT TO THE SEA by Ruta Sepetys

Historical fiction at its best. The story of four young adults, each with a secret, whose lives converge in the waning days of the Hitler regime. A vivid and compelling description of the Eastern European refugee experience and a little known but important historical event.

UNDER A WAR TORN SKY by Laura Elliott

After Hitler's Luftwaffe shoots down nineteen-year-old Henry Forester's plane, Henry wants nothing more than to rejoin his unit. Wounded and alone, however, he needs to trek across Nazi-occupied Europe in order to do so. "A gripping adventure, inspired by stories told to the author by her father." -- *Booklist*

WAR STORIES by Gordon Korman

For as long as anyone can remember, twelve-year-old Trevor Firestone has been fascinated by World War II. He loves playing World War II based video games and every school project he has ever done relates to World War II in some way. There's a reason for this. Trevor's great-grandfather, Jacob, or "GG" as Trevor calls him, is a World War II war hero who was awarded the bronze star for helping to liberate the French village of Sainte-Regine. Trevor has grown up hearing all of GG's exciting stories from the war. Now, at the age of 93, GG is the last surviving member of his regiment and has been invited back to Sainte Regine to be honored on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the town. Trevor, his dad, and GG embark on what Trevor sees as the trip of a lifetime, retracing GG's steps from the beaches of Normandy to Sainte Régine. Not everyone wants GG to come back to Sainte Régine, however, and a group called La Verité ("the truth") is threatening him with violence if he comes back. Why? Alternating between the present and GG's experiences in 1944, the suspense builds as Trevor begins to wonder whether there is another side to GG's stories that he's never heard.

WE ARE NOT FREE by Traci Chee

Based on the author's own Japanese American family's history, in this work of historical fiction "young Japanese Americans tell of life during World War II. In San Francisco's Japantown, a group of teens has grown up together and become like family. But life in America after the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor is dangerous for them. They and their families are taken to the Topaz incarceration camp in Utah, where the harsh conditions and injustices they experience turn their worlds upside down. They draw some comfort in being together—however, a government questionnaire causes rifts: Loyalties are questioned, lines are drawn, and anger spills over, threatening to destroy the bonds that once held them together. . . . Each voice is powerful, evoking raw emotions of fear, anger, resentment, uncertainty, grief, pride, and love. Historical photographs and documents enhance the text. An unforgettable must-read." -- from Kirkus Reviews. *Winner of the Printz Honor Award and a National Book Award Finalist.*

WHERE THE WORLD ENDS by Geraldine McCaughrean

"Every summer Quill and his friends are put ashore on a remote sea stac to hunt birds. But this summer, no one arrives to take them home. Surely nothing but the end of the world can explain why they've been abandoned--cold, starving and clinging to life, in the grip of a murderous ocean. How will they survive such a forsaken place of stone and sea? This is an extraordinary story of fortitude, endurance, tragedy and survival, set against an unforgettable backdrop of savage beauty." -- From the publisher. A 2019 Printz Honor Book and Carnegie Medal Winner.

WHITE ROSE by Kip Wilson

Based on the true story of Sophy Scholl, a courageous young German student who joined the White Rose, a non-violent organization, to resist the Nazi regime. This story of fighting against impossible odds is told in verse.

X: A NOVEL by Ilyash Shabazz and Kekla Magoon

"Co-written by Malcolm X's daughter, this riveting and revealing novel follows the formative years of the man whose words and actions shook the world." A 2016 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book.

FICTION: HUMOR

Stories to amuse you and sometimes make you laugh out loud.



AN ABUNDANCE OF KATHERINES by John Green

Colin Singleton has the dubious distinction of having only dated girls named Katherine – 19 of them – all of whom have dumped him. When K-19 breaks up with Colin just after his high school graduation, Colin’s best friend, Hassan, decides it is time for a road trip. Will Colin’s luck change or is he forever doomed to date girls named Katherine who eventually dump him? A Printz Honor Book.

BETTER NATE THAN EVER by Tim Federle

Thirteen-year-old Nate Foster has always dreamed of becoming a Broadway star. He lives in a small town outside of Pittsburgh, where he has never *seen* a Broadway show, let alone auditioned for one. When Nate learns of open auditions for *E.T.: The Musical*, he can’t resist: he sneaks off to New York City on a hilarious adventure that should not be missed.

NOT SO PURE AND SIMPLE by Lamar Giles

Ever since kindergarten (when he played the Cowardly Lion and she played Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz*) Del has had a crush on Kiera. But he has never made a move to go out with her. Why? Because, as Del puts it, “Kiera Westing had never been single. Nev. Er.” Finally, during their junior year, she’s available. Del who attends the same church as Keira, figures it’s now or never. When Kiera volunteers along with other teens during a church service to do something (Del doesn’t know what because he was daydreaming), Del jumps up and joins her, only to find out that he has signed up for a Purity Pledge. And that’s just the beginning of the craziness. Soon Del finds himself having to get answers to the Pledger’s questions about sex ed. As *Kirkus Reviews* puts it in a starred review, this book is “hilariously necessary.”

SIMON VS. THE HOMO SAPIENS AGENDA by Becky Albertalli

You saw the movie, “Love, Simon,” now read the book on which it is based. “Set in Georgia, this realistic coming-out story features a cast of unique, believable characters. Simon’s humorous narrative alternates with his emails with Blue as Simon wonders, “Don’t you think everyone should have to come out? Why is straight the default?” -- Horn Book. Winner of the William C. Morris YA Debut Award.

SON OF THE MOB by Gordon Korman

Seventeen-year-old Vince likes to think of himself as an average high school kid, especially now that he has met a girl whom he really likes and wants to date. Simple, right? Well, not really. Vince’s dad is a powerful Mafia boss and the girl he wants to date is the daughter of the FBI agent who has been working for years to put Vince’s dad behind bars. A fun, light read.

SUPER FAKE LOVE SONG by David Yoon

Korean American, 17-year-old Sunny Dae is a self-professed nerd who plays Dungeons & Dragons and designs cosplay props that he discusses in a web series with his two best friends, Milo and Jamal. Then Sunny meets a new girl, Korean American Cirrus Soh, who dazzles him. As the publisher notes, “he can’t believe how cool and confident she is. So when Cirrus mistakenly thinks Sunny plays guitar, he accidentally winds up telling her he’s the front man of a rock band. Before he knows it, Sunny is knee-deep in the lie: He gets his best friends to form a fake band with him and starts dressing like a rock star. But no way can he trick this amazing girl into thinking he’s cool, right? Just when Sunny is about to come clean, Cirrus asks to see them play sometime. Gulp. Now there’s only one thing to do: Fake it till you make it.” Nothing could go wrong, could it?

WHEN DIMPLE MET RISHI by Sandhya Menon

Dimple is a first generation Indian American teen who loves coding and web design and can’t wait to get to college to get away from her traditional parents and get on with her life. But first, she is going to spend the summer in San Francisco at a highly competitive tech conference. Rishi is also a first generation Indian American teen who will be going to the same conference but he is comfortable with his parents’ traditional ways. In fact, his and Dimple’s parents have arranged a marriage between the two -- a fact that Rishi knows but Dimple does not! Strange set up? Yes! Funny story with engaging characters? Yes, again.

FICTION: MYSTERY & SUSPENSE



Thrilling stories in which readers are often invited to gather clues to reach a conclusion. Includes detective stories, suspense novels, tales of terror and the supernatural, and Gothic novels.

ACCELERATION by Graham McNamee

Stuck working in the lost-and-found department of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, seventeen-year-old Duncan finds a strange diary.

The more he reads, the more he becomes convinced that it is the diary of a serial killer who is going to kill again. Receiving no help from the police, Duncan sets out to stop the killer in this heart-pounding mystery.

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE by Agatha Christie

Ten strangers -- each with a dark secret -- are summoned by an absent millionaire to a private island off the coast of Devon and begin to die one by one upon arrival. One of Christie’s most famous mysteries.

THE COLOR OF LIES by C.J. Lyons

Eighteen-year-old Ella Cleary knows when people are lying. She has synesthesia and can see everyone's emotions in the colorful auras that surround them. Everyone's, that is, except for Alec's, a teenage stranger who arrives in town and reveals facts about her dead parents that she never knew. "This is a well-constructed mystery and a quick read, taking place over the span of just a couple of days, with plenty of twists and turns to keep even the most distracted reader engaged." -- *School Library Journal*

DEATH ON THE NILE by Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie's famous detective, Hercule Poirot, must put his "little grey cells" to work in order to solve the mystery of a woman who is murdered on a trip down the Nile River.

FACE ON THE MILK CARTON by Caroline Cooney

What would you do if one day during lunch at school you looked at the picture of a missing child on a milk carton and became convinced that the face staring back at you is, in fact, *you* at an earlier age? Janie Johnson confronts this dilemma in this suspense-filled mystery.

THE KILLING WOODS by Lucy Christopher

Emily's dad emerges from the woods one night carrying the dead body of Ashlee Parker, a girl from Emily's school. Emily is desperate to prove that her dad, an ex-soldier who is suffering from PTSD, was not the murderer, but can she survive a night in the Killing Woods, a place where some of her classmates play a "game" with brutal consequences, in order to prove his innocence? A gripping, psychological thriller.

THE LYING WOODS by Ashley Elston

"Owen Foster is pulled from his elite New Orleans boarding school when his father's assets are seized and, back in his small town, begins to piece together his father's past despite mounting danger." -- From the publisher.

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS by Agatha Christie

The classic! Detective Hercule Poirot has plenty of suspects to choose from when a wealthy American is stabbed to death on the way to Paris on the Orient Express.

NIGHTFALL by Jake Halpern

"On Marin's island, sunrise doesn't come every twenty-four hours--it comes every twenty-eight *years*. Now the sun is just a sliver of light on the horizon. The weather is turning cold and the shadows are growing long The dark will bring your worst nightmares to light in this gripping and eerie survival story." -- From the publisher.

ONE OF US IS LYING by Karen M. McManus

Five students walk into detention at Bayview High on a Monday afternoon, but only four walk out. Simon, the highly unpopular creator of Bayview's widely read gossip app, has been murdered. Simon had planned to post juicy details about the other four the very next day, making each one of them a suspect. Did one of them do it or is a killer still at large? SEQUEL: *One of Us is Next*.

OVERTURNED by Lamar Giles

This is a mystery tailor-made for poker fans. Seventeen-year-old Nikki Tate grew up in a casino in Las Vegas and has had a lot of responsibility taking care of things in the casino because her father had been sent to prison for something he didn't do. Now she wants out, a life beyond Vegas, and is using her formidable poker playing skills (learned from her father) in illegal games (she's a minor) to bankroll her escape from Vegas. Nikki tries to be a regular teenager, there's a new boy in school that she likes (and he likes her) but Nikki soon finds out that he is the son of a Las Vegas gangster who has history with her dad and may well have had something to do with her father ending up in prison. As the author puts it, "This is a book for a reader who enjoys a thrilling mystery, a touch of romance, the glitz and glamor of one of the world's most famous cities, sports rivalries. There's a little bit of something for everybody in this book and it's going to be hard to put down once you get started."

THE PERFECT CANDIDATE by Peter Stone

Politics, suspense, and murder combine when high school graduate Cameron Carter arrives in Washington D.C. from his small California town to begin a summer internship with his U.S. Congressman, Billy Beck -- a powerful politician whom he has admired for years.

PAPER TOWNS by John Green

One month before graduating from his Central Florida high school, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen basks in the predictable boringness of his life until the beautiful and exciting Margo Roth Spiegelman, Q's neighbor and classmate, takes him on a midnight adventure and then disappears! Winner of the Edgar Award.

SKINK – NO SURRENDER by Carl Hiaasen

To avoid being sent to boarding school, Malley takes off with a boy she met online. Richard, her fourteen-year-old cousin, knows she's in trouble and teams up with Skink, "a ragged, one-eyed ex-governor of Florida, and enough of a renegade to think he can track Malley down." Together, Richard and Skink encounter "blinding storms, crazed pigs, flying bullets, and giant gators" in their quest to find Malley.

SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES by Ray Bradbury

When a carnival rolls into town at midnight, it brings Halloween a week early. Thirteen-year-old best friends, James Nightshade and Will Halloway, are drawn in by its mystery and menace. A not-to-be-missed, dark, fantasy/horror classic by Ray Bradbury whose images will stick with you for years.

A STUDY IN SCARLET by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

In this first of the Sherlock Holmes stories, Holmes and Dr. Watson investigate the murder of an American and his private secretary.

TRULY DEVIOUS by Maureen Johnson

"New at Ellingham Academy, Stevie Bell tries to both solve a murder at campus and the cold case of a double kidnapping." Filled with interesting characters and plenty of twists, this is book one of a three-book mystery.

FICTION: REALISTIC

Imaginary characters and situations that could happen but haven't.



ARISTOTLE AND DANTE DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

“Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship -- the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be” -- From the publisher. Winner of the Stonewall Book Award, the Pura Belpré Author Award, and a Printz Award Honor Book.

BLACK ENOUGH: STORIES OF BEING YOUNG AND BLACK IN AMERICA edited by Ibi Zoboi

“What is it like to be young and black, and yet not black enough at the same time? That’s the question explored in this poignant collection of stunning short stories by black rock-star authors . . . The additional magic of this collection is that it shirks off the literary world’s tired obsession with only depicting the struggles of black teens. With this, readers see everyday struggles as well as the ordinary yet remarkable joys of black teens that have nothing to do with the trauma of their history.” -- *Booklist*.

DARIUS THE GREAT IS NOT OKAY by Abdib Khorram

“Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He's a Fractional Persian--half, his mom's side--and his first-ever trip to Iran is about to change his life.” -- From the publisher. Winner of the William C. Morris Debut Award.

DEAR MARTIN by Nic Stone

Justyce, an African-American male in a predominantly white school who is a top student and bound for Yale, is subjected to racial profiling when he stops to help his biracial ex-girlfriend who is too drunk to drive. In an effort to manage his anger and confusion about the way he and other black males are treated, he writes letters to Martin Luther King, Jr. while navigating his senior year in high school. A moving and thought provoking book.

THE BEST AT IT by Maulik Pancholy

Twelve-year-old, Indian American Rahul Kapoor has just started seventh grade and his life seems much more complicated than it used to be “and so his favorite person in the whole world, his grandfather, Bhai, gives him some well-meaning advice: Find one thing you're really good at and become the BEST at it.” “Those four little words sear themselves into Rahul's brain. While he's not quite sure what that special thing is, he is convinced that once he finds it, bullies like Brent Mason will stop torturing him at school. And he won't be worried about staring too long at his classmate Justin Emery. With his best friend, Chelsea, by his side, Rahul is ready to crush this challenge.... But what if he discovers he isn't the best at anything?” This funny and touching story will keep you interested from start to finish and as the author’s dedication says “this book is for every kid who has ever wondered, “Am I good enough?”

THE FIELD GUIDE TO THE NORTH AMERICAN TEENAGER by Ben Philippe

What do you do if you are a black, Haitian, French-Canadian hockey loving teenager who has been transplanted by his professor mother to a high school in football-loving Austin, Texas where everyone looks like they have popped out of “a bad 90s teen movie” and the heat is oppressive? Snarky and too smart for his own good, Norris Kaplan has the answer for that: use the journal you have been given by a school guidance counselor to catalog the “wildlife” you encounter while waiting until you can get back to Canada for the summer. “Readers looking for a diverse, fun, coming-of-age tale need not look any further than this fantastic debut.” -- *Booklist* Winner of the William C. Morris Award.

FLYING LESSONS & OTHER STORIES edited by Ellen Oh

This collection of short stories, edited by one of the cofounders of We Need Diverse Books, has stories from YA award-winning authors that include Kwame Alexander, Matt de la Peña, Tim Federle, Walter Dean Myers, and Jacqueline Woodson. “There's plenty of magic in this collection to go around.” --*Booklist*

FOR EVERY ONE by Jason Reynolds

The well-loved author of the *Ghost* series, *As Brave as You*, and *All-American Boys* dedicated this book-length poem “to the dreamers, to the courageous, and everyone else who wants to be” and performed it at the Kennedy Center for the unveiling of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and later as a tribute to author Walter Dean Myers. Perhaps most importantly, he notes that the poem began as a letter to himself “to keep from quitting.”

FRANKLY IN LOVE by David Yoon

High school senior, Frank Li, the Korean American son of Korean immigrant parents, is caught between two worlds. One is the world of his hard working parents who speak virtually no English expect him to be a good student, date only Korean American girls, and get good enough SAT scores and grades to go to “the Harvard.” The other is the everyday high school world of Southern California in which he speaks virtually no Korean and where his first love is a white girl from his AP classes whom he has to hide from his parents. By turns funny and heart breaking, this is a story that shouldn't be missed. Winner of the Asian/Pacific American Young Adult Honor Award.

FRESH INK edited by Lamar Giles

Lamar Giles, the editor of this collection of short stories, says he had a love hate relationship with books when he was a teenager, because “it became pretty freaking clear that, book after book, adventure after adventure, the heroes weren't like me at all. . . . I mean black boys. When he and his friends who “didn't fit a certain mold . . . discovered that rare story that reflected us, that hidden gem, we latched on and fell in LOVE love with reading all over again.” This is a collection of gems. As Giles says, “in these pages are all sorts of heroes. There's one who doesn't speak but flies around with a jet pack to fight monsters. One who's nervous about bringing her girlfriend to family dinner. One who outswims ignorance as well as his competitors. and more.”

THE HATE U GIVE by Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter is caught between two worlds: her poor black urban neighborhood and her fancy, almost all-white prep school on the other side of town. She has a white boyfriend from school and, as she puts it, learned how to “speak with two different voices and only say certain things around certain people.” Her worlds collide after she sees her childhood friend, Khalil, who is unarmed, shot by a white police officer. Everyone wants to know what really happened, and Starr is the only one who knows. What she says or doesn’t say might affect her entire neighborhood and even endanger her life and the lives of her family members. Winner of the William C. Morris Debut Award, a Printz and Coretta Scott King Honor Book. The prequel, *Concrete Rose*, all about Starr’s dad, Maverick, when he was a teen, is equally as captivating.

IF I EVER GET OUT OF HERE by Eric Gansworth

Seventh-grader Lewis Blake lives on an Indian reservation in upstate New York, just as the author of this book did. He lives with his mother and Vietnam vet uncle, in a house that’s hardly a house, and he and his family have been struggling to get by ever since his alcoholic father left them. Because he is smart and works hard, Lewis ends up in a school off the rez where he meets George Haddonfield, who lives on the Air Force base in town. George and Lewis become friends (although with some pretty big secrets that they keep from each other), bonding over playing music, The Beatles, and Paul McCartney and Wings. A poignant and funny coming of age story, this is the perfect book for classic rock music fans. SEQUEL: *Give Me Some Truth*.

THE INEXPLICABLE LOGIC OF MY LIFE by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

After Sal’s mother died when he was three, he was adopted by her best friend, Vicente, a gay Mexican American with a large, loving family. Now seventeen years old, Sal has a great relationship with his adoptive dad, his extended family, and his wonderful best friend, Samantha, who keeps life interesting. So why is it that when his senior year starts he no longer feels like himself? All of a sudden he’s angry, throwing punches, and questioning everything including who he really is.

INTERMENT by Samira Ahmed

As the book’s publisher notes, Internment is set in a horrifying near-future United States, [in which] seventeen-year-old Layla Amin and her parents are forced into an internment camp for Muslim American citizens. With the help of newly made friends also trapped within the internment camp, her boyfriend on the outside, and an unexpected alliance, Layla begins a journey to fight for freedom, leading a revolution against the camp’s Director and his guards. Heart-racing and emotional, this book could have been ripped from recent headlines.

LONG WAY DOWN by Jason Reynolds

Winner of the Newbery Honor, Coretta Scott King Honor, and Printz Honor awards as well as the Walter Dean Myers award. Written in spare, powerful verse, all of the action takes place during a one minute and seven second elevator ride in which 15-year-old Will must decide whether to follow “the Rules” and avenge his brother’s death using the gun that his brother left behind. Without interrupting the flow of the story, Reynolds raises important questions about gun violence and toxic male culture. The audiobook is read by Reynolds and it is a tour de force.

LOVE FROM A TO Z by S.K. Ali

“Ali has written a classic romance that's also a story of love for family and friends, Muslim identity, oneself, and the city of Doha, Qatar. Zayneb Malik is a high school senior, hijabi, and Gryffindor/Slytherin mix. When she gets suspended over an incident with an Islamophobic teacher, she starts her spring break early, leaving her town in Indiana to visit her aunt in Doha. Also on the way to Doha, via London, is Adam Chen, returning to his dad and sister. He stopped attending his college classes two months earlier after he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, the same illness his mother had. . . . Heartfelt, honest, and featuring characters readers will fall in love with, this is sure to become a beloved book for many.” -- *School Library Journal*

ON THE COME UP by Angie Thomas

Another gripping novel about life in Garden Heights from the author of *The Hate U Give*. Here, sixteen-year-old Bri wants to follow in the footsteps of her deceased father and become a great rapper. When she writes and records “On the Come Up” to protest racial profiling and an assault by the security guards at her school and it goes viral, she learns that even words written from the heart can be used against you if you are black, poor, and live in the “wrong neighborhood.” Filled with twists, suspense, and complex characters you will care deeply for, “this is the story of fighting for your dreams, even as the odds are stacked against you; and about how, especially for young black people, freedom of speech isn't always free.” -- From the Publisher

OPENLY STRAIGHT by Bill Konigsberg

Written by an A-S graduate, *Openly Straight* tells the story of Rafe Goldberg, a high school junior who has been open about being gay since eighth grade. Tired of being the token gay kid in his very accepting Colorado high school, Rafe decides to transfer to a New England boarding school and keep quiet about his sexuality. He just wants to be treated as “one of the guys.” His plan starts to unravel, however, when he realizes he is falling in love with his new, straight best friend. SEQUEL: *Honestly Ben*.

OPPOSITE OF ALWAYS by Justin A. Reynolds

"When Jack and Kate meet at a party, bonding until sunrise over their mutual love of Froot Loops and their favorite flicks, Jack knows he's falling--hard. Soon she's meeting his best friends, Jillian and Franny, and Kate wins them over as easily as she did Jack. But then Kate dies. And their story should end there. Yet Kate's death sends Jack back to the beginning, the moment they first meet, and Kate's there again. Healthy, happy, and charming as ever. Jack isn't sure if he's losing his mind. Still, if he has a chance to prevent Kate's death, he'll take it. Even if that means believing in time travel" -- From the publisher

PICTURE US IN THE LIGHT by Kelly Loy Gilbert

Silicon Valley High School senior Danny Cheng is the son of Chinese immigrants who do not have a lot of money. He appears to be on the verge of fulfilling his dreams when he receives a full scholarship to the school of his dreams, RISD. Yet the dream seems likely to slip through Danny's fingers when his father loses his job and Danny discovers a family secret that could ruin everything. Just as his parents have kept secrets from him, Danny has secrets of his own. Apart from containing a compelling mystery, this is a novel that gets what it is like to be a teen in today's obsessed-with-success world. A Stonewall Honor Book.

THE POET X by Elizabeth Acevedo

The publisher of this book notes, "Fans of Jacqueline Woodson, Meg Medina, and Jason Reynolds will fall hard for this astonishing New York Times-bestselling novel-in-verse by an award-winning slam poet, about an Afro-Latina heroine who tells her story with blazing words and powerful truth." Winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the Michael L. Printz Award, and the Pura Belpre Award.

PUNCHING THE AIR by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam

"Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy . . . Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his story. But can he change it? With spellbinding lyricism, award-winning author Ibi Zoboi and prison reform activist Yusef Salaam tell a moving and deeply profound story about how one boy is able to maintain his humanity and fight for the truth, in a system designed to strip him of both. -- From the publisher

THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR by Nicola Yoon

High school seniors Natasha and Daniel begin a summer day in New York City as total strangers from two different worlds. She loves science and believes in facts, not dreams. As undocumented immigrants from Jamaica, she and her family are about to be deported. He is Korean American and, by nature, a poet and dreamer. Nevertheless, he has always followed his parents' wishes and is on his way to a Yale interview that will set him on a career path to becoming a doctor. By chance they meet. Is it possible to fall in love in a day? And, if so, how can they possibly keep that love alive?

WITH THE FIRE ON HIGH by Elizabeth Acevedo

This is a novel about a Afro-Latinx teenage mother who defies stereotypes. She has a passion and gift for cooking and is determined to finish school on time. Using rhythmic, evocative prose that you can almost taste, Acevedo provides rich characterizations of strong women and loyal friends.

YES NO MAYBE SO by Becky Albertalli and Aisha Saeed

"Jamie Goldberg is cool with volunteering for his local state senate candidate--as long as he's behind the scenes. When it comes to speaking to strangers (or, let's face it, speaking at all to almost anyone), Jamie's a choke artist. There's no way he'd ever knock on doors to ask people for their votes . . . until he meets Maya. Maya Rehman's having the worst Ramadan ever. Her best friend is too busy to hang out, her summer trip is canceled, and now her parents are separating. Why her mother thinks the solution to her problems is political canvassing--with some awkward dude she hardly knows--is beyond her. Going door to door isn't exactly glamorous, but maybe it's not the worst thing in the world. After all, the polls are getting closer--and so are Maya and Jamie. Mastering local activism is one thing. Navigating the cross-cultural crush of the century is another thing entirely." -- *From the publisher.*

FICTION: SPORTS



AFTER THE SHOT DROPS by Randy Ribay

Biracial Nasir and African-American Bunny were best friends and high school basketball teammates until Bunny decided to accept a scholarship to the prestigious private school, St. Sebastian's, to increase his odds of being recruited by a college to play basketball and make it to the NBA. Nasir, and many others in their inner city neighborhood, think Bunny has sold out. Even Bunny isn't so sure about the move as it seems like the only reason he is at the school is to help the basketball team win. He feels invisible and misses his close friends from his neighborhood. When Nasir's cousin Wallace gets Bunny into a situation that could threaten his entire basketball future, the tension, intrigue, and basketball action grab you and don't let go until the last page of the book is read.

BALL DON'T LIE by Matt de la Peña

Seventeen-year-old Sticky lives to play basketball at school and at the Lincoln Rec Center in Los Angeles. Headed for the pros, he is unaware of the many dangers -- including his own past -- that threaten his dream.

BLACK AND WHITE by Paul Volponi

Two star high-school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught.

BLACK BROTHER, BLACK BROTHER by Jewell Parker Rhodes

The publisher notes, "Donte wishes he were invisible. As one of the few black boys at Middlefield Prep, he feels as if he is constantly swimming in whiteness. Most of the students don't look like him. They don't like him either. Dubbed the "Black Brother," Donte's teachers and classmates make it clear they wish he were more like his lighter skinned brother, Trey. Quiet, obedient. When an incident with "King" Alan leads to Donte's arrest and suspension, he knows the only way to get even is to beat the king of the school at his own game: fencing." Join Donte on his journey into the world of fencing with an African American former Olympian and learn a bit about this challenging sport along the way.

BOOKED by Kwame Alexander

Twelve-year-old Nick Hall's life revolves around playing soccer and hanging with his best friend Coby while getting used to life after his parents' divorce. Newbery-award-winning author Alexander relates Nick's whole middle school life in free verse. You'll particularly love the soccer scenes.

Like lightning/you strike/fast and free/legs zoom/down field/eyes fixed/on the checkered ball/on the goal/ten yards to go/can't nobody stop you/can't nobody cop you . . .

BOY 21 by Matthew Quick

“Sometimes I pretend that shooting hoops in my backyard is my earliest memory.” Finley, a senior in high school and the only white player on his basketball team, lives in a Pennsylvania town riddled with drugs and ruled by the Irish mob. He tries hard to forget what really happened to his family so many years ago. Now, an African American all-star high school hoops player, who has also suffered a family tragedy, is moving to town and Coach has asked Finley to mentor him. A touching story of two boys with more challenges than anyone deserves.

THE CROSSOVER by Kwame Alexander

Using free verse to describe the lives of African-American twins who love playing basketball, Alexander has written a novel that, in his own words, is about “the relationship between father and son and how cool it can be.” Winner of the Newbery Medal. PREQUEL: *Rebound*

THE FINAL FOUR by Paul Volponi

The heavily favored Michigan State Spartans and the underdog Troy University Trojans are battling each other in the last tense minutes of their NCAA Final Four game. Each team’s drive to win is intense. A gripping read, this book isn’t just about basketball; it’s about life.

MEXICAN WHITEBOY by Matt de la Peña

Danny, who is tall and skinny but has a talent for pitching a fastball, cannot seem to fit in at school in San Diego, where his Mexican and white heritage causes people to judge him before he even speaks. Danny is convinced that his own whiteness sent his father back to Mexico and that’s why he’s spending the summer with his dad’s family. Only, in order to find himself, he might just have to face the demons he refuses to see.